

## WEST MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

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

**All Saints, Strathroy**  
allsaints@dol.ca

**Sacred Heart, Delaware**  
sacredheart@dol.ca

**Sacred Heart, Parkhill**  
shparkhill@dol.ca

**St Charles Garnier, Glencoe**  
sacredheart@dol.ca

Office: 124 Front St. E., Strathroy, ON N7G 1Y9

519.245.0644

www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

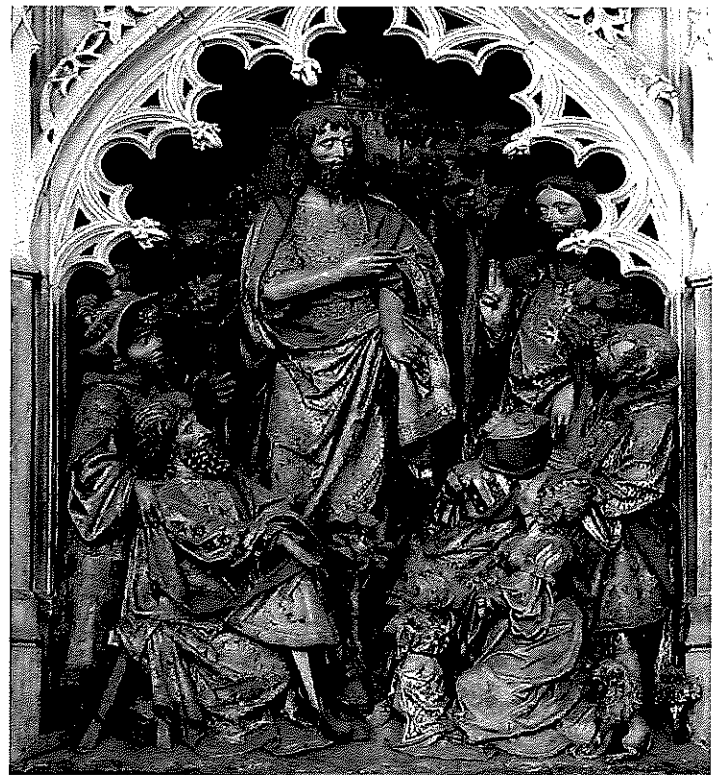
# January 8, 2023 Epiphany of the Lord & January 15, 2023 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



## The Feast of EPIPHANY

*Please keep in your prayers .... Sunday, January 8*

- ♦ Christians proclaiming the glory of God to the ends of the earth
- ♦ the kings and rulers of the nations guiding their people in the ways of peace
- ♦ the poor and needy longing for an epiphany of peace and justice
- ♦ this community seeking the presence of Christ under a multitude of stars
- ♦ the dead waiting to receive admittance to the Eternal Banquet
- ♦ Rev. Michael O'Brien, Sister Marija Ivic S.F.B.Z. Pastoral Minister, Rev. Jozef Denys, Rev. Francis Thekkumkattil, Ms. Cathryn Hall Pastoral Minister, Rev. Michael Parent, A.J. Barrows Coordinator of Family and Youth Ministry



*Please keep in your prayers .... Sunday, January 15*

- ♦ Rev. Jude Ogbenna C.S. Sp., Deacon Thomas MacLeod, Rev. Martin Nyland, Deacon Reginald Quesnel, Deacon Mark Castanier, Rev. Jose Montepeque, Rev. John Comiskey



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

Dear God,  
Can you please make church start later? My mom wakes me up too early on Sunday morning. Thank you. Lester



## At a glance ...

- ◆ Our Sacramental Prep program, "Go, Seek, Find", is in need of more leaders for the upcoming sessions from now until March 12 at all of our parish locations. First Communion prep started at All Saints January 8 and runs until March 12 after the 8 am and 11 am Masses each Sunday. If you can offer help in anyway, contact Julie at jdegouw@dol.ca or call 519-245-0644 ext. 26 for more info.
- ◆ Don't forget to pick up your 2023 Offertory Envelopes at each church site.
- ◆ Please review the bulletin and website carefully, as the weekday Mass schedules have been changed, due to having only one priest available during the week.
- ◆ Our Next Alpha begins on February 1st and will be offered **both In Person and Online**. Please see the bulletin and parish website for further details. Everyone is welcome and we are called as a faith community to pray for and extend an invitation to a family member, friend or neighbour to come and try Alpha.
- ◆ A session on Mental Health and Wellness will be held on Wednesday January 25th at All Saints Church site and our Presenter will be Tom Ketellaars. All are welcome to attend. Please contact Ruth Alcaindinho (info in bulletin).
- ◆ Shared Life Series, there will be two more sessions on the series at All Saints Church site on Wednesday Jan 11th and 18th at 7pm. The series is designed to encourage and help everyone in the church to share their faith. All are welcome to attend including anyone helping with our Alpha Team.



## World Youth Day Group Meeting

Youth & Parents please join us for  
Registration night

When: January 8<sup>th</sup> 7PM

Where: All Saints Parish

Bring: Deposit cheque of \$500

\*Please check expiry dates on passports (March 2024) & personal travel insurance coverage

## From the office ....

Office hours are once again, Monday through Friday, from 9:00am to 4:00pm.



If there is anything we can help you with, feel free to drop in anytime!  
Happy New Year!



Please give a warm welcome to

**Fr. Jim Mockler**

and

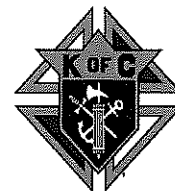
**Fr. Murray Sample**

who will be celebrating in our Family of Parishes while Fr. Thom is away on sabbatical.

We thank them both for their time and commitment to us during this time. Welcome!

## Knights of Columbus—All Saints

Throughout the year, the Knights of Columbus makes donations to the parish and local community. Here is a list of our 2022 donations:



- \$5000 Directly to the parish
- \$2000 St. Vincent De Paul Society
- \$1200 VON
- \$1200 Fresh Start for unwed mothers
- \$1400 St. Vincent de Paul School for bussing to the church
- \$ 700 Coats for Kids
- \$ 500 Boy Scouts
- \$ 250 Save the Family Plan
- \$ 500 Strathroy & District Right to Life
- \$ 500 Scholarships to our local Catholic schools
- \$1000 St. Peter's Seminary
- \$ 800 Parish Picnic
- \$1200 Wheelchair Drive

Our income is derived from fish fry's, breakfasts and bingos. Keep a lookout for our next events coming soon!

To all that attended our Volunteer Appreciation Social December 30th!

Thank you for accepting the invitation to be appreciated. Our family of parishes is truly blessed by your service!



As we embark upon a new year, may you continue to bring joy to others in all that you do!



# *Weekly Reflection*

## **Reflection January 8, Epiphany of the Lord, the 2nd. Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 15, 2023**

So, here we are in a new year! How many times will you write 2022 on something instead of 2023 before it becomes habit to do so? Change takes time. Change will happen with or without us. Question is, do we meet change head on or do we struggle just to keep up?

The scripture reading for January 8, the Epiphany of the Lord, reveals the divine nature of Jesus Christ as the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is represented by the arrival of the Magi. The visit from the Wise Men brings forth a moment of sudden revelation and insight into what the birth of Jesus means for us. God is among us! Great change is here!

The scripture reading for January 15, tells of John the Baptist baptizing with water with the invitation to repent of one's sins. John the Baptist knows though, that there is one to come who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Yes, great change is here!

In the second reading for January 15, Paul's greeting is addressed to "those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours." Yes, we are all called to be saints. The greatest disappointment though, is that we do not realize this calling to sainthood. Impossible you say, to be a saint, not so.

Sainthood starts with small things. Small things become significant not to us but to those that receive them. Yes, we are called to do great things but the greatness comes from the effort and not from the act itself.

We are called to become saints, to be perfected in charity, to grow in holiness. Not only are we called to this, it is now made possible through Jesus Christ. We are to live differently - beginning right now- because we live our lives now in Jesus Christ. We are to love differently, because we are enabled by grace to love in Jesus Christ. And all of this is made possible, as we cooperate with grace. The character of Christ is being formed in us as we cooperate with grace.

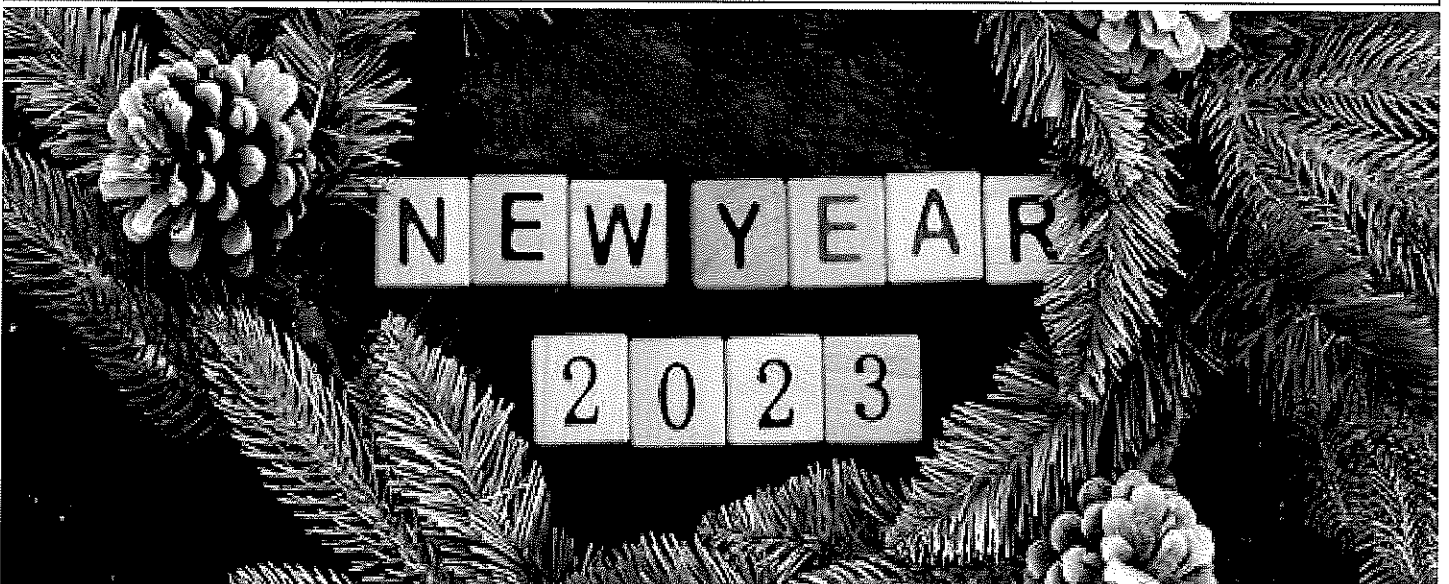
New Year, new opportunity. New chances. No time like the present to make changes.

Don't spend all your time waiting for one great thing you think God has called you to do or you will miss those little moments of opportunities of great joy.

Be confident knowing that like John the Baptist who was called to baptize with water, you are doing what God has called you to do.

God the Almighty, has the power to take away sin. This same God empowers us to be all that we can be. Nothing is impossible with God. Great change is possible!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister



## All Saints, Strathroy-Weeks of Jan 10-20

### **Thu Jan 12, 6:00pm Rosary / 6:30pm Mass**

Fernando e Maria José Melo

- Gilda e José Viveiros

José Vieira - Maria Gabriel

Helena Arruda - Connie e Joe Arruda

Alzira Catojo - Gloria

Sister Margaret Rose, Sister Marietta, Sister Rita

- Zelia Gomes

Arthur Macedo - Family

### **Fri Jan 13, 9:00am Mass**

Deceased Family of João & Teresa Viveiros

Rodulf Bartoch - Agnes Nicol

Special Intention for Joe Nash/reposed soul of Frances Nash -

Joe Nash

Linda Bermudez - Margaret Adams

Jerry Thuss - Bobbie & Jerry Thuss

Delfim Desa - Family

~ ~ ~

### **Thu Jan 19, 6:00pm Rosary / 6:30pm Mass**

Pais e Irmãos de Jose Viveiros

Leonardo James Matthews - Ana-Paula Matthews & family

Leonardo Lopes - Ana-Paula Matthews & Family

João e Soliedade Raposo - Armanda Melo

Arthur Macedo - Family

Fernanda & Manuel Almeida - Margarida Milhomens

### **Fri Jan 20, 9:00am Mass**

Deceased Members of VanderVloet & Meeuwssen families

- Estate

Linda Wiley Bermudez - Agnes Nicol

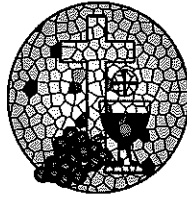
Bernard Verhoeven & Deceased members of Verhoeven &

Frensh Families - Elly

Daniel Fernandes - Geraldina Fernandes & Family

Holy Trinity, Our Lady & St. Joseph - Jina Andrade

Patricia Howe - Henry & Rosemary Naus



## Sacred Heart, Parkhill

### Weeks of Jan 10-20

### **Tue Jan 10, 6:30pm Mass**

Special Intention for Joseph &

Johanna Minten - Francine & Jack DeGroot

~ ~ ~

### **Tue Jan 17, 6:30pm Mass**

Deceased Members of VanderVloet &

Meeuwssen families - Estate



## St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

### Weeks of Jan 10-20

### **Wed Jan 11, 6:30pm Mass**

Manuel & Jesuvina Antunes

- Antunes family

Special Intention for Brian & Joanna Simpson

- Kelly Skinn

Jamie Mitchell - David Skipper

~ ~ ~

### **Wed Jan 18, 6:30pm Mass**

Manuel & Jesuvina Antunes - Antunes family

Special Intention for Ben & Sarah Small

- Kelly Skinn

Deceased Members of VanderVloet &

Meeuwssen families - Estate



## **2023 Men of Faith Conference**

### **—Running to Win**

**Saturday, January 28th 8:00am—3:00pm**

**at St. Michael's Parish, London**

***Featuring Dr. John Bergsma***

Men and young men, join us for the 11th Annual Men of Faith Conference on Saturday, January 28th. This year's conference features Dr. John Bergsma Catholic convert, Biblical Scholar, and Theologian. Dr. John will share his journey from protestant pastor to Catholic convert.

Come be inspired in your faith and strengthened in fraternity with other men. We hope to see you there.

or more information and to register go to

[famfi.ca/men](http://famfi.ca/men) or contact

[bsimpson@execulink.com](mailto:bsimpson@execulink.com) and

[htomaszewski@dol.ca](mailto:htomaszewski@dol.ca)

## **New! Teen Study Information Night**

Are you wondering how our Catholic Faith fits with the bigger discussions happening in our culture right now? We are very excited to announce that West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes will sponsor a teen study on Catholic social teaching. The program that we will be using is Ascension's Connected: Catholic Social Teaching for This Generation. This engaging 5-session study introduces sound Catholic teaching on creation, life, race, poverty, and the family.'

The study will be geared towards young adults, grade 9+. The study will begin January 28th and held on each Saturday following Mass with a pizza dinner. The study will end on February 25th. ***But first, we need volunteers.***

**ffi** FAMILY  
FOUNDATIONS  
INSTITUTE

**Pastoral Team/ Staff** office: 519-245-0644

**Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22 (Sabbatical)**

**Fr. Christian Amogu, Associate Pastor ex. 25**

**Deacon Henry Tomaszewski**

**Deacon Jim Vandersanden**

**Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister ex. 26**

**Olga Ferreira, Office Administrator ex. 21**

**Anna Garcia, Secretary ex. 0**

**Marg VanderBurg, Secretary ex. 24**

*\*personal emails can be found on the website*

*\*messages can be left at the office for both Deacons*

### **Mental Health and Wellness Speaker**

West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes is hosting:

**Mental Health & Wellness Information Session**

**Wednesday January 25th at 7:00pm**

**at All Saints Church site, Parish Centre.**

**Guest Presenter: Tom Katelaars, CYW, and Senior**

**Manager in Children's Mental and Developmental Health**

For more information, please contact Ruth Alcainho, 519-871-6249. All are welcome!

### **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Needs You!**



**New members  
Volunteers**

Come Join Us - St. Angela's Room,  
All Saints church site (downstairs)  
3rd Monday at 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome!

**Our first meeting of the New Year is**

**Monday, January 16th, 2023**

Contact: Gwen Waeijen – [gwenwaeijen@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenwaeijen@hotmail.com)

Your donations are always greatly appreciated!

\*e-transfer – [ssvpallsaints@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpallsaints@gmail.com)

(Income Tax Receipts provided)

Door collection is last Saturday/Sunday every month  
after Mass at All Saints Church site.

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

**All Saints, Strathroy**

Email: [allsaints@dol.ca](mailto:allsaints@dol.ca)

**Sacred Heart, Delaware**

Email: [sacredheart@dol.ca](mailto:sacredheart@dol.ca)

**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 through Friday**

**9:00am to 4:00pm**

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)**

4:00—4:45pm Saturday at All Saints church site

Tuesday after Mass 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.



### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**WEST MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES**

All Saints, Strathroy

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am/11:00 am

\* 11:00 am will be livestreamed each week

Sacred Heart, Parkhill

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am

St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Sunday 9:00 am

Strathroy and District Right to Life, invite you to hear Alex Schadenberg, from the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, to speak about MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying), on **January 27, at 7:30 pm at East Christian Reformed Church.**

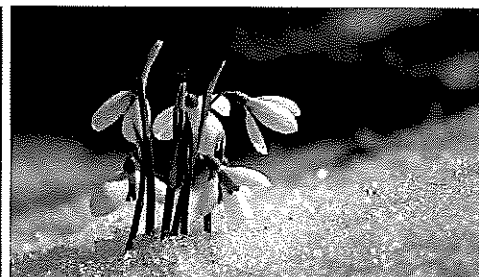
All are welcome!



### **Revenue & Expenses November 2022**

	<b>All Saints</b>	<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>St. Charles</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,242.95</b>	<b>\$ 11,221.60</b>	<b>\$ 8,073.75</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$(48,004.01)</b>	<b>\$(13,850.90)</b>	<b>\$(8,361.74)</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$(26,425.69)</b>	<b>\$(2,629.30)</b>	<b>\$ (287.99)</b>

**Thank you for supporting the work of Christ, through his Church**



### ***From the Diocese of London***

#### **Open Masses resume at St. Peter's Seminary**

Open Masses at St. Peter's Seminary, 1040 Waterloo St., London: Jan 14, 2023 at 11:15 AM; Feb 4, at 11:15 AM; Mar 4, 2023 at 11:15 AM.



#### **National Association of Catholic Nurses-(NACN-Canada)**

NACN's goal is to align professional practice with faith through prayer, fellowship, mentoring, access to resources regarding ethical issues and participation in public discourse. On First Fridays at 3:00 p.m., pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with them using the link on their website, where you will also find information on events and how to join their association tact@gmail.com).

#### **Cursillo Weekend**

Where is Christ in your life now? Take time to reflect and redirect your path. A Catholic Cursillo weekend can give you that time, and the spiritual food you need for reflection.

When: Men's: Feb. 2-5, 2023; Women's: Feb. 9-11, 2023. Where: Michaelite House, 2751 Sunningdale Rd. W., Cost: \$200 [funding available to those unable to meet this expense]

Sharon Walsh at 519-393-6750 kinkorite@hotmail.com.

We hope that everyone had a nice Christmas with their families. We like to wish you and your family a Happy & Blessed New Year.

**Our next Take a Break Day will be on Wednesday, January 11th.**



Coffee Social at 10:30 followed by a lunch provided from the CWL at 11:30.

Please RSVP by Monday, January 9th if you can make it, and if you have any food restrictions.

Hope to see you and your kids on the 11th.

Tammy Vandersanden - tvandersanden@execulink.com  
Lucy Hendrikx - lulouhendrikx@gmail.com  
Anne Roelands - pandaroelands@gmail.com

### **Hospitality Ministry**

The mission of the hospitality ministry is to provide a welcoming environment of love, acceptance, comfort, support, care, and unity for visitors, members, guests, and friends in order to enhance their worship experience, and encourage discipleship.



Hospitality is a form of outreach to all those who come to our churches for any reason.

There are many ways to do this. For example, greeting those who come to us for Mass on the weekends. But hospitality does not begin and end with the Sunday Mass experience. Hospitality and welcome, is needed for all the events we organize in our parishes. As we begin our sacramental preparation programs, volunteers are needed to greet people, answer questions, give directions, provide refreshments, and to be networkers by talking to those who come to us.

Those who extend hospitality to others are the face of welcome in our parishes and are eager to be of service to others! If you fit this description then we have a mission for you!

Contact Julie de Gouw, jdegouw@dol.ca or 519-245-0644 for more information.

### **All Saints Strathroy—CWL NEWS**

One of our members makes mats which are used in third world countries to sleep on. These are made by cutting and weaving milk bags. It takes many bags to make one mat and she is asking for more milk bags as she is almost out. Please bring your clean milk bags to Church and deposit them in the Narthex at the back entrance. Thanks in advance for your help with this initiative.

**We're planning a Valentine tea for all the ladies of our West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes on Feb 12th from 2:00 to 4:00pm. More details to come.**

The World day of Prayer will be held at All Saints church site on March 3rd, 2023 at 2:00 pm.

Our next general meeting will be February 7th at 7:00pm in the Columbian Room.



### **St. Charles Glencoe—CWL NEWS**

Next CWL meeting Wed. Jan.25,2023 @ 7pm – parish hall. Discussion new year's directives, budget, fundraising & events.

New Membership still open, share Sisterhood & Fellowship!



### **Sacred Heart Parkhill—CWL NEWS**

Our next meeting will be on

Thursday, Jan. 12th at 9:30 am.



### **First Communion Preparation Dates for 2023**

For those children who have completed the in-person First Reconciliation preparation program, registration is now up and running on our website at [www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca)

Contact jdegouw@dol.ca for more information.



#### **First Communion Prep Dates (5 weeks long)**

##### **ALL SAINTS**

OPTION A: January 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5 after the 8 am Mass

OPTION B: Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5 after the 11 am Mass

OPTION C: Feb 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12 after the 8 am Mass

OPTION D: Feb 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12 after the 11 am Mass

##### **ST CHARLES**

OPTION E: Feb 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 after the 9 am Mass

##### **SACRED HEART**

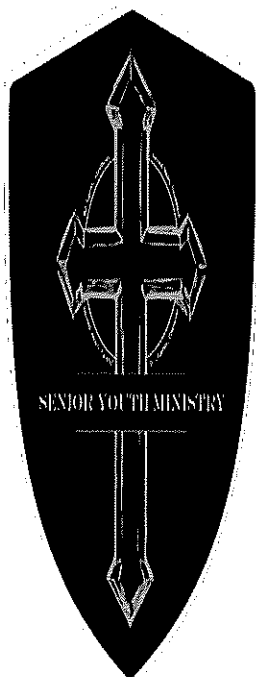
OPTION F: Feb12, 19, 26, March 5, 12 after 10 am Mass



West Middlesex

Catholic Family of Parishes

Senior Youth Ministry



We are very excited to invite you to our senior youth group! We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Join us from 6:30pm to 9:00pm for faith filled fun with friends.

FOOD ✦ FUN ✦ FAITH ✦ FRIENDS

January 15, 2022, St. Charles Garnier Hall

Ages: Highschool and up

Cost: \$5/evening or \$50/year

Please contact us with any questions or for more information:

Lucia Lilbourne (519) 878-3173 or Stacey Landstra (519) 854-3920 or email:

[wmsyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:wmsyouthministry@gmail.com)

#### We are looking for volunteers!

Our West Middlesex Senior Youth Ministry is looking for some more volunteers for 2023 to help plan, organize and run youth events. If you have already been or would like to consider being part of this great ministry, please join us at the following meetings at All Saints, Columbian Room.

Wednesday January 11, 7PM

Wednesday February 8th, 7PM

Wednesday March 8th, 7PM

If you have any questions, please contact us.  
[wmsyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:wmsyouthministry@gmail.com)

Lucia Lilbourne 519-878-3173 Stacey Landstra 519-854-3920

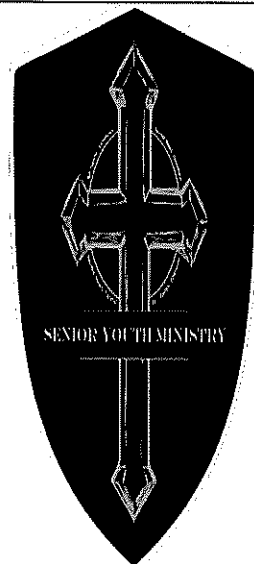
If you wish to receive the weekly bulletin sent directly to your inbox, or to get any last minute updates or changes happening across our family of parishes, please email the office at [allsaints@dol.ca](mailto:allsaints@dol.ca) and ask to be put on our list for Flocknotes. Let us know your name, email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

Weekly  
Bulletin

West Middlesex

Catholic Family of Parishes

Senior Youth Ministry



We are very excited to invite you to our WMSYM Winter Fun Day January 15 2023!!

## Youth ✦ Fun ✦ Day

Meet at All Saints parking lot for 12:15, 12:30 departure. We will head to Boler mountain for a fun filled afternoon of skiing/snowboarding. Once finished at Boler Mountain we will be heading to St Charles for pizza dinner & our 6:30-9PM monthly WMSYM meeting.

Ages: Highschool and up

Cost: \$40/lift ticket & \$40/rental package

Deadline: Please RSVP by January 5<sup>th</sup> so we can reserve as a group

If you are interested, please contact us for more information, a list of what to bring and information on where to get your waiver.

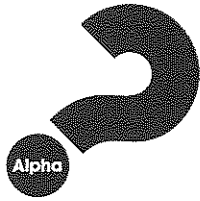
Lucia Lilbourne (519) 878-3173 or Stacey Landstra (519) 854-3920 or email:

[wmsyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:wmsyouthministry@gmail.com)

**\*\*If you are interested in volunteering for this fun filled youth day, please let us know\*\***

**\*\*If you are interested in donating toward the youth fundays or retreats please let us know\*\***





## ...Coming in 2023

Sharing your faith...

Alpha creates a space for you to invite the people you love; a friend, a family member or colleague, to ask questions and explore the hope of Jesus, maybe for the first time.

Sharing your faith can be scary! The Life Shared Series is a three part series designed to encourage and equip everyone in the church to share their faith! We will have these videos posted to our parish website in the near future and you are invited to watch at your leisure. You are also invited to join us in person to watch the 3 week series together, take part in some small group discussion, prayer and action for a moment of invitation!

Sessions are January 4th, 11th and 18th at 7:00pm at All Saints Church site, in the Parish Centre. Sign up will be provided on our website in the near future.

<https://westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca/>

Next Alpha Course: at the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes

Begins: Wednesday February 1st to Wednesday April 19th, 2023, for 11 weekly sessions every Wednesday. A weekend Prayer Day forms part of this course and is scheduled for Saturday March 25th from 9am to 4pm. (No session on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd).

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.

Offered both In Person and Online: Visit our Parish website for more information and registration.

If you have taken Alpha before, and would like to be a Host or Helper on our team, please register online. Any questions, please contact:

Ruth Alcaininho, Alpha Co-Ordinator 519-871-6249



## January 2023 Update – 37 Frank Youth Centre

On behalf of 37 Frank Youth Centre (YFC/Youth Unlimited Strathroy) - we would like to wish you a happy New Year and thank you all for your support of prayers, money, food, and donations that you have given to help support this amazing cause.

In my summer update, we were seeing approximately one hundred youth come in during the week. Currently, we can see up to fifty per day. The need is there - and it is a great place for youth from ages 13-25 to have a safe, warm place to hang out.

We had approximately twenty-five youth come and celebrate Christmas at Frank's this year and for many of the young people, this would have been their only Christmas celebration. They were each given presents and you could see through the tears in their eyes that they know they are each loved and cared for. We truly are Frank's family.

In late September/October this past year, a male aged sixteen, was living in a bush in a tent on his own for nearly two weeks. We were able to help him get some temporary shelter through the County of Middlesex and he has now been able to find stable housing. There are a number of youths that come into Frank's that do not have a safe home to go to or no home at all. They are couch surfing and getting by. This is not acceptable! We are going to have a warming centre opened before the end of this calendar year. We cannot have any youth living in a forest or on the street. One homeless person in our area is one too many.

We are now in the process of working on our largest fundraiser of the year for the centre. This is the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY). It is being held on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Our goal this year is to raise \$75,000. It is a 2 km walk - starting at 37 Frank Street. Money raised will not only help us continue to run Frank's Cafe, but it will be used to help us start the warming centre.

### **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

HOW: Start a team and get friends and family to walk with you

Join a team

Donate to a walker

Simply go to <https://cnoy.org/location/strathroy> and you will find all the information you need there. You can also contact Colleen by email: [colleenwiendels@isp.ca](mailto:colleenwiendels@isp.ca) cell: 519-777-1410

Thank you for your continued support



## **Sponsorship Newsletter**

Quite a few things have happened since we last published a Sponsorship Newsletter.

### **Eric, Sheila, and Family**

Eric and Sheila (Our current sponsorship) are now into the second half of their sponsorship year, and they are gradually adjusting to their new lives in Canada. Eric has been surprised by the differences in culture and the pace of life in Canada. Sheila loves Canada but hates the cold and snow. The children love school. Eric is working for Cuddy Farms, in their Strathroy hatchery, and thoroughly enjoys the work.

### **Background**

In 2008, Eric was forced by the ruthless Congolese rebels to flee for his life. He fled to Kampala in Uganda and became a refugee. Subsequently he lost all contact with all family members, including his mum and dad. Several years later he did remake contact with his brother Hervé, in Kampala, after Hervé had also been forced to flee from the rebels.

A few months after Eric, Sheila and four children arrived in Canada and Strathroy in June 2022, a friend in Kampala contacted Eric to say, he thought he had seen Eric's mum in Kampala. We had a mass offered for Eric to find his mother and within five days, the sighting had been confirmed.

We don't have sufficient space here to tell the horror story of how Eric's mum, Marie Claire came to be a refugee herself. Suffice to say that this very courageous lady arrived in Kampala as a widow with two orphaned grandchildren. Marie Claire arrived in Kampala, just a few weeks after Eric and family had left for Canada.

Of course, our Family of Parishes Sponsorship Team is trying to bring Marie Claire, her two grandchildren and son Hervé, here to Canada. With the expert support of Gilbert and Auday in the Diocesan Refugee Office we have now completed the necessary mountain of paperwork, required by the Canadian Government. Because there are still many processes required by our Federal Government, including all family members being extensively



interviewed by Embassy officials in Kampala, this could be a two year process. For our part it has truly been a privilege to be able to reach out to this courageous lady and help her and her family.

On New Year's Eve, Hervé was attacked in his tiny one room home, by eight men, one wielding an 18 inch sword. Hervé received a gash to his leg and was throttled until unconscious. He awoke in hospital, where a good neighbour had taken him. The men took everything Hervé had, his old cell phone, his mattress and a few other bits and pieces.

### **Other sponsorship news**

In recent months our Diocesan Refugee Team have agreed to work with an international refugee charity, Lamp, Lifeboat, Ladder with their sponsorship of especially vulnerable refugees; people who have suffered significant trauma, such as torture. As part of this initiative, our Family of Parishes Sponsorship Team has offered to take a mother called Slah, her husband and two children, sometime in the first half of 2023. Slah and family are Sudanese and currently refugees in Jordan.

Additionally, because we have recently expanded the size of the Sponsorship Team and now have sufficient members for two teams, we have offered to take a second family, probably in the second half of 2023. At this stage we don't have any details for this family, but we will keep you informed.