

September
2025

Good News Monthly
Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles

Septembre
2025

Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes



Famille des Paroisses
Catholiques Romaines
de Sarnia Bluewater



Farewell
Open House for
Father Jan

Saturday, September 13, 2025
1pm - 3pm
Polish Hall - 173 Exmouth St, Sarnia

Hosted by:
Queen of Peace Catholic Women's League
Queen of Peace Ladies' Auxiliary
St. Benedict Knights of Columbus
Polish Alliance of Canada (Sarnia)

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OFFICE / BUREAU
1011 OAK AVENUE,
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519-336-2653
WWW.SARNIACATHOLIC.CA

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Deacon Tony Hogervorst

Tony Hogervorst and his wife Joanne are vegetable growers north of Watford, and attend Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Watford.

Since about 1990 ... Tony would take his Mexican Workers to Spanish Mass every month or so. Spanish Masses were originally in Sarnia, while they were available, at St. Benedict Church with Fr. Tom Lever. Then the Spanish Masses were celebrated with the Latino Community in London.

Around 2008 ... Tony and his wife Joanne, with the Diocese of London Migrant Worker Specialist at the time, Marie Carter, and others who are committed to social justice, initiated a monthly (in season) Spanish Mass, at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Watford.

Spanish Masses for the Migrant Workers and Community were eventually moved to St. Christopher Church in Forest, for the larger Hall. A very loyal and dedicated Team of volunteers serve supper after Mass.

Then came the day when Deacon Tony said, "Yes" to God's call to the Deaconate Studies at St Peter's Seminary. Joanne accompanied Tony through formation at the Seminary as well.

Deacon Tony is truly a "Welcomer"... always welcoming everyone ... even when you're standing outside in the parking lot of the church before Mass.

As a Husband and Wife Team, Joanne is a valuable support for Deacon Tony ... as he ministers as a Deacon to the wider community of the Lambton County Catholic Family of Parishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Deery ofs



"Deacon Tony is a gentle soul who fosters the love and hope of God in all people."

Jubilee Celebration Mass
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sarnia ~ July 18th, 2025

JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

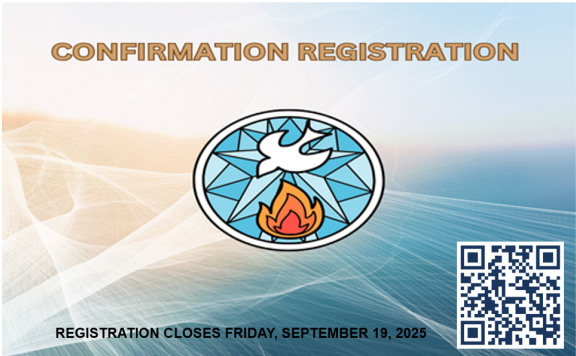
It is hard to believe that the summer has come and gone already, and to my son's dismay, school is about to begin for another year!

The end of August marked my first anniversary as a full-time staff member of the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes and I find myself being especially grateful for the smaller and often unnoticed blessings this role and ministry has brought into my life. I have enjoyed all of the experiences, connections, and learning curves this year has brought, and I look forward to what God has planned for me in this coming year. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me and allowing me to be a small part of the faith journey one of the young ones in your family is on. I look forward to meeting even more of our faith family and supporting you and your family in any way that I am able.

As the schools re-open, I will once again be visiting the schools often to share information about the Sacraments, the events and the activities that our Family of Parishes and the Diocese of London have to offer. I look forward to meeting new faces and seeing families return as their little ones and not-so-little ones prepare to receive their Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Please look for Sacramental Preparation registration in our Family of Parishes bulletins, newsletters, and on our social media platforms. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

I pray that this Fall season brings you and your loved ones blessings of hope, peace, and joy.

Yours in Christ,
Jenn



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul warehouse cleaning and organizing

SSVP collects, sorts and stores donated items from its two Sarnia stores on Vidal and East St. as well as the Corunna store on Lyndock St. Some items are also brought in from the Petrolia and Forest locations.

Over time, things accumulate and an inventory needs to be taken of what's in the warehouse on Alice St. and excess items need to be shipped out to wholesale buyers or disposed of.

On August 2nd, under the leadership of Elia, the logistics supervisor, volunteers helped do the job. After a few hours, much was accomplished and they were treated to a pizza lunch.

Thanks to everyone who helped out.

Peter Westfall



Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul
Sarnia-Lambton

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SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SSVP FUNDRAISER

Our goal is \$50,000

for needed repairs on the floor, the food distribution entrance, the outside deliveries doors and for the safety of those we are serving.

Thank you for your generous support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank.



SSVP Food Bank Renovation Appeal

Help us reach our
\$50,000 Goal:

- Food Distribution Entrance
- Safety Upgrades to Flooring
- Outside Doors for Deliveries



Feast of
Blessed Frederic Ozanam
24 September
Honorary of St. Vincent de Paul Society

"We must do what is most agreeable to God. We must do what our Lord Jesus Christ did when preaching the Gospel. Let us go to the poor."
-Blessed Fr  d  ric Ozanam



DONATION ENVELOPES WILL BE
AVAILABLE IN THE PEWS
SEPTEMBER 7

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR
YOUR SUPPORT.

SSVP SARNIA-LAMBTON



New Life Retreat

FALL RETREATS FOR WOMEN AND MEN

A free gift from the Family of Parishes, these weekend renewal retreats are open to all parishioners.

The "New Life Retreat" weekend is a break from our busy schedule of personal, business and family obligations so that we can refresh ourselves spiritually.

Consider joining us for this weekend and experience the power of the New Life Retreat!

Men's retreat: weekend of October 25/26

Women's retreat: weekend of November 15/16

To register, please call the parish office 519-336-2653.

Registration forms are also available at your parish welcome desks.

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An open space
to
unpack
life's
big
questions

For anyone
who's



curious

about *faith*

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



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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

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.”

—Kyle D.



Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!

SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

"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 is most welcome. Please contact Vera Lawlor at vllawlor@cogeco.ca.

It is our goal to have a representative from each Church in the Sarnia Bluewater and Lambton County Family of Parishes on this very important outreach ministry.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

On May 5th, Red Dress Day in Canada, our Family of Parishes honoured missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls by displaying a red dress in each of our 7 Churches. At the same time, we also presented The Moose Hide Campaign. Postcards with moose hide attached is an Indigenous-led grassroots movement of men and boys - and all Canadians - who are standing up against violence towards women and children. The photo below was taken at St. Michael Church following the 10:30 A.M. mass.

Wear orange

On September 30, our Family of Parishes will mark National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, also known as Orange Shirt Day and Every Child Matters.

The day honours the children who never returned home as well as survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

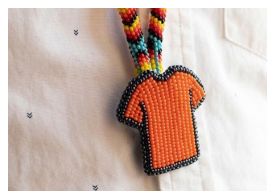
Pikangikum Partnership God with us!

As of July 12th, Pikangikum First Nations has been under evacuation order to leave the community due to the forest fires 7 Km away.

continued next page



Nate & Mark Hammond,
Fr. Brian Jane,
Doug Robinson,
Chris DePelsmaeker



SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

This is a very tumultuous time for Pikangikum families, as relocation incites a lot of confusion, anxiety and distress for the people who find living in a city both challenging and upsetting. To give a little insight into what the community has experienced this summer, here is an excerpt from Missionary Colleen Estes recent report.

"6 hydro poles have been damaged leaving the community without electricity except at the school and personal generators. The report tonight is that it won't be fixed any time soon. Food supplies are short. Water is being flown in." In light of the forest fire situation all summer long, Theresa vanKeoverden has postponed her exposure trip to Pikangikum until late October.

Please pray for the community of Pikangikum and all communities who have, and continue to, experience forest fires and the tragic loss and devastation that they leave behind. Please pray also for Colleen as she continues to deal with post surgery health concerns.

On a lighter note, I share a lovely excerpt from Missionary Assistant, Nicholas Backlund.

Nicholas wrote, *"Life has been filled with many good things... having Nightlight open hanging out with young people. Leading Sunday mornings while Colleen is busy in the community with other pressing matters. Making relationships with local people and teaching youth Christian Education."*



Missionary Colleen Estes



Peace & Beauty
in Pikangikum

Quilting Group News.

In July, our very own former Bright's Grove musician, Mike Stevens, received news that he was a recipient of the "Officer of the Order of Canada" award. Mike was very instrumental in partnering St. Michael CWL Quilting Group with Pikangikum First Nations Community 20+ years ago.

To congratulate and honour Mike on this prestigious award, the Quilting Group made a \$500 donation to the Arts and Crafts Circle, which Mike Stevens founded in 2002.

Mike Stevens Appointed Officer of the Order of Canada!

Presented by Governor-General Mary Simon, the Order honours people whose service shapes our society, whose innovations ignite our imaginations, and whose compassion unites our communities.



SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS



The Sarnia Lambton Deanery Migrant Worker Ministry has supported beautiful and successful Spanish Masses and dinners for workers starting in April. Because of generous donations from parishioners in the Toonie Sunday collections, we have been able to celebrate Palm Sunday, Mothers Day, Fathers Day and the theme, Celebrate Canada, at our monthly outreach events.

We are so grateful for Fr. Frank O'Connor and Fr. Jason Kuntz, the London Liturgy Team, and our own dedicated volunteers who make it all happen.

The pictures below tell the story of these wonderful events with our migrant friends, including a shopping day at St. Vincent de Paul stores in Sarnia and Forest and featuring the Celebrate Canda outdoor games.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to Larry Lawlor and Ray DiBrita for their support in collecting, repairing and delivering used bicycles for the workers. Thank you also to all the donors who provided bicycles.

At our September 14th Mass & dinner at St. Christopher Church, we will celebrate Independence Day and on September 28th we are collaborating with the North Lambton Health Clinic Migrant Worker Team at a Multi-Cultural Dinner and Celebration at the Forest Legion. For information or to volunteer with this wonderful ministry please contact Vera Lawlor, vlawlor@cogeco.ca.



**THE SARNIA LAMBTON DEANERY MIGRANT WORKER
MINISTRY**

**2025
EVENTS &
CELEBRATIONS**



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

SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

HOMELESS & AFFORDABLE HOUSING MINISTRY

At the June 12th Homeless & Affordable Housing Ministry meeting, Jim Curran announced that he has started a non-profit called "Connect Sarnia". Jim purchased the former Nightlight downtown location at 181 Christina St. North. Nightlight transitioned to Connect Sarnia on July 3rd, 2025. The open house was held on August 1st.

Jim reported, "The rationale for the change is local control and autonomy over decision making, finances and strategy. We are grateful for Nightlight's vision and helping start the downtown ministry and are ready to take over as our own local charity". While waiting for charitable status, donations are welcome at any time. Visit sarniaconnect.ca for more information or view the brochures below.



The next HAH Ministry meeting will be in October at St. Benedict Church, Sarnia. Check the bulletin for date, time and guest speaker. 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



St. Benedict Knights of Columbus

Jubilee Celebrations

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



KofC & 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](#)

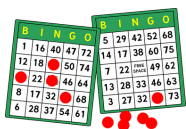
Council Meetings

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.

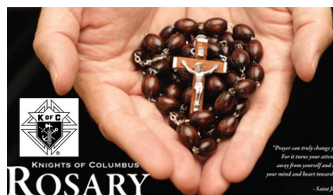
KofC Meat Bingos - Summer Break



Our meat bingos are back! 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!

Come pray the Rosary

The St. Benedict KofC Council and The Catholic Women's League invite all community members to participate in praying the Rosary every Sunday morning throughout October at both St. Benedict and Queen of Peace Churches. Prayers will begin at 8:30 AM, which is half an hour before Mass. Make that special sacrifice of honouring our Blessed Mother by praying the rosary with us.



Pull Tabs for Altar Servers

St. Benedict's KofC is collecting can pull tabs to support the altar server program at St. Benedict and Queen of Peace churches. Please drop off your tabs at the St. Benedict Church office or the reception desk at the parking lot narthex. Thank you for your donation.



Knights of Columbus Programs and Activities

The Knights of Columbus will serve our community during this fraternal year through Faith in Action. Look out for upcoming programs focused on

Faith

Family

Community

Life

September
2025

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2025



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

William E. Prentice
Council 1429

393 Christina St. N
Sarnia, ON N7T 5V9

[OUR LADY OF MERCY](#) [SACRED HEART](#) [ST. JOSEPH](#) [ST. GEORGE \(Ukrainian\)](#)

COUNCIL 1429 NEWS

Family Friendly Oktoberfest (Dinner Dance at OLM)

Mark your calendars: Sat, October 18 at OLM hall.



Coats for Kids ([click for details](#))



Gold Donors
5 boxes or more

Thanks to you all. Last year we fund-raised, raffled gifts and collected enough (over \$2,700) to hand over, to St Vincent de Paul 6 boxes of 72 coats and 29 snow pants.

Let's do better this year!

Use the QR code to the right and receive a tax receipt right away.

COMING SOON:

Altar Server recognition at Our Lady of Mercy, St Joseph and St George Ukrainian Churches.

["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](#)

