GOOD NEWS MONTHLY BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes



Famille des Paroisses Catholiques Romaines de Sarnia Bluewater















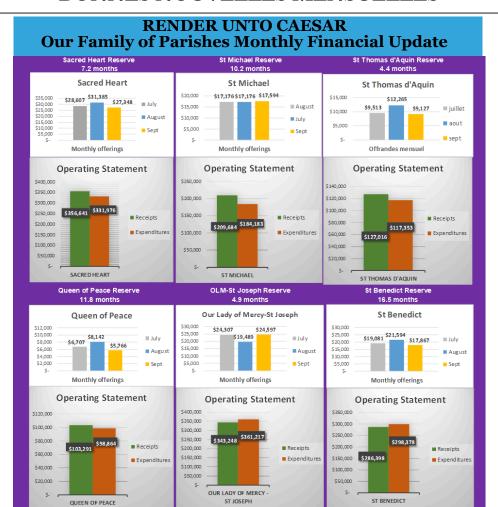
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GOOD NEWS MONTHLY NOVEMBRE 2025

BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES



The Catholic faith was born during the heydays of the Roman Empire and has thrived for 2000 years. This resilience is not based on the brick and mortar of its churches but on the hopes and beliefs instilled by the Gospels.

It is now plain to see that the old Parish-centric model of living our faith has not kept up with the reality of our fast-paced modern world. The need for greater accountability, by society in general, is challenging past customs, practices and norms.

2025 has proven to be a transitional, if not transformational, year for this Family of Parishes. Geopolitical issues are speeding up the pace of changes we knew were coming. The unavailability of foreign trained priests being the most notable side effect. As we are planning and budgeting for 2026, we are looking at ways to mitigate risk associated with these changes.

What do we want this Family of Parishes to look like in 2030? I believe the time has come for us to set the cornerstone that will guide its rejuvenation.

Louis Guimond, Businesss Manager

Jenn's Monthly Happenings

As the fresh autumn air arrives and the colours of creation turn to red and gold. we give thanks to God for the beauty of this season and the reminder to be thankful for the many blessings we are given. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. October has been a full month with lots of information shared with our Family of Parishes as well as our Catholic schools. The Confirmation preparation program is underway and is such a wonderful opportunity to connect with our youth and their families as they continue on their faith journey. The Holy Spirit is alive and at work during our preparation sessions and beyond!

Registration has opened for the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation program



I was able to visit the Grade 2 classes to share this information and have a wonderful conversation with each group. The children have SO MANY questions! What a blessing to have such curiosity and hunger for Jesus! All of the Catholic schools have had a "New School Year" Mass or Liturgy of the Word. It is so beautiful to have a church filled with young voices and love.

We finished off the month of October with the annual Trunk-or-Treat event which was held in St. Benedict Church parking lot this year. We had many families come out to trick-or-treat from our "Trunkers", have a hotdog or 2, and share in the spirit of Hallowe'en. Thank you to the Trunkers and the Knights of Columbus, St. Benedict Council, for your support of this Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes family event.

As the Fall weather continues to cool, I pray for blessings of warmth, HOPE and peace in your days.

Yours in Christ, *Jenn*











Each year, Franciscans solemnly recall the passing of St. Francis of Assisi from earthly life into eternal life with God.

Secular Franciscans of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity celebrated the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi on Saturday, October 4th at St. Benedict Church. Before the celebration they held the annual blessing of the animals and their owners in the Church parking lot. This celebration was a time of remembrance, prayer and reflection. Following the Transitus, parishioners joined fraternity members in the church hall for coffee and refreshments to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the canonical establishment of this fraternity here in Sarnia.

Maria Ferrera

Secular Franciscans of the St. Anthony of Padua Fraternity













102 year old Our Lady of Mercy member Elsie Corrigan writes her cheque to pay for her 2026 membership dues.

Elsie is a 70-year Catholic Women's League member.



CATHOLIC GIRLS LEAGUE

The Catholic Girls League is holding a special Humane Society supplies drive. The drive will take place the weekend of November 15th/16th. We can pick up the donations during the week and deliver them the following Saturday (November 22nd).

Items The Humane Society are accepting:

Non-clumping cat litter, horse bedding pellets, towels and small fleece blankets, small cat beds (new, unused only), *Feliway* cat calming spray, *Adaptil* dog calming spray, pet heating pads, Gift cards to any local business and Amazon.ca, cleaning supplies (laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, dish soap, medium & large rubber gloves) medium and large vinyl gloves, medium and large powder/nitrile free gloves.

They will always accept the following types of unopened *Royal Canin*, *Hill's* and *Purina Pro Plan/One* pet foods:

kitten food (dry and canned), adult cat food maintenance, puppy food (canned preferred), adult dog food maintenance.

Thank you for supporting the Catholic Girls League Jackie Detailleur

WELCOMING COMMUNITIES, ENCOUNTERING CHRIST, SHARING FAITH AND CARING FOR ALL

















Our Lady of Fatima was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church on October 16th. This beautiful celebration would not have been possible without the generous support from many groups and parishioners in our Family of Parishes. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following-

The Knights of Columbus and the CWL for the Honour Guard; Fr. Michael Woods and Deacon David Kraemer for celebrating Mass with us; Sofia Rocca and representatives from the different cultures who led us in praying the Rosary; Andres Perez, his family and the choir for the wonderful music; those who gently carried Our Lady in the procession; Paulina's Flower Shoppe for the generous donation of greenery and her time spent crafting the beautiful and unique display that surrounded Our Lady.





Blessings, Ana Maria Moniz Jackie Chartrand











ST. BENEDICT CWL

It's November – CWL Membership Month. This is an invitation to all ladies, 16 and over, to join or renew their membership.

Are you searching for something worthwhile that makes the best use of your time and talents? The benefits of being a CWL member include spiritual growth, a voice and a vote, an impact on social justice and community outreach, and yes, to have fun!

There are four ways that you could be a supporting member:

- 1) Be fully active
- 2) Be partially active if you have limited time to offer
- 3) Be financially supportive and perhaps more involved in the future
- 4) Be a prayer partner, support us spiritually

The Catholic Women's League is the largest female organization in Canada. The Catholic Women's League is also the largest promoter of Catholic education in our country.

We are a force for change. The National Council of The Catholic Women's League meets yearly with the government. We write resolutions for our MPPs and MPs to influence legislation. By increasing our membership, we increase the voice of Catholic women in Canada and our power in the eyes of the government.

Join us for Coffee Sunday on November 2nd. Please stop and chat with us as we share our activities and experiences. We'll be the ones in BLUE!

Membership dues for 2026 are \$40.

Remember, together we CAN make a difference.

Here I am Lord, send ME! (Isaiah 6:8)

Christine Murray, President cam55murray@gmail.com
Willi Kole, Membership willikole@gmail.com
St. Benedict Council of The Catholic Women's League



A Fruitful Season of Fellowship and Fundraising

St. Michael CWL has just put the wraps on another incredible pie-making season, and we're thrilled to share our results! Over the course of three joyful workshops, our dedicated members - along with some very special guests - produced an impressive 441 fruit pies that included:

- 29 Blueberry
- **=** 142 Apple
- 🏶 131 Strawberry Rhubarb
- 🔰 39 Rhubarb

Each workshop was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a true spirit of community. Volunteer turnout was just as remarkable - 25 volunteers at each of the first two workshops, and over 30 at our final session. What a beautiful testament to the power of shared purpose and service!

We were especially delighted to welcome Father Michael, who - despite being brand new to pie-making – immediately jumped in, rolled up his sleeves and quickly became a pastry pro! His cheerful presence added a special touch to our final workshop. We were extremely blessed to have him join our crew of merry piemakers!

We also extend heartfelt thanks to:

- 🐺 The men who peeled apples with care and precision
- 🙋 🖸 The newcomers who came to learn and lend a hand
- And all our faithful St. Michael CWL members and guests who gave their time, energy, and joyful spirit to support this important fundraiser.

Our pies were sold on October 5th after Mass, and the response was overwhelming!

Pie sales are one of our major fundraising initiatives, with proceeds supporting a wide range of local, national, and international programs that our Council proudly contributes to.

Thank you to everyone for helping us make this season such a sweet success!

Stefanie Hammond

President - St. Michael CWL, Bright's Grove

Call/Text: 519-381-3129



ST. MICHAEL CWL









SOCIETY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A gift for the person who has everything

There is a wonderful volunteer at the SSVP foodbank who interviews persons applying for food assistance. During the intake process, she learns about the many needs these persons on low income have.

And as she was nearing a milestone birthday, she told her friends and family that she did not need any gifts for herself. But she said the women she interviews often ask if personal feminine hygiene products are available. And oftentimes these are limited. So she told her well- wishers she would be happy to receive a gift of that nature. She says that she was overwhelmed with their generosity. She brought the gifts to the food bank and is happy that she can now share her birthday gifts with others

Peter Westfall Society St. Vincent de Paul



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

November 2025 Newsletter Special Feature - Pikangikum





Mission Update from Colleen Estes Serving in Pikangikum First Nation Spring/Summer 2025



Pikangikum is an isolated Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) community of about 4300 people located around 350 miles north of Fort Frances, ON/International Falls, MN. I have lived there since 1997. Many joys! Many tears! Psalm 126:5-6.

GOOD NEWS MONTHLY BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES

At the time of this writing, Pikangikum is surrounded by forest fires, some of which have been burning since May. About 600 people with health conditions or small children were evacuated last week. How we need soaking RAIN, as do so many areas in the North!!! Contractors have left, summer building projects such as desperately needed houses are on hold, and fire crews are working hard to contain the fire and protect hydro lines and keep it away from the community. PRAY FOR RAIN! PRAY FOR PROTECTION! The waterways are very low, making boat travel dangerous and barging difficult as well.



With Bible school in Pik cancelled, the Mapleview Mennonite Church VBS team did what they could and reached out to our evacuees in Thunder Bau.

I am much more mobile this summer than I was last year at this time. I returned to Pikangikum

the end of March after a hip and a knee replacement, and now is the first time I have had a chance to write! My knee is a bit stiff and sore - that is common up to a year, they tell me - but still a great improvement! I developed a blood clot in my lower leg the end of February. I am currently on blood thinners and will be seeing a specialist. Pray it dissolves. Thanks!

We are so thankful that we have not had the suicides like we did in the past, however, I officiated at SO many funerals when I came back.. babies, children, and people who should have been in their prime. I don't think I have yet personally recovered from it. My heart hurts at our lack of continuing care for the grieving.

Thank You!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8...

Because of you all, your intercession, encouragement, and giving, I have been blessed abundantly and have all that I need for every good work. In April, I felt led to fly to Red Lake and then drive to Thunder Bay to be with a young couple who were facing removing the life support from their three month old baby. The previous year they lost a two month old. The baby boys had Fatal Infantile Hypertonic Muscular Dystrophy, a genetic condition most often found in Indigenous children. No hope. No hope for healthy children in the future. I just felt to be there with them as I was when their first baby died, and when the mom and her sisters put their trust in Jesus as their Saviour, a couple months later. I just sat and cried with them. And prayed.

That was a \$1500, trip I was able to make without hesitation because I had all that I needed to abound in every good work. Finances have never stopped me in 28 years from doing what God has directed me to do! That is His faithfulness, and the goodness of His people to me. Like YOU!!!



O25 GOOD NEWS MONTHLY 2025 BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES

Labourers -Young Ones - Hallelujah!



I am SO THANKFUL that the Lord sent us **Nicholas Backlund**. What an awesome blessing!! He is once again teaching Grades 1-4 Christian Ed. and is discipling young men in the community. nick@lhnm.org



Leah Tennefoss came to Pikangikum for a weekend in late January with a group of students from Rosedale Bible College. She graduated, and is now on a 6 month internship with Living Hope Native Ministries. Leah will be in Pikangikum from mid September until mid December helping out and experiencing ministry in Pikangikum. I sense our girls will love hanging out with her.

When Pastor Jerry Cummings from Norton, Kansas, ministers in Pikangikum, he brings life-giving encouragement and teaching. Sunday AM worship service folks.



This 12 year old youth was brought to my house by his aunties. His mom died three years ago, leaving 5 kids. He misses her so much. So many kids growing up without moms! Lots of ministry takes place at my home.





The progress on the Full Gospel Church has been AMAZING! They are looking at having a dedication in August. Thank you for your giving. And, you are sure welcome to continue.





On June 28, 32 youth and 11 leaders (two joined us enroute) set out in 14 boats, then pickup trucks, then school busses, then a coach bus for Carlinville, Illinois to attend the **On Eagle's Wings Warrior Leadership Summit** sponsored by Ron Hutchcraft Ministries. This was our 18th time attending. Yes, God moved in hearts! Lives were changed for eternity. There were several first time decisions to follow Jesus, and 5 youth were baptized, with Deputy Chief Jonah Strang participating in baptizing his community's young people.

Last year a young man named Arian Quill got saved and baptized at WLS. February 16 he passed away from blastomycosis, a fungal disease found in the soil. Before he was intubated, Arian told my coworker Nick he was 110% sure he was going to heaven. Ron Hutchcraft shared about Arian and his faith in Jesus as he spoke to 600 native youth about their lives and eternal destiny.

Scores of young people, including late Arian's best friend, shown getting baptized, made decisions to follow Jesus. When Arian died, someone reminded me of John 12:24. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone, but its death will produce a harvest of new lives."









WLS Group Picture, One of my "Heroes of the Faith, Ron Hutchcraft, Corvin Keeper from Pikangikum on the month -long Summer of Hope team, Pikangikum youth sending him out with prayer and an offering.

Donation Information

I am grateful for the Pikangikum Education Authority providing my housing, the Eagle's Nest/Night Light building for use with youth and children, and project money for WLS and special events for kids and youth. Both Nick and I are not paid by the school but teach Christian Ed four days a week and minister full time in the community as Living Hope Native Ministry staff members authorized to raise funds for LHNM. God and His people are so faithful!

Due to VERY strict Canada Revenue Agency/IRS regulations regarding charities, Living Hope Native Ministries cannot issue tax receipts for donations that are designated to the name of an individual. Here is how you can direct your donation to where you want it:

PIKANGIKUM COMMUNITY MINISTER (Includes the ministry of Colleen Estes)

PIKANGIKUM BIBLE AND YOUTH WORKER (Includes the ministry of Nicholas Backlund)

There are some "special project" categories set up as well.

LHNM Scholarship Fund - see insert

Pikangikum Bible and Book Project - used for purchasing Bibles for students and study materials

Pikangikum Youth Trips

Pikangikum Church Projects - helping with rebuilding of Full Gospel Church destroyed by fire August 2024

Food for Hungry Kids Donations can be made online at www.lhnm.org. or by mail at:

LHNM, Box 50, International Falls, MN 56649-0050 (US Donors)

LHNM, Box 20100, Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6P2 (Canadian Donors)

Office # 1-855-367-8199

THANK YOU!!!!!!



GOOD NEWS MONTHLY

NOVEMBRE 2025

BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES

Pikangikum Christmas Present Project 2025

Dear Friends,

For 21 years God's people have provided Christmas gifts to families in Pikangikum who have had a particularly rough year, or those families where it is highly likely the kids won't be getting anything at Christmas. Last year 350 gifts were sent! On my heart this year are Ginger Peters (8 kids), Jessica Turtle (6 kids), and Pamela Quill (10 kids) - young moms who are undergoing cancer treatments. And Charlie Strang, an old man who over the years lost his wife, 5 children to suicide, one to heart disease, one to HIV, and last spring a son to murder. And Amylee, a single mom with 5 boys whose son Arian, 17, died of blastomycosis. As I write this, my heart hurts for them and so many others. You have no idea how much it means to them to be remembered at Christmas, and to be prayed for.

There are so many needs in the world - in your own neighborhood perhaps - but if the Holy Spirit directs you to reach out in this way at Christmas, here is how.

In October, Theresa was finally able to make her exposure trip to Pikangikum First Nation Community. She was delayed in the spring due to the forest fires very near the community. We look forward to hearing all about Theresa's time there, working alongside Missionaries Colleen Estees and Nicholas Backlund. As Nick said in a recent update, "Love is such a powerful force. But like all things it needs time to grow. One day I believe we will see the fruit of what God has done in Pikangikum First Nation. For when it comes, there will be incredible rejoicing".

Theresa







St. Benedict Knights of Columbus

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

All information about the Knights of Columbus activities can be found on the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes web page under Parish Ministry at St. Benedict KofC

Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Knights-of-Columbus-St-Benedict-Council-11164-Sarnia-109218710960306

Join Us Today

Become an online Knights of Columbus member for free. Visit <u>KofC.org/joinus</u> Enter code <u>BLESSEDMCGIVNEY</u> for a FREE one-year membership.





Join us for meat bingo every 1st and 3rd Thursday at OLM Hall (Christina St. & London Rd.), starting at 7 PM. Win bigger meat prizes from **Ken's Independent Grocer in Sarnia**. All proceeds support St. Benedict and St. Thomas d'Aquin Knights of Columbus charities. Bring a friend and have some fun!

Our November theme is Remembering our Veterans. Wear your Canada red clothing. All those who wear a poppy at the November 6th Bingo will receive an extra ticket for the four meat prizes at the end of the night. Bring a friend and have some fun!

Coats for Kids

The Knights of Columbus are donating coats to St. Vincent de Paul to help local children this winter. However, there is still a high demand for snow pants, and gloves—especially for boys and girls ages 8 to 10. Our council will purchase more winter gear to donate from Giant Tiger. If you'd like to help, please donate to "St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council #11164" (cheques payable as such) or give your monetary contribution to a Knights of Columbus member Leo Mayer, George Szober, Dan Thomas, or Mark Roehler. E-transfers are accepted at still64@ontarionkofc.ca Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$20. Please provide your name, address, and phone number.

For questions, contact Mark at 519-330-7552 or 4markroehler@gmail.com



GOOD NEWS MONTHLY 202 BONNES NOUVELLES MENSUELLES



St. Benedict Knights of Columbus





COMMUNITY TIRE SWAP



The St. Benedict Knights of Columbus (KofC) is pleased to offer a community seasonal tire swap program for vehicle owners within the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes (FOP) and community. This initiative aims to assist the community with the transition of seasonal tires while raising funds to purchase and maintain a defibrillator machine for St. Benedict and Queen of Peace churches. All tire swaps will be conducted by qualified, licensed automotive technicians to ensure safety and quality.

Program Schedule and Procedure

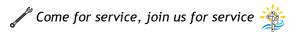
The community tire swap program will be available twice a year: in the fall for swapping summer tires to winter tires, and in the spring for changing winter tires back to summer tires.

- · Two consecutive Saturdays each season
- St. Benedict Church driveway, near the garage situated between the church office and Holy Trinity school
- Time: 09:00 to 12:00 (noon)
- Each appointment: Designated 20-minute time slots
- Tires must be mounted on wheel rims for the swap.
- Parishioners should make every effort to bring their tires and vehicles to the event location.
- If transportation of tires is an issue, arrangements can be made with Knights of Columbus members to assist in bringing the tires to the location.
- After the tire swap, parishioners should contact the program coordinator to arrange for wheel lug nuts to be re-torqued after one week or 100 kilometers of travel.

The average expense for a tire exchange at an automotive shop is approximately \$80. It will be therefore requested a minimum donation of \$50 for this service.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer to the Knights of Columbus at fs11164@ontariokofc.ca. Charitable tax receipts will be provided. Parishioners' generosity is greatly appreciated, and all proceeds from the community tire swap program will be used to support selected projects within the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes.

Contact Leo Mayer at 519 331-7700 to make an appointment.



KofC 50-50 ON-LINE Raffle

The KofC 50-50 on-line raffle is ongoing. It is never too late to purchase a ticket and add it as stocking stuffers during the Christmas season. Although there was not a local winners in the October 14th early bird draw, you still have a chance to win the jackpot prize which will be drawn on December 30, 2025.





scan this QR Code

Go online to https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/190 to purchase a ticket and support the St. Benedict's (Sarnia) Council 11164. All proceeds go to local charities.

Remembering our Faithful Departed

On November 4th, the St. Benedict Knights of Columbus will celebrate their annual Memorial Mass at St. Benedict church at the 6:30 PM. The Mass is to honour our Brother Knights that have passed away since the last Memorial Mass of November 2024.

We remember;

Brother John E. Ramsey, Brother Walter Bucci, Brother William Bryan Staford
Eternal rest grant upon them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen

Remembrance Day 2025

Let's not forget the many women and men who have served our country and given the supreme sacrifice for the freedom that we enjoy today.









<u>Crafternoon Soup</u> <u>Luncheon</u>

Nov. 22nd 11-2:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall (London & Christina) SARNIA

Craft tables

Woodworking, knitting, baking, jewellery, Christmas crafts

Lunch \$10.00

Tasty soups, Chris's famous focaccia bread, rolls, veggies and fruit trays, beverages, desserts

Door Prizes, 50/50 Draw

Free Admission

Something UNIQUE for Everyone

Sponsored by Our Lady of Mercy CWL For more information, please call 519-383-7541