

***St. Michael & Sacred Heart
Catholic Parishes***

*Called~Nurtured~Sent
To carry on the Mission of Christ*

***Vocations Chalice
Prayer Guide***



St. Michael & Sacred Heart Catholic Parishes

Sarnia, Ontario

Vocation Ministry

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Vocation Ministry**

Prayer to Know

One's Vocation

Lord Jesus, up until now you have been quietly preparing me to be your disciple. Now the time of preparation is ending. I seem to hear you say to me as once to Peter: "Will you also go away?" You were saddened then by friends who failed you. But Peter did not fail. "Lord", he said, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

I stand with Peter. Through prayer and counsel, show me, Lord, where it is in your vineyard that you want me to serve. Then give me strength to be faithful. Mary, Mother and model help me to respond in generous love to the call of your Divine Son.

(Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus)

Pope Francis shared this in his homily on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 2013, World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

"Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.... This is why Jesus said: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest," that is, God the Father, "to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit. Let us invoke the intercession of Mary who is the Woman of the "yes". Mary said "yes" throughout her life! She learned to recognize Jesus' voice from the time when she carried him in her womb. May Mary, our Mother, help us to know Jesus' voice better and better and to follow it, so as to walk on the path of life!"

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mystery of the Rosary

Monday & Saturday

- I. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
- II. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
- III. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
- IV. The Presentation of our Lord
- V. Finding Jesus in the Temple at age 12

Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary

Tuesday & Friday

- I. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden
- II. The Scourging at the Pillar
- III. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns
- IV. Jesus Carried the Cross
- V. The Crucifixion of our Lord

Glorious Mystery of the Rosary

Wednesday & Sunday

- I. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
- II. The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven
- III. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- IV. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- V. Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Luminous Mystery of the Rosary

Thursday

- I. The Baptism in the Jordan
- II. The Wedding at Cana
- III. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- IV. The Transfiguration
- V. The Institution of the Eucharist

St. Michael and Sacred Heart Vocations Chalice

**"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."
(Matthew 9:37-38)**

Dear Parish Family,

The presentation of this chalice at Mass is a visible reminder of your commitment to pray for vocations each day this week. It is also a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer, and having taken part in the sacred feast, we take with us the joy, the gratitude, and the mission, to share the love of Christ in our families, workplaces and community. You are encouraged to commit time each day to pray with your family and/or friends for vocations to the married, single, lay ecclesial, religious and ordained life.

Like other chalices used at Mass, this chalice is consecrated (reserved for sacred use) to hold the Precious Blood of Jesus. Please do not drink from the sacred vessel or place flowers or objects in it. Place it in a prominent location in your home, and during the home prayer, display it on a table as a focal point, and then return it to its place of honour.

This booklet contains recommended prayers, readings and intentions for each day. Feel free to adapt these prayers or use your own. We ask your household to pray together each day for vocations if only it be the Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, or the Glory Be.

Additional Prayers +

If you have children or grandchildren, talk to them about vocations, about God's plan for them to grow in holiness, and answer any questions they might have. Feel free to let them see and hold the chalice, (even young children if supervised) making sure they treat it respectfully, like all sacred objects.

A journal is included for everyone who has taken the cup home to write their prayer intentions, their thoughts, their hopes, or whatever else sits on their hearts. You may choose to sign your name or not. But please write something to encourage others.

At the end of the week, please return the chalice so it can be presented to another family or individual at the Sunday Mass.

Sacred Heart

Return to parish office by 3 pm Friday.

St. Michael

Return to parish office by 11 am Friday.

**If the chalice cannot be returned on time,
please notify the parish office.**



Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

Blessed are you, Mary,
Exalted daughter of Sion!
You are highly favored and full of grace,
For the Spirit of God descended on you.
We magnify the Lord
And rejoice with you
For the gift of the Word made flesh,
Our bread of life and cup of joy.
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament,
Our model of prayer, pray for us
That we may become what we receive,
The body of Christ your son. **Amen.**

Parents Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God, you have blessed us with the privilege of becoming Parents.
We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility.
We pray that we will be open to your Spirit who is our source of strength as we witness to our children Your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life.
We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our children to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others.
We pray, Heavenly Father, that our children will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained or consecrated life.
We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus through the grace of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to help His servant Israel,
For He has remembered His promise of mercy,
The promise He made to our fathers,
To Abraham and to His children forever.

Vocation Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Give those you have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world the special grace that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of Your Son, so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With Mary, we ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Leader: *Let us pray:*

O God, who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations, we earnestly implore You to choose among us many priests, who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father almighty bless and keep us. Amen.
May Jesus Christ, our Lord, graciously smile on us. Amen.
May the Holy Spirit and giver of life, grant us peace. Amen.

Sunday Family Payers for Vocations

Leader: *In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

All: Amen.

Leader: *In solidarity with the whole community of St. Michael and Sacred Heart, we offer prayers for an increase in vocations to the ordained and religious life. We pledge ourselves to the will of the Father and to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we promise to support the discernment of God's call in our own life and of all God's people.*

Leader: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: *Let us pray.*

Heavenly Father, You so loved the world that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in Him. We join Him in His prayer for labourers in Your harvest. May Your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue His mission in the World. May this same Spirit make known to us Your will so that where You lead we will follow.

All: Let it be done to us according to Your Word.

Leader: *We pray this through Christ our Lord.*

All: Amen.

Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The Call of Samuel

A reading from the first book of the prophet, Samuel

During the time young Samuel was minister to the Lord under Eli, a revelation of the Lord was uncommon and vision infrequent. One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see. The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was. The Lord called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the Lord called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet. The Lord called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the Lord came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Discussion: What word or phrase in the reading speaks to you?

Closing Prayers at end of booklet.

Closing Prayers

Recite together any of the following prayers.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed art you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.

GLORY BE to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For He has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him,
In every generation.

He has shown might with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the might from their thrones,
And has lifted up the lowly.

Scripture Readings

Acts 2:1-11

Pentecost

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ.

Discussion: Take a few minutes for quiet reflection and discussion of this scriptural passage.

Closing Prayers at the end of the booklet.

Monday

Family Prayers for Vocations

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We pray for our priests and all parishioners of St. Michael and Sacred Heart, that we respond fully to the call of our baptism, that we grow in holiness, and that we remain open to God's call to serve.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Scripture Readings

Luke 1:26-38

The Annunciation - Mary's Call

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." She was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ.

Discussion: How does Mary respond to God's call?
How do we respond to God's call?

Closing Prayers at the end of the booklet.

Friday

Family Prayers for Vocations

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We pray that if it be God's will there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own family and that they will be supported through our encouragement. Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocation of their children, and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them.

All: Amen.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 16:13-20

Peter the Rock of the Church

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ

Discussion: Peter was an everyday, ordinary fisherman.
Why do you think Jesus chose him to lead his church?

Closing Prayers at the end of the booklet.

Tuesday

Family Prayers for Vocations

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We pray that if it be God's will there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own family and that they will be supported through our encouragement. Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage, foster the God given vocation of their children, and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

All: Amen.

Scripture Readings

Luke 1:39-56

The Visitation to Elizabeth

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

During those days, Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked upon His handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry He has filled with good things; the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped Israel His servant, remembering His mercy, according to His promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to His descendants forever.**"

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Discussion: Spend time in reflection of Mary's Prayer.
Share and discuss your reflections.

Closing Prayers at the end of the booklet.

Thursday

Family Prayers for Vocations

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We pray that if it be God's will there might be vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our own family and that they will be supported through our encouragement. Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to You in prayer the young people of our Church. Give them hearts open to hear Your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to Your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

Graciously grant to parents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May parents genuinely encourage, foster the God-given vocation of their children, and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to be a priest or religious. May the example of Your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and children to form holy families and let Your grace sustain them.

All: Amen

Scripture Readings

Matthew 4:18-22

The Call of the Disciples

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once, they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You Lord, Jesus Christ.

Discussion: How might a deep personal encounter with the person of Jesus change us?

Closing Prayers at the end of the booklet.

Wednesday Family Prayers for Vocations

Leader: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Gracious Lord, each of us is called to discipleship with your Son Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Baptism. Send forth your Holy Spirit as we are sent to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, to share the Good News of God's saving love. Hear our prayers as we ponder the redemptive vocation of Jesus who continues to call men and women to walk in His way, renewing His church and caring for His people. Draw many young men and women to dedicate themselves with an undivided heart to the love of Christ and his Kingdom.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

We pray that we might grow in our love and devotion to Mary. We turn to you, Mary, Mother of the Church. Through your "yes," you have opened the door that makes Christ present in the world, in history, and in individual lives. In humble silence and in total availability, you welcomed the call of the Most High. May there be many men and women in our day who respond to your Son's invitation: "Follow me!" Grant them courage to leave family, work, and earthly desires to follow Christ along the road that He walked. Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us and for an increase of priestly and religious vocations.

All: Amen.