



*St. Michael and Sacred Heart
Catholic Parishes*

Guide to Parish Life

Called – Nurtured – Sent

To carry on the Mission of Christ



St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes

Guide to Parish Life

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Vision and Mission Prayer

We are your people, O Lord, the flock you tend with your hands.

We come before you in gratitude for all the blessings you bestow on our community.

Through baptism, you call us to holiness - to journey together as disciples.

Strengthen us to witness your love through word and action - to carry on the mission of Christ.

Nurture us in grace. Transform us through Eucharist, Word and Sacrament, that we may receive and extend forgiveness, learn and teach the message of Christ.

As servants of the Word, we trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to live and proclaim your Gospel of love and salvation.

Empower us to respond in love to serve others:
to uphold our Church's teachings, to nurture family life, and to defend justice.

Help us to be faithful to this mission.
May our parishes be a vibrant and welcoming community.

Re-awaken our minds and hearts to use our talents to promote your kingdom on earth.

St. Michael the Archangel...pray for us,
Sacred Heart of Jesus...make our hearts like yours,
Holy Mary, Mother of the Church...intercede for us.

Amen.

Welcome to St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes

Dear Parishioners, Newcomers, and Friends,

We welcome all who enter our doors seeking to worship and build community in serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our parish ministries and organizations strive to build community by responding to the desires, needs, and concerns of our parishioners. Everyone is invited to participate in the Spiritual, Liturgical and Social life of St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes, as together we journey in our relationship with God and each other.

This handbook attempts to describe our ministries, organizations, services, and parish life but also to share with you some of the character and "flavour" of our parish family. To this end, the handbook not only provides the contact person(s) for various ministries and activities but also give a glimpse into our liturgical celebrations, and parish activities. We invite you to prayerfully consider how best you may share your time and talents with the other kindred spirits that make up St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes. Consider becoming our partner in the work of the ministry and gifting us with what we need most – you!

I invite you to read this handbook, join us for liturgy and participate with us as we celebrate our Catholic community as a parish family. Further information can be obtained by contacting the representatives of each ministry or activity.

With your help, we can work together to build a stronger community that will realize a vision embodied in the Our Father and work to make the Father's kingdom a reality here on earth. Through our Baptism we are "Called, Nurtured and Sent to carry on the Mission of Christ".

Again, thank you for being involved in our parish family as we serve each other in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

St. Michael and Sacred Heart Pastoral Team

Vision and Mission Statement

St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes

We are a Catholic Community

Called, Nurtured and Sent

To carry on the Mission of Christ

Called by Christ through Baptism – We Journey together as Disciples

- in a warm and welcoming environment
- witnessing the love of God through Word and action
- through faith and conversion to holiness and mission
- embracing the truths of the Catholic Church and living a true Christian life

Nurtured in Grace – We are Transformed in Christ

- by glorifying God in prayer, vibrant music and liturgical celebration
- through Eucharist, Word and Sacrament
- by receiving and giving forgiveness
- by learning and teaching the message of Christ
- by respecting life
- by trusting God

Empowered by the Spirit – We are Sent on a Mission

- to make disciples of everyone, everywhere
- to be servants of the Word - proclaiming the Gospel of love, and Salvation through Jesus Christ
- to empower all persons in the service of God
- to uphold Christian morals
- to foster family life and support youth
- to respect life and support social justice
- to service others, in particular the marginalized, the oppressed, the aged and all in need
- to respond in God's love and trust the guidance of His Spirit

Youth

- ✓ Youth group teen helper*
- ✓ Youth group adult helper*
- ✓ Strong, organized adult to lead youth group & team leaders*
 - * (1 evening/week for 6-8 weeks)
- ✓ Member of youth group planning team (2 hour planning meeting before a 6-8 week session)
- ✓ Help with retreat day or weekend
- ✓ Chaperone Event

Vacation Bible School

- ✓ small group leader
- ✓ help at a station
- ✓ craft bee helper
- ✓ set up beforehand

Outreach

- ✓ Caring & Sharing (*Ministry to parishioners who are homebound*)
- ✓ Bereavement Team (*assist families in planning funeral vigil &/or mass & provide guidance through these*)
- ✓ Visit new parishioners
- ✓ Assist with funeral luncheons
- ✓ Fundraising
- ✓ Sing at nursing home
- ✓ Assist with outreach in schools
- ✓ Rosary Apostolate in schools
- ✓ Mission Committee
- ✓ Development & Peace
- ✓ Social Justice
- ✓ CWL
- ✓ Knights of Columbus
- ✓ St. Vincent de Paul Society
- ✓ Extraordinary Minister of Communion to parishioners who are homebound or in hospital
- ✓ Organize or assist with a family social evening (games or movie night, Potluck, sports night)

Social Activity Related

- ✓ hospitality (*prepare coffee/tea; set out light snacks; set up/tidy up at*)
- ✓ provide squares, cookies, muffins, appetizer/sandwiches
- ✓ shop for a small and large event
- ✓ take photos with own camera
- ✓ general kitchen duties (e.g. prepare vegetable trays)
- ✓ parish social committee member

Office and/or General Assistance

- ✓ phone calling, photocopying
- ✓ bulletin/envelope stuffing
- ✓ general office duties
- ✓ creating posters
- ✓ mass cards
- ✓ bulletin boards
- ✓ library
- ✓ audio/visual support
- ✓ website
- ✓ technical support
- ✓ powerpoint presentations
- ✓ weekend assistance (*before, during or after mass – for example, assisting with First Communion; ticket sales*)

Maintenance

- ✓ General Maintenance
- ✓ Lawn Care
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Carpentry
- ✓ Painting rooms
- ✓ Sewing



What is God Calling you to Do?

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19).

As Jesus prepared to ascend to his Father in heaven, he mandated his followers to continue his work of forming disciples who would proclaim to the world the Gospel message of truth, justice, peace, mercy, healing and reconciliation.

By the term 'evangelization', we mean this work of forming disciples and preparing them to bring the Gospel to the world. It is the mission which Jesus gives the Church in all times and places.

Jesus did not want to limit the work of the gospel to just a chosen few. He had confidence in each one of us. We are called, empowered, and expected to bring other to Him. So none of us should feel inadequate or too fearful. All we have to remember is that it is not so much what we do, but what we allow the Spirit to do through us.

Sharing our gifts and talents is one way of giving thanks to God for the blessings he has bestowed on us. **What is God calling you to do?**

Volunteer Opportunities

Please take some time to consider how best you can serve our parish.

What are your five favourite things to do? What are some things you are good at? What are some of your least favourite things to do?

Listed below are some opportunities that may interest you. If we have missed something and you have special skills, please let us know.

To volunteer in the parish in any capacity, please contact us and we will connect you with just the right person!

Leadership

- ✓ Oversee a specific project or event (*communication, planning, scheduling, training*)
- ✓ Gather or coordinate a team of volunteers (*for example, to oversee Vacation Bible School registration after mass*)
- ✓ Facilitator (Bible Study, Small Faith Sharing Group, Book Study)

Sacramental and Liturgical Preparation

- ✓ Planning team for sacramental preparation (*with a group, prepare lessons & activities for sacramental prep*)
- ✓ Lead or facilitate a sacramental preparation session (*materials and lesson plan will be provided*)
- ✓ Assist at a sacramental preparation session (*hand out materials, direct people from station to station*)
- ✓ Baptism team (*assist at baptismal prep session; set up, greet & assist priest/deacon at baptism, visit families*)
- ✓ RCIA sponsor (*attend weekly RCIA sessions with candidate; walk with them on their journey*)
- ✓ RCIA dismissal leader (*lead small group discussion with the RCIA candidates following the homily at mass*)
- ✓ Prayer service Planning Team (*with a team, help plan & lead prayer services*)
- ✓ Sacristan (*set up for mass, clean vessels*)
- ✓ Decorating Church (*e.g. Easter, Christmas*)

Liturgical Roles

- ✓ Lector/Reader
 - ✓ Weekend Choir or Funeral Choir
 - ✓ Vocalist
 - ✓ Musician (Instrument _____)
 - ✓ Usher/Welcomer
 - ✓ Weekend Altar Servers (*post First Communion*)
 - ✓ Funeral Altar Servers
 - ✓ Lead music at a Prayer or Baptism service
 - ✓ Liturgy of the Word with Children youth and adult leader*
- * (*all materials and lesson plans provided*)

General Parish Information

Address & Website

St. 1920 Wildwood Drive
Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0
Phone: (519) 869-2845
Fax: (519) 333-6897

Sacred Heart

1465 Lecaron Avenue
Sarnia, ON N7V 3J4
Phone: (519) 344-2992
Fax: (519) 333-6897

Parish Website

www.smsd.dol.ca

Office Hours

Closed Monday

Sacred Heart

Tuesday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

St. Michael

Tuesday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Schedule of Liturgies

Mass Times

Weekend Vigil Masses

St. Michael.....5:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses

Sacred Heart..... 9:00 a.m.
St. Michael..... 10:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass Schedule

Tuesday	-	Sacred Heart	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday	-	St. Michael	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	-	Sacred Heart	6:30 p.m.
Friday	-	Sacred Heart	8:30 a.m.
Saturday	-	St. Michael	8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (or by appointment)

Sacred Heart 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
St. Michael 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Parish Registration

We welcome you to our family of St. Michael and Sacred Heart Parishes!

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner, there are registration forms available at the back of the church, or in the parish office. You can leave your registration form in the collection basket on Sunday, or bring it directly to the parish office and someone will contact you shortly.

Bulletin Announcements

The *Parish Sunday Bulletin* is published weekly and is distributed at all weekend Masses. We encourage you to take the bulletin home every week and read it so that you can stay informed on events taking place in the parish. **This Week's Events at a glance** section is a quick summary of what is happening the current week. Check out **Upcoming Events** to mark in your calendar. The parish bulletin is posted on the parish website weekly (www.smsd.dol.ca).

Deadline for bulletin announcements is 12:00 noon on Wednesdays. Items are included in the bulletin for a maximum of three (3) weeks.

Mass Intentions

A mass intention can be requested as prayerful support to a family whose loved one is deceased or as a way of prayerfully celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The suggested Mass stipend is \$10.00.

When asking for a Mass intention, we ask you to consider being flexible in when and where you are asking to have the Mass offered. Consider having the Mass intention sent away for other priests to offer. We have so many priests in our diocese who have no intentions to offer and can offer the Mass soon after your booking.

Contact: Parish Office
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 21

Sacraments

Baptism

Baptisms take place at each of our churches on the last Sunday of the month. In preparation for your child's baptism, we have a gathering on the Tuesday evening prior to the baptism. We have baptism teams in place that assist with this sacrament and we are always happy to welcome newcomers to this ministry.

Contact the Parish Office (519) 344-2992 Ext. 21.

First Communion and First Reconciliation

The Sacrament of First Communion celebrates the reception of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord for the first time, who seeks to dwell always in our hearts. The regular reception of this sacrament strengthens our bond with Christ and the community that gathers each weekend.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has three elements: conversion, confession and celebration. In it we find God's unconditional forgiveness; as a result we are called to forgive others.

Preparation to receive both the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist begins in the fall. Registration information will be in the weekly bulletin and communicated through our affiliated schools.

Sacramental preparation begins with a parent information session. The parish works closely with our families and schools in preparing the children for the sacraments.

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the graces and the blessings of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism. Through Confirmation one is strengthened anew by the Spirit so that one can live out the Christian life more fully. The normative time for parishioners to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is in grade eight.

Sacramental preparation begins with a parent information session. The parish works closely with our families and schools in preparing the children for the sacraments.

Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage is a vocation of love, unity and self-sacrifice. This most wonderful sacrament is a powerful sign and symbol of the love God has for each of us. We treasure and value the gift of marriage and wish to celebrate it with great joy and faith. Those couples seeking marriage at the parish are asked to contact the parish office at least six months prior to the marriage.

The Roman Catholic Church asks that all sacramental marriages (of two baptized persons) take place in the sacred space of the church; that the couple has some marriage preparation; and that the marriage be celebrated before the Church's representative. Destination and such weddings, without the blessing of the Church, are not considered a Sacrament and need to be convalidated so that you may continue to share in the Sacraments of the Church. When you begin planning your wedding, please take time to speak to your priest to help you celebrate your marriage in the graces of God and the Church.

Preparation includes meeting with the priest (or deacon) who will be presiding at the celebration, in addition to a Marriage Preparation Course.

Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of anointing is intended for those baptized Catholics whose health is seriously impaired by sickness (in body, mind or spirit) or old age.

The Sacrament of the Sick begins deep in the history of the Church with St. James' community. The early Church leaders felt they could only offer this sacrament once in a person's life. People unfortunately waited to ask for the Sacrament until they were very ill or dying. Many still have this idea today.

We ask you to be open to this sacrament to bring about deeper healing and peace. You may ask for this sacrament before you enter the hospital, before surgery, in confusion, or duress.

As death nears it is best to ask a priest to anoint the person while they are still conscious, able to share in the prayers, and are able to receive the Eucharist - our Bread for the journey. It is most comforting when the family is gathered with their loved one in prayer for the Sacrament of the Sick.

Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements for this sacrament.

Special Events

Special events are coordinated throughout the year based on specific needs of the children within the program. Each year we offer various events such as Mother's Day, Father's Day and a summer Kids Camp.

Bereavement Support Groups

Eight week closed group sessions; day and evening group available. Stories and feelings are shared in an attempt to provide healing, while gaining coping skills to re-adjust to life after the loss. The group is led by a facilitator and an assistant with grief support expertise and education.

Caregiver Support Groups

A four week Educational Series and Support Group for Caregivers.

Caring for a loved one can be very exhausting. Our caregiver education series runs for four weeks and helps you discover ways to care for you and your loved one. You can take a short break from care giving in a supportive environment led by trained professionals who understand the challenges of caregiving. Our support group sessions are open to those who are facing the challenges of caring for a friend or loved one living with a life-limiting illness.

Contact: Office (519) 337-0537
www.stjosephshospice.ca

Inn of the Good Shepherd

Provides services with dignity to those who are in need of food and shelter.

Contact: Office (519) 344-1746
www.theinnsarnia.ca

Sarnia Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience is an international support program for divorced, separated and widowed individuals. Their primary intent is to promote healing by facilitating the resolution of grief associated with the end of a marriage or relationship and, after healing and transformation, be free to love again.

Contact: Gary (519)332-5342
www.sarniabeginningexperience.org

Parish Operations and Services

Parish Pastoral Council

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is made up of our pastoral team and three parishioners from each of our two parishes. The role of our PPC is to support our pastor as he discerns how best to lead our faith community. The members of the PPC are the "ears on the street" so to speak bringing the voices of the people to the attention not only of our pastor, but the PPC as a whole.

Youth Commission

Youth Commission...an instrument of visioning and planning for effective outreach and ministry to, with, by and for young people and their families.

Contact: Christine Bresette
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 28 cbresette@dol.ca

Finance Committee

Our Finance Committee meets every other month to assist the Pastor and the Finance Secretary to ensure the parish remains in good fiscal health. To be part of the committee, it is helpful to have experience in financial records and management.

St. Michael

Contact: Harold Kennedy kenne@cogeco.ca

Sacred Heart

Contact: Greg Hogan
(519) 344-3755 ghogan@ebtech.net

Building Committee

Our Building Committee assists our parishes to keep the grounds and buildings maintained. They meet monthly, guiding the Pastor to ensure the parish is kept in good condition. It is helpful to be interested in maintenance care and to have some experience in this kind of work.

Contact: Patricia Hobin
(519) 542-8350 patriciahobin@cogeco.ca

Catholic Funeral Guidelines

The full celebration of a Christian funeral consists of three main rites or “stations”: the vigil for the deceased (the first time the community gathers to pray and listen to God’s word), the funeral liturgy (either a funeral Mass or a liturgy of the word), and the rite of committal normally celebrated at the body’s final resting place. All three of these rites should be celebrated whenever possible.

The Church has always expressed its belief in life after death and in the resurrection through its care in preparing the body for burial. The prayers and gestures used in the liturgy show its reverence for the deceased Christian’s body, which the Church considers sacred because it has been a temple of the Holy Spirit and has shared in the Eucharistic food of Jesus Himself. Because of its reverence for this body, the Church still prefers the traditional burial in a grave or tomb in memory of Jesus’ body being placed in a tomb.

However, if cremation has been chosen, the Church will celebrate the funeral rites, unless there is evidence that cremation was chosen for reasons contrary to Christian belief. There are three options in this case:

- 1) When cremation takes place after the funeral liturgy
- 2) When cremation takes place before the funeral liturgy
- 3) Funeral liturgy with the cremated remains present

Please note that families are most welcome to hold the funeral memorial service for their loved one at church even if there is no Mass. Also, families are welcome to have visitation in the church prior to the funeral – on the day of the funeral.

Note: Funeral Masses are not celebrated between Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday, on Sundays or on Holy Days of Obligation.

After your initial contact with the funeral home, please contact the Parish Office for funeral mass preparation. Pre-planning is encouraged and a member of the Bereavement Team would be happy to meet with you.

During the month of November (Memorial Month) “Funeral Liturgy Planning Workshops” will be scheduled in the Sarnia Deanery to answer questions about planning funeral liturgies in the Catholic Church.

Community Connections

Lambton Right to Life

The Lambton Right-to-Life is a non-denominational, non-profit organization dedicated to teaching others the value of each human life as created by God from the moment of conception to natural death.

Contact: Office (519) 542-1132
www.lambtonrighttolife.org

Family Foundations Institute

We believe stronger families make a stronger world. We meet every other Saturday morning at St. Patrick High School where we offer classes for every age from 3 years old to adults.

Contact: Tara & Terry Costain (519) 542-3253
taracostain1@gmail.com

Grief Support in the Community

St. Joseph Hospice

The St. Joseph’s Hospice of Sarnia Lambton provides compassionate care to enhance quality and dignity of life for those living with a terminal illness.

Services and facilities are provided free of charge and available to all residents of Sarnia Lambton, regardless of faith, culture or race.

Anticipatory Grief Groups

This group provides support to children who have a loved one living with a terminal illness. Children may attend up to 6 sessions, on bi-weekly drop-in basis to decorate a memory quilt for their loved one and to talk about the changes in their loved one’s illness. Special arrangements for support can be made for children whose loved one is living in the hospice Residence.

Bereavement Groups

Bereavement groups are run for 4 - 7 consecutive hour long weekly sessions, depending on age. Each week we use various modalities such as creative play, art, music to focus on a different topic such as changes, feelings, self-care, memories, etc. Groups are organized by age.

High School Bereavement Groups

The Caring Hearts Coordinator runs bereavement support groups when requested by individual high schools in Sarnia Lambton. The group runs for one hour for seven consecutive weeks during the lunch hour or designated class time as decided by the school.

Becoming Catholic

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process in which adults are initiated into the Church. It is the parish community, through its witness, worship, service and catechesis that offers the invitation and support necessary for new catholic members to be initiated into the Church.

We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the faith of the Catholic Church to join us. Participants in the RCIA process include those who have little knowledge of the Catholic faith and have not been baptized; those who are baptized in other Christian faiths, but who would like to enter into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church; and those already baptized in their Catholic Church who wish to complete their Christian initiation by celebrating the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

A team of Catechists and sponsors journey with the catechumens and candidates for a number of months, meeting weekly. The Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are received at Easter each year.

RCIA adapted for children

The goal of this special sacramental program is to prepare young people who are not baptized, or who have been baptized in another Christian denomination, for the sacraments of Baptism (or profession of faith), First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation.

The program opens the young people to an awareness of God’s personal love for each of them and initiates and/or deepens their journey of faith. Parents are involved in the catechesis of their children through resources to use at home. Through this process, parents have an opportunity to renew their own faith and are introduced and/or more fully incorporated into the parish family. We are always happy to welcome you wherever you are in your journey of faith and to walk with you.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 25 Imoran@dol.ca

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

Altar Servers assist the priest in all aspects of the liturgical celebration. The actions of these individuals highlight the ceremony and ritual that are so much a part of the liturgy that we celebrate. Servers lead the procession of the liturgy by carrying the cross and candles, hold the prayer book for the priest, and help to prepare the altar for communion. The servers help to ensure that the liturgy unfolds with grace and dignity.

St. Michael

Contact: Peter Aarssen (519) 542-1497

Sacred Heart

Contact: Kimberly Bernard
(519) 704-1108 kimvirgo2c@yahoo.ca

Funeral Servers

St. Michael

Contact: Ray DiBrita rsdibrita@sympatico.ca

Sacred Heart

Music Ministry

Music serves to excite, create, challenge and unite us in prayer. Far beyond the spoken word, music helps to put a voice to our faith and enables us to be touched by the very mysteries of God as we unite together in prayer. Ministers of Music lead and encourage the assembly in song and support the liturgical action through music. The ministry of music enlists both choir members and instrumentalists to support the sung prayer of the community. Several choirs serve our worshipping faith community.

St. Michael Weekend Mass Choirs

5:00 p.m. Mass – Practice Saturday 4:30 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Mass – Practice Sunday 9:15 a.m.

Contact: Frank Brennan
(519)869-4781 fbrennan777@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Weekend Mass Choirs

Saturday – 5:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday – 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Mass

Practice 45 minutes before each Mass

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519) 344-2992 Ext.25 Imoran@dol.ca

Funeral Choir

The funeral choir provides a very important ministry as they lead the assembly in song (most often hymns selected by the family) as they celebrate the Mass of Resurrection and new life for their loved one. New members are always welcome and are contacted by phone or email when a funeral comes up. Choir practice is held the morning of the funeral.

St. Michael

Contact: Frank Brennan
(519) 869-4781 fbrennan777@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 25 lmoran@dol.ca

Ministry of Hospitality (Ushers & Welcomers)

The Ministers of Hospitality represent the welcoming face of our community. They are graced with the opportunity to extend Christ's love in this way to both friend and stranger. Ministers of Hospitality welcome those who gather for the celebration, assist people to their seats, pass out hymnals when necessary, care for any needs (e.g. emergencies), take up the collection, and distribute bulletins at the end of Mass.

St. Michael

Contact: Irmgard Marsh
(519)869-2184 irmgardmarsh@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Wayne Forbes rwforbes@live.com

Liturgy of the Word with Children

We are very pleased to offer Liturgy of the Word with children during each of our Sunday morning masses. Children aged four to grade three are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Word in a setting more suited to their age. We are delighted to see more and more families taking advantage of this opportunity to bring Christ to our young parishioners in a perhaps more meaningful way. Additional leaders are always welcome!

St. Michael

Contact: Lizzie Cyr lizzie.cyr@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Amanda Cimetta
acimetta17@gmail.com

Ministry of the Word (Readers & Commentators)

As God's word speaks to us through the scriptures, God speaks to the gathered assembly through the proclamation of the Minister of the Word. By proclaiming the scriptures in the liturgical assembly, the Minister of the Word brings to birth the living word of God and reminds us that God's word is alive here and now. By leading the Prayers of the Faithful, the minister connects us to both the local and global communities as we pray for those in need.

Readers and commentators serve on a rotating basis. One can be either a reader or a commentator or both. A schedule is regularly emailed or mailed. Training for new members is provided.

St. Michael

Contact: Irmgard Marsh
(519) 869-2184irmgardmarsh@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Judith Gillespie
(519) 541-1864judithgillespie@hotmail.ca

Ministry of Communion

(Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest at Mass by distributing the Holy Eucharist to the congregation. Ministers are scheduled based on their individual preferences in terms of mass times and their availability during holiday periods. Training will be provided to anyone who joins this rewarding ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the liturgical celebration, serve the parish, and join a team of committed parishioners.

The requirements for this ministry are: a practicing Catholic and attending church on a regular basis.

St. Michael

Contact: Irmgard Marsh
(519) 869-2184irmgardmarsh@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Larry Renaud (519) 542-4856

Decorating/Environment Teams

Our environment teams do a wonderful job of making our churches beautiful for all of our liturgical celebrations. More hands are always welcome.

St. Michael

Contact: Paddy Cunningham
(519) 542-5003 schauteet@sympatico.ca

Sacred Heart

Contact: Ana Maria Moniz
(519) 344-2992 Ext.31 mmoniz6@cogeco.ca

Adoration Chapel

The Adoration Chapel for the Sarnia Deanery is located at Our Lady of Mercy – Hall Building. It is open seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. – midnight.

Contact: Eufrazio Pinto (519)336-0192

Divine Mercy Sunday

The **Feast of the Divine Mercy**, also popularly called the Divine Mercy Sunday, is a solemnity celebrated on the Sunday after Easter (the Octave of Easter).

Divine Mercy Sunday, as recorded in the diary of Saint Faustina, receives from Jesus himself the biggest promises of grace related to the Devotion.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

To commemorate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on or close to December 8, many Catholic churches hold special services. The feast focuses on the concept that the Virgin Mary was conceived without sin.

A Sarnia Deanery celebration for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is held at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Sarnia on December 8. All are invited to join in this unifying celebration of our deanery. Please refer to our weekly bulletin for date and time.

Advent Candlelight Memorial Prayer Service

A special Advent candlelight memorial service is scheduled in December to remember loved ones who have gone home to God in the current year and in years past. Please refer to the weekly bulletin for date and time.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are said during Lent following selected weekday Masses at both parishes. Various groups from the parish lead the Stations of the Cross. Please refer to the weekly bulletin for dates and times.

Mass of Anointing

Anyone in need of healing - physically, emotionally or spiritually are welcome to attend a "Mass of Anointing" to receive the Holy Oil. Annual anointing masses are held in the spring and fall.

Please refer to the weekly bulletin for date and time.

Rosary

The Rosary is said during the months of May and October at 6:00 p.m. prior to the 6:30 p.m. evening Masses at St. Michael and Sacred Heart.

Taizé Prayer Services

The community of Taizé is a tiny village located in the eastern part of France. Since 1940 it has been the home of a Christian ecumenical community of brothers whose prayer is at the centre of their life. Today, visitors of all ages travel to Taizé for pilgrimage, prayer and reflection. Taizé's mission is to strive for communion among all. A key component in the prayer of Taizé is meditative chants, consisting of short melodies using just a few words. Taizé prayer services takes place at Sacred Heart church during Advent and on Holy Thursday evening.

Lent & Advent Days of Confession

God who is rich in mercy has made us alive through Christ — for it is by grace that we have been saved. This grace moves us to let go of all that hinders our relationship with God and one another. God desires that we experience deeply that full life that he has come to offer and that we might know for ourselves the immeasurable richness of his love and mercy. During Advent and Lent, the whole Diocese of London will have the opportunity to experience God's mercy compassion and reconciling love through all day confessions. Perhaps this is the occasion to let God, our Father, demonstrate his choice of you as his own, as his beloved one. Please refer to the weekly bulletin for dates, times and locations.

First Friday Devotion & Holy Hour

On the first Friday of each month we have a holy hour following the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church – a beautiful opportunity to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Devotion to our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday Night—St. Michael & Thursday Night—Sacred Heart

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is a tradition deep in the Catholic faith throughout the world. Prayers of intercession are often asked of the Blessed Virgin.

Book Study

Do you love to read? At different times throughout the year, we offer a book and discussion group from spiritual and faith based books. Please refer to our weekly bulletin for dates, times and location. If you wish to lead a book study please contact Leanne Moran.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 28 l Moran@dol.ca

Cursillo

The Cursillo Movement (CM) is for all those who want to look seriously at themselves and their lives, their relationship with other people and their relationship with God.

It is open to persons from any walk of life, man or woman, married or single. For those who are married, it is preferable (but not necessary) that husband and wife be willing to participate because it is an experience that is worth sharing between partners. Note the men and women have separate weekends held at the end of January, or early February of each year.

The week-end starts on a Thursday night and ends on Sunday night. It is composed of real-life experiences, given mostly by lay-persons, which become the basis for small group discussions.

These testimonies and exchanges are intermingled with songs, laughter, breaks and moments of prayer.

Ultreya is the word used by the Cursillo community to signify the meeting which is held after a Cursillo experience. The Ultreya gathers together and provides continuity by contributing to the maintenance of the Cursillo spirit and by revealing the reality of the living Church.

Contact: Fr. Vince Gulikers
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 23 v gulikers@dol.ca

Prayer

Vocation Ministry

As Christ called his apostles to "Come follow me ... I will make you fishers of men" so too Christ calls us through Baptism to cultivate vocations in our parishes for the future of his Church. St. Michael & Sacred Heart Parish Vocation Ministry is committed to fulfilling Jesus' request to pray to the Father, with the goal of promoting vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, Religious Life, Married Life, Single Life and Lay Ecclesial Ministry. Our task is to nurture a Vocation Culture through prayer and activities that support all vocations as possibilities for people young and old. Anyone interested in fostering and affirming vocations is welcome to participate in our ministry.

Contact: Tony Scarpelli:
tony.scarpelli@sympatico.ca

Rosary Apostolate

The Rosary Apostolate is an association of volunteers in the community which lead children, youth and families into a deeper relationship with our Triune God through prayer by teaching others how to pray with the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We have a very active Rosary Apostolate in our deanery. At present there are about 25 trained volunteers in Sarnia/Lambton and more than 1000 in Ontario, reaching out to about 100,000 children and youth in our Catholic schools through the Rosary Apostolate. The focus of the Rosary Apostolate is to pray the rosary with the children in our elementary schools in ALL classes— JK to grade 8.

Training is provided and volunteers will be matched with students according to their grade preference. To learn more about the Rosary Apostolate: www.rosaryapostolate.com

St. Michael
Contact: Delores Murray (519)869-2387

Sacred Heart
Contact: Rick Bourque (519) 542-4953

Outreach Ministries

Bereavement Support Team

Walking with each other in times of bereavement is one of the most important things we are called to do. The members of the bereavement team assist families with the liturgical planning (music, readings, etc.) of funeral masses and prayer services. Please consider joining this very important and rewarding ministry.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519) 344-2992 Ext. 25 l Moran@dol.ca

Caring & Sharing

This ministry offers spiritual comfort and support to parishioners who are aged, sick, and/or bereaved in our parish community, at home and in hospital. We bring communion to the parishioners unable to attend Mass. Outreach includes visits, cards and flowers, nursing home masses, social activities and such.

There are annual anointing masses in the spring and fall.

We welcome new members in whatever capacity they wish to serve.

St. Michael

Meets quarterly after 10 am Mass - 3rd Thursday of the month.

Contact: Fleurette Forbes (519) 344-5437
fmforbes@bell.net

Donna Stewart (519) 869-4262
donna.stewart33@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Marg Maheu
(519) 344-3434 mvicm9@yahoo.ca

Outreach Eucharistic Ministry

There are many in our parish community who cannot attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis. Every Sunday or when possible, Outreach Eucharistic Ministers visit and bring the Blessed Sacrament to parishioners who are unable to leave their homes.

Through this ministry, those who are housebound stay connected with their parish family. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to receive Holy Communion either on a long-term or short-term basis.

Long-Term Care Facility

This ministry of prayer, sacrament and presence involves visiting the long term care facilities in the parish boundaries. There are many roles within this ministry that include visiting and praying with the residents and bringing Holy Communion. We want to stay in touch with our parishioners when they enter long term care facilities. Please be sure to contact the Parish Office with your new address.

Pastoral Visit

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office if you or someone you know wishes to receive a pastoral visit.

Migrant Workers Ministry

Migrant workers ministry reaches out to those who arrive seasonally in our area.
Contact: Azuani Cano (519) 908-9635

Social Justice

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, a democratic movement for international solidarity, supports partners in the Global South in the pursuit of alternatives to unjust social, political and economic structures. It educates the Canadian population about the causes of impoverishment of peoples and mobilizes actions for change.

In the struggle for human dignity, Development and Peace associates with social change groups in the North and South.

It supports women in their search for social and economic justice.

Development and Peace, the official development organization of the Canadian Catholic Church, is inspired by the values of the Gospel, particularly "the preferential option for the poor."

St. Michael

Contact: Greg Stewart
(519) 869-4262 stewartgreg0@gmail.com

Sacred Heart

Contact: Martha Knight
(519) 332-0635 marthablundy@hotmail.com

Social Justice Ministry Continued

At St. Michael & Sacred Heart parishes, various organizations are in place to raise awareness of social justice issues, local and international. Please refer to our weekly bulletin for activities.

- Mission Committee

Members of both St. Michael and Sacred Heart have the opportunity to contribute to missionary work supported by our faith community.

St. Michael

Contact: Vera Lawlor
(519) 869-4389 vllawlor@cogeco.ca

Sacred Heart

Contact: Maggy Barnfield
(519) 337-0338 barnfield@cogeco.ca

- Rayjon Share Care

The Rayjon organization was formed in 1986 to seek to raise the quality of life in countries like Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and to inform and educate people in our own communities here in Canada about the situation in these developing countries.

Contact: Maggy Barnfield
(519) 337-0338 barnfield@cogeco.ca
www.rayjon.org

Groups and Organizations

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values and we help to serve the people of God through work in our parish and community.

We also have fellowship events with guest speakers and we assist in celebrating the sacraments. We urge all ladies 16 and over to consider joining or rejoining this very vibrant group. Joining can involve many levels of participation, from non-active to a position on our executive, and everything in between. Some members choose to be part of our prayer chain, some bake or help with the annual bazaar, some help with funeral luncheons or attend quarterly events. Every level of commitment is appreciated in helping to serve your parish.

St. Michael

Contact: Mary McLeay
mary_mcleay@cogeco.ca

Sacred Heart

Contact: Judith Gillespie
(519) 541-1864 judithgillespie@hotmail.ca
Anne Clark (519) 331-7695

Knights of Columbus

Faith, Family and Fraternity make up the foundation upon which the Knights of Columbus stands. Our programs and projects make a difference in communities and countries throughout the world. The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to more than 14,000 councils and 1.8 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam and Spain.

St. Michael - Council 10102

2nd Thursday of the Month
Contact: Vic Del Ben
vitodelbensub4@hotmail.ca

Sacred Heart - Council 1429 *(shared with OLM)*

Contact: Norman Monteiro
montein56@hotmail.com

Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy (and by helping with food, clothing, rent and utility assistance).

Time commitment is as few as four hours per month. Come to one of our meetings and see how we carry out our mission. We would be pleased to tell you of our activities.

St. Michael Conference

(Meets the first Sunday of each month at 8:45 a.m unless otherwise posted in the bulletin. No meetings in July or August.)

Contact: Lew Marut marutlew@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Conference

(Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meetings in July or August.)

Contact: George Weisz
(519) 491-6960 gweisz@cogeco.ca

Parish Events

Mass in the Park

Each year in July a "Mass in the Park" is scheduled to provide an opportunity to praise God surrounded by the beauty of His creation. The event includes a sumptuous BBQ provided by the Knights of Columbus, and potluck salad, sides and desserts provided by the participants. Everyone, young and old, are invited to attend. Check out the bulletin for further details.

Feast Day Celebrations

At St. Michael and Sacred Heart parishes, we love to celebrate our feast days! The Feast of St. Michael is celebrated on or around September 29 each year. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is a "moveable feast day" depending on when Easter falls. This feast day is always celebrated the Friday after the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ – that's 69 days after Easter Sunday! Please watch the bulletin for our feast day.

Family Day Skating

As a way of offering our parish families time to spend an afternoon together in the community, each year the Point Edward arena is booked for Family Skate Day. Seeing young and old walk through the doors with skates in hand and smiling faces, is truly what Family Day is all about. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, your Parish Priests and staff in a fun environment.

Prayer and Ongoing Formation

Formation

Lighthouse Catholic Media

Lighthouse Catholic Media is a practical and effective program to help Catholics know their faith, keep their faith, and share their faith! Whether in your home or in the car, deepen your understanding of the faith when you listen to inspiring talks given by some of the best Catholic speakers in the world. You will find display stands at each of our church entrances. We ask for a donation of \$5.00 per CD so that we may continue to offer this program. With over 150 CDs to choose from, there is indeed something for everyone. Please check often for new arrivals.

Bible and Catechism Study

A number of bible and catechism studies are scheduled throughout the churches in our Sarnia Deanery.

Catholic bible and catechism studies are an important way of understanding the Catholic faith. The more we can understand the inspired writings in the books of the Bible and the official teachings of the Catholic Church, the more we understand the beliefs, celebrations and rituals of our faith.

Fortunately, the Catholic faith offers a wide variety of excellent resources for Catholic bible and catechism studies and aids. Please refer to our weekly bulletin for dates, times, location and contact.

Learning Community Lecture Series

A few times throughout the year we like to offer a series of "Learning Community Lectures". These evenings are open to everyone and are a combination of learning & socializing. In the past, topics have included religious art talks, DVD presentations, understanding the scriptures, Reconciliation and many more. Watch the bulletin for new series of talks. Feel free to contact us with suggested topics or presenters.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519)344-2992 x25 lmoran@dol.ca

Small Faith Sharing Groups

Small faith sharing groups are a wonderful way to grow in our faith and in our relationship with others. Many groups find their small faith sharing groups to be so rewarding they continue to meet for many, many years – some weekly, some monthly. If you are interested in participating in a small faith sharing group, please contact us.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519)344-2992 x25 lmoran@dol.ca

RCIA – The Journey Continues

Those who joined the Catholic Church through the RCIA process and those who served as RCIA sponsors are invited to continue their journey together through monthly gatherings. These gatherings offer an opportunity for faith sharing, social time, community building and ongoing support. These monthly gatherings host a variety of activities.

Contact: Leanne Moran
(519)344-2992 x25 lmoran@dol.ca

Refugee Ministry

In a recent letter to the Faithful of the Diocese of London, Bishop Fabbro reminded us that “our faith compels us to act and to respond with a generous heart to Jesus who calls us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit prisoners (Matthew 25:35-36).” In this spirit, our Refugee Ministry works to respond to the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing their homelands torn apart by war and seeking new lives in places of peace and security. There are opportunities to provide financial as well as emotional/moral, educational and transportation support as well as ongoing friendship with our sponsored families.

Contact: Emily Fortney Blunt
smshrefugeeministry@gmail.com

Social and Hospitality

First Tuesday Muffins & Coffee

Enjoy muffins, coffee and most importantly, fellowship following the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Church on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

New Parishioners

We welcome the opportunity to meet our new parishioners! If you are new to our parishes, please be sure to fill out a parish registration card found at the entrance of our churches (and leave it in the collection basket) or contact the parish office to complete a registration form and arrange for a visit from a fellow parishioner.

Knitting, Sewing and Crocheting

St. Michael

The Quilting Group has been making quilts since 2008 for Pikangikum Native Reserve, an Ojibwe community of 2,500 people, 50 miles north of Red Lake, ON. In recent years, some quilts have been sold at the CWL Christmas Bazaar and money raised is put toward other urgent needs of the community, such as children’s trauma books. The group meets Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the year.

Contact: Vera Lawlor
(519) 869-4389 vllawlor@cogeco.ca

Sacred Heart Church

Knitting/Crocheting Group - All are welcome to come and see what our knitting and crocheting group can do. Try your hand and/or just visit and have tea. We meet on Mondays from 1:00 – 3:00 in the meeting room.

Contact: Helen Tavares (519) 542-5095

Membership Committee

The St. Michael Membership Committee is very active in supporting the parish through a variety of ways. One way we reach out to our parishioners Each month we host a parish social following the 10:00a.m. Mass. These range from Hotdog Days, Coffee Sundays and Strawberry Socials. We are always happy to welcome new members!

Contact: Anne Del Ben
(519) 381-6059 annedelben@hotmail.ca

Linger Longer Committee

At Sacred Heart Parish our goal is to create a welcoming hospitable Parish community with small Linger Longer socials that provide delicious light refreshments and a welcoming atmosphere to encourage people to “stop awhile and get to know each other.”

Contact: Mary Parkes
(519) 336-4849 r.parkes@sympatico.ca

Single Seniors

Single seniors offer the single senior men and women of St. Michael and Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes an opportunity to meet others and bring their lives into a peer social community. Monthly luncheons are prepared and shared, card games played, possible day trips planned and guest speakers are brought in to bring community information to the group. New friendships and support are part of the outcome of the Single Senior group.

Contact: Carol Fera
(519) 541-1385 cfera@cogeco.ca

Youth Ministry

Youth Groups

Youth group is a wonderful opportunity for our young people to gather together, socialize, have fun, and learn leadership skills and to grow in their faith. Groups are offered for different ages throughout the year with a variety of age appropriate activities including games, music, videos, skits, prayer, crafts, activities and great group discussions.

Drama Ministry for Youth

Youth are invited to develop and share their creative talents in our drama ministry. There are opportunities for drama in our youth groups, vacation bible school, Liturgy of the Word with Children and during our church mass and services Humanity and Development and Peace THINKfast retreats. Join to see how you can make a difference in our world.

High School Summer Youth Programs

All youth entering grade 9-12 in the fall of the next school year are welcome to join in different summer high school programs that are promoted through our parish and in our community.

Group trips and transportation is organized based on the number of youth that are interested in any particular year for programs such as:

Catholic Christian Leadership Camp available in Park Hill, Bayfield and Port Burwell: Camp includes daily Eucharist, Reconciliation, leadership skill development, traditional camp activities and a host of creative catechetical activities.

Steubenville Toronto & Steubenville Ohio: Youth will experience amazing speakers and musicians while being equipped to stand firm in their faith and encounter Christ in a new and life altering way.

Notre Dame Vision at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana: An opportunity to meet youth from our Diocese and from across the United States and to explore how God is calling you and how to respond with your gifts in your daily life.

Prayer Warriors - Prayer can Change the World

All youth and adults are invited to unite in a time of prayer weekly at Sacred Heart Church. Everyone is welcome to experience the power of prayer.

Family Advent Wreath Workshop

Our workshop is an afternoon of family fun with wreath making, crafts, cookie decorating, apple cider and the blessing of our Advent Wreaths. This is a beautiful family time to **Prepare** our hearts with **Hope, Joy and Love** as we eagerly look forward to **Christmas** – the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Mothers in Prayer International

“Lift up your hand toward the Lord for the lives of your children.” Lam 2:19
Mothers in Prayer is a group of women who gather weekly to pray for the youth, staff and needs of the school where their children attend. It is important that each school in Sarnia be covered with prayer and we would like to help establish groups for each school. All mothers, grandmothers, aunts, caregivers or any woman who is interested in uniting together in prayer are invited to join.

School Connection

We enjoy a strong faith bond with our affiliated Catholic schools. We minister to St. Michael, Sacred Heart, St. Anne and Gregory A. Hogan elementary schools and to St. Patrick High School. Throughout the year, in partnership with the schools, we celebrate several school masses, monthly prayer services, pastoral classroom visits, and the sacrament of Reconciliation. We are very fortunate to have our schools working very closely with us in our preparation for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Please refer to our weekly bulletin for dates, times and location.

Contact: Christine Bresette
(519) 344-2992 cbresette@dol.ca