Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes



Famille des Paroisses Catholiques Romaines de Sarnia Bluewater

JUBILEE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE



"Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!" Ps. 27:14

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WWW.SARNIACATHOLIC.CA

Famille des Paroisses Catholiques Romaines De Sarnia Bluewater Family of Parishes

Annual Financial Report 2024

As Business Manager of the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes (SBRCFP), I respectfully present the 2024 Annual Financial Report. It will highlight the financial impacts of the various initiatives and activities performed by the SBRCFP under the direction of the Diocese of London and guidance from the Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council.

From a financial perspective, operating receipts were on the rise in 5 of our 6 Parishes for a consolidated increase of 3%. SBRCFP's operating expenses witnessed an increase of 6%. This increase was attributed to rises in insurance premiums (12.6%) along with increases in ministry (20%), and liturgy (24%) expenses. A multi-year analysis demonstrated that the "Family of Parishes" concept generated operational savings of \$13,000 in shared costs compared to 2021.

The year started with the approval of a zero-based budget by the Finance Council. The budgeting exercise consists of a thorough process reviewing historical costs, staffing review, Ministry outreach initiatives and a planned maintenance schedule generated from the annual condition surveys of all our facilities. We collected 96.7% of the budgeted receipts and we overspent the budget by 1.6%. But considering these shortfalls and due to your generosity, we collected more money than we spent and generated a year-end surplus of \$46,543. This had a positive outcome to our Parishes' bottom line. To demonstrate good stewardship of your donations, the following are some financial successes achieved in 2024:

- Successful implementation of a new pay management system.
- Creating the 2025 budget from lessons learned in 2024.
- Fully funded replacement of St Joseph's boilers via insurance claim.
- Negotiating a 61% reduction in waste management costs with a local company.
- Reviewing snow clearing procedures to better reflect climate change.
- Welcoming a new group of volunteers to manage St Benedict Bingo.

On the topic of human resources, we saw the departure of AJ, our youth minister, and welcomed Jenn as Sacramental Catechist. This hiring was offered as a developmental opportunity and is scheduled to be reviewed at its one-year anniversary. The position of Communication Coordinator was switched from a contractual to permanent status considering the large workload associated with the communication and coordination of events between our 7 Churches.

To support a culture of safety, the Diocese introduced an Occupation Health and Safety training program. This was a major initiative requiring staff to obtain a perfect score on all training modules. We also recommissioned 2 defibrillators units, previously installed at St Michael and Sacred Heart Parishes, with the support of local KoC Councils.

In addition to regular planned maintenance, several Building and Grounds projects were completed in 2024 to ensure the sustainability of our infrastructures. It included the replacement of Our Lady of Mercy Rectory roof, the painting and waterproofing of St Benedict 4 large external

dormers, the replacement, due to failures, of St Joseph Church's steam heating boilers and the replacement of St Thomas d'Aquin Parish Hall flooring.

Looking forward to 2025, we are on target to meet our budget predictions. Our biggest challenge will be the implementation of the new diocesan accounting software, adapting our business practice to the reality of a "Family of Parishes" model and fostering a supportive workplace where qualified staff can be dedicated to our mission of evangelization.

If you would like any further clarification or details relating to your Parish financial health, feel free to contact your Parish representative at the Finance Council.

Finance Council Members

St Benedict	Our Lady of Mercy (St Joseph)
Andrew Jones (co-chair), Michael Tanner	Chris Treftlin (Co-chair)
Sacred Heart	St Michael
Fred Oliver	Kathryn Poole (Recruiting in 2025)
St Thomas d'Aquin	Queen of Peace
Maurice Coulombe	Aneta Fojna, Mark Roehler
Pastor	Business Manager
Rev. Brian Jane	Louis Guimond

Your Parish's Giving in 2024

	Sacred Heart	St Michael	St Benedict	Our lady of Mercy/ St Joseph	Queen of Peace	St Thomas d'Aquin				
# of registered donors in 2023	350	201	365	333	131	118				
# of registered donors in 2024	375	205	316	295	135	105				
Change	+7.1%	+2%	-13.4%	-11.4%	+3%	-11%				
Average weekly gift in 2023	\$18.17	\$25.48	\$15.76	\$18.79	\$12.61	\$27.22				
Average weekly gift in 2024	\$18.80	\$20.93	\$17.38	\$22.21	\$13.80	\$24.31				
Change	↑\$0.63	↓\$4.55	^\$1.62	↑\$3.42	↑\$1.19	↓\$2.91				
Parish' share of FoP expenses & revenues	24.2%	14.8%	20.8%	24.3%	7.2%	8.7%				
Diocesan assessment	\$58,840	\$37,293	\$43,815	\$44,473	\$14,411	\$20,611				

The use of envelopes ensures your donation is credited to your home Parish.

SBRCFP Consolidated Statement

	202	l Ye	ar End Rep	2025 (January to April) Report				
	2024		2023	Difference	Budget	Actual	%	
Operating Receipts	\$1,865,395	\$	1,809,441	3%	\$1,930,814	\$ 701,954	36%	
Operating Expenses	\$1,860,368	\$	1,754,990	6%	\$1,826,956	\$ 617,497	34%	
	\$ 5,027	\$	54,451	-49,424	\$ 103,858	\$ 84,457		
Capital Receipts	\$ 181,847	\$	144,526	26%		\$ 14,312		
Capital Expenses	\$ 140,325	\$	147,327			\$ 5,130		
	\$ 41,516	\$	(2,801)	44,317		\$ 9,182		
Year end Surplus (Loss)	\$ 46,543	\$	51,650	-5,107		\$ 93,639		

Loan Fund Reserves

Sacred	St Michael	St	Our Lady of	Queen of	St Thomas		
Heart		Benedict	Mercy/St Joseph	Peace	d'Aquin		
\$234,902	\$120,206	\$364,722	\$114,652	\$62,578	\$29,665		

Parishes

		2024	Ye	ar End Re	port		2	025 (Janua	ary	to April) I	Report
					ed Heart			•			•
		2024		2023	Difference			Budget		Actual	%
Operating Receipts	\$	447,280	\$	451,701	-1%		\$	460,850	\$	165,638	36%
Operating Expenses	\$	467,151	\$	437,483	7%		\$	466,855	\$	145,512	31%
	\$	(19,871)	\$	14,218	-34,089		\$	(6,005)	\$	20,126	
Capital Receipts	\$	11,013	\$	9,265	19%				\$	1,588	
Capital Expenses	\$	54	_	0.005	4.004					4.500	
V	\$ \$	10,959	\$	9,265	1,694				\$ \$	1,588	
Year end Surplus (Loss)	D	(8,912)	\$	23,483	-32,395				Ф	21,714	
					lichael						
		2024		2023	Difference			Budget		Actual	%
Operating Receipts	\$	307,840	\$	293,265	5%		\$	317,076	\$	101,172	32%
Operating Expenses	\$	293,979	\$	275,042	7%		\$	247,865	\$	83,510	34%
	\$	13,861	\$	18,223	-4,362		\$	69,211	\$	17,662	
Capital Receipts	\$	15,324	\$	10,489	46%				\$	1,295	
Capital Expenses	\$	15,052	\$	77,822	-81%						
	\$	272	\$	(67,333)	67,605				\$	1,295	
Year end Surplus (Loss)	\$	14,133	\$	(49,110)	63,243				\$	18,957	
				St B	enedict						
		2024		2023	Difference			Budget		Actual	%
Operating Receipts	\$	348,067	\$	339,087	3%		\$	358,974	\$	155,812	43%
Operating Expenses	\$	363,265	\$	361,576	0%		\$	361,653	\$	128,428	36%
	\$	(15,198)	\$	(22,489)	7,291		\$	(2,679)	\$	27,384	
Capital Receipts	\$	37,335	\$	25,802	45%				\$	3,095	
Capital Expenses	\$	29,146	\$	20,165	45%				\$	2,760	
	\$	8,189	\$	5,637	2,552				\$	335	
Year end Surplus (Loss)	\$	(7,009)	\$	(16,852)	9,843				\$	27,719	
							- \			,	
		2024	Jur	2023	lercy (St Jos Difference	sepi	n)	Dudgot		Actual	%
Operating Descipts	\$	452,283	\$	433,175	4%		\$	Budget 465,854	¢	Actual 161,523	35%
Operating Receipts	\$				14%		\$		Φ	160,770	35%
Operating Expenses	\$	436,116 16,167	\$	384,153 49,022	65,189		\$	460,053 5,801	<u>\$</u>	753	35%
Comital Descints					7%		Φ	5,601			
Capital Receipts	\$	94,972	\$	88,626					\$	4,908	
Capital Expenses	\$	76,254	\$	49,340	55%				\$	2,370	
V 1 O 1 (1)	_	18,718	\$ \$	39,286	-20,568				\$	2,538	
Year end Surplus (Loss)	\$	34,885	Þ	88,308	-53,423				\$	3,291	
					of Peace						
		2024		2023	Difference			Budget		Actual	%
Operating Receipts	\$	148,974	\$	132,419	13%		\$	152,450	\$	50,507	33%
Operating Expenses	\$	143,524	\$	119,999	20%		\$	134,305	\$	44,858	33%
	\$	5,450	\$	12,420	-6,970		\$	18,145	\$	5,649	
Capital Receipts	\$	5,250	\$	3,222	63%				\$	876	
Capital Expenses	\$	10,544	\$	-							
	\$	(5,294)	\$	3,222	-8,516				\$	876	
Year end Surplus (Loss)	\$	156	\$	15,642	-15,486				\$	6,525	
				St Thor	as d'Aquin						
		2024		2023	Difference			Budget		Actual	%
Operating Receipts	\$	160,951	\$	159,794	1%		\$	175,610	\$	67,302	38%
Operating Expenses	\$	156,333	\$	176,737	-12%		\$	156,225	\$	54,419	35%
, 5 ,	\$	4,618	\$	(16,943)	21,561		\$	19,385	\$	12,883	
Capital Receipts		17,947	\$	7,122	152%			-,	\$	2,550	
Japital I (COCIPIS	٠,٦		Ψ	.,	.52,0				Ψ	_,555	
				_							
Capital Expenses	\$	9,275	\$	- 7.122	1,550				\$	2.550	
				7,122 (9,821)	1,550 23,111				\$	2,550 15,433	

JUBILEE 2025

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." *Pope Francis*

The faithful from Sarnia, Brights Grove, Lambton County and many parishes across the Diocese of London took Pope Francis' words to heart and travelled to Sarnia to receive so many graces by walking through the Holy Doors of Our Lady of Mercy Church. Three faithfilled days of prayer, confession, Adoration and Mass were offered to all who visited

Chosen by the Diocese of London, Our Lady of Mercy Church was the pilgrimage site for the Sarnia Deanery, which includes the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes and the Lambton County Catholic Family of Parishes.

The church offered an opportunity for everyone to discover this beautiful building, built in 1856. On display were antique chasubles from St. Thomas d'Aquin Church along with an antique pall used for funerals at Our Lady of Mercy in it's early days. A special display of relics and Icons that are located in the Adoration Chapel was set out for prayer and meditation. Visitors walked around the church to admire the beautiful stained glass windows and the various statues. A booklet was provided to help illustrate the many historical and unique features of the church.

Masses were celebrated in English, French, Polish and Spanish and the Rosary was prayed in all four languages. The Divine Mercy was chanted each day and many took part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that was offered all day during the three days.

The culmination of the celebration was a Jubilee Camino walk that saw 200+ faithful pilgrims walking from Corunna, Brights Grove and from every parish in Sarnia to Our Lady of Mercy. Walking, biking, pushing strollers and wheel chairs, young, old, elderly, carrying crosses, they prayed, they sang, they rejoiced and they spread the Good News.

All who walked through the doors of Our Lady of Mercy received may graces and shared much joy during these three days of Jubilee.

OUR LADY OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE SITE







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

OUR LADY OF MERCY PILGRIMAGE SITE



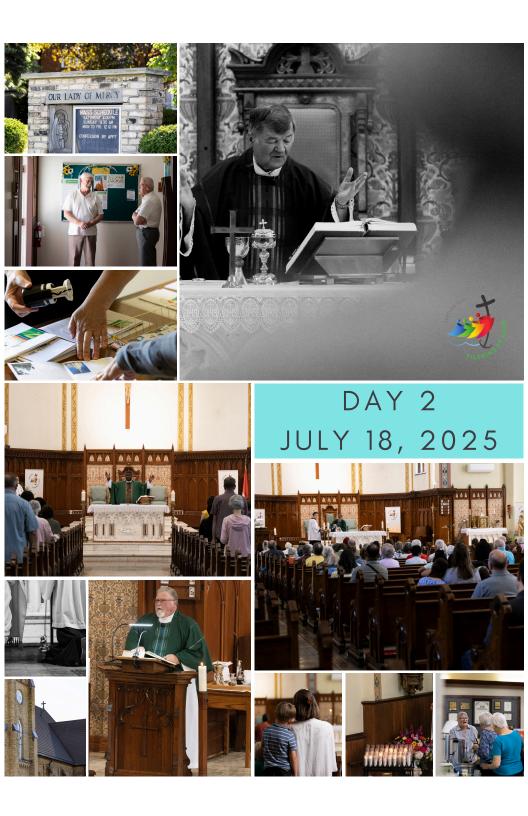


















Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

Août 2025

JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

What a beautiful month July was, to continue celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes and the Lambton County Catholic Family of Parishes, together making the Sarnia Deanery, celebrated the Jubilee Year of Hope with a grace-filled, 3-day celebration at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

People from near and far were welcomed, gathering in prayer, for Mass, for community, and for thanksgiving.

The celebrations concluded with a BBQ and games to add to the joyful energy of the 3 days.

The Diocese of London designated Our Lady of Mercy Church as a pilgrimage site, which was a huge honour. We are blessed to have been given this opportunity and have a dedicated team of people to gift us with such a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Thank you, all!

Preparations are continuing for this coming Fall's Confirmation program. Please look for more detailed information and registration for your Grade 8 child through our social media platforms (website, Facebook, and Instagram) as well as through our Family of Parishes church bulletin and newsletter.

As busy as the summer season can be, I hope you find time to enjoy the "lazy days of summer" and connect with family and friends, sharing God's love and blessings.





St. Benedict Knights of Columbus

Jubilee Celebrations

Knights of Columbus members celebrated the three days of the Jubilee of Hope celebration.







ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Each year during the growing season, men, and some women, from many southern countries come to work in the fields, greenhouses and processing plants in South Western Ontario, as many as twenty thousand.

They are often housed onsite at the work location which is often outside the city or town and where shopping and entertainment options are very limited.

The Diocese of London has a Migrant Worker program that helps the workers navigate the government systems and provides some social gatherings so they have a chance to meet others and have some fun together.

As a welcome to the workers, SSVP volunteered to open its Thrift Store in Forest, on Sunday May 25th and the East St. store in Sarnia, on June 1st. The workers were given a free voucher worth \$50 to spend at these locations.

In Forest, 50 workers were picked up from various locations by volunteers and brought to the store. Similarly, the Sarnia store hosted 39 workers the next week.

All the men and women were very happy for the chance to shop.









St. Benedict Knights of Columbus

August 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**

Council Meetings

The Knights of Columbus generally take a break over the summer months. Special meetings are held to plan Faith in Action activities for the next fraternal year. Our regular Council meetings will resume in September at their normal times in September.

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 - Summer Break



Bingos have taken a summer break but will resume Thursday August $21^{\rm st}$. Come and join us every $1^{\rm st}$ and $3^{\rm rd}$ Thursday of the month at OLM hall (corner of Christina St. & London Rd.). Bingos start at 7 PM. 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.

St. Benedict Altar Servers - 2024- 2025

The St. Benedict KofC Council # 11164 honoured the St. Benedict Parish altar servers for the dedication to their faith. Each received a certificate and special gift.

We thank all the parents, families and member Knights who support our youth in this most valuable church service.

Children from grade 2 (after their First Holy Communion) and up are invited to serve at each of our parishes. Thank you to Knights Jude Okoye, CJ Amadi and Austin Osuizugbe who teach and instruct the Altar Servers.



Congratulations to Gift, Chibuzo, Kenzie, Sebastian T., Kenrick, Reyford, Sebastian J, Geordan, Alexis, Helena, Maria, Kozy, Reynirene, Nicolas.



Good News Monthly Ronnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

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St. Benedict Knights of Columbus



Star Council Award

CONGRATULATIONS! To our Grand Knight, Mark Roehler of the St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Council #11164 in leading the Council to achieve the distinction of Star Council for fraternal year 2024-2025, the international organization's top award for local councils. The Star Council Award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership, promotion of fraternal insurance benefits, sponsorship of faith formation programs and faith in action-oriented activities. Congratulations to all member Knights for their dedication and commitment to serving our church, families and community.

Knights of Columbus District Deputy - Sarnia Lambton

At a Knights of Columbus workshop held in Toronto on July 5th, several Ontario KofC members were installed as new District Deputies.

Leo Mayer, of the St. Benedict Knights of Columbus is now the new District Deputy in the Sarnia/Lambton area, known as District #61. He will oversee and lend support to the six KofC Councils in the district, which include W.E. Prentice KofC Council #1429, St. Thomas d'Aquin KofC Council #8950, Fr. Gerald Labelle KofC Council #9447 (Corunna), St. Michael KofC Council #110102 (Bright's Grove), Fr. Michael Moncoq KofC Council #10873 (Port Lambton), and St. Benedict KofC Council #11164.

The Knights would like to thank Former District Deputies, Joseph Sawczuk and Mike Hendrycks for their dedication and service. Leo Mayer expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as District Deputy and is eager to work closely with the councils in his district to further the mission of the Knights of Columbus.



Août 2025

CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

On Sunday June 29th, during our Spanish Mass, Fr. Eugene Roy consecrated 16 parishioners, as they renewed their baptismal vows to complete the *Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary*.

The preparation for this consecration took five months. It was led by our dear parishioner Maryoli Perez Torralvo, and sponsored and approved by Fr. Brian Jane.

This was a beautiful and emotional celebration that was also blessed by the Baptism of a baby boy.









Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

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SOCIETY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

To the parishioners of Sacred Heart parish and others:

Are you looking to fill a couple of hours a month with meaningful accomplishment?

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Conference activities and membership of the Sacred Heart (SH) have been severely impacted by both Covid, and the recent restructuring of parishes to a Family of Parishes (FOP).

But now is the time to see if there is sufficient Church interest to once again be a vibrant force helping the needy persons in our community. Historically, calls for assistance would come to the Sacred Heart parish office. Pairs of SSVP members would then visit the person's house to personally assess the overall situation, with food or financial help being regularly provided. But today, the few calls there are go to the FOP office located at St. Benedict . These few people are directed to the SSVP foodbank/help center (FB/HC) on Davis St. The staff at the FB/HC evaluate and ensure an equitable provision of limited resources to those asking for help. To ensure a smooth operation at the FB/HC there is a need for volunteers helping out. This is an opportunity to provide meaningful support. Also, there are other activities where support for SVDP can be made.

Some other activities on behalf of SVDP could be:

- · holding donation boxes after Sunday Masses...
- maintain a food collection box at the church doors...
- organize a food drive at Sacred Heart school... (school is relocating this Sept)
- have the students make a simple craft to sell to raise money...
- provide sufficient volunteers to cover a few hours at the foodbank helping with the distribution of food...
- volunteer for the Irish Miracle food drive in December...
- attend the monthly meeting of the conference representatives from all the parishes in Lambton County to hear what they are doing in their parish...
- help with the distribution of food/gift cards at Christmas (now in place of food hampers)...
- volunteer at one of the SSVP thrift stores in Sarnia. Also, the Conferences at St. Benedict, St Thomas Aguinas and Our Lady of Mercy are looking for volunteers.

To volunteer or for additional information, please contact either of the following:

Peter Westfall peter@westfall.net 519-312-1638 Greg Hogan gfhogan@cogeco.ca 519-464-2164



Août 2025

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

On Friday, June 27^{th} , Sacred Heart Parish welcomed parishioners from across our Family of Parishes for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After Mass the Knights of Columbus Council 1429 sponsored a BBQ and potluck .

















August 2025

Good News Monthly Ronnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

Août 2025



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 1429 NEWS

Even though council meetings have been postponed for the summer, members have been really busy as you will see below.

Altar Servers recognition

In June, Altar Servers of Sacred Heart Parish were recognized at the end of a Sunday mass and some at the Sacred Heart Feast social. They were specially blessed by a priest and were presented with a Knights of Columbus Certificate and a gift bag containing a mall gift card, a Holy Land olive wood comfort cross and rosary (made by Christians in the Holy Land). Planning to repeat at other parishes.

Sacred Heart Feast after-mass dinner

Thanks to all the parishioners who contributed to a free will donation that helped cover costs and to those many kind-hearted people who stepped up with offerings of goodies and their time.

Jubilee - after-mass dinner

A big thank you to all Knights of Columbus councils who shared in the workload to serve up to 300 attendees. Special mention to the St Michael's Council and its Grand Knight Marc Hammond for looking after the purchasing and to all who stayed to help clean up.

Roses for Life

Thanks to donations received we were able to send \$250 each to Priests for Life and Lambton Right To Life.

Seminarians: \$530 donated. We hope to see him at Oktoberfest.

Youth Programs

Council 1429 recently donated \$3,000 to support our kids attending the Muskoka Woods experience and \$1,000 for the Steubenville experience. Profits from the Dinner Dances helped council 1429 raise these funds. A big thank you from the kids who benefited.

Food for Families - \$500 donated to Vincent de Paul for baby food

Sarnia Pregnancy Centre - \$270 from baby drive ASAP program.

"Join the Knights"

Click the link above and for 'preferred council number' enter '1429'.

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

MEETINGS: 1ST Tuesday

(July & Aug excepted)

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



Facebook

DONATE



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

Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

Août 2025



Samia, ON N7T 5V9

OUR LADY OF MERCY SACRED HEART ST. JOSEPH ST. GEORGE [Ukrainian

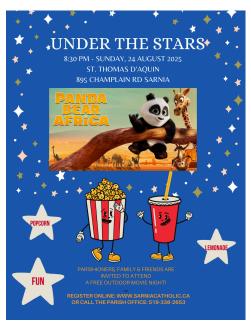
SACRED HEART ALTAR SERVERS





Where there's a need...there's a Knight!













Join us at Alpha!

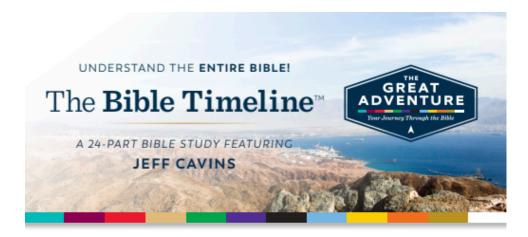
SEPTEMBER 8 - NOVEMBER 24 6:30PM - 8:30PM

ST. BENEDICT PARISH HALL

REGISTER: www.sarniacatholic.ca or call 519-336-2653

QUESTIONS: Call or Text: 519-330-0055

Alpha



Dates - Times - Location

24 Sessions

Thursday afternoon 1:00-3:00 part 1: Sept. 18 to Dec. 4 2025

part 2: Jan. 8 to Mar. 26

St. Benedict Parish Hall

Cost - registration

\$55 to purchase the Study Set Please register before August 13 Online access available \$10 (see website for details)

For more information

Register at www.sarniacatholic.ca or call the parish office 519-336-2653

In The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation, presenter Jeff Cavins will show you how fourteen of the Bible's narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end.

Using a unique color-coded chart, you will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and discover how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

The Bible Timeline will teach you how to read and understand the Bible and introduce you to the wonderful narrative of the Bible in a way that will transform your life.

I never would have read the Bible if it wasn't for this, and now I simply adore Scripture. It has given me such insight into the Catholic faith and helps me to understand its true beauty.





Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!