



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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St Charles Garnier, Glencoe

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www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca



## February 6, 2022

### 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.*

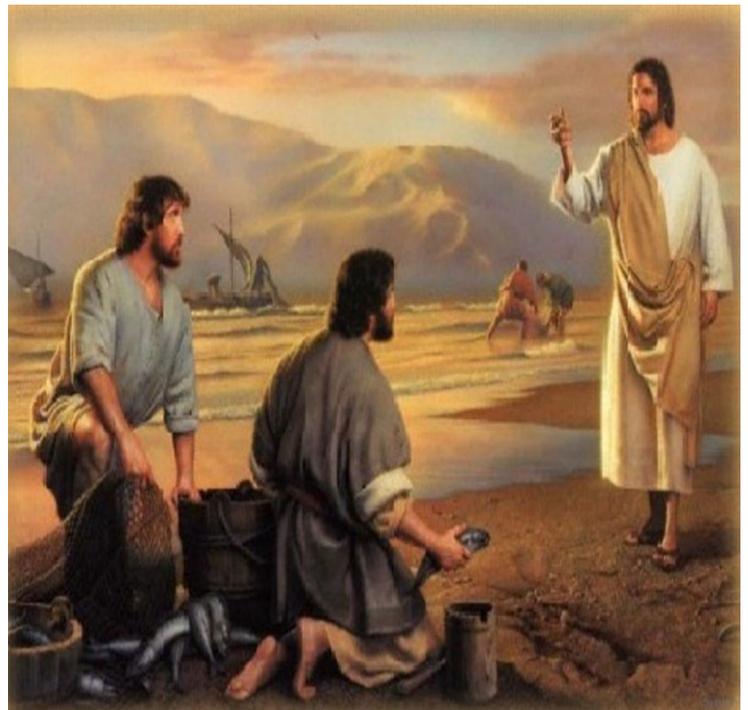
*He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.*

*Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.*

*After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."*

*Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."*

*When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.*



*"If you can't feed one hundred people, then feed just one."*

*Mother Teresa*

Please keep in your prayers ....

- ◆ the Christians treasuring the message entrusted to us,
- ◆ our nation continuing to struggle with the effects of Covid-19
- ◆ young men and women discerning their call to service
- ◆ this assembly manifesting the gospel in our homes, schools and places of work
- ◆ those who have died waiting a place of Eternal Rest and for all who mourn
- ◆ Deacon Henry Tomaszewski, Deacon Ronald Vermette, Mrs. Rita Butler Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Mrs. Leonia Downie Pastoral Minister, Rev. Gerald Craig O.F.M. Cap., Rev Arthur Hathaway C.S.B., Mrs. Christine Toffolon Pastoral Minister



# News for all parishioners ....

## *This week at a glance ...*

- ◆ If you are interested in obtaining a Lenten book, fill in the form on the website or leave a message at the office. Cost is \$15. Deadline to order is February 15.
- ◆ If you missed the zoom meeting for Parents about the sacrament of Confirmation, Click the CONFIRMATION banner to access to Registration forms & sign-up for the Confirmation program - Questions, directed to Father Thom.
- ◆ Confirmation Volunteers are needed. Orientation meeting will be on Wed., Feb. 16 and 23; 7:30pm – 8:30pm. Looking for table leaders and kitchen help. Prep classes will start March 4th : Fridays 6pm-8:15pm starting with dinner for 7 nights (except for Good Friday) (A meatless option will be available.)
- ◆ Coldest Night of the Year: FFI in coordination with 37 Frank St. on Feb 26 – see website/bulletin for more details.
- ◆ Catch-up Baptism: any older children (4 & up) who haven't been baptized call/contact Fr. Thom/Fr. David..
- ◆ Please note that there is no Mass at St. Charles this coming week



## **From the Diocese of London**

### Come and See Virtual Weekend - Feb 11 to 12

St. Peter's Seminary invites you to a virtual discernment retreat for men 17 years old and older that are considering a call to the priesthood. This weekend offers a firsthand experience of the life of a seminarian, provide spiritual help for discernment and offer the opportunity for prayer and reflection. Please contact Fr. Danny Santos at [vocations@dol.ca](mailto:vocations@dol.ca) or visit [www.dolpriest.ca/registration](http://www.dolpriest.ca/registration).



DIOCESE OF  
LONDON

### Virtual Seminar for Youth Ministry

On Saturday, 5 February, from 10am – 11am, join IGNITE Canada, a program of Redemptorist Youth and Vocation Ministry, for a seminar about Justice and Service. This seminar will draw from Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching, adolescent development, and contemporary catechetical principles, and explore action-learning models for young people and families. To register, check Diocesan website.

### World Day of the Sick

Each year on 11 February, the Catholic Church observes the World Day of the Sick with prayers to those who suffer from illness, and also for their caregivers. Read Pope Francis' Message for World Day of the Sick (2022) online, and we encourage you to share it with your communities as it will carry a different meaning for everyone. Even the youngest persons can be engaged in observing this day with these suggested activities for use in classrooms or households; for elementary school activities. Check the Diocesan website.

### Holy Family Retreat House

Holy Family Retreat House is open and ready to assist with planning and organizing your individual, small group or larger lead retreats. Owned by the Diocese of London, we are situated in Harrow (Oxley) on 5 acres overlooking Lake Erie. We have multiple buildings, meeting and lounge areas and outdoor spaces suitable for most groups.. We offer reasonable rates, and custom packages are available based on specific requirements. Contact us at [hfrh@dol.ca](mailto:hfrh@dol.ca) or 519-738-6136. Check out our website at [www.hfrh.ca](http://www.hfrh.ca) or our Facebook page

## **Calling those in High School and Beyond...**

“Bundle up and put your walking shoes on for the homeless, hurting, and the hungry in our community!”  
**Save the date - Saturday February 26, 2022.** Put your faith into action by joining the community cause “Coldest Night of the Year” 2km walk to raise funds for Strathroy Youth Unlimited/YFC Strathroy. To find out more and join our tea please visit <https://famfi.ca/events/a-night-of-hope/>

Afterwards, return to All Saint Church for a “A Night of Hope” evening of prayer. Finish the night outside with hot chocolate and a bonfire. For those in High School and Beyond! All are welcome!

Stay tuned  
for more info  
coming next  
week...



THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS  
SUPPORT!



All Saints Knights of Columbus Council held a fundraising campaign for the Canadian Wheelchair Foundation at all Masses on the weekend of January 8-9, 2022. Your generosity enabled us to collect \$683.00. With an additional \$100.00 from our General Funds, we will be able to send enough for the purchase of four (4) chairs to the Foundation.

To all who donated, thank you for your selfless and gracious support.

# News for all parishioners ....

## All Saints, Strathroy

Week of Feb 8-11

**Tue Feb 8, 6:30pm**

Mary & Gerry Derks - Rita Timmers

Fred Overdulse - K of C

Peter Buren & Dec. members of Buren, Black & Verhoeven families - Carol & Rod Black

Joseph Herygers - K of C

Manuel & Conceicao Correia – Family

**Wed Feb 9, 9:00am**

Delfim Desa - Family

Lily Bini - Stanley Lunan

**Thu Feb 10, 6:30pm**

Francisco DaPonte – Judite DaPonte

Luis Couto – Eduarda Couto

**Fri Feb 11, 9:00am**

Intention of the Friends of FFI – FFI

Deceased Members of VanderVloet & Meeuwssen families  
– Estate



## Sacred Heart, Parkhill

Week of Feb 8-11

**Tue Feb 8, 6:30pm**

Deceased Members of VanderVloet & Meeuwssen families - Estate

**Thu Feb 10, 9:00am**

For all who are sick and suffering



## St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Week of Feb 8-11

**Wed Feb 9 - NO MASS**



**ALL PERSONS ENTERING OR REMAINING IN THE CHURCH SHALL WEAR A MASK OR FACE-COVERING WHICH COVERS THE NOSE, MOUTH AND CHIN, AT ALL TIMES.**



**Please stay home if you are not feeling well and be mindful of the protocols in place to keep us all safe!**



As the **Synod** begins, we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as the Church embarks on an intentional process of mutual listening and engaging the People of God in a journey of communion, participation, and mission.

***We stand before You, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in Your name.***

***With You alone to guide us,  
make Yourself at home in our hearts;***

***Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.***

***We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.***

***Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality  
influence our actions.***

***Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from  
the way of truth  
and what is right.***

***All this we ask of You,  
who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.***

***Amen.***

*Have you ever wondered what life is all about? Why are we here? Does my life have meaning?*



Discover the answer to these questions and more by joining the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes online Alpha!

Alpha explores life and the Christian faith in a relaxed, informal setting. Make new friends, ask questions and have fun! Each week, the Alpha session begins with a short presentation followed by small group discussion.

Visit [www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca) and click on the Alpha banner, to fill out a registration form. We still have room for you!

**Sessions are Thursdays, from February 3, 2022 from 7-8:30 pm and through Thursday April 21st.** There will be no session on Holy Thursday April 14th. **A Prayer Weekend will be held on Saturday March 19th from 9am to 1pm.**

For more information contact Ruth Alcaindinho at [ruth.e.dino@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth.e.dino@hotmail.com).

***A Child's note to God ...***

*Dear God,*

*Can you make it so I don't have to go to school five days in a row—three is enough.*

*Jamie*



# Weekly Reflection

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 6, 2022**

*The Day Peter Threw His Life Away!*

by Russell E. Saltzman - published on 01/07/18

This is the story of a fisherman who threw his life away in the high waters of a perfect storm. (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus is in need of a platform, as the story opens, so he can teach to a gathering of people along the shore of Lake Gennesaret. Gennesaret is also known as the Sea of Galilee and, in tribute to the emperor, the Romans called it Lake Tiberius. Simon's nearby fishing boat is a handy platform. But Simon (later known by his nickname, Peter) is occupied cleaning nets with James and John. He may have been inclined to refuse, but then he would have been refusing in front of a crowd of people who wanted to hear Jesus speak. It would be hard to say no in that circumstance and if he did, he might lose business; all these people eat fish, right? So – I can see this — big sigh, yeah, sure, hop in. The sooner he can get rid of this character, Jesus, the sooner he can return to cleaning nets.

Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people. That's the way it was done in those years: student stood and teacher sat; same for sermons in the synagogue. Whatever it was Jesus said does not seem to have made much difference for Simon. Maybe he'd heard it all before – there wasn't a Jew in Galilee or Judea who hadn't heard about what God was going to do, someday. The place was lousy with prophets and what-not; more recently that guy what ate honey-dipped locusts.

Simon, in any case, was unimpressed because, afterwards, when Jesus says let's go fishing, Simon argues: Do you see any fish here? We've been out all night. We didn't catch anything. I can picture Jesus just looking at him, an eyebrow arched, questioningly. Simon is still thinking, how can I get rid of him and back to work? Alright, I'll take him fishing – then he'll leave. He hopes.

So out they go, Simon and Jesus with him, out into the deep waters as Jesus orders, out to where small 1st-century boats were never meant to be. Deep water is no place for small craft. My father often told of the time his cousin Roy in San Francisco took him (and me, then age 8) out in a small outboard, out beyond the bay, beyond the Golden Gate, out smack into the Pacific Ocean, and no life vests. My father told the story with some relish. It was rock'n'roll, how the little boat bobbed this way and dipped that way, took some water over the gunnels, and him wondering how he ever let his crazy cousin talk him into doing it.

Simon goes out into the deep water, perhaps wondering something of the same, told to fish for fish that are not there. What happens next, we know. Fish leap at the opportunity to be netted. Many fish, lots and lots of fish, so many fish the nets begin to snap. Simon signals for his partners to come alongside and help. As the two boats settle low under the weight of fish, Jesus, I would guess, sits placidly watching, a grin on his face, eyebrow arched again, as he looks at Simon. And something comes to Simon as he strains with the net, awareness, an awakening, awe, a fear, a deeper fear, something God-given, to outmatch his fear of deep water. This is when Simon throws away his life, out on the high waters of the Galilee. I never met Avery Cardinal Dulles (d. 2008), not personally. I heard him lecture a couple times. He, I thought, was a Disney Sleepy Hallow Ichabod Crane look-alike, tall, lanky, physically awkward (from a childhood brush with polio), words shooting from his mouth like shells from a tank turret. I wish I had met him; I had friends who claimed him as a friend. Most of their stories confirmed my impression.

He told a mutual friend when this notion of priesthood came to him, a one-time agnostic; he heard it as clear as Jesus speaking to Simon, "Fear not." After being made a cardinal, there was a dinner for him at Fordham University, New York. His sister, one of the last family members, spoke, telling about the family upheaval over his decision to become Roman Catholic and a priest to boot. His Presbyterian father, John Foster Dulles, a U.S. Secretary of State, flat-out told him he was throwing his life away. His sister went on: "Of course, they were right. He did throw his life away." Dead silence, a four second pause, at wink at her brother: "For Christ."

All of us sail deep waters. We are set forth over the waters of Baptism. These waters bear us as they might where wind and Spirit direct, often to places and shores we would not wish to go. And we would not go, but for two words: Fear not.



**Pastoral Team/Staff**

**Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22**  
**Fr. David Johnston, Associate Pastor ex. 23**  
**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*

**From the office ...**

Please note that the office will continue to be closed and staff will be working remotely until further notice, as per directives from the Diocese. Please leave a message or email and staff will be back to you as soon as they possibly can.



In an emergency, call 519-245-0644 and dial 9 for immediate connection to a priest.

FYI: Official tax receipts will be prepared and distributed by the end of February 2022.

**WEBSITE: [westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca)**

**All Saints, Strathroy**  
Email: [allsaints@dol.ca](mailto:allsaints@dol.ca)

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**Sacred Heart, Parkhill**  
Email: [shparkhill@dol.ca](mailto:shparkhill@dol.ca)

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**  
Email: [sacredheart@dol.ca](mailto:sacredheart@dol.ca)

**Office Hours**

*Monday to Friday 9-4 (temporarily closed)*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)**

4:00—4:45pm Saturday at All Saints church site  
4:00—4:45pm Saturday at Sacred Heart Parkhill church site  
5:45—6:15pm Wednesdays at St. Charles Garnier church site  
Also by appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

Congratulations! Please call Julie to make arrangements at 519-245-0644 ext 26 or send an email to [jdegouw@dol.ca](mailto:jdegouw@dol.ca).

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Congratulations! Please call the office to make an appointment.

**“Having Patience With Yourself”**

*A Lenten Retreat with*  
**Fr. Steve Eckert**

**March 20 - 22, 2022**  
**Holy Family Retreat House**  
121 Victoria St, Harrow, ON N0R 1G0

Please e-mail [Caroline Dupuis](mailto:Caroline Dupuis)  
for other details and for registration:  
[littlepetal.dupuis@gmail.com](mailto:littlepetal.dupuis@gmail.com)

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**  
**WEST MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES**



All Saints, Strathroy	Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 8:00 am/ <b>11:00 am</b> <i>* 11:00 am will be livestreamed each week</i>
Sacred Heart, Parkhill	Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday <b>10:00 am</b>
St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe	Sunday 9:00 am



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**May 1, 2022**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination**  
**Fr. Thom Blondin**  
More details will follow

Greetings to West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes:

It has been a while since I have done an update on what is happening at 37 Frank Street Youth Centre in Strathroy. For those who do not know us, we are located on Frank Street in Strathroy. We are a division of YFC/Youth Unlimited Strathroy. "Frank's" is a safe place for youth, whether they are in need or not, to come in and simply hang out. We have board games, a small library, free wifi and of course the biggest draw...free food as well as reasonably priced food for purchase.

There have been a few changes in our opening hours to accommodate teens after school. Our daytime hours are Tuesday to Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and we have been able to finally open Frank's Cafe - Tuesday to Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

We have four churches in Strathroy that each take a week and bring us prepared food and groceries for that week. With this food and other donations, we have been able to serve over 1300 meals to the homeless, hurt and hungry in the Strathroy area. Ladies from All Saints CWL have been looking after the second week of the month for us. It has been greatly appreciated.

Last spring I applied to the Pope Francis Fund for a grant to purchase items to help out when we are able to open our emergency shelter. We were approved and now have bed frames, mattresses, bedding and other room accessories ready for use.

This past Christmas we were able to give five families and their children a homemade turkey dinner with all the fixings. We were also able to give their children presents that many would not likely have received for Christmas. One older youth we brought meals and gifts to was so overwhelmed with emotion as we were able to give her something she was never expecting. To see the tears of joy and thanks in her eyes is something all of us will never forget.

*"Whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto me,"*

Another family with younger children was so happy with the food and gifts to give to their children, they were wondering how they would be able to even provide a gift to each of their children at all. They were so grateful for the kindness extended to them.

We have other stories of youth who have come into our centre who are in need of immediate care. We were able to provide them with emergency backpacks that contain toiletries, gift cards, an emergency sleeping bag, a tent, non perishable food and more. We are also working in close contact with Josh Smith, the Community Navigator for our area. If there is something we cannot assist the youth with, Josh can. He has been an incredible asset to our community.

On February 26, 2022, we are holding the CNOY (The Coldest Night of the Year) to raise awareness of homelessness, hurt and poverty in our community. We are also getting teams and walkers to join in a 2 or 5 km virtual walk in Strathroy. Money raised will help assist us at Frank's with the centre operating costs and to continue to help the hurt, homeless and impoverished youth right here in Strathroy-Caradoc. We need your help as homelessness and hunger is a big issue right here in our community.

**This is where all of you come in....Please consider starting a team, joining a team or donating to someone that is walking for 37 Frank Youth Centre. You can go to <https://cnoy.org/location/strathroy> or give me an email and/or call and I can guide you through this process.**

*"Alone we can do little, together we can do much." – Helen Keller*

Colleen Wiendels, Volunteer, 37 Frank Street Youth Centre

519.777.1410 [colleenwiendels@isp.ca](mailto:colleenwiendels@isp.ca)



**Weekly Bulletin** *If you wish to receive the weekly bulletin sent directly to your inbox, or to get any last minute updates or changes happening across our parishes, please email the office at [allsaints@dol.ca](mailto:allsaints@dol.ca) and ask to be put on our list for Flocknotes. Let us know your name, email and which parish you belong to. It's that easy! Never miss another bulletin or update again.*

**February**