



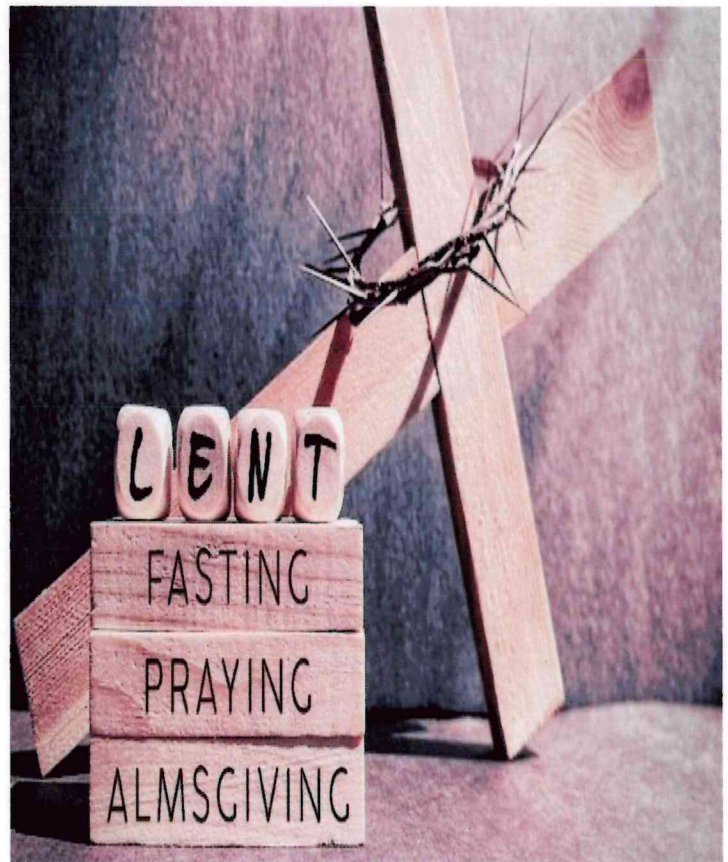
All Saints, Strathroy | **Sacred Heart, Delaware** | **Sacred Heart, Parkhill** | **St Charles Garnier, Glencoe**
 allsaints@dol.ca | sacredheart@dol.ca | shparkhill@dol.ca | stcharles@dol.ca
 Office: 124 Front St. E., Strathroy, ON N7G 1Y9 519.245.0644 www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

February 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent and February 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, February 18

- ◆ That in this joyful and holy season all Christians will reflect on their call to enter the desert with Jesus in prayer, fasting and abstinence;
- ◆ That all who suffer the ravages of war, in all troubled areas of the world, especially in Ukraine, the Holy Land and Sudan, may have a lasting peace and security;
- ◆ That the generous lives of all who preach the good news of the Kingdom, will inspire our young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood;
- ◆ That in every country, the small-scale family farmers who feed much of the world's population, will have their rights recognized and respected, to land, seeds, water, a healthy environment and food security;
- ◆ That all who are ill, especially King Charles, may unite their suffering to Christ's own sufferings, and from that draw strength and solace;
- ◆ That all who have died, will be welcomed into the light of God's face;
- ◆ Deacon Jose Viveiras, Rev. Ross Bartley, Rev. Mark Poulin, Rev. Cecil Nunez, Deacon Anthony Rebkoewee, Mrs. Margaret Olszewski Pastoral Minister, Rev. Ronaldo (Ronnie) Tagnines



Please keep in your prayers Sunday, February 25

- ◆ Mrs. Kim Bornais Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Mrs. Maria Mollica Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Rev. Pio D'Oria, Deacon Steve Cartier, Ministers to Refugees in the Diocese of London, Mrs. Mary-Catherine Bishop Pastoral Minister, Deacon Larry Lamphier



Reflection

Reflection for February 18 and 25, 2024, the First and Second Sundays in Lent.

Have you ever found yourself lost? How about lost in a country that is not your own with road signs that are not in your language? To make matters worse, you do not speak the language of the place you are in. Panic sets in as you realize you are helpless!

This is the First Sunday of Lent. In the scripture for today's Gospel, Jesus has been baptized and "the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness."

Interesting phrase, "the Spirit drove him out." Sounds like Jesus had no say as to where or not he went out into the wilderness. The Spirit that made him go out into the wilderness was very powerful. Perhaps the Spirit dragged Jesus into the wilderness. There was purpose though in going into the wilderness. Saint John Chrysostom tells us, "The Spirit drags Jesus into the desert, since he wanted to draw the devil there; and Jesus gave occasion to him not only on account of his hunger but also on account of the place: for then most especially does the devil attack when he sees people isolated and by themselves."

How true is this! It is times when we are lonely, frightened or isolated, that temptations work their way into our heads. Times of temptation can be experienced in many ways and in many worries of life. We all know that temptations are just part of living a Christian life. The closer we become to God, the more we will be tempted. Satan does NOT like our getting close to God and will do anything to de-rail our attempts at holiness.

Temptation is a very real part of life and is especially challenging in our wilderness times. We are down, discouraged, afraid, disappointed and lonely. Satan loves to kick us when we're down. Every temptation we encounter brings with it a corresponding challenge. Meeting those challenges head on is how we rise above the temptations. Temptations lead us to need God and it is in our time of terrible temptations when we realize that we need God the most.

The good news is that Jesus is with us during our times of wilderness and temptations. God does not leave us alone. The only way to keep from giving up when we find ourselves in the wilderness is to persevere. We must rise to meet the challenges head on and persevere in doing what's right, in being faithful to God, in trusting God, in listening to God, and in loving others as God loves us.

Make this Lent a time to deepen your relationship with God. Spend time seeking God in the scriptures.

In the wilderness Jesus encountered Satan and temptations, Angels and wild beasts. While Mark does not tell us what the temptations were, we know that Jesus overcame them. We do not have to be lost without hope or directions. We all have GPS. No, not the kind that helps us find our way on a map or in a foreign country. We have a God Positioning System. All we need to do is program it to lead us into a deeper connection with God this Lent.

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister.



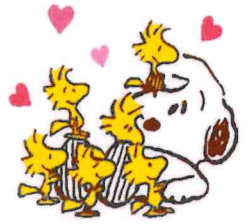
At a glance ...

- SSVF monthly collection at All Saints will take place on February 24/25 weekend.
- If someone you know is home-bound or unwell, and they would like a visit by a priest, please call the office to get on the list. 519-245-0644.

From the office

Monday, February 19 is Family Day. The office will be closed in observance of this statutory holiday.

We wish you and your family a Happy Family Day!



Lenten Adventure for Children

<https://holymen.com/pages/lenten-adventure>

Sign up for free.



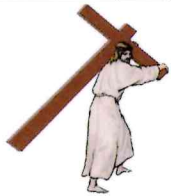
Answering the Call: Spiritual Direction

If you feel the Holy Spirit moving you towards a deeper relationship with God, spiritual direction could be your next step. It's a personal journey to explore your faith and understand how God works in your life.

Are you interested in following this call? Let's journey together.

Reach out to begin:

Caroline@guidedfaithjourney.com



DURING LENT....

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 22

All Saints Church

10:00am Wednesdays, 5:45pm Thursdays (in Portuguese),
7:00pm Fridays

Sacred Heart Church

6:30pm Fridays

St. Charles Garnier Church

5:45pm Wednesday s

Crowning's of the Holy Spirit

Domingas do Divino Espirito Santo

During the Easter Season we celebrate the Crowning's of the Holy Spirit in which families host a week of prayer, song, and praise. This year we have four Sundays still available for host families. They are the weekends of April 21st, April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th. If you are interested in hosting one of these prayer weeks, please contact Gloria Cravo at 226-678-5403. For more information, please contact Olga or Anna at the parish office.



Duarte o tempo Pascal celebramos as Coroações do Divino Espirito Santo, no qual as familias organizam uma semana de oração, cânticos e louvor. Este ano temos quatro Domingas ainda disponiveis para as familias de acolhimento. São os fins de semana de 21 de Abril, 28 de Abril, 5 de Maio e 12 de Maio. Se você estiver disponivel para hospedar uma dessas semanas de oração, entre em contact com Gloria Cravo pelo telefone 226-678-5403. Para mais informação por favor ligue para Olga ou Anna no escritório da paróquia.

EASTER APPEAL - 2024

During the month of March, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting non perishable items which will be donated to the Caring Cupboard, Oneida, Women's Rural Resource Centre, and the Children's Aid Society.



This collection will take place in the narthex, starting Saturday, March 9th up to Sunday, March 24th.

Thank you for your generous donations!

SOCIAL JUSTICE SESSION

Please come join in—Social Justice Session 4 (of 6) - Energy Choices, presented by our Youth Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. In person at St. Justin's parish, Monday, March 4th from 7:00-8:30pm.

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! Never miss another bulletin or update again.



All Saints, Strathroy-Weeks of Feb 20—March 1

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

Tue Feb 20 – Rosary 6:00pm / Mass 6:30pm

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

Jeff LaMantia - Mom & Dad

Theresa McCosham - Larry & Mary MacDonald

Harry VanBommel – Ted & Trudy Thuss

Antonio Pereira Cravo & Maria de Jesus – Celeste Pereira

Special Intention for Lourdes Correia – Sacristans



Wed Feb 21—NO MASS

10:00am Stations of the Cross

10:30am Mass at Oneida Nursing Home

Thu Feb 22—NO MASS

5:45pm Stations of the Cross

Fri Feb 23 – Mass 9:00am /

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Angelo Brum & Deceased family - Liliana Brum

Francisco DaPonte - John VanHeeswyk

Francisco Guilherme & Isaura Goncalves - Maria Azevedo

Antonio & Conceicao Farpelha & Deceased Family - Carlos Farpelha

Delfim & Jonathan Desa—Maria Desa

Francisco Pinheiro—wife and children

Jacinta Monteiro (7th day Mass) - Family

~~~

**Tue Feb 27 – Rosary 6:00pm / Mass 6:30pm**

Special Intention for Marianne Lewis - Mom & Dad

For CWL members who passed away in 2023-Liz Kennes, Guiomar

Regalo, Jeannine Depont, Nellie VanderBurgt, Mary Peeters, Nellie

Verhoeven, Riek Bastiaansen, Pauline de Jeu, MaryJo Pereira

**Wed Feb 28—NO MASS**

10:00am Stations of the Cross

**Thu Feb 29—NO MASS**

5:45pm Stations of the Cross

**Fri March 1 – Mass 9:00am followed by Adoration /**

**7:00pm Stations of the Cross**

Laurindo Carvalho & Souls of Purgatory- Amelia Carvalho

Alecca Honein - Vicki Rosedale

In Honour of the Holy Spirit - Jina Andrade

Special Intentions for the VanHeeswyk family - John & Mia

Special Intentions for Grace Watson & Karen Durack

– Lloyd & Colleen Lowry



**All Day Adoration will be held during Lent on Fridays, starting February 23, at All Saints church, after the 9am Mass until 4pm.**

Sign up for a time slot on the sheet found in the purple binder in the narthex. Come and spend time with Jesus!

For more information, contact Ambily Thomas Phone 647-625-0574 or email [ammutomas@gmail.com](mailto:ammutomas@gmail.com)

## Sacred Heart, Parkhill

### Weeks of Feb 20—March 1

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



**Tue Feb 20—NO MASS**

**Thu Feb 22 – Mass 9:00am**

for the reposed soul of M. Michielsens

for the reposed soul of W. Michielsens

for the reposed soul of A. Michielsens

**Fri Feb 23—6:30pm Stations of the Cross**

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Tue Feb 27—NO MASS

Thu Feb 29 – Mass 9:00am

Special Intention for Michael Bodsworth

- Eric & Virginia Hogervorst

Fri Mar 1 – 6:30pm Stations of the Cross

St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe

Weeks of Feb 20—March 1

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

Wed Feb 21 – 5:45pm Stations of the Cross / Mass 6:30pm

Clara Martin - Rich & ML DePelsmaeker

Joan Doughy - David Skipper



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**Wed Feb 28 – 5:45pm Stations of the Cross / Mass 6:30pm**

Yvonne Skipper - Rich & ML DePelsmaeker

Joan Doughy - Rich & ML DePelsmaeker



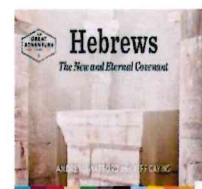
St. Charles Garnier Knights of Columbus will have a meeting on Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00pm in the new small meeting room at St. Charles.  
Rudy Huver 519-287-5629

Feel free to drop into a Bible Study session until March 14.

**All Saints  
Wednesdays 7-9 pm**

**Sacred Heart  
Mondays 7-9 pm**

**St Charles Garnier  
Thursdays 2-4 pm**



## **Nursing Home Visitation Volunteers**

If you have previously been involved or would like to be involved in visiting our nursing homes, please join us on **Saturday, February 24 from 10:00am-11:00am, All Saints Parish Centre**, to discuss our plan going forward in this ministry.

If you know of anyone new who would be interested in helping, please bring them along.



## From the Diocese of London

### Come and See Weekend

Friday, March 9, 2024 to Sunday March 11, 2024. St. Peter's Seminary invites you to a 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, provides spiritual help for discernment and offers the opportunity to meet current seminarians and faculty of St. Peter's Seminary. To register visit [www.dolpriest.ca/registration](http://www.dolpriest.ca/registration).

### Job Opportunities

The Diocese is seeking a Director of Liturgy, the North Central Windsor Catholic Family of Parishes is seeking a Bookkeeper, the LaSalle River Canard and East Windsor Families of Parishes are seeking a shared Business Manager, and the South Windsor and North Central Windsor Families of Parishes are also seeking a shared Business Manager. The details for all are at <https://dol.ca/employment>.

### Two Announcements from Assumption University

An upcoming presentation by Mr. Abdur-Rahman Muhammad "Malcolm X and The Struggle for Justice and Brotherhood" on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Clair College, South Windsor Campus, Main Building, Room A3216. More information is at this link.

Assumption University Graduate Diploma in Catholic Studies, Spring 2024 admission is now open. The diploma is considered a hiring asset by eight Catholic school boards in Ontario. More information at [assumption.ca](http://assumption.ca)



DIOCESE OF  
LONDON

## St. Charles Glencoe—CWL NEWS

2024 CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Still time for any ladies, (16yrs. & over, also non Catholic Women's can be Associate Members).

SAVE THE DATE : Saturday April 6, 2024 10am - St. Charles Garnier Parish Hall—CWL WORKSHOP : Compassionate Community Care, CCC - Being With Volunteer Visitor / Patient Advocacy Training Session. Supporting our community's seniors & the vulnerable. This is a follow up to the session held on Nov. 30, 2023. CWL invited Guest Speakers : Kathy Matusiak Costa, Compassionate Community Care (CCC) and Alex Schadenberg, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition (EPC). For information and registration contact St. Charles CWL Council, Shirley Gilliland President ([dougandshirl3@gmail.com](mailto:dougandshirl3@gmail.com)) (519) 852-0394,

FUTURE EVENTS: World Day of Prayer MARCH 1, 2024 - 10am at Presbyterian Church, Glencoe. Theme : " I Beg You Bear With One Another in Love " Ephesians 4:1-7 Host Country - Ladies of Palestine..... ALL WELCOME !

REMINDER ' Sisters in Christ ' share your 40 ACTS of KINDNESS with others during this LENTEN SEASON.



## All Saints Strathroy—CWL NEWS

Plan on joining us for the Coldest walk on February 24. More details to follow. World Day of Prayer (for all people to attend) is Friday March 1st at St. Andrews in Strathroy. Save the date.



## Sacred Heart Parkhill—CWL NEWS

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



## God wants to give you more. How will you respond this Lent?

This Lent, **experience deeper peace and healing** as Fr. Mark Toups immerses you in Christ's final journey to Jerusalem, inviting you to reflect on Jesus' suffering and death, and inspiring you to celebrate in his resurrection.

During this Lent, you will fall in love with Jesus, learning to see with his eyes and love with his heart. More than just a journal, *The Ascension Lenten Companion* will guide you, day by day, to an encounter with the person of Christ and help you arrive at Easter transformed by God's love.

**Reserve a copy using the form on our website, phone or stop by the office to purchase. Book is \$15.**



## ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

Plan ahead so your family doesn't have to.

**Thursday, March 21 from 6 - 8pm**  
All Saints Parish - Parish hall  
Light refreshments available

**Speakers:**

**INVESTMENT PLANNING**  
with Sarah McLinchey, Financial Planner  
with BMO Financial Group

**WILLS AND ESTATES**  
with Andrea Bezaire, Lawyer  
with Bezaire & Hemeryck Law

**PREPLANNING AND AFTERCARE**  
with Jill Zavitz, Pre-Need Director  
with Denning's



BEZAIRE & HEMERYCK  
LAW



RSVP by March 15 to [jill@denning.ca](mailto:jill@denning.ca) or 519-318-0617





**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*

### ***Easter Flower Donations***

We will be collecting donations again this year to help offset the cost of Easter flowers in each of our parishes.

Please send an envelope with the name of your loved one clearly written on the outside and your name or envelope number. All names will be posted in the bulletin and on the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parish website on Easter Weekend.

We thank you in advance for your continued generosity. Deadline is Sunday, March 24.



***Sunday chuckle ....***

**Why didn't  
anyone tell me  
about this?**

**It was in the  
bulletin.**



**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: [stcharles@dol.ca](mailto: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! Please contact Julie de Gouw*

*([jdegouw@dol.ca](mailto:jdegouw@dol.ca) or 519-245-0644 ext. 26) 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



**Knights of Columbus—All Saints**

General Meeting on Monday, February 26th  
at 7:30pm in the Columbia Room.

### **Revenue & Expenses December 2023**

|              | All Saints   | Sacred Heart | St. Charles |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Revenue      | \$103,404.74 | \$ 39,171.17 | \$14,854.76 |
| Expenditures | \$ 64,559.28 | \$ 21,072.58 | \$12,830.56 |
| Surplus      | \$ 38,845.46 | \$ 18,098.59 | \$ 2,024.20 |

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





World Day of Prayer  
Journée mondiale de la prière

2024

"I Beg You...  
Bear With One  
Another in  
Love"

Ephesians 4:1-3

Artwork by Halima Aziz



« Je vous en  
prie, supportez-  
vous les uns les  
autres avec  
amour »  
Éphésiens 4, 1-3

œuvre par Halima Aziz

Ecumenical Worship

Service

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 2 pm  
Everyone Welcome

St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
152 Albert St. Strathroy

Refreshments will follow in the lower hall  
\*Service elevator is located at the back entrance of the church

Service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine, prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.  
Service rédigé par le Comité JWP de la Palestine, préparé et adapté pour le Canada par le Mouvement des chrétiennes du Canada.



# Lent 2014



# High School Youth

LJHR2024  MK 10:46-52

# TAKE HEART

*Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally*

[www.ljhr.ca](http://www.ljhr.ca)

MARCH 2, 2024  TORONTO, ON

*Lift Jesus Higher Youth Rally*

[www.ljhr.ca](http://www.ljhr.ca)

**COST \$45**

INCLUDES TICKET AND BUS FROM STRATHROY  
PLEASE BRING A LUNCH, SNACKS, AND MONEY FOR DINNER

BUS LEAVES STRATHROY 5:30 AM AND RETURNS AT 10:00 PM

Register online [www.westmiddlesex catholic.dol.ca](http://www.westmiddlesex catholic.dol.ca)

QUESTIONS? Contact Krista Lenders at 519-666-2961

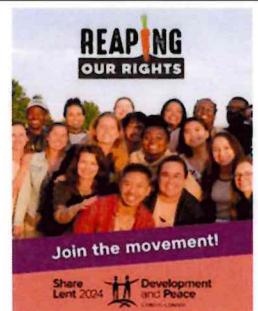
## Week 1: February 18

Development and Peace — Caritas Canada: a movement of solidarity

Established in 1967, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international solidarity organization of the Catholic Church in Canada.

We address the root causes of poverty, oppression, and inequality by working with partners in the Global South and by mobilizing Canadians in the common struggle for justice and dignity. We champion women and social movements as key agents of lasting change. Our transformative work is possible **thanks to the generosity and support of our members** and Canadians who stand by us.

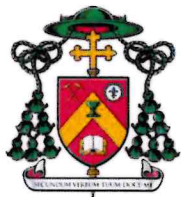
Join the movement of over 12,000 members and help us bring our campaigns to life in your community. Visit [devp.org/membership](http://devp.org/membership).



## Week 2: February 25

Last chance to sign the *Stand for the Land* petition

Today is the deadline for signing a letter to Honduran ambassador to Canada asking her government to protect those who are fighting to defend forests and rivers in a Honduran national park against pollution from a mine. The letter is part of Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's last fall campaign. Over 20,000 Canadians have signed it in solidarity with these struggling communities of Guapinol and the San Pedro sector. Join the effort and add weight to our demands. Sign now at [devp.org/act](http://devp.org/act). Thank you for your solidarity!



# DIOCESE OF LONDON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1070 WATERLOO STREET  
LONDON, ONTARIO N6A 3Y2  
CANADA  
519-433-0658  
FAX: 519-266-4353

5 February 2024

**To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Lent, we hear the Gospel call to conversion – to turn away from sin and to turn back to God with all our hearts. The gift of God's mercy frees us to serve our sisters and brothers in love. Our own brokenness, the tensions between peoples, and the scourge of hostilities and wars throughout the world make us even more aware of our need for conversion. We all must become instruments of justice and peace. "To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope" (Pope Francis, Lenten Message 2024).

To help us in our journey back to God, the Church offers the traditional practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These remedies are meant not only for our own personal healing but to unite and strengthen us with the gifts of the Spirit to build up the Kingdom of God, preparing our hearts to welcome the risen Lord and to welcome one another.

In speaking of injustices in the world, Pope Francis reminds us that "The long journey towards reconciliation and justice, including addressing the structural conditions that abetted such abuse, remains before us, and requires concrete gestures of penitence" (A Synodal Church in Mission, Synthesis Report). This year you to join me, individuals, families, and parish communities, to fast, pray and offer alms for peace – peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our communities and peace in the world. Let us work together to be peacemakers.

I invite you especially to return to the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At the Eucharist we gather to behold and receive the Body of Christ, the Prince of Peace. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we experience the love, mercy, and healing that only God can offer. This year, our **Annual Day of Confession will be held on Wednesday 20 March**. On that day, churches in the diocese will be open and a priest will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

May we open our hearts this Lenten season to God's merciful love and become instruments of peace. "Peace is primarily a gift of God, for it is He who left us His peace. Yet it is also a responsibility incumbent upon all of us" (Pope Francis, 8 January 2024).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB  
Bishop of London





## **Alpha NEWS!!!**

### **Alpha - 2024 begins May 14th**

If you are pondering on the big questions on the meaning of life, faith and hope and would like to ask questions about the Christian faith and where God is... in your life, the world? Come and give our first session a try!! You are welcome to bring a friend along!

#### **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!**

- Alpha will run weekly on Tuesdays from May 14th to June 25th
- Participants are invited to join together for a meal which begins at 6pm. You are welcome to donate towards your meal, if you can.
- Alpha sessions run from 7:00 – 8:30 pm beginning with a Video followed by group discussion, and will be offered in person and on-line
- NOTE: Alpha Prayer Day is Saturday June 29th from 9:00am to 2:30 pm and a free lunch is included
- held at All Saints Church, Strathroy - Parish Centre
- Registration: at [www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca)

### **MORE NEWS: Alpha Retreat Day March 9th**

**To all who have completed the Alpha Course, you are invited to come to our Alpha Retreat Day!!**

**All Saints Church - Parish Centre**

**Saturday, March 9th 2024 9am - 4:00 pm**

**Presenters, Prayer, Worship in Song, Prayer Ministry, Friendship & Food**

**Register Alpha Retreat at [www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca](http://www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca)**



## Romeiros

There is a traditional pilgrimage in Sao Miguel, Azores Island, which dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, to 1522 when a very powerful earthquake and consecutive seismic activities shattered the city of Vila Franca do Campo. The first pilgrims started off after the earthquake to ask for God's protection against further natural disasters and to atone for their own and every other inhabitant's sins.



Ever since, every year for a week during the months of February and March, the male population of Sao Miguel, set off on their pilgrimage around the island in groups of 30 to 200. They visit over 100 churches and chapels on their way, while praying and singing religious songs. Their dress code is strictly defined and so is the role of every individual in the group. They are all wearing a checkered shawl on their backs, a colourful scarf, a rosary around their neck, and holding a special walking cane which they always put down on the ground before entering a church or a chapel.

The pilgrimage takes one week, during which the men are walking from dawn till dusk, with no food, only to retire in the evenings into the houses of local hosts, where they are given a meal and a place to sleep.

To remember and carry on the tradition, there is a group from our family of parishes that walk from All Saints Cemetery to the church on Palm Sunday, March 24th. Chanting the religious prayers and songs, wearing the appropriate attire, the group arrive at the church in time to attend the 11am Mass and gather following the Mass to share a meal together in the church hall.

Anyone interested in joining the Romeiros this year, please contact:  
MaryJo Duarte 519-670-1194

Practices will be held on:

Thursdays March 14 and 21 after the  
6:30pm Mass in the parish hall  
at All Saints.

