



**Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes**

**JULY 2025
JUILLET 2025**

Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles



HAPPENING S & EVENTS

JULY

- ◇ Jubilee Celebration:
Our Lady of Mercy Church
July 17th, 18th, 19th

AUGUST

- ◇ Vacation Bible School
August 4th-8th
- ◇ Outdoor Family Movie
Sunday, August 24th

OCTOBER

- ◇ Jubilee Bus Trip Martyr's Shrine
Saturday, October 4th
- ◇ Feast of Our Lady Aparecida
October 12th
- ◇ Trunk or Treat — October 26th

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Bus Trip Midland**
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St. Benedict Catholic Women's
Leagues**
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OFFICE:

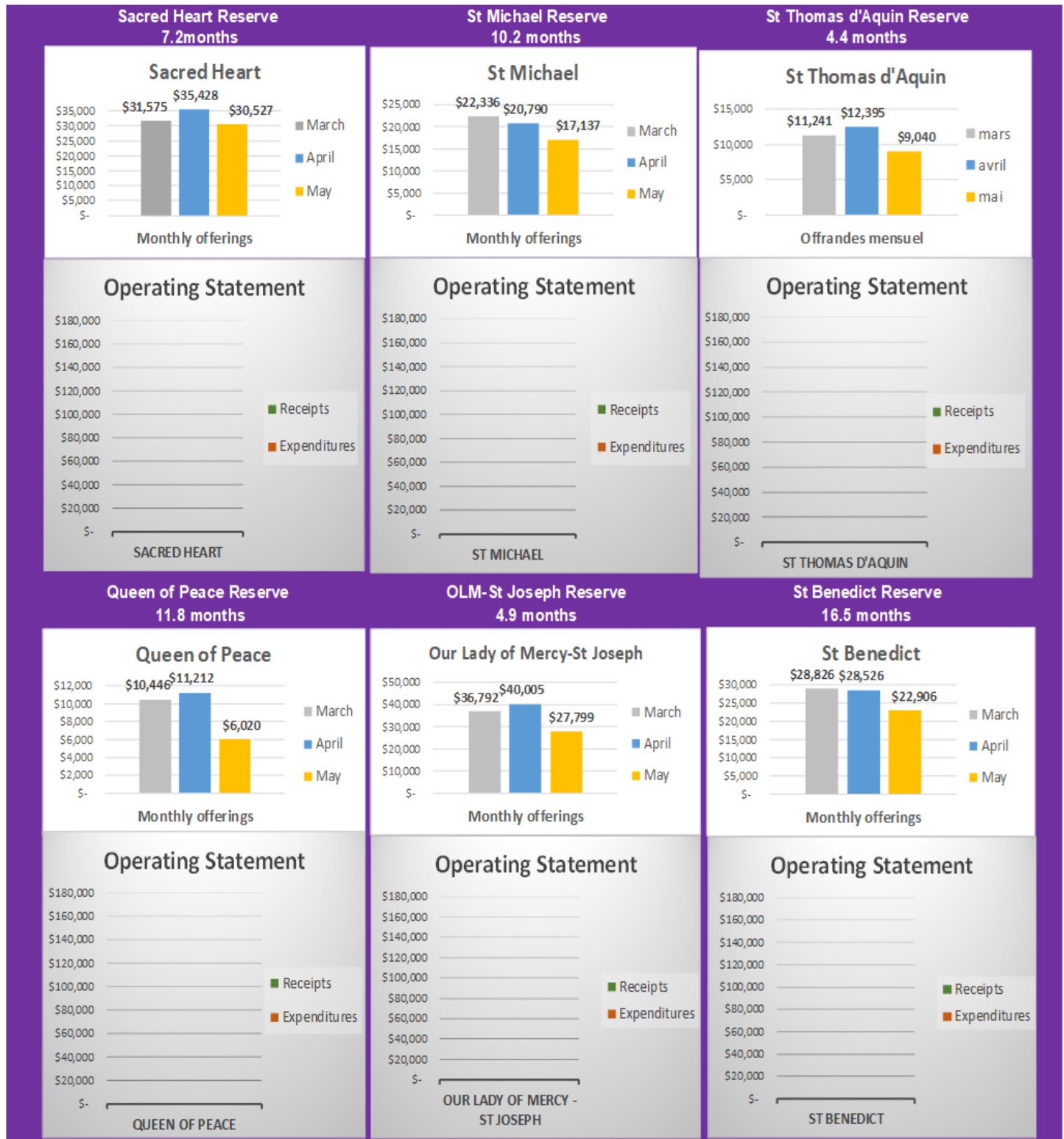
**1011 Oak Avenue, Sarnia, N7S 1J4
519-336-2653
www.sarniacatholic.ca**

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

RENDER UNTO CAESAR

OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Diocese of London is currently updating their financial software. This month's dashboard can only show the monthly offerings up to the end of May. The operating statements will be available once all the information is transferred and verified into the new system. Thank you for your donations



JULIA STECCA MONTEIRO — PILGRIM OF HOPE — ROME



Hello, my name is Julia Stecca Monteiro. I'm 18 years old, and I've been a parishioner at the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes since I can remember, and have always been on the search for more opportunities to grow in my faith.

As a young person, I find that the environments that help deepen my relationship with God are often when I'm surrounded by other young people with strong faiths. It's so important to see how the Church is still alive within our youth - even if it's not always evident in every city.

Recently, I went to Rome and the Vatican for Holy Week. I spent the time there visiting historical sites, praying before relics I never dreamed of seeing, and going to talks by women, for women. It was also beautiful that I was able to meet girls that I now consider my closest friends, despite only

spending nine days getting to know them. Being surrounded by other faithful is important for everyone, and this really helped me. I should also note, this was not a trip, but a pilgrimage. We walked a lot, did many penances, and also rejoiced with our full hearts. In Rome, how could you not? Easter in a city with so much history was an unfathomable blessing. The vigil was so touching, and the gelato after was the cherry on top. Most of all, the experience left me thinking of how blessed I am. I was one of the five youth to go to UNIV (an international meeting of young university women) this year from all of Canada, and while other countries had numbers nearing a hundred, I understand how many other youth in Canada have prayed to be in my place. The reason I was able to go, was in large part, because of many of you, alongside the sacrifices my parents made for me. The trip was priceless, but it did cost quite a bit, and I wouldn't have been able to experience these unique things: meeting the Pope on his last days, passing through the four Holy doors and getting plenary indulgences, and having Good Friday mass with so many of our cardinals in St. Peter Basilica. So as much as you were able to bless me with this opportunity, I hope you will consider aiding other youth in our community. There's always something going on that is in need of donations, and I pray that financial issues don't stay in the way of faith blossoming in more of our youth. What comes to mind is Steubenville... I was able to go when I was 16, and it gave me so much confidence in knowing the sheer number of people that are fervently Catholic, who might also have been going through the same obstacles as me. It was what led to the shift in my faith, and I could not be here in front of you all without it. This opportunity was also gifted to me generously by our parishioners, and sometimes people don't realize how a small contribution can make a huge difference within our community. It was such a cornerstone of my faith as an insecure teen, and I believe it's so important to fight to make this happen this year to the best of our abilities. So please, pray for every trip the youth take. Because truly, you will never realize how big your impact is. I also recognize how difficult offering financial aid is for some, and I want you to know I deeply appreciate all the help you all have offered me throughout the years.

Thank you all for your prayers, contributions, and for listening to me today. Please, keep praying for me.





SARNIA LAMBTON DEANERY JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

DESIGNATED PILGRIMAGE SITE
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH



Friday, July 18, 2025

- 9am – 9:30am: Confession
- 9:30am – 10am: Mass
- 10am – 11am: Adoration
- 11am – 11:30am: Rosary (English & Polish)
- 12:10 – 12:40pm: Mass
- 12:45 – 1:45pm: Adoration
- 1:45pm – 2pm: Divine Mercy
- 2pm – 2:30pm: Confessions
- 2:30pm – 3pm: Mass
- 3pm – 4pm: Adoration

Thursday, July 17, 2025

- 9am – 9:30am: Confession
- 9:30am – 10am: Mass
- 10am – 11am: Adoration
- 11am – 11:30am: Rosary (English & Spanish)
- 12:10 – 12:40pm: Mass
- 12:45 – 1:45pm: Adoration
- 1:45pm – 2pm: Divine Mercy
- 2pm – 2:30pm: Confessions
- 2:30pm – 3pm: Mass
- 3pm – 4pm: Adoration

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

Our Lady of Mercy
Queen of Peace
St. Benedict
St. Joseph
St. Michael
St. Thomas d'Aquin
Sacred Heart

Lambton County Catholic Family of Parishes

Our Lady Help of Christians
St. Christopher
St. Joseph
St. Philip



JUBILEE CAMINO EXPERIENCE

On Saturday, July 19, 2025, participate in a pilgrimage walk from parishes across the city, to Our Lady of Mercy Church. Upon arrival, pilgrims will complete their journey with Holy Mass and will receive their “Camino” certificate.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

- 9am – 9:30am: Confession
- 9:30am – 10am: Mass
- 10am – 11am: Adoration
- 11am – 11:30am: Rosary (English & French)
- 12pm – 12:30pm: Mass
- 12:45 – 3pm: Confession, Divine Mercy, Adoration
- 4pm – 5pm: High Mass: with incense
- 5:30pm – BBQ and indoor/outdoor festivities in parish hall and grounds



JUBILEE CAMINO EXPERIENCE

A Catholic pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place or site, undertaken by individuals or groups, for spiritual purposes. These sites are often associated with the Catholic faith, such as shrines, churches, places of miracles, or where saints lived or were martyred. Pilgrimages are a way to deepen faith, seek blessings, and connect with God in a unique way.

Our Lady of Mercy Church has been designated a Jubilee Pilgrimage Site by the Diocese of London. From Thursday, July 17 to Saturday, July 19, Our Lady of Mercy Church will be open from 9am to 4pm for prayer, adoration, confession, Mass and quiet reflection. There will be opportunity to explore and discover the many unique features that make this Church a treasure in our Catholic community.

Many have walked the Camino de Santiago seeking spiritual growth and ending their journey at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. On Saturday, July 19, we invite you to make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mercy with our Jubilee Camino experience.

Gather your family and friends and start your walk, jog or bike from any one of our 7 churches and end at Our Lady of Mercy in time for the 12:10pm Mass. Join your fellow pilgrims in the parish hall after Mass for refreshments and fellowship. To help you gauge what time you should start and how long it will take you, distances and walk times from each of the seven churches, are listed below.

Please register for the Jubilee Camino using the QR code or visiting www.sarniacatholic.ca/camino.

Walking distance to Our Lady of Mercy:

St. Michael: 3 hours 9 minutes ~ 13.9km

St. Thomas d'Aquin: 48 minutes ~ 3.5km

Queen of Peace: 28 minutes ~ 2km

Sacred Heart: 53 minutes ~ 4km

St. Benedict: 48 minutes ~ 3.5km

St. Joseph: 28 minutes ~ 2km

BUEN CAMINO!



JUBILEE CAMINO WALK

2025.07.19

PARTICIPANTS BEGIN FROM THE PARISH
OF THEIR CHOICE AND END AT
OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH
FOR 12:10PM MASS

REGISTER AT WWW.SARNIACATHOLIC.CA
OR BY CALLING THE PARISH OFFICE: 519-336-2653



\$70

Bus &
Admission



Jubilee **PIGRIMAGE**

Martyrs' Shrine, Midland Ontario
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi



Reserve today

519-336-2653

www.sarniacatholic.ca

JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS



Just when I thought some things were going to slow down slightly, June brought many fun times, and special moments and milestones for many in our Family of Parishes.

Bishop Fabbro celebrated the Mass of Confirmation for our candidates with 76 youth being sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on June 8th at St. Michael Church. The sights and sounds of a full church celebrating such a gift was a true blessing. Congratulations to all those who received their Sacrament of Confirmation!

The elementary schools and high school were a buzz of activity preparing for year-end, school-led Masses. Each school did a wonderful job helping us celebrate Mass together as a community. Grade 8 Graduation Masses and Liturgies of the Word were also held in June, along with the Graduation of St. Patrick High School students at the Progressive Auto Sales Arena. Congratulations to all of the Graduates. May you receive all God's blessings as you take the next step into your future.

A special Muskoka Woods Liturgy of the Word and Gathering was held for the youth, leaders, chaperones, and their families to celebrate the strengthened connection with God and each other that was made during the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Fatih-Leadership Muskoka Woods Experience. We came together, prayed together, sang together, snacked together, and viewed the many, many photos of the trip - reliving the memories, feelings, and special moments. To top off the month of June, the "Breaking Bread Together Pizza Party" was held to celebrate the children and their families for their hard work, dedication, and growth in their faith as they journeyed through the First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion preparation program and received their Sacraments in the Spring.

As the school year comes to a close and the Summer months begin, I pray that this season brings you many blessings, peace, joy, and HOPE as we continue through the Jubilee Year of Hope. Yours in Christ, Jenn

Yours in Christ,

Jenn

Sacramental Catechist





Plenary Indulgences During the Jubilee Year

*Excerpt from the 'Diocese of London
Jubilee Year and Pilgrim Handbook'*



The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that an indulgence is a remission (cancellation) before God of the temporal punishment due to sins of those whose sins have already been forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance.

Under certain specified conditions, the Church as God's instrument of mercy, grants an indulgence as an expression of God's mercy.

An indulgence is partial or plenary, in that it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.

Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.

The Jubilee indulgence is intended to be a full or plenary indulgence.

There are 4 conditions to be met in order to receive this grace:

- * Make a good Confession and participate in a Mass and receive Holy Communion
- * Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, by saying the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be
- * Visit a designated holy site, such as pilgrimage churches, or another sacred place
- * Perform works of mercy or penance.

The works of mercy would include participating in a parish mission, formation activities based on the documents of Vatican II or the Catechism, and any of the corporal works of mercy (feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick or imprisoned, or burying the dead).

Other works of mercy include counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offences, bearing patiently with those who do us ill, and praying for the living and the dead.

The works of penance to obtain the indulgence might include participating in the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office), the Way of the Cross, the Rosary, or a penitential celebration with individual confession.

June 27-29 | St Peter's Cathedral, London (140th Anniversary of its dedication)

July 17-19 | Our Lady of Mercy, Sarnia

July 24-26 | St Peter's, Goderich

July 21, Aug 4, 9 | Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, Merlin

August 13-15 | Our Lady of the Assumption, Windsor (Solemnity of the Assumption)

September 4-6 | Sacred Heart Parish, Ingersoll

September 11-13 | St Joseph's, Stratford

September 19-21 | St Joseph's Chatham

For more detailed information, see Decree on the Granting of Indulgences during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 called by His Holiness Pope Francis at www.vatican.va



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 11TH

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL The Great Journey with Jesus

For children entering Grades 1 to 5
in September 2025

Youth Summer Encounter with Jesus

For youth entering Grades 6 to 8
in September 2025

Monday, August 4th to Friday,

August 8th from 9am-12pm

St. Benedict Church &

Holy Trinity Catholic School

Registration forms and complete details
are available at

www.sarniacatholic.ca

EMBARK ON AN EXCITING JOURNEY THROUGH THE
LIFE OF CHRIST, DRAWING CLOSER TO HIM AS YOU
EXPERIENCE THE CYCLE OF THE CHURCH YEAR.



KIDS WILL HAVE FUN LEARNING AND CELEBRATING
THE LITURGICAL SEASONS OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS,
ORDINARY TIME, LENT AND EASTER.

STUDENT & ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Enthusiastic and reliable adult & youth volunteers are
needed for our VBS program this summer.

Details and registrations can be found at:

<https://sarniacatholic.ca/vacation-bible-school>



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE

The St Joseph Catholic Women's League hosted the potluck in June with councils from St Benedict and Our Lady of Mercy attending. A welcome and beautiful account of her trip to Rome along with some photos from Julia Stecca were shared and enjoyed by all!!

Deacon David Kraemer and Christine Murray lead us in a blessing in memory of our dear sister Judy Bandura who recently passed and who enjoyed sharing her voice with us.

Deacon David also blessed our CWL yearly pins and Maple Leaf pins that were presented by Lynda Miller, Elsie Crosley, Willi Kole and Christine Murray.

Josephine Murphy presented the bursary to Ben Sweeney, on behalf of the St Benedict CWL.

A lovely evening was shared with fantastic potluck dishes.

A collection of items to St Vincent De Paul were collected to help with the kids summer holidays.

On behalf of the St Joseph CWL we would like to thank everyone for their contributions and sharing time with us and not to forget a Thank you to Bill and Chris for their help.

God Bless Us All.

Charlene Hummel
St. Joseph CWL, president



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Congratulations!

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Women's League
would like to extend congratulations to the following ladies
who received service pins at our recent potluck dinner.



Estella LeBlanc	5 years
Margarita Roberts	15 years
Pat Sloan	45 years
Betty Sloan	55 years
Dorothy MacDonald	65 years
Reona Fernades	new member
Annie Kurian	new member



Left to Right

Pat Sloan
Elsie Seward—presenter
Estella Leblanc
Margarita Roberts



St. Benedict

Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

July 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](http://St.BenedictKofC.org)

Council Meetings

The St. Benedict Knights of Columbus will be taking a break over the summer months. Special meetings will be held to plan our Faith in Action activities for the next fraternal year.

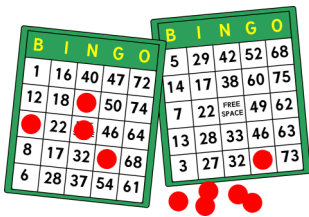
Our **regular Council meetings** will resume in September and will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7PM at St. Benedict Church hall.

Join Us Today

Become an online Knights of Columbus member for free.

Visit KofC.org/joinus Enter code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** for a FREE one-year membership.

KofC Meat Bingos



KofC meat bingos are held every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at OLM hall (corner of Christina St. & London Rd.) **until July 3rd. We will then be taking a summer break and resume on Thursday, August 21st.**

Bingos start at 7 PM, but come early to buy your cards, reserve a seat, and get set up.

Food and refreshments are available. Please bring canned goods in support of our local food banks. We hope to see many of our dedicated bingo patrons.

All proceeds help support the St. Benedict and St. Thomas d'Aquin Knights of Columbus Charities.



Ontario State Council
Knights of Columbus

\$100 for **300** Tickets
\$50 for **125** Tickets
\$20 for **40** Tickets
\$10 for **10** Tickets

Grand Prize Draw
September 1, 2025

Early Bird Draw
June 16, 2025 at 9:00 am
\$500 Cash Prize

50/50 RAFFLE

License #: RAF1441633

The KofC 50-50 raffle tickets are available during the summer months. The Grand Prize for this raffle will be drawn on September 1st. Do not delay in purchasing your ticket by "copy & paste" this link into your browser,

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

We thank all of you who have supported the KofC 50-50 raffle so far. All proceeds help support local charities. Please share with your family and friends.

Marian Cultural Feast

It was truly an honour for the Knights of Columbus Councils in the Family of Parishes to be part of the Marian Cultural Feast. KofC members from the 4th and 3rd degree provided an honour guard at the Mass and participated in the outdoor procession.

It was a wonderful multi-cultural celebration.





St. Benedict

Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

Queen of Peace BBQ Social

The Knights would like to thank all the Family of Parish parishioners that joined our BBQ social after the June 21 5pm mass. It was well attended and fun for all. The knights were able to raise \$597.00 from this event which will be used to help support their charitable activities throughout the community.



**The Knights of Columbus
would like to wish everyone**





YOUTH,
YOUNG ADULT
& FAMILY
MINISTRY

AT THE DIOCESE OF LONDON



SUMMER OF HOPE JUBILEE TEEN RALLY

9AM-8:30PM

🔥 ONE DAY. ONE CHURCH.
ONE MISSION. 🔥

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH
ST. MICHEAL'S LEAMINGTON, ON

Admission

\$30

What to expect:

- ✓ Live Worship with the Encounter Band
- ✓ Inspiring talks by international Catholic speaker Chris Padgett
- ✓ A powerful pilgrimage walk
- ✓ Adoration with Praise & Worship
- ✓ All meals covered... and more!!

Early bird rate
\$20 (before July 31st)

Registration Link



More Information ccoyle@dol.ca



The Kent Lambton Family of Parishes will be bringing a van full of kids down (12 seats!).
If you have any teens that are interested in attending as well they are welcome to carpool with us!
Just have parents text or email me at 519-466-0593 / jrowe@dol.ca

A great opportunity for the teens of our Family of Parishes

MASTERMIND YOUTH FOUNDATION



Mastermind Youth Foundation empowers exceptional youth to harness their unique talents and realize their fullest potential. Their mission is to equip young minds with the tools they need to thrive in tomorrow's dynamic world. Based in the Lambton-Kent region of South-Western Ontario, they are a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering excellence beyond traditional education.

They believe every young individual has extraordinary capabilities waiting to be unleashed. Through innovative programs and initiatives, they nurture these talents and provide a platform for growth and development. The youth programs cultivate leadership skills, foster creativity, and instill a sense of community responsibility.

With a team of dedicated educators, mentors, and volunteers, they create an environment where young people feel supported, inspired, and encouraged to pursue their passions. From workshops and competitive teams to hands-on projects and experiential learning, they offer a comprehensive approach to education that goes beyond the classroom.

On August 9, 2025 Mastermind will be hosting a family fun fair/3x3 basketball tournament at Lambton College in support of SickKids and volunteers are needed!

Anyone interested in helping out is asked to contact Madison Hobin at: hello@mastermindyouth.org

Thank you!

Madison Hobin



Docs at Dusk – Outdoor Documentary Screening Presented by Rayjon Share Care of Sarnia Inc.

Join us on Thursday, July 24 at 8:00 PM at Canatara Park Bandshell for ***Docs at Dusk***, a new summer film series bringing powerful global human rights stories to our local community — outdoors, under the stars.

Featured Film: Stateless — a gripping documentary about the lives of stateless people in the Dominican Republic and the global crisis of citizenship and human rights.

- Film starts: 8:30 PM (Pre-film gathering: 8:00 PM)
- Free admission – pay what you can
- Popcorn, pop, and ice cream available
- Family-friendly (no violence/swearing, but heavy themes)
- Stay for a post-film conversation with Rayjon partners
- Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join us for a meaningful night of storytelling, reflection, and community.

Future screenings to be announced – indoors and outdoors, from July through October.

For more information contact Allison Kingston at akingston@rayjon.org / (519)-381-5929

or visit <https://rayjon.org/docs-at-dusk/>

PEAK Summer Camps - Calling All Parents!

"Mini" Peak Camp Info:

Calling all parents of Grade 7 & 8 Students! The Diocese of London Youth Office is excited to offer a life-changing summer camp experience for your child! This unique Leadership Camp is designed to help young people:

- Build lasting friendships
- Grow in their Catholic faith
- Strengthen leadership and life skills

Through a vibrant mix of faith-filled fun, including games, prayer, scripture, reflection, and team-building activities, campers will grow in confidence, character, and community. It's more than just a camp, it's a meaningful step in their spiritual and personal journey, and a place where memories and faith take root. Give your child the gift of faith, friendship, and formation this summer! For more information or to register, please contact Christine Coyle at ccoyle@dol.ca.

When: July 15-17, 2025

Where: St. Vincent de Paul Camp in Bothwell, Ontario

For: Youth going into grade 7 & 8

Cost: \$200 (includes accommodations & meals)

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/L1XtupPxRA>

PEAK- High School Leadership Camp 2025

A Life-Changing Experience for Youth in Grades 9–12. Join us for an unforgettable week of faith, formation, and fun at this year's Leadership Camp, designed especially for high school students who want to grow as Catholic leaders! This dynamic camp is a culmination of connection, faith encounters, and hands-on leadership training. Campers will dive deeper into their faith through:

- Daily prayer and scripture
- Leadership workshops
- Reflection and mentorship
- Fun activities, games, and community building
- Opportunities to take a lead role in the Teen Summit

When: August 13–17, 2025

Where: Holy Family Retreat House

Who: Youth entering Grades 9–12

Cost: \$450 (includes all meals, accommodations & program fees)

Early Bird Discount: Register by July 31 and save \$50!

Bursaries are available. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/rovzxpS53i>

This is more than a camp - it's a launchpad for young Catholic leaders and a place where faith comes alive. For more details or to register, please contact Christine Coyle at ccoyle@dol.ca.