

Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles



Let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry.

(Spes Non Confundit, 16)





Engageons-nous à remédier aux causes profondes des injustices, apurons les dettes injustes et insolvables et rassasions les affamés. (Spes non confundit, 16)



OFFICE: 1011 Oak Avenue, Sarnia, N7S 1J4 519-336-2653

www.sarniacatholic.ca

FAMILY OF PARISHES JUBILEE LENTEN MISSION



We are pleased to announce that our Family of Parishes will host a Lenten Jubilee Mission on the dates and locations as follows:

Monday, March 31 at St. Michael:

Stations: 6pm, Mass 6:30pm, Mission 7pm

Tuesday, April 1 at St. Benedict:

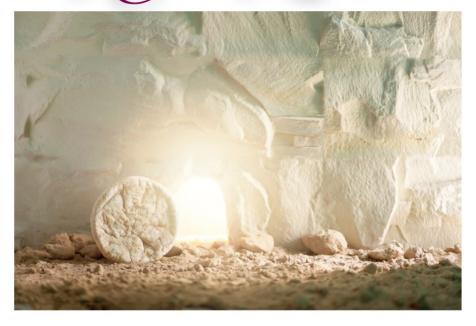
Stations: 6pm, Mass 6:30pm, Mission 7pm

• Thursday, April 3 at Sacred Heart:

Stations: 6pm, Mass 6:30pm, Mission 7pm

All events will begin at 6pm and include Mass, Confession and a talk on a particular Jubilee theme. The Mission will qualify the attendees to obtain a Plenary Indulgence since the

OHe is OLisen!



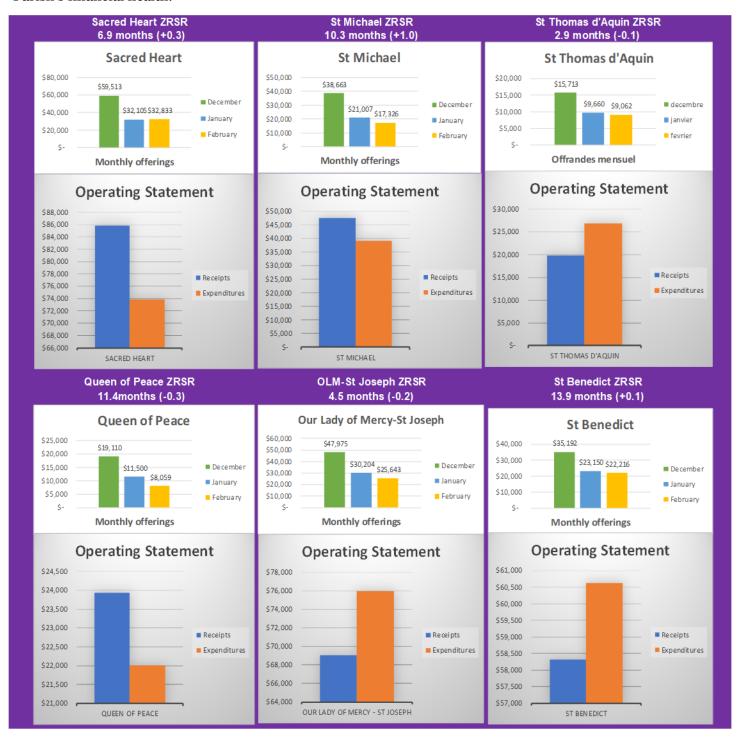
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RENDER UNTO CAESAR A FINANCIAL COLUMN

You will notice a difference in this month's financial dashboard. The pie chart used to compare receipts versus expenditures has been replaced by a bar graph. This is an easier way to see the gap between what is collected and how much it cost to maintain a Parish.

When reading the bar graph, it is important to look at the scale located on the left side. For example, if we look at the St Benedict bar graph, it looks like way more expenditure than receipts. By looking at the scale we can see that we received \$58,320 so far this year compared to \$60,623 that was spent, for a total shortfall of \$2,303. Not has foreboding than what the graph indicates. I hope you find this an easier way to monitor your Parish's financial health.





Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes 2025 Vacation Bible School

The Great Journey with Jesus.

Your children will experience an exciting 5-day journey through the Life of Jesus. They will travel through the cycles of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter through music, faith, games, crafts and snacks.

Journey Date:

Monday, August 4th to Friday, August 8th from 9am-12pm

Place of Exploration: Holy Trinity Catholic School, Sarnia

Travelers: Children entering Grades 1 to 5 in September of 2025 & Youth entering Grades 6 to 8 in September 2025

Cost: \$40/child, \$100 family of 3+ children

Registration: scan the QR code or visit <u>sarniacatholic.ca</u>

Registration is also open for Student and Adult volunteers.

To volunteer visit: https://sarniacatholic.ca/vacation-bible-school



JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS



March has given us many blessings, including the weather, depending on how you see it. I was blessed with the teases of Spring weather!

As we grow closer to God each day through Lent, may we be grateful for the opportunity to slow our hearts and minds in preparation for Easter.

March brough more classroom visits where I was able to share with Grade 7 students the exciting news of the upcoming, youth faith, leadership experience: *the Sarnia Bluewater*

Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Muskoka Woods Trip. There has been an overwhelming response to this experience, and I look forward to growing this trip to even more Grade 7's next Spring. We are having a PastaFest fundraiser on April 24th, 2025, to support the cost of the Muskoka Woods Trip for our youth. Details are in this newsletter, our Family of Parishes website and Social Media and on church bulletin boards.

The Family of Parishes First Reconciliation celebration was a beautiful part of the Sacramental Preparation program. On March 23rd, over 100 children received their Sacrament of First Reconciliation. The Sacramental Preparation program resumes in April to prepare the children for reception of their Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please keep our children and their families in your prayers as they learn and grow in God's love.

I wish you and your family many Lenten Blessings!

Yours in Christ,

Jenn

Sacramental Catechist

JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC) By Marilyn Deery ofs

Mission: In the Spirit of Peace

Everything that the Canadian ofs National JPIC Team has been fostering, is in the direction of creating Peace with the Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples endured severe suffering that has created Intergenerational trauma, for approximately 600 years in the Americas.

Just as Jesus suffered a loss of love while on the Cross, the Indigenous Peoples have suffered a loss of love from the communities of the world. This loss of love has meant murder, rape, dishonouring,

total disrespect for the dignity of the human person who are the Indigenous Peoples. This disrespect is pathetic, deplorable, disgusting, Horrifying, terrible.

As St Francis experienced the persons who have leprosy, we are called to follow the Commandment of Jesus, "to love our neighbour" (Mark 12:31).

In establishing contacts and making friendships with the Indigenous Peoples, we are treating the person with integrity, dignity and respect. The first and foremost value of the Catholic Social Teaching.

Over the years, the Franciscan growth has moved from being a contact to a friend. This Mission of caring, compassion and being lovable people to the person has deepen relationships ... to create Forever Friends, and Spiritual Sisters and Brothers in the Fraternity of the world. The Fraternity of brotherhood and sisterhood is the way Indigenous Peoples have lived from all time.

While following Christ and the Blessed Mother Mary, St Francis focused on the Ministry of Peace.

Each person is given a sense of belonging in the one Fraternity of the world. Therefore, the Mission Statement to be realized is ... we are "Never Alone."

As taught at St Peter's Seminary in London, ON ... God created human beings as sacred ... who are made "in the image and likeness of God" (Gen 1:27), and social ... to be in communion with God.

By following the example of St Francis, we are formed ... to place God first, to follow Jesus, to love deeply and ... to live in Peace.

Every person has a core of sacredness. *

* (cf. God and the Human Experience, Dr Norman King, U of Windsor, 1998)

By the grace of God, we are Spiritually bonded together.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Deery ofs

Ordo Franciscanus Saecularis (OFS) Canada





30th Anniversary of Divine Mercy Celebration in Sarnia/Lambton

On Good Friday, April 18, begin the Divine Mercy Novena and Novena of Chaplets.

Divine Mercy leaflets are available at the welcome desk in all parishes or visit:

TheDivineMercy.org/novena

The **Social Justice & Missions Team** is active throughout the year with the various Ministries which fall under the Social Justice umbrella. Anyone interested in being a part of the Social Justice & Missions Team, you are most welcome. Please contact Vera Lawlor at vlawlor@cogeco.ca. It is our goal to have a representative from each parish in our Family of Parishes on this very important outreach ministry.





"The Jubilee reminds us that the goods of the earth are not destined for a privileged few, but for everyone. The rich must be generous and not avert their eyes from the faces of their brothers and sisters in need."

Pope Francis, (Spes Non Confundit, 16)

CANCEL DEBT TO CREATE HOPE

Inspired by Pope Frances call to justice, D&P is joining Caritas Internationalis' campaign Turn Debt into Hope, along with many other faith-based and civil society organisations. Together, we urge decision-makers to *prioritize people* and planet over mere profit and *demand debt just*ice for communities crushed by unjust and unpayable debts. As the Holy Father writes, "if we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, we must commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts" (Spes Non Confundit, 16).

END UNJUST DEBTS

More than 3.3 billion people live in countries that are spending more on debt payments than on health or education, standing in the way of sustainable development. In many countries, debt repayments far outweigh spending on climate action and addressing the impacts of the climate crisis. For heavily indebted countries, public debt has grown so large that repayment is impossible, burdening future generations.

Meanwhile, wealthy countries, including Canada, and corporations exploit resources from heavily indebted countries and from Indigenous communities causing human rights violations and severe ecological harm. This creates an "ecological debt" owed to those countries and to Indigenous peoples. This can change.

Sign the petition now! Go to www.devp.org

<u>Look for the Prayer</u> for Wisdom and Justice in Addressing External Debt in church pews in your church. April 6 is Share Lent Solidarity Sunday, a time to financially support the work of Development & Peace. To donate you can pick up an envelope at your church or donate online at <u>www.devp.org</u>.

Reel Justice Film Festival



A partnership between the <u>Bishop Farrell Library & Archives</u> and <u>Development and Peace</u>, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

Register and view the full schedule of **events for 2025** at: **Reel Justice Film Festival**

April 24 film, The Grab - Theme: Food security, Economics & Development

May 22 film, **The Condor & The Eagle** – Theme: Indigenous Justices – Environmental Care.

The Social Justice & Missions Team

Invites you to

A Solidarity Soup Lunch

Sunday, April 6th following 10:30 AM Mass

@ St. Michael Church

Bring the whole family!

All you can eat

Donations accepted for Development & Peace (Suggested donation: Adults \$12– Children \$6)
A large variety of delicious homemade soups,
Hot Dogs, Rolls, Cookies,
Juice, Tea, Coffee

If you would like to make a pot of soup or cookies for this event please contact

Vera Lawlor at vllawlor@cogeco.ca (519) 869-4389 or Greg Stewart at stewgrego@gmail.com (519869-4262 or sign up on the sheet in the St. Michael's narthex.

Migrant Worker Ministry



The **Migrant Worker Ministry** held the Annual General Meeting in February to make plans for the 2025 season supporting our migrant friends who will be living in the Sarnia Bluewater and Lambton County Family of Parishes communities. Many of our migrant friends who become our Catholic parishioners while in our neighbourhoods, are predominantly from Latin American countries. Other workers living and working in our neighbourhoods are from the Caribbean. Traditionally, for over 20 years, we provide monthly Spanish Mass and dinner for our Latin American friends. This year we are hoping to support the Catholic Caribbean workers by welcoming them into St. Joseph Parish, Sarnia and St. Christopher Parish, Forest at the weekend Masses. We urge you to welcome these workers when you have the opportunity to do so when you see them at Mass. As St. Pope John Paul II said, "**Migrants should find a homeland everywhere in the Church.**"

The <u>Spanish Mass dates</u> for 2025 at St. Christhoper Church are: April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, Sept. 14, October 19, Nov. 9. If you are interested in volunteering in this Ministry, please contact Vera Lawlor at <u>vllawlor@cogeco.ca</u> or by phone 519-869-4389.

We wish to express a sincere **Thank You** to everyone who gave so generously toward the Toonie Collection held in February and March. Without your financial support, this Ministry would struggle to continue the valuable and important outreach for our migrant Catholic brothers and sisters. These workers are living and working on farms and greenhouses growing our food and plants for our well being and enjoyment. They help to grow and harvest produce such as apples, strawberries, cabbage, broccoli, peppers, turnip, peaches, pears, tomatoes, potatoes, honey... everything we have come to enjoy and expect from Canadian farmers. Please remember to thank and pray for our migrant workers for their dedication, hard work and commitment to their Canadian farm employers, and to their families whom they are supporting thousands of miles away for many months at a time. We have no idea of the loneliness and difficulties they face because of this separation from their families. Please keep them in your prayers and thank them if ever you have the chance to in person.



Homeless Affordable Housing Ministry

Congratulations to Jim Curran and Vera Lawlor, members of the HAH Ministry, on the success of the **Coldest Night of the Year Walk** for Habitat for Humanity and River City Vineyard. Jim and Vera wish to thank all their faithful donors who supported their efforts for the walk. Thanks to donors' generosity, both organizations reached their fundraising goal. This means they are better equipped to provide support for families struggling financially to stay in their homes as well as support for unhoused people in the Sarnia community. Watch and learn through local media all the good works that Habitat and River City Vineyard are able to accomplish thanks to all the walkers and donors who gave so generously of their time and financial support. As you live and rest in your comfortable homes, please take a moment once in a while to remember and pray for those who do not have the comfort and resources that so many of us enjoy.





Volunteer Donna Stewart & Vera

Jim Curran & friends Coldest Night Walk for River City Vineyard

Vera & Larry Lawlor Coldest Night Walk for Habitat

For information or participation on the Homeless Affordable Housing Ministry, or the many other charitable organizations that support the poor and unhoused, contact John Barnfield at barnfield@cogeco.ca.

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty." MOTHER TERESA

Missions

In this issue of our Family of Parishes newsletter, we highlight the charitable organization **Chalice Canada**, which, thanks to parishioners' dedication and generous donations we have been able to financially support since 2017.

Chalice is a Canadian, Catholic sponsorship organization dedicated to supporting vulnerable children in developing countries to complete their education. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of sponsors, Deacons, volunteers, and our worldwide Chalice staff family, we have helped thousands of children grow up happy, healthy, and on their way to a hopeful future.

Chalice Vision: A world where all children and families live in communities of life and love.



Our sponsor sites work with communities that lack the essentials, including food, medicine, and clean water. When families live in these circumstances, educating their children becomes a luxury they cannot afford. Sadly, many children drop out to join the workforce and help support their families. This continues the 'cycle of poverty.'

Chalice sponsorship is focused on giving children all the support they need to finish school – be that secondary, post-secondary, or vocational training.

The core sponsorship program has many supports, including:

- Nutrition program
- Infrastructure construction projects
- Skills development programs
- Disaster response





Jubilee with Me: Chalice Sponsorship Sparks Eva Gloria's Path to Medicine

Eva Gloria has an uncommon boast – she was the second child sponsored when our Neema site opened in 2008. She won her 'silver medal' when she was five years old and in kindergarten.

"Through the Chalice sponsorship program, my mother got an opportunity to open a bank account," she says, where she banks her sponsorship funds and her income from her small tailoring business.

"The financial literacy education has helped my mother to save and plan for the family finances to ensure she provides her children with the basic necessities – particularly education, nutrition and other basic necessities."

Meanwhile, Eva Gloria excelled in her studies, especially in physics and chemistry.

Dreaming of becoming a doctor, she earned a spot in Medical school! She is currently in university and enjoying her studies. She credits her Chalice sponsor for being her 'tumaini" (hope).

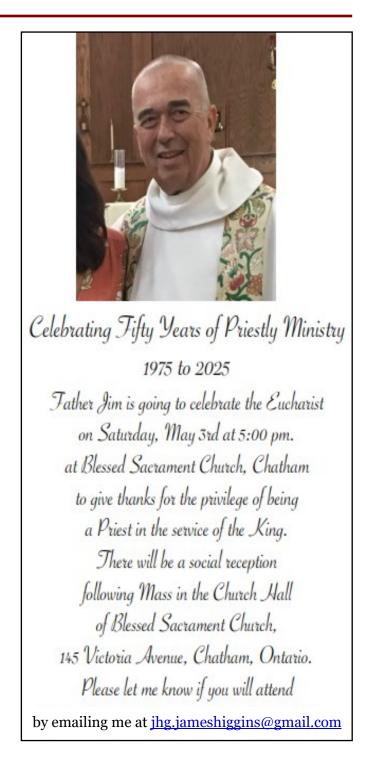
"You gave me hope and I worked hard in my studies to achieve my dream," she says. "I am grateful for your willingness to invest in my future. Your support has enabled me to pursue my dreams and to achieve my goals."



MUSKOKA WOODS FUNDRAISER

Enjoy a delicious dinner and help offset the cost of the Muskoka Woods experience for our Family of Parishes youth with your support our PastaFest Fundraiser.





CHOSEN Season 2

The CHOSEN is a fresh look at the Gospels for those who have been reading the stories for years or for those who are just curious about who Jesus is. The Chosen stays faithful to the Gospels and at the

same time tells us a story that is in between the lines of Scripture. This TV series brings to life people that are mentioned in the Bible, using the historical context of life at the time of Jesus. The series does not contradict Scripture, but instead puts life around it so that we as viewers can imagine, "What was life like with Jesus."

Please note: to benefit from this course, please watch Season 1.

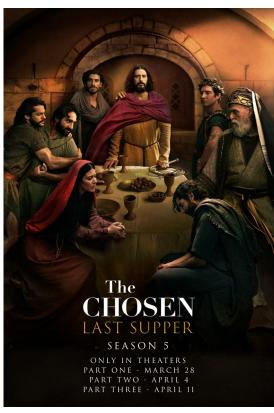
It is free at https://watch.thechosen.tv/

Location: St Benedicts parish hall

Dates: 8 sessions starting Monday April 28

Time: 10:00 to 11:50

Registration: Call the Family of Parishes office: 519-336-2653 or email <u>aferrera@dol.ca</u>



The Chosen: Last Supper

The people of Israel welcome Jesus as king while his disciples anticipate his crowning. But, instead of confronting Rome, he turns the tables on the Jewish religious festival. Their power threatened, the country's religious and political leaders will go to any length to ensure this Passover meal is Jesus' last.

Shot in a beautiful cinematic format, *The Chosen: Last Supper* brings the most pivotal week in history to audiences in this special three-part theatrical release.

Cineplex Sarnia: https://onlineticketing.cineplex.com/
Performances/76cac808-d1eb-497b-a08e-ce9120e6c130?
platform=&platformversion=&appversion=

Season 5: Part 1 (Episodes 1&2) from March 28 – April 3 Season 5: Part 2 (Episodes 3, 4, 5) from April 4 – April 10 Season 5: Part 3 (Episodes 6, 7, 8) from April 11 – April 17



St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

April 2025 NEWSLETTER

All information about the St. Benedict Knights of Columbus activities can be found on the **Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes** web page at <u>St. Benedict KofC</u>

Follow us on Facebook at Knights of Columbus St. Benedict Council 11164 Sarnia

Join Us Today

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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Benedict Church



A big thank you to all those who came to St. Benedict Church hall on March 4th to enjoy a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper sponsored by the St. Benedict Knights of Columbus and the St. Benedict Catholic Women's League.

Over 80 people attended to share a good meal and socialization.



All proceeds went to KofC and CWL activities.

HAPPY EASTER

The members and families of the St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus wish you all a very *Happy Easter*.

May you be blessed with our Lord's love and peace this Easter. We thank Him for His blessings and wish you an Easter full of joy and peace. Let us remember the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and His endless love.





He is Risen Car/Fridge Magnets

We have a limited supply of "**He is Risen**" magnets that can be displayed either on your car or fridge during the Easter season.

The cost is \$10 each and magnets are available at the Parish office, 1011 Oak St. Sarnia

(at St. Benedict Church).

Divine Mercy Sunday

Come join your fellow Family of Parish parishioners for the celebration of **Divine Mercy Sunday** on **Sunday**, **April 27 at 2 PM**

at Our Lady of Mercy church.

This will be the 30th anniversary that the Divine Mercy will be celebrated in Sarnia/Lambton.





St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council # 11164



KofC Meat Bingos

Come and join us every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at Our Lady of Mercy parish hall (corner of Christina St. & London Rd.). Bingo stars at 7 PM, but come early to buy your cards and get set up. Food and refreshments are available.

Please bring canned goods in support of our local food banks. All proceeds help support Knights of Columbus charities.

KofC 50-50 ON-LINE Raffle

The KofC 50-50 raffle is still on going in support of local Sarnia and Ontario Charities. To purchase your tickets from the **St. Benedict KofC**, go to on the following link

https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/190

This is your last chance to purchase a ticket before the *Grand Prize* that will be drawn on April 27th, 2025.

Please share with your family, friends and neighbours.





ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

St Joseph CWL Sarnia is reaching out for assistance this year in our preparation for our bazaar in November. We are very grateful for your support to help with our expenses. Some items we need of are:

- * cake mixes * mini tart shells (no-name pkg of 30) * corn syrup * butter (salted) * white sugar
- * red Certo liquid (2pack) * financial support also would help with purchasing turkeys and most supplies that we purchase from suppliers to make our turkey pies, tarts and bake table treats. Please make cheques are payable to St Joseph CWL.

Your generous donation, small or large, is most appreciated as we continue to do our part for God and Country supporting our parish family and our charities. Please reach out to a CWL member or bring to your donation Mass on Sunday, or give Charlene Hummel a call for pick up or drop off.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us! St Joseph, pray for us!

The ladies of your St Joseph CWL wish everyone in our Family of Parishes and their families, a Happy and Blessed Easter

Thank You and God Bless us all!

Charlene Hummel St Joseph CWL President 519-542-4244







PILGRIMAGES 2025

MARIAN SHRINES OF QUEBEC JUBILEE PILGRIMAGES

Several Families of Parishes in the Diocese of London have organized pilgrimages Canadian Catholic Marian sites in the province of Quebec. St. Joseph Oratory, Ste Anne de Beaupré, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap, Notre Dame Basilica, the shrine of St. Marguerite d'Youville and the Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. All excursions are escorted by a Priest Chaplain and a Tour Escort.

Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes: May 18 to May 24 with Fr. Tom Donohue

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes: July 7 to July 11 with Fr. Innocent Ibeh

Erie Shores South Catholic Family of Parishes: August 25 to August 29 with Fr. Tom Ferrera

Complete details and registration forms on all these pilgrimages are available on sarniacatholic.ca



JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE, PORTUGAL, FRANCE, SPAIN

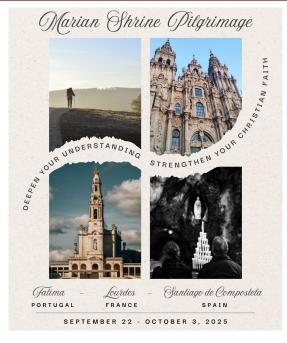
Join us now for a trip of a lifetime and experience the incredible Pilgrimage to Fatima (Portugal), Lourdes (France) and Santiago de Compostela (Spain), under the spiritual leadership of Rev. José Montepeque (retired associate pastor of Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes), to places of historical and biblical importance.

September 22nd, 2025 to October 3rd, 2025.

It will be an enriching journey that will deepen your understanding and strengthen your Christian faith.

Daily Mass will be held in some of the most beautiful cathedrals, and lots more.

For further details, contact Irene at <u>kohirene88@gmail.com</u>, or call 519-464-2044













Come journey with us through the heart of France's rich Catholic heritage, and learn about some of the greatest Saints in history!

August 12-20, 2025 (9 days / 7 nights)





Paris Mont-Saint-Michel Rouen Lisieux



and to register for this pilgrimage, vist

https://trinitytourtravels.com/cordial-catholic



William E. Prentice Council 1429

393 Christina St. N

Samia, ON N7T 5V9

OUR LADY OF MERCY

SACRED HEART

ST. JOSEPH

ST. GEORGE [Ukrainian]

COUNCIL NEWS

Thanks to your support we ran several activities over the past weeks.

- Pancake Tuesday at Sacred Heart Church hall.
- Two days later Knights conducted the Way of the Cross for Life.
- Baby Drive for the Sarnia Pregnancy Options and Support Centre.

Coming up:

- May 03 Dinner Dance
- June Sacred Heart Feast
- Family of the Month celebrations
- Altar Servers recognition
- Two of our knights will have been knighted in the 4th degree



SPRING DINNER DANCE 2025

Please support us by buying tickets, donating items for the door and spot prizes and for the gift baskets.

519-542-7528

or

GK1429@OntarioKofC.ca

Get your tickets and tables before they sell out.

Early bird pricing until April 20

e-Transfer option:

GK1429@OntarioKofC.ca

"Join the Knights (Click here)"

For 'preferred council number 'enter '1429'.

For 'member referral number' enter your sponsor's membership number or leave it blank

MEETINGS: 1ST Tuesday

6:15 pm - Officers meeting (members welcome)

7 pm - Membership

8 pm - Social hour

GK1429@ontariokofc.ca

Norman Monteiro 519-542-7528

Web-page at Parish







DONATE