



MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC
FAMILY OF PARISHES

"A mission-oriented church that forms disciples of Jesus"

All Saints, Strathroy |

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Sacred Heart, Delaware |

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Sacred Heart, Parkhill |

shparkhill@dol.ca

St Charles Garnier, Glencoe

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Sunday, December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

On the wall in my office, directly above my computer monitor, hangs a picture of the altar found in Mary's home in Nazareth. The inscription underneath the altar reads "Verbum Caro Hic Factum Est", which is Latin for "The Word Was Made Flesh Here." I took the picture on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the Basilica of the Annunciation which is built over top of the remaining ruins of Mary's home. How profound, I thought, to have marked the exact spot the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, to announce that she would become the Mother of God! This is where Mary gave her YES to God's plan, the Incarnation, for her to become the Mother of Jesus Christ our saviour!

I have been praying and reflecting on this YES all week. If I put myself in Mary's situation, how would I have responded? The Gospel of Luke which we hear this Sunday, does not describe a young woman who is panicked or fearful when the Angel Gabriel appears to her. Mary is somewhat perplexed by the greeting "Hail, full of grace" and takes time to ponder the weight of these words. Gabriel did not call Mary by name but called her "full of grace". Can you imagine being called by something other than your name to describe your character? Perhaps you are famous for your humour, and hopefully not your grumpiness? Imagine someone coming up to you and saying "Hail, full of awesomeness!" How would you respond?

But let's get back to the YES. Mary's YES made her the first disciple of Jesus! Think about this for a moment. Mary said YES without hesitation! What if we accepted what is asked of us by God? The promptings are there. Listen carefully! What do you think motivated Mary's response to God? It certainly was not made out of fear. Mary's YES is a lesson in discipleship for us and a window into her soul. Mary trusted in God and his plan for her completely. Mary knew in her heart "for nothing will be impossible with God."

What about our response to God as disciples when God asks something of us that is out of our comfort zone? Discipleship is not always easy. We can let fear of the unknown get to us. Fear is no way to live out a life or to be a disciple. Fear turns us in on ourselves and not outward focusing on others. Fear stops the Church from growing, breeds defeat, and leads to thinking it's no use, why bother trying to do anything.

The picture hanging in front of me in my office, is my daily reminder that I gave my YES to serve and that I am a servant of the Lord! I do so willingly! I am both honoured and humbled to be able to serve the good people of the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes! Believe me when I say, the rewards are out of this world!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister

News for all parishioners

Mass Intentions ~ Week of December 22 – 25

Tuesday, December 22

All Saints Church Site - Mass 6:30pm

Luis Carreiro & Deceased Family – Dolores & Family

Daniel Medeiros – Lucy & Murray Martins

Ines Camara – Ines Mendonca

Serafim Salgado – Teresa Salgado & Family

John Walsh & Rose Kennedy – Gwen Lamoureux

Vicente & Fernanda Jesus – Connie & Aristides Jesus

Sacred Heart, Parkhill Church Site – Mass 6:30pm

Special Intention of Jerome Kieffer - Nick & Candace Schiestel

Wednesday, December 23

All Saints Church Site – 9:00am Mass

John Hartman – Anne & Brian Jones

Gayle Mackay – Ron Timmers



St. Charles Garnier Church Site, Glencoe – 6:30pm Mass

Dr. Dias - Idith & Peter Fleuren

Whitney Joers - Brian and Joanna Simpson

Intention for the Sick and Shut-ins - St. Charles CWL

A reminder that there are **NO WALK INS** for all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Also, there is no need to register for Masses for January 1st, 2nd and 3rd, across our entire family of parishes. We will be back to normal procedures the following week. Happy 2021!



Tune into MyFM radio (105.7 FM), starting December 14th, to hear Fr. David's Christmas message on behalf of the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes.

 Look for this list of names on the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parish website, in the Virtual "In Memory" Book.

Knights of Columbus

2021 Charity Lottery



\$500 PRIZE BOARD:

1. \$150—The Clock Tower Gift Certificate
2. \$125—Canadian Tire Gift Certificate
3. \$125—Ricco Foods Gift Certificate
4. \$100—LCBO Gift Certificate

License No. M840705

In support of Local Charities—Strathroy Minor Sports, Scouting, School Bursaries

Draw to be held February 2, 2021 \$5.00 per ticket

Only 500 tickets available, from any member of All Saints Knights of Columbus 7570 or call Frank at 519-205-2141



From the office

Please see the "Announcements" section on our website for information on **picking up Offertory Envelopes** for all parishes for 2021.



Check out our **new options on how to donate online**, in the same section. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the office for clarification.

Note: the office will be closed the week of December 28th through to January 1st. See everyone in 2021!

ALL PERSONS ENTERING OR REMAINING IN ENCLOSED PUBLIC SPACES SHALL WEAR A MASK OR FACE-COVERING WITH COVERS THE NOSE, MOUTH AND CHIN AS REQUIRED UNDER BY-LAW 41-20.



CHRISTMAS GIVING: Thank you to everyone for your continued support and generosity—especially in these challenging times.



News for all parishioners

Twelve Days of Christmas

The following puts a whole different light on this song....enjoy!

This is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me.

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember:

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New testaments.

Three French horns stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history lesson for today...

Merry Christmas!



News for all parishioners

Pastoral Team/ Staff

Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22

Fr. David Johnston, Associate Pastor ex. 23

Fr. Steve Eckert, Associate Pastor ex. 25

Deacon Henry Tomaszewski

Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister ex. 26

Olga Ferreira, Office Administrator ex. 21

Anna Garcia, Secretary ex. 0

Marg VanderBurgt, Secretary ex. 24

**personal emails can be found on the website*



Sacred Heart CWL in Parkhill is now collecting 2021 memberships. The cost is \$25. Please place your membership in the collection basket at Mass clearly marked CWL membership with your name on it. You can also send it to Lucy Hendriks at 1584 Elginfield Road, Parkhill, ON, N0M 2K0.

Attention all St Charles CWL members, and ALL ladies of St Charles Parish.

St Charles CWL's annual membership drive is underway until December 31st. We would encourage all the ladies of the parish to consider joining our ranks. When Covid restrictions are lifted we will return to meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm. Due to Covid 19 many of us are not attending Sunday Mass, so Mary Huysmans has kindly offered that all envelopes containing membership fees be dropped off at her mailbox which is located at her front door at 243 Appin Road, Glencoe, or, you can give them to Betty Giles, Shirley Gilliland, Mary Huysmans or Teresa O'Leary at Mass. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email address with your \$25.00 membership fee (cash or cheque).



CWL memberships for Sacred Heart Mt Brydges/ Delaware are due for 2021.

Please drop your membership fee into the basket near the door at the mass you attend or send to the parish office. Clearly mark the envelope with your name, contact information and parish, and note that it's for CWL membership.



NEW WEBSITE: westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

All Saints, Strathroy

Email: allsaints@dol.ca

Sacred Heart, Delaware

Email: sacredheart@dol.ca

Sacred Heart, Parkhill

Email: shparkhill@dol.ca

St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Email: sacredheart@dol.ca

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)

See details below for days and times available.

Sacrament of Baptism & Sacrament of Marriage:

Congratulations! Call us at the office to make an appointment.

Reconciliation (Confession)

Due to COVID restrictions and now being in the "RED" zone, confessions will be by appointment only – please contact one of the priests directly (see website for personal email addresses) to set up an appointment.



Need prayers? Our website has a new prayer portal where you can submit prayer requests:

If you or someone you know needs prayers of comfort, courage, or hope, our Intercessory Prayer Team would love to pray for you and your loved ones. The prayer request you share is sent to a team of faithful believers who have a passion for interceding on behalf of others.

You can submit your request anonymously, or include your name...up to you! Please check out the website for the Prayer Portal button on the homepage.



Attention All Women of All Saints Parish—It's time to renew your CWL membership for 2021. Thanks to those who have already paid. For those who still have to pay, you may put your \$25 fee, either in Cash or Cheque to All Saints CWL, in an envelope labelled CWL membership, your name, address and phone number, and place it in the collection basket after Mass or bring it to the office. You could also contact Mary Margaret Groot (519-245-4867) to set up an alternate plan. The CWL of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values, calling all members to holiness through service to the people of God. If you are not already a member, we invite all ladies, 16 years & older, to consider joining our organization. We look forward to resuming our many activities once Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

