



**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

stcharles@dol.ca

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

519.245.0644

www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

January 7, 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord and

January 14, 2024 The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, January 7

- ♦ *all Church members strive to faithfully live out their baptismal call and become witnesses of God's great love.*
- ♦ *World leaders work together to promote truth, reconciliation, and justice in their countries and throughout the world.*
- ♦ *the poor in our community will find hope and assistance through the humble and compassionate service from those they encounter.*
- ♦ *men discerning a call to the priestly ministry listen attentively to the promptings of the spirit and respond to the Christ's invitation to come and follow.*
- ♦ *as we conclude the Christmas Season, our Family of Parishes will grow in appreciation of the gift of sharing in the life and mission of Christ.*
- ♦ *those disciples who have died, be welcomed by the company of the saints and angels at the Eternal Banquet.*
- ♦ *Rev. Lawrence Pare, Rev. Michael O'Brien, Lucia Costa Pastoral Minister, Rev. Josef Denys, Rev. Francis Thekkumkattil C.S.T., Ms. Cathryn Hall, Rev. Michael Parent*



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, January 14

- ♦ *A.J. Barrows Coordinator of Family and Youth Ministry, Rev. Jude Ogbenna C.S. Sp., Deacon Thomas MacLeod, Rev. Martin Nyland, Deacon Reginald Quesnel, Deacon Mark Castanier, Rev. Sebastian Pakiyanathan C.R.*



Reflection

Reflection for the Epiphany of the Lord January 7, and the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 14, 2024

Welcome to 2024! We have come through Advent, prepared the way, prepared ourselves, cleaned out the clutter, and prepared for the new year, new beginnings, new yes, and maybe even new habits.

The star was a sign, and the wise men came seeking the location of the Messiah. The star helped the wise men to locate Jesus by following it “until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

What signs do we have today that lead us to Jesus? Jesus is among us and seeks us out, but we need to do our part and go out to meet him. Do we recognize these signs? Do we heed the invitation?

The wise men responded with hope, following the star to the place of the Messiah. Can we do the same and have that same hope? Just as the wise men were overwhelmed with joy when they found the child Jesus, tremendous joy awaits us when we give our “yes” to Jesus.

As I write this, today is the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. I am in awe of Mary’s “yes” and the fact that she did not hesitate to say yes.

Mary’s yes would change the history of the world and bring redemption to all those who sought it. We too can say “yes.” But, for us to achieve that same “yes” that Mary gave unconditionally, we may be faced with some difficult choices.

If someone asks us “where do you live” we go into details about an address, a location, give GPS coordinates so they can find us on a map or even draw a picture to show the place where we live.

Two disciples of John follow Jesus. “When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for.” They said to him, Rabbi (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” Jesus does not give them directions to the place he is staying at or even offer them an address but says “come and see.”

The invitation “to come and see” is extended to us also. Do we know where to find this invitation? This invitation may require us to leave the security of what we are familiar with and head out “to go and see” what waits for us to be found.

Jesus was not defined by the place that he lived or resided in but rather by the example he gave of how to live.

Why were the disciples so curious about where he was staying? What was it that they hoped to learn by seeking out where this place was? Would the discovery of the surroundings of Jesus be an indicator of who Jesus really was? Did they expect some grand residence or beautiful home for the Lamb of God to reside in? I’m sure this is not what they found. In all likelihood they found Jesus residing in a place of simplicity. For all we know, he was camped out in a tent outside of town.

Does where we live define us? Are we caught up in seeking grandeur and comforts of house and home in order to feel happy?

Let our attitude be what defines us. Let our simplicity, gentleness and generosity define us.

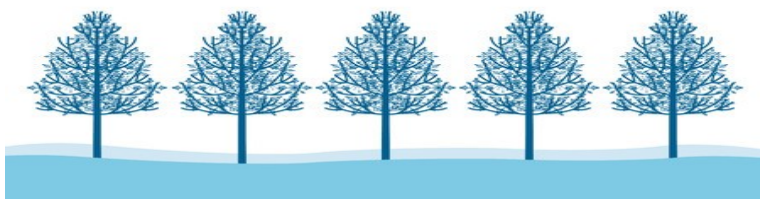
Not likely will we find a star leading us to Jesus but there are other ways to find our Lord and Saviour. Reflecting daily on the scriptures is a good place to start. We will never know what wonderful things await us unless we start by giving our “yes.” Be prepared to be surprised!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister.



At a glance ...

- If you have a child/children aged 8 or older, who are not yet baptized, you are invited to attend a “catch-up” preparation session with Father Thom on Sunday January 14 at All Saints, after the 11 am Mass. Contact Julie for more information or to register.
- Our Family of Parishes Confirmation information meeting for all Confirmation Candidates and their parents, will be on Thursday, February 8th, 2024 at 7:00pm, in the Parish Centre, All Saints church.
- Announcements at weekend Masses will end on the weekend of January 21, so please read the bulletin and don't forget to mark your personal calendars with any important dates or events you don't want to miss.



Leave a Legacy

Leave a legacy of faith by remembering the Church in your Will. By planning a gift now to your parish, the seminary or the diocese, you can support the Church today and for generations to come. www.dol.ca/legacy

— CALLED BY NAME

-- a program to promote vocations to the priesthood will begin in our parish in two weeks. Let us pray for vocations.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

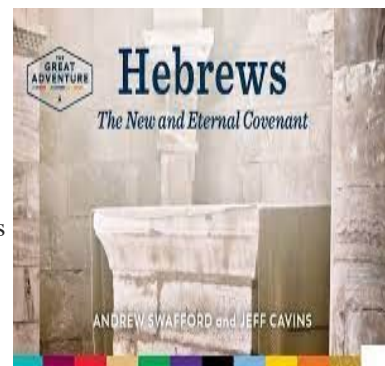
Compassionate Heart of Jesus,
graciously listen to our prayers.
Give us generous hearts
to respond to your call in our lives.
Lift up courageous men
willing to follow after your heart
as priests.
Help parents and teachers to share the
faith and to encourage young men
to explore priestly vocations.
Guide all people, Lord, in your ways
of compassion, truth, and peace,
that we may find happiness
in fulfilling our vocation.
Amen.

It's that time of year to start preparing for our next bible study! We invite you to join us in January to study the 8 week Ascension Press *Hebrews*:

The New & Eternal Covenant.

Do We Realize How Richly
We've Been Blessed?

Embark on a guided tour of the “Holy of Holies” of biblical theology. The book of Hebrews is like a little Catechism. It is steeped in rich truths that are foundational to our Catholic Faith, but its highly refined theological concepts can be difficult for even the most seasoned Bible scholars to unpack.



If you would be interested in being part of a Bible Study Core Team to help offer this study in your parish, please contact:

All Saints Team:

Danielle Lima (daniellelima77@gmail.com) and

Ruth Alcainho (ruth.e.dino@hotmail.com)

Sacred Heart Team:

Michelle Peters (michpeters7@gmail.com)

St Charles Team:

Joanna Simpson (jmsimpson@gmail.com) and

Barb Gerber (bdgerber@bell.net)

All Saints

Wednesdays, beginning January 17, 7-9 pm

Sacred Heart

Mondays, beginning January 15, 7-9 pm

St Charles Garnier

Thursdays, beginning January 11, 2-4 pm

EDGE - All youth from the West Middlesex Family of Parishes in grades 5-8 are invited to join EDGE for upcoming nights of fun and food. Parents are required to sign their child(ren) in at 6:30PM and sign them out at 8:00PM.

Mark your calendars with the following dates and locations

January 17 at All Saints

February 21 at Sacred Heart

March 20 at All Saints

April 17 at Sacred Heart

May 15 at All Saints

*Please note that these dates/locations are subject to change. Check the bulletin for announcements regarding Edge.



Our Family of Parishes Confirmation information meeting for all Confirmation Candidates and their parents, will be on:

**Thursday, February 8th, 2024
7:00pm, in the Parish Centre
All Saints church**

All Saints, Strathroy-Weeks of Jan 9-19

Confession times: Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45pm

Tue Jan 9, Rosary 6:00pm – Mass 6:30pm, Adoration

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

Frank Verheyen - Mary Verheyen

Pauline de Jeu - June & Malcolm Benn

Maria das Dores Vieira & Connie Meirinho – family

Deceased Members of VanDamme family - Estate



Wed Jan 10, Mass 9:00am with OLOP school

Abigail, Alexandra & Nathan Hallaert - Joe & Isolina Freitas

Bob Hallaert - Joe & Isolina

Angie Sweeney - Joe & Isolina

Special Intention of Kimberly Rose - Joe & Isolina

Giovanna Scala - Scala family

Thu Jan 11, 6:00pm Rosary – Mass 6:30pm (Port/Eng)

Jose Antonio Costa - Rosa e familia

Leonardo James Matthews & Leonardo Lopes - Paula Matthews

Manuel Paiva - Ofelia Paiva

Modesta e Serafim DaPonte - Jose e Gilda Viveiros

Alzira Catojo - Gloria Cravo

Manuel Fernandes - Vanessa DaPonte

Fri Jan 12, Mass 9:00am

Special Intentions of Connie & Herm Vanderheyden

Special Intention of Vicki Rosedale

Special Intention for Ariel Chodowiec - Jim & Margaret Adams

Rudolf Bartoch – Agnes Nicol

Logan Stangler – Lisa & Ken Tupholme & family

Francisco Viveiros – Cecilia Devine

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Tue Jan 16, Rosary 6:00pm – Mass 6:30pm

Yvonne Bleyenbergh - K of C

Lee Demaray - K of C

Jane Moore – Megan Young

Wed Jan 17, Mass 9:00am

Special Intention for Grace Anderson

- Justin & Mary-Angela Hartwick

Daniel Fernandes – Geraldina Fernandes

Maria Ricardina Rosa – Margaret & Jim Adams

Thu Jan 18, Rosary 6:00pm – Mass 6:30pm (Port/Eng)

Arthur Macedo - Family

Joao e Helena Raposo - Connie Jesus

Pais de Gilda Viveiros

Horacio Duarte e Almas do Purgatorio – Carminha Duarte

Lena DaCosta - Jose Lino DaCosta e familia

Germana e Guilherme Costa - Connie & Joe Arruda

Fri Jan 19, Mass 9:00am

Daniel Fernandes - Angelina Almeida

Special Intention Avery Chodowiec - Jim & Margaret Adams

Angelo Brum & Custodio Oliveira – Joe & Laura Martins

In Thanksgiving to our Parish Staff – Rose Sinclair

Sacred Heart, Parkhill

Weeks of Jan 9-19

Confession times: Tuesdays 5:30– 6:15pm

Tue Jan 9, Mass 6:30pm, Adoration

Emile & Irene Masschelein - Family

Joanne Sanders – Sacred Heart CWL

Eugene Vandersanden – Sacred Heart CWL



Thu Jan 11, Mass 9:00am

Deceased Members of VanderVloet & Meeuwssen
families - Estate

~ ~ ~

Tue Jan 16, Mass 6:30pm

For health & wellness of family

– Louis & Lucy Hendrikx

Thur Jan 18, Mass 9:00am

Special Intention for Joseph Nash – Julie & Pete

St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Weeks of Jan 9 –19

Confession times: Wednesdays 5:30– 6:15pm

Wed Jan 10, Mass 6:30pm, Adoration

Alex King – Rich & ML DePelsmaecker



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Wed Jan 17, Mass 6:30pm

Gisele Fournier – Marc & family

***Did you know?** Our website has a comment page where you can ask questions, submit comments, or offer constructive criticism. You can ask for a response by submitting your email address or submit anonymously. Click the **ABOUT** tab and then the **CONTACT US** tab to leave the office a message.*



If you wish to have the bulletin sent directly to your inbox, or to get any last minute updates or changes happening across our family of parishes, please go to our website and sign up by clicking on the button above. It's that easy!



From the Diocese of London

Cursillo! Are You Interested?

From the London and Area Cursillo movement: Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning 'a little course'. Cursillo, which begins on a Thursday night through to Sunday afternoon, helps us to look at ourselves and our relationships with others and God, through a series of talks by others who have made a previous weekend. Day one: we look at ourselves, Day two: we consider God's love for us. Day three: we consider the world around us and how we can be a Godly influence to those around us. All who make the weekend find a deeper joy in their faith, their Church, and their community around them. Need something to boost your faith and spirit? Consider joining us on February 1-4, 2024 for the men's weekend, or Feb. 8-11, 2024 for the women's weekend. Call Eileen and David Sleightholm, your diocesan contacts at 519-524-9400 for more information.



DIocese of
LONDON

Upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend

Over 80% of couples report that they saw a notice in their parish bulletin. Retrouvaille Weekend February 9 - 11, 2024. Retrouvaille has helped rebuild marriages for over 44 years and over 175,000 marriages worldwide. We CAN help your marriage. To register contact <https://www.retrouvaillelondon.com/>, retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com or call 519-243-0687. "Only one marriage matters: yours."

Check out the Diocesan website for news, articles, employment opportunities and so much more. Go to dol.ca

Al-Anon Meetings

You are welcome to attend Al-Anon meetings, every Tuesday at 1:30pm at All Saints church site, in the St. Angela's room, in the lower level.



Adoration

Lord Jesus Christ, you promised always to give your Church shepherds. In faith, we know your promise cannot fail. Trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, we pray you raise up sacred ministers from your holy people, that the sacrifice in which you give your body and blood may be daily renewed in the world until we come to that kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Tues, Jan 9
at Sacred Heart, Parkhill and
at All Saints, Strathroy

Wed, Jan 10
at St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Following the 6:30pm Mass, please join us for a Adoration to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

PRIESTHOOD
Not An Ordinary Life

St. Charles Glencoe—CWL NEWS

2024 CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE : Welcoming all ladies to consider becoming a member of our Catholic Women's League - share Fellowship & Support the Leagues Pillars : Faith, Service & Social Justice. Contact any CWL member for more information.

Next CWL general meeting Wednesday January 24, 2024 at 7pm in parish hall. ALL ladies welcome!

SAVE THE DATE : Saturday April 6, 2023 10 am - St. Charles Parish hall. WORKSHOP: Compassionate Community Care, CCC - Being With Volunteer Visitor / Patient Advocacy Training, sessions. Follow - up to our earlier Guest Speakers: Kathy Matusiak Costa, (CCC) and Alex Schadenberg, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, (EPC) . More Info to follow, contact Shirley Gilliland, CWL President (519) 852- 0394

FUTURE EVENTS : Lenten Retreat - February 17, 2024, World Day of Prayer - March 1, 2024,

PRAYERS for WORLD PEACE : FAITH, HOPE & LOVE



All Saints Strathroy—CWL NEWS

Catholic Women's League Membership Dues

It's time to renew your membership for 2024.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, the largest women's organization in Canada, is rooted in gospel values, calling its members to holiness in faith, service and social justice. If you are not already a member, we invite all ladies, 16 years and older, to consider joining our organization. For more information about the Catholic Women's League go to cwl.ca and www.cwllondon.ca or talk to a member.

If other arrangements are needed, contact Mary Margaret Groot



Sacred Heart Parkhill—CWL NEWS

Catholic Women's League Membership renewal time is once again upon us. Contact a CWL member for more information.



Men Of Faith Conference: Steadfast Hope

January 20th, 8am – 3:30pm
at All Saints Church, Strathroy

Men of all ages, join us for the 12th annual Men of Faith Conference on Saturday, January 20th. This year's conference features Bishop Scott McCaig, Bishop for the Military Ordinariate of Canada. Come be inspired in your faith and strengthened in fraternity with other men. We hope to see you there.

For more information and to register go to famfi.ca/mof or contact Brian Simpson 519-872-7172

All Saints St. Vincent de Paul

Monday, January 15th, 2024 meeting at 6:30pm—8:00pm in the St. Angela's room, at All Saints church.



Sponsorship News

The past year has been a busy and successful sponsorship year for our Sponsorship Team. During the year we have:



- Completed the sponsorship of Eric, Sheila, and family, though we continued to support the family, by supporting Sheila during her pregnancy and birth, and supported Eric whilst he learned to drive.
- Started, the sponsorship of Siha and Hamed, who are now eleven months into their first year, of a two year sponsorship. Found permanent housing for the family. Hamed has been working full time for about nine months. Siha has been working part time for two months. Hamed has started the process of learning to drive.
- We had our sponsorship application for Eric's mother and family accepted though the family have still to be interviewed and vetted, before they can come to Canada.
- Submitted an application to sponsor, Siha's brother Salah.
- Successfully applied to sponsor Kampire, her five children and younger brother. The family are currently in a refugee camp in Rwanda.

You might not realize that refugee camps are not places of safety in the way we might understand. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is underfunded by 38% and so many refugees in Rwanda exist without mattresses, soap, and sanitary products. In some camps meals are currently down to just corn and beans and the best available medicine for children is paracetamol. On top of all that, the camps are generally lawless places, with women raped and abused by officials tasked with protecting them.

This is not a short term situation; it is unlikely that any adult refugee will ever have the opportunity to return safely to their country of origin. So, you can perhaps understand the shouts and screams of joy from Kampire's family when they were told they would be coming to Canada.

Sponsorship can be expensive and just prior to Christmas we held an appeal for financial support. We are truly thankful for all the support this family of parishes has always provided and we thank you again for your generosity. Every donation, whatever the size was a gift of love and hope for Kampire and her family, and we now have sufficient funds to successfully complete the sponsorship. We are anticipating the family's arrival in Strathroy in late January or February.



Knights of Columbus

ALL SAINTS COUNCIL, No. 7570
Strathroy, Ontario

JERRY VENS
Grand Knight
129 Campbell St
Strathroy, ON
N7G 1J2
519-245-4818

There will be an Executive Meeting on Monday, January 8th at 7:30pm.

Our General Meeting will be on Monday, January 22nd at 7:30pm.

We also have a Breakfast coming up on Sunday, January 21st.

Hope to see you at the meeting and helping with the breakfast.



Pastoral Team/Staff office: 519-245-0644

Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22

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 VanderBurgt, Secretary ex. 24

**personal emails can be found on the website*

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



The Knights of Columbus from All Saints church, will have their annual Wheel chair collection the weekend of February 10/11, 2024. There will be a second collection at All Saints church Masses on that weekend.

See brochures on the bulletin boards at All Saints, for more information and how to donate.

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: stcharles@dol.ca

Office Hours

Monday through Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)

5:30—6:15pm Tuesday at Sacred Heart Parkhill church

5:30—6:15pm Wednesdays at St. Charles Garnier church

4:00—4:45pm Saturdays at All Saints church

Also by appointment, or just ask a priest anytime.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Congratulations! Baptism for Children Aged 8 and Older

We all know how busy life can be! If you have a child/children aged 8 or older, who are not yet baptized, you are invited to attend a “catch-up” preparation session with Father Thom on Sunday January 14 at All Saints church, after the 11 am Mass. Contact Julie at the office for more details or to register, jdegouw@dol.ca or 519-245-0644 ext. 26.

For infant baptisms for children aged 7 and younger, contact Julie at the office to arrange a baptism.

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

Revenue & Expenses November 2023

	All Saints	Sacred Heart	St. Charles
Revenue	\$ 40,339.80	\$ 6,371.68	\$ 13,197.94
Expenditures	\$ 48,550.88	\$ 13,068.11	\$ 12,462.61
Surplus	\$ -(8,211.08)	\$ -(6,696.43)	\$ 735.33

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