



Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes

*Serving the Parishes of Our Lady of Mercy,
Queen of Peace, Sacred Heart, St. Benedict,
St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Thomas d'Aquin*

Welcoming Communities, Encountering Christ, Sharing Faith, Caring for All

**SARNIA BLUEWATER ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILY of PARISHES
PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**March 11, 2025
7:30pm
St. Thomas d'Aquin**

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Pastoral Council Mandate:

The Pastoral Parish Council of the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes helps to ensure that the Mission and Vision of the Family of Parishes and the mission (Pastoral Plan) of the Diocese of London are ardently pursued. It is also imperative that the Parish Pastoral Council act in an advisory capacity to the Pastor and the Cor Leadership Team and as a source of communication for the Family of Parishes.

To do so, it will be important for the Pastoral Council to focus on the mission of the Diocese of London and its Pastoral Plan with the key role of gathering information from parishioners and sharing information with the family of parishes for the common good of the family.

Meeting called by: Marc Hammond

Chaired: Marc Hammond

Note taker: Annie Ferrera

Attendees:

Fr. Brian Jane (FoP), Marc Hammond (SM), Helen Ross (SM), John Spinozzi (SJ), Regina Croskery (SB), Frank Vautour (STA- Eng.), Diane Rose (QP-Eng.), Joanna Kazanecki (QP-Pol.), Raymundo Mendez (STA-Sp.), Fr. Edward Okorie (FoP), David Kraemer (FoP), Jenn Stewart (FoP), Alyssa Minten (FoP) Annie Ferrera (FoP), Louis Guimond(FoP),

Regrets: Rev. Joseph Oghenejabor, Rev. Michael Woods (FoP), Leonia Downie (FoP), John Roman (SH), Linda Iacovella (SH), Leo Mayer (SB) Doris Leblanc (STA-Fr.) Fr. Jan Burczyk (FoP),

Guests:

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order & Welcome:** Marc Hammond welcomed Alyssa Minten (Family of Parishes Social Media Assistant), Helen Ross (St. Michael Parish representative and Joanna Kazanecki (Queen of Peace representative)
- 2. Opening Prayer:** Fr. Brian opened the meeting with Our Father and the Sunday Gospel. Members shared their thoughts of this Gospel.
- 3. Review of Agenda:** Marc confirmed the agenda items for the evening.
- 4. Acceptance of Minutes:** February 11, 2025, minutes: motion to accept by Regina C, seconded by Jenn S; minutes accepted.
- 5. Pastor's Report: Fr. Brian Jane**
 - Vacation Bible School has been moved to Holy Trinity Catholic School to accommodate more children. There will be 2 groups this year: children entering grade 1 to 5 and youth entering grade 6 to 8. The dates are August 4 to August 8.

- Registrations are now open for both women's (May 24/25) and men's (May 31/June 1) retreats
- Charisms sessions begin March 25th with Christine Bresette as the pastoral facilitator
- A Mass for the feast of the Annunciation is on Tuesday, March 25th at 12:10pm at Our Lady of Mercy. Father encourages everyone to attend this Mass
- A formation day is planned for the Core Leadership Team on Tuesday, March 25th at St. Benedict Church

6. Updates:

Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Jenn Stewart

- RCIA is well underway. RCIA for children has 6 youth entering the programme. This programme is for older children seeking to be baptized, and to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. They will be received with the adults at Easter.
- Reconciliation is scheduled for March 23, 2025, at Sacred Heart.
- First Holy Communion preparation sessions begin April 7th. 140 children are registered this year.
- Preparations for the Muskoka Woods trip are moving along. The logo has been accepted, and we are ready to advertise. Registrations will open next week. The trip is open to all students in grade 7. This year the number of participants is capped at 80. The cost is set at \$300 for students, leaders and chaperones. Jenn will be seeking sponsorship to reduce the cost for students and leaders. It was suggested that Jenn send out sponsorship requests out to groups as soon as possible.
- Steubenville Youth Conference is being explored with the possibility of a group joining the Diocese of London Youth Ministry Team for this trip
- Grade 8 open house is scheduled at St. Patrick's high school February 12th, weather permitting. Father Brian and Jenn have a booth for the Family of Parishes.

Liturgy: Fr. Joseph

- Training was held the Altar servers at St. Benedict. 8 of the 10 Alt. Benedict servers participated along with 2 parent leaders who will be overseeing the program. The day included an overview of the Mass, a tour of the sacristy, practice and a lunch. The plan is to continue meeting with this group on a monthly basis. Father Joseph is also planning training with Altar servers in all our parishes.
- Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is also ongoing. St. Benedict ministers held their training a few weeks ago. St. Michael is scheduled for next week and Father is working on meeting with the ministers in the other 5 churches.

Business Administration: Louis Guimond

- Louis encourages parishioners to get to know who their Finance Council representative is and to direct finance questions to the rep.
- Finance Council updates are published in the monthly newsletter.
- A new Diocese of London accounting system is coming soon. This will streamline how accounting is done in all parishes but requires more training and workload for the parish finance team. Our 6 parishes each collect their own money and have separate accounts. Expenses are shared by all parishes which translates to a very heavy workload entering all this data for the finance team.
- The PLENTY platform is recommended by the Diocese for payments, donations etc. It is hoped that the platform can be integrated into our accounting system and can be used more efficiently for registrations, payments etc.
- We are reviewing safety and security in all our churches. WIFI is being updated, cameras are being installed and closing procedures are being established for all churches.

Deacon Report: Deacon Dave Kraemer

- A meeting for all deacons from all Families of Parishes in our Diocese was recently held. We reviewed and received instructions on the Roman Missal. Presently there are 6 men in formation for the Diaconate.

Evangelization: Fr. Brian

- Points covered in Pastor's report

Social Justice: Regina Croskery

- The Social Justice and Missions chair, Vera Lawlor, was pleased with the participation for the "toonie Sunday" collection for Migrant ministry. A Mass in Spanish for Lambton County migrant workers is scheduled for April 13th at St. Christopher Church in Forest.

- Sarnia migrant workers are mostly from Jamaica and are looking for a Catholic Church. Since they mostly live in the South end of the city, St. Joseph was suggestion as a good option for them.

Communication Team: Annie Ferrera

- The Communications team has been asked to review the cost of producing weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.
- Alyssa Minten has moved right into the role of social media with ease. She is producing a lot of content for Facebook, Instagram, and other social media platforms. The number of followers has increased. She is preparing a contest for the month of April to increase readership. Alyssa is also working on producing short video clips for social media.
- A Rosary video in various languages is a project being explored. A call has been put out to recruit people to recite the rosary in different languages.

Social Team: Annie Ferrera

- St. Patrick Day card and games night is coming up on March 17th at Sacred Heart Church.
- After Easter the team will actively seek a convener and team for the annual BBQ

7. Old Business:

- Review of Pastoral Goals: suggestion is to have all PPC members review the first 3 goals and comment on each. We will go the results at the April meeting.
- A request brought forward by a parishioner at the March meeting was reviewed. The request was to bring back the recognize all deceased parishioners during a Mass in November (video with picture and name and announcement of each name). This is not liturgically appropriate during Mass. It can be done during the special candlelight memorial celebration held each at Sacred Heart in November. Volunteers would have to take on this task as it is very labour intensive. Presently, a memorial binder is available in all churches with the obituary of all Family of Parishes deceased.

8. New Business:

- Review of the new Diocese of London Family of Parishes Pastoral Council Handbook – deferred

9. Open Forum:

- Jenn Stewart was commended for doing an excellent job in preparing children for their Sacraments. Parents have commented to their PPC representative that they were very impressed at how the Sacramental programme is presented. Children and parents are engaged.
- Alyssa Minten was also recognised for the work she is doing on social media.

10. Closing Prayer: Deacon Kraemer closed the meeting with prayer.

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 – St. Benedict Church