



# The Cluster Parishes of Our Lady of Mercy, St. Benedict, St. Joseph

## (Office) St. Benedict Church

1011 Oak Ave.  
Sarnia, ON N7S 1J4

## Our Lady of Mercy Church

390 N. Christina St.  
Sarnia, ON N7T 5V9

## St. Joseph Church

291 Stuart St.  
Sarnia, ON N7T 3B9

Hours: Monday to Friday  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 519-336-2653  
Fax: 1-866-601-8703



E-mail: [saintbenedict@dol.ca](mailto:saintbenedict@dol.ca)  
Website: [www.SarniaCatholic.ca](http://www.SarniaCatholic.ca)

### Masses & Confessions

#### St. Benedict Masses

Saturday - 5:00 pm  
Sunday - 10:00 am  
Sunday - 6:30 pm  
Tuesday & Thursday - 6:30 pm  
(Vespers) Thursday - 7:00 pm  
(Confessions) Tues/Thurs - 6-6:30 pm

#### St. Joseph Masses

Sunday - 11:00 am  
Wednesday & Saturday - 9:30 am  
(Confessions) Wed/Sat - 9-9:30 am

#### Our Lady of Mercy Masses

Saturday - 5:30 pm  
Sunday - 9:00 am  
Monday to Friday - 12:10 pm  
(Confessions) Mon-Fri - 11:30 am-12 pm  
Sat - 10:30-11:30 am

#### **Parish Administrator**

Fr. Stephen Savel - ex. 11  
Email: [sasavel@dol.ca](mailto:sasavel@dol.ca)

#### **Parochial Vicar**

Fr. Mateusz Sobierajski, C.S.M.A. - ex. 16  
Email: [matthews@dol.ca](mailto:matthews@dol.ca)

#### **Deacons**

Deacon Chuck Stevens - ext. 22  
Email: [cstevens@dol.ca](mailto:cstevens@dol.ca)  
Deacon Lyle LaLonge - ext. 26  
Email: [lalonge@dol.ca](mailto:lalonge@dol.ca)

#### **Pastoral Minister**

Leonia Downie - ext. 15  
Email: [ldownie@dol.ca](mailto:ldownie@dol.ca)

#### **Secretaries**

Lisa De Sena - ext. 14  
Anna lafrate - ext. 13  
Ginette Villemaire - ext. 13

#### **Housekeeper**

Gayle Carroll

#### **Caretakers**

Chris Burley (Our Lady of Mercy)  
Lauchie MacDougall (St. Joseph)  
Teena Burley - (St. Joseph)  
Mike Potvin - (St. Benedict)

## December 2, 2018 1st Sunday of Advent



1st Sunday in Advent

### THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

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### Deanery Celebration for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception VIGIL MASS

Friday, December 7th at 7pm

**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish**  
(895 Champlain Rd., Sarnia)



All are invited to join the choir for this special celebration in our deanery. There will be a choir practice prior to the Mass at 5:45pm in the St. Thomas Aquinas parish hall.

A time of fellowship will follow the Mass. A special collection will be taken up for Lambton Right to Life.

### Sacramental

**Baptism...** Parents must be registered members at one of our parishes.

Preparation class is mandatory.

#### **Scheduled Baptism Dates:**

St. Benedict, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph: 1st Sunday of the month.

#### **First Communion & Confirmation...**

These sacraments will take place according to church calendar. Please check the bulletin for notices on preparation, registration and set dates. If your child does not attend a catholic school, please notify the parish. Preparation is mandatory.

#### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

**(R.C.I.A.)...** Classes are set from September to Pentecost. For more information or to register please call the parish office.

**Marriage...** About 1 year advance notice is appreciated. One of the applicants being married must be a member of one of our cluster parishes. Please contact the parish office to fill out a marriage registration form. Marriage Prep Course is mandatory.

#### **Care & Anointing of the Sick...**

Holy Communion is brought regularly to parishioners that are homebound, in nursing homes, and hospitals. Please notify the parish office if you know of someone that is in need of receiving holy communion. For the Anointing of the Sick please contact the parish office.

Note: In order to receive sacraments when in hospital or continuous care facilities, please inform the facility's administration of your Catholic faith.


**Funeral...** After your initial contact with the funeral home, please contact the parish office for mass preparation. (Pre-planning is encouraged.)



SVDP Food Bank & Help Center  
228 Davis St. ~ 519-337-1058  
Mon/Wed 11-3 & Fri 1-4



Our Lady of Mercy Cemetery & Resurrection Cemetery & Crematorium  
1885 London Line, Sarnia, Ontario  
519-542-2623 ~ [www.catholiccemeteries.on.ca](http://www.catholiccemeteries.on.ca)  
Family Service Advisors: Jennifer Siklosi & Tiffanie Vancoillie

Weekday Masses & Intentions	Pray For	Meetings & Happenings
<p><b>St. Benedict</b>  <u>Tues. Dec. 4 - 6:30pm</u>                      Iole Tote (Family)                      Thomas Thomson (Wife Fran Thomson)                      Manuel Evarista Ferreira (Alex &amp; Fatima Bettencourt)  <b>Thurs. Dec. 6 - Landmark N.H. - 10am</b>                      Domingos Correia (Maria Correia &amp; Sons)                      Gerhard Neumaier (Dr. Michael O'Mahony &amp; Staff)                      William Jacques (John &amp; Pat Wiggins)  <b>Thurs. Dec. 6 - 6:30pm</b>                      Ken Ladouceur (Louise &amp; Family)                      Kristin Detailleur (Willi &amp; Pieter Kole)                      Mary Frankovic (Joe &amp; Mary Bubas)</p>	<p><b>Our prayers and sympathy to the family of...</b>   † Ines Gagliardi  <i>May she and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.</i></p> <p><b>Diocesan ministers to pray for</b>                      ~ Mrs. Rebecca Bondy, Pstrl Min/Coord Yth Min                      ~ Rev. Robert Champagne                      ~ Miss Janet Loo, Liturgical Facilitator/Director of Music                      ~ Rev. Dwayne Adam                      ~ Rev. Robert Weaver                      ~ Deacon Lyle LaLonge                      ~ Rev. Bernard Pinsonneault, C.S.B.</p>	<p><b>St. Benedict</b>                      Dec. 2 4:30 pm - Confirmation Class                      4 6:00 pm - KC Exec Mtg                      7:00 pm - KC Gen Mtg                      7:00 pm - CWL Exec Mtg                      5 6:30 pm - RCIA Class                      6 6:00 pm - Catholic Girls League                      7:00 pm - Cenacle Mtg                      7 7:00 pm - Card Night                      9 10:30 am - 1st Reconciliation Class</p> <p><b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>                      Dec. 4 6:15 pm - KC Exec Mtg                      7:00 pm - KC 1429 Gen Mtg                      5 11:30 am - Perpetual Help Devotions                      6:00 pm - Bldg/Prop Comm Mtg                      7:00 pm - Alpha Mtg                      7:00 pm - Choir Practice</p>
<p><b>St. Joseph</b>  <u>Wed. Dec. 5 - 9:30am</u>                      Joanne Bernier (Jean-Robert Bernier)                      Domingos Correia (Maria Correia &amp; Sons)                      Julia &amp; Silvestre Jeronimo &amp; Family (Maria Teixeira)  <u>Sat. Dec. 8 - 9:30am</u>                      Domingos Correia (Maria Correia &amp; Sons)                      Michael Palko (Joe &amp; Liz Palko)                      Mary Santavy (Donna Greenwood)</p>	<p><b>Please pray for our sick</b>                      Fran Thomson, Pat Cuthbert, Jennifer Ennett, Carol Haley, Trish Stack, Blessa Hindley, Mary Stanford, Fran LaChance, Athena Fowler, Maria Cabral, Pat Daye, George Mathieson, Joan Baley, Jackie Detailleur, Terri &amp; Baby Brandon, Rev. Paul Smith, Don Desjardins, Shawna Paradis, Frank Power, Dawn Harris, Armine Dennie, Tyler Manzon, Sandro Manzon, Grace Gauci, Bill Dunlop, Ally Wodham, Teresa Allum, Judy Bandura, Thelma Brost, Fr. Nick Marro, Joan Bunyan, Emaline Rideout, Louise Jovic, Shirley Serratore, June Shepherd, Pauline Mino, Jackie Dunlop, Fatima Ortins, Lena Rattigan, Arlene Fader, Marcella Horodyski, Mary Bigras, Cindy Phillips, John Christopher Hummell, Anna Schincariol, Rod McKinnon, Penny Koziol, Evelyn Vollrath, Yari &amp; Dan Lynch, Cheryl Kelly, Joseph Dias, Rose Hayes Marcy, Eleanor Bruner, Mariamma Jacob, Jackie Croskery, Moira Spowart, Gaetane Hache, Luba Pelletier, James Fader, Pamela Cunningham, Yvonne LeBeau, Claude Lalonde, Pat Foster, Jean-Marie Labrie, Averi Durocher.</p>	<p><b>St. Joseph</b>                      Dec. 5 10:00 am - Perpetual Help Devotions                      7 7:00 pm - EF Latin Mass                      8 10am-12pm - Advent Confessions</p>
<p><b>Our Lady of Mercy</b>  <u>Mon. Dec. 3 - 12:10</u>                      Ernesto Cocozzoli (Wife Maria &amp; Family)                      Manuel DeAlmeida (Wife &amp; Family)                      Vittorio Spina &amp; Spina Family (Family)  <u>Tues. Dec. 4 - 12:10</u>                      Jose Ortins (Maria &amp; Daughters)                      John Amaral (Maria &amp; Sons)                      Domingos Correia (Maria Correia &amp; Sons)  <u>Wed. Dec. 5 - 12:10</u>                      Anne Chrapko (Marianne Clift)                      Gilbert Macedo (Wife Maria, Carlos &amp; Jeanette, David &amp; Annabella &amp; Grandchildren)                      Homer Phillion (Family)  <u>Thurs. Dec. 6 - 12:10</u>                      Souls in Purgatory (Manuel Aguiar)                      Celestino Almeida (Natalia Rego)                      Amorim &amp; Maria Machado (Maria Amaral)  <u>Fri. Dec. 7 - 12:10</u>                      Helen Hvizdos (Karol &amp; Helen Bartos)                      Souls in Purgatory (Longo Family)                      John Pendergast (Mallon Family)</p>		<p><b>Perpetual Help Devotions - Wednesdays</b>                      Our Lady of Mercy Church - 11:30 am</p> <p><b>Perpetual Help Devotions - Wednesdays</b>                      St. Joseph Church - following 9:30 mass</p> <p><b>Exposition/Devotions - 1st Fridays</b>                      Our Lady of Mercy Church - 11 am</p> <p><b>Card Night - 1st Fridays</b>                      St. Benedict Church Hall - 7 pm</p> <p><b>Meat Bingo - 1st &amp; 3rd Thursdays</b>                      Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall - 7 pm</p> <p><b>Soup Social - 2nd &amp; 4th Wednesdays</b>                      Our Lady of Mercy Hall - 12:30 pm</p> <p><b>Sat. Parish BBQ / Sun. Parish Breakfast</b>                      3rd Sat/Sun St. Benedict Church Hall (after Mass)</p> <p><b>Children's Sunday Liturgy:</b>                      Our Lady of Mercy: 9am Mass (ages 3-7)                      St. Benedict: 10am Mass (ages 3-7)                      St. Joseph: 11am Mass (JK to grade 2)</p>

**Note: NO Parish Meat Bingo or Soup Social at OLM in December due to Christmas activities.**

Nov. 25/18	St. Joseph	OLM	St. Benedict
Sunday	\$1375.00	\$2783.00	\$3979.00
Loose	79.30	326.25	541.45
Pre-Authorized	<u>323.21</u>	<u>608.77</u>	<u>964.38</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1777.51</b>	<b>\$3718.02</b>	<b>\$5484.83</b>

*Thank you for your generous support of our parishes.*

 **By the Waters of Baptism we welcome...**  
 Luka Joyes

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**



**CWL Membership Dues REMINDER!**

We continue to **collect renewals** and **invite** ladies of our clustered churches to **consider joining** the Catholic Women's League. Being a member, allows our voices be joined with Women across Canada, to up hold our Catholic values, and fighting for life and family. If you wish to support us, but cannot be active at the moment, please consider taking out an inexpensive yearly membership of \$25. Special CWL envelopes are found in your church envelope box set under the month of November. Extra envelopes are also available at church entrances; or you can use a plain envelope and mark on it: **CWL, your parish, your name, address, phone number/email.**

**CWL Christmas Potluck**

Hosted this year by St. Joseph CWL Ladies!!

When: Monday, Dec. 10

Where: St. Joseph Church Hall

Time: 5:30pm mass with dinner to follow

All Ladies are asked to bring a favorite dish to share and a donation of men's toiletries including undergarments and socks for the Men's homes and/or jars of peanut butter and boxes of crackers for St. Vincent De Paul.

We look forward to sharing an evening of fellowship and thanksgiving for all our efforts in supporting our cluster parish and ministries we support.

**St. Benedict CWL**

On Tuesday evening, December 4, following the 6:30pm Mass, Fr. Steve Saval will do the installation of the new executive (2019 & 2020) for the Catholic Women's League and the Catholic Girl's League. The CWL will hold their Executive Meeting following the installation.

**Our Lady of Mercy CWL - Craftmoon Tea Thank You**

To everyone a big THANK YOU, who supported our fundraiser for the Catholic Missions in Canada. Once again we will be sending a generous donation to support their annual "Christmas wishes" list. Thank you to all the hard working volunteers. Without you we would not be able to make these "Wishes" come true for the dedicated men and women of our Catholic Missions in Canada. Thank you to our generous donors for the door prizes. Winners:

- Barbara Shaw—Wine Kit
- Betty Penhale—Wooden Nativity
- Brenda Stack—Tea Holder Candles
- Pat Gleason—Place Mats
- Mary Lou Phippen—Couch Potato
- Mrs. Leay—Christmas Car & Ornament
- Janet Tait—Floral Arrangement
- Ethel Shortt—Perfume Basket
- Mrs. Hames—50/50 Draw Winner

*Thank you and  
a Blessed Christmas!  
Co-Convenors,  
Patricia Sloan &  
Elsie Seward*

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



**Keep Christ in Christmas** - Catholic themed Christmas Cards and Car Magnets are available at the parish offices.

**3D Nativity Scenes** - \$135 - approx size 4 ft x 4 ft x 4 ft.



A base, either plywood or 2x4 is optional for another \$10. **BOOK YOUR ORDERS NOW.** First Come First Served until mid December 2018. A Keep Christ in Christmas initiative of the Knights of Columbus. Please contact: Jerry

Weerdenburg-Text or Phone 226-886-1712.

**St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church**

**Annual Christmas Bazaar**

For Perogies, Cabbage Rolls, Baking & more please visit St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 1055 Rosedale Ave. on **Sat. Dec. 8 from 9 am to 1 pm.**

Please visit our website and Facebook pages for more info: <https://kofc1429.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/KofC1429/>

**St. Benedict Council 11164**

**Tues. Dec. 4** - Executive and General meetings - Ch Hll Executive - 6:15pm and general following evening mass.

**Fri. Dec. 7** - Annual Christmas Pot Luck Supper and Card Night, church hall. Supper at 5:30pm and cards at 7pm. For more information contact Gene or Bev O'Connell 519-336-9257. Bring your favorite dish and join in the fun.

**Thank You** to everyone who came out and supported our November Breakfast and Barbecue. Special thanks to the students and parents of St. Matthew's School who assisted with this fund raiser for their 2019 Muskoka Woods camping trip. After expenses, we hope to make a \$500 donation to their fund raising committee.

We will **not be holding** a December Breakfast or Barbecue due to many other events being held.

**Keep Christ in Christmas** car magnets and lawn signs are available after weekend masses. Ideas to **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS:** use religious themed Christmas cards; use special Christmas religious stamps; use the phrase Merry Christmas; include a spiritual theme in outdoor displays which might include a manger scene. We know this season has become too commercialized. Let's make an effort to return to the true meaning of Christmas especially for our younger generations.

KofC MEMBERS: 2019 dues are payable December. Please pay at the Dec. 4th meeting or place your dues in an envelope marked **11164 St. Benedict KofC Dues.** Please include your name, address, phone number and e-mail and place it in the weekend collection basket.



**ADVENT CONFESSION TIMES**

**Saturday, Dec. 8**

**Saturday, Dec. 15**

**Saturday, Dec. 22**

**St. Joseph's - 10:00am-12noon**

**Our Lady of Mercy - 10:30am-2:30pm**

**St. Benedict - 12:00noon-5:00pm**

**Christmas Memorial Flower Donations**

Envelopes are available at church entrances for anyone who would like to make a flower donation in memory of a loved one. Please fill out the information on the envelope and return it in the weekend collection basket, or to the parish office **by Mon. Dec. 17**. If donating by cheque please make payable to your parish. Donations will be included in year-end tax receipts.



**SVDP Christmas Giving Tree - Dec. 1/2 Weekend**



Once again we ask for your help to purchase Christmas gifts for children less fortunate in our community. These gifts will be included with the Christmas hampers.

**St. Benedict & Our Lady of Mercy:** tags can be found on Christmas trees set up at the churches this weekend **Dec. 1/2**. **St. Joseph:** tags will be available at church entrances.

If you would like to purchase a gift for a child we ask that you **please return your gift next weekend, Dec. 8/9 with their tags secured to them**. Gifts can be placed under the Christmas Giving Tree.

**At St. Joseph Church**, gifts can be placed in the designated boxes at the back of the church.

**Please return your gift on time so that no child goes without a gift. Thank you once again for your support.**

**Help Needed With St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers**

The St. Vincent de Paul is in need of assistance in preparing Christmas hampers on

**Tuesday, Dec. 4 from 9am-12 noon at Our Lady of Mercy Hall**

Assistance is needed to sort cans, make up the Christmas hampers and lift heavy boxes.

If you are able to help please call Rose Knight 519-344-7279 .

Thank you for participating in this ministry to the poor during the Christmas season.



Joy-Full Socks is a Christmas campaign that is an easy and fun way to give to those less fortunate in our community. There is such a great need for life's basic necessities like warm socks and grooming products. That is where Joy-Full Socks can help. We are asking for the donation of one

pair of warm socks; men's, women's, or children's, filled with age and gender appropriate grooming products. Grooming products may include soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, razors, lotion, brushes, combs, etc. You can fill the socks and tie them together with a ribbon. You can fill a Christmas stocking with the socks and products and some have put the whole donation in a gift bag. Others have even added a small gift. Donations will be collected and then delivered to St. Vincent De Paul, the River City Vineyard and Circles and possibly the HUB. **Please bring in your "Joy-Full Socks" by Sunday, Dec. 9 and place it in the designated boxes at church entrances.** *Thank you, Cynthia Cassidy Van Dyke*

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Candlelight Service**

**Thursday, December 13 at 5:30pm**

**Resurrection Cemetery - Mausoleum**



Candles will be provided for the lighting ceremony.

Non perishable food donations will be accepted.

Seating is available. All are welcome!

**Thanksgiving Appeal Thank-You**

Last month, our parish took up our annual Thanksgiving Appeal. Father Savel and the parish team would like to offer a sincere Thank-You to everyone who supported our collection. Together, the people of our parish, together with those all across the Diocese of London, are united in the incredible mission to bring Christ's light to the world.

**Items for sale at the parish office:**

**Religious Christmas Cards - \$8 for 10pk ~ "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets - \$5 ~ 2019 Sunday Missals - \$5**

We also have a display case set up in the parish office with a variety of custom-made rosaries available for purchase.

If you have a rosary that is in need of repair, please contact Kathleen Oatway

226-402-1965 or kp.oatway@yahoo.com, or contact the parish office.



Special thanks go to **Dan Sonier and Jen Brown-Nead** who are stepping down from leading the music for the St. Ben's Sunday night Holy Mass. With their young families it was too much of a commitment. This Sunday (December 2nd) **Aleigha Charette** will take over the Sunday night Mass in addition to Sunday 10 am. Starting this week at 5 pm **Susan Delsnyder and Marie-France Bernier** will be leading the music.

Many people are in the gracious custom of sending **Christmas gifts**, thank you! May I suggest that you take the amount you would have otherwise spent and make a contribution to our parish capital funds this Christmas.

**Welcome to Fr. Louis Mousseau OFM Cap.** who is covering for me. I am a big Buffalo Bills fans and a friend is taking me to a game this week. Considering how poorly their season is going you can tell I am a big fan!

In addition to our normal daily Confession times we do have some **special Advent Penance times: Saturday, December 8 from 10 am to 12 noon at St. Joseph's Church; Saturday, December 15 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at Our Lady of Mercy Church; Saturday December 22 from 12 noon to 5pm at St. Benedict's.** Come and prepare in the penitential season of Advent for the great Solemnity of Christmas!

A couple of weeks ago our **downspouts were stolen** from OLM for their copper. Later that week the cross atop the St. Joe's bell structure we're constructing was almost ripped off. Perhaps the thief realized it was only copper clad wood or someone startled them? Then this past week All Saints Anglican church had their copper downspouts stolen. 35 foot lengths from the ground to the eaves! It is a sad commentary that some have been reduced to such a level in our society.

All are invited to a **special deanery wide Holy Mass on the Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Please join us on Friday December 7th, 7 pm at St. Thomas Aquinas parish. A special collection will be taken up for the Lambton Right to Life.

On **December the 8th the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:** *"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."* — *Catechism of the Catholic Church.* *On the path of Advent shines the star of Mary Immaculate, "a sign of certain hope and comfort" (Lumen Gentium, n. 68). To reach Jesus, the true light, the sun that dispels all the darkness of history, we need light near us, human people who reflect Christ's light and thus illuminate the path to take. And what person is more luminous than Mary? Who can be a better star of hope for us than she, the dawn that announced the day of salvation? (cf. Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, n. 49).* If you are not already praying the Rosary this day is a very fitting day to do so. [www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/prayers/rosary/)

**Advent arrives this Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** With Advent we will start using the **2<sup>nd</sup> Option of the Penitential Act** (*Have mercy on us, O Lord... For we have sinned against you. Show us, O Lord, your mercy... And grant us your salvation*). For the **Mystery of Faith** we will exercise the **2<sup>nd</sup> option:** *"When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free."*

Once again our **grade 7 and 8's will be having an awesome NET** (National Evangelization Team <https://www.netcanada.ca/>) **retreat.** Currently we are looking for **host homes (billeting) 2 or 3 members on Sunday night January 13 and Monday January 14?** Could you help out? Lots more information is available.

Also in the works is our parish mission trip in conjunction with Fr. Slawek, a priest of the Diocese of London serving in Whitehorse. Next year we will be having a **mission trip to the Diocese of Whitehorse, Yukon from May 27 to June 4.** Whitehorse is a sister diocese to London. While in the Yukon we will be helping construct a chapel at the diocesan summer camp. Accommodations will be quite simple! All are welcome but especially those with carpentry and electrical skills. Please let me know if interested in helping. The average temperature for the month of May is a high of 14 degrees with a low of 1 degree. We are going at the end of the month and into June itself! The cost will be approximately \$1000. We are flying out of London on Air Canada. We will have also have one day of cultural touring to Skagway, Alaska through the mountains to the ocean. So far 6 people have registered.

**Christmas Cards for our Military** - When sending out cards this years, take one and send it to this address: Any Canadian Forces Member PO Box 5140 Station Forces Belleville, On K8N 5W6. Brighten the Day of someone that is so far from home and family at this time of year and has dedicated their life to protecting our country.

Help Wanted! Looking for a way to give of yourself? Our parish is looking to **form a social committee**. In the past the Catholic Women's League (CWL) and Knight's of Columbus (KofC) has often taken care of such gatherings like coffee socials. As these groups have become busier and like the rest of us older!, the strain on their members have grown so that they are not always able to do such things. So we are now looking to have a **core group of volunteers willing a few times a year to host small socials occasionally** after Holy Mass. Could you **volunteer to help? So far we have 5 people but could use more**. Volunteers are needed and welcome. For more information or to join this ministry please contact the office.

Help Wanted! Looking for a way to give of yourself? Could you **volunteer to help with shovelling snow in case of a heavy storm?** Our caretakers do a great job but at times we do get really big storms which tax their endurance. If you would be willing to have your name on a list to shovel snow please contact the office.

**Some Church statistics from December 31, 2016** - In the field of education, the Catholic Church runs 72.826 kindergartens with 7.313.370 pupils; 96.573 primary schools with 35.125.124 pupils; 47.862 secondary schools with 19.956.347 pupils. The Church also cares for 2.509.457 high school pupils, and 3.049.548 university students. Charity and healthcare centres run in the world by the Church include: 5.287 hospitals. 15.937 dispensaries. 610 Care Homes for people with Leprosy. 15.722 Homes for the elderly, or the chronically ill or people with a disability. 9.552 orphanages. 11.758 creches. 13.897 marriage counselling centres. 3.506 social rehabilitation centres and 35.746 other kinds of institutions.

**Quote of the week... St. Augustine's Prayer for the Dead:** If you knew the gift of God and what heaven is. If you could hear the song of the angels from here and see me in the midst of them. If you could see unfolding before your eyes the horizons and eternal fields, the new paths where I walk! If, for a moment, you could contemplate as I do the beauty before which all beauties pale. What? You saw me, you loved me in the country of shadows, and you could not see me or love me in the country of immutable realities! Believe me, when death comes to break your bonds as it broke those that chained me and when, on a day that God knows and that He has determined, your soul comes into this heaven where mine has preceded, on that day you will see me again, you will find my affection purified. God forbid that upon entering a happier life, unfaithful to the memories and the true joys of my other life, I became less loving. You will see me again, then transfigured into ecstasy and happiness, no longer awaiting death, but advancing moment to moment with you into new paths of Light and Life. Wipe away your tears, and weep no more if you love me.

In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a woman.... c.f. Galatians 4:4

O Come Divine Messiah! Preparing for Advent and the way of the Lord!

Some thoughts on celebrating better this season.

**Week 1:**

- ❖ **Let Advent be Advent, and Christmas be Christmas.** As best you can avoid beginning Christmas early. December 25<sup>th</sup> is just the beginning of Christmas Season! Also a practical note, if possible come to Mass Christmas Day which is far less crowded than Christmas Eve.
- ❖ **Make use of an Advent calendar**, chocolate or otherwise!
- ❖ **Have a family Advent wreath.** The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the "penitential" Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent.
- ❖ **St. Nicholas Day:** The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop — with his miter, staff, and bag of gifts — will pay a visit. The current "Santa Claus" is modeled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saints book.
- ❖ For a new look at Advent, see the trailer at [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org)

What is God telling me this week?

What is one thing from Mass today that will help me to become a better person this week?

How did I do last week?

Thank you for your support of the parish.

Please remember your parish in your will.

Is there someone you could discuss the Gospel or the homily with? Around the kitchen table? In your family?

Do you have a question or need help with something? Please ask.

Is there anything you think is needed for the parish? Please let us know.

Are you new to the parish? Welcome! Please contact the office to register.

St. Benedict's

CRA Charity Registration Number #11910 9817RR0128

Our Lady of Mercy & St. Joseph's

CRA Charity Registration Number #11910 9817RR0125



Farewell for Deacon Chuck and Kathy Stevens, held November 25 at OLM.  
The pastoral team and Annie Ferrera (PPC head) presented Deacon Chuck with a farewell gift.



### **DEANERY BIBLE STUDY – WHO AM I TO JUDGE**

How do we talk about morality in a world that no longer believes in truth? When we're bombarded with messages of "Be tolerant!" "Don't judge!" and "Coexist!" many good people feel afraid to say anything is right or wrong anymore. This 8-part study program led by Dr. Edward Sri, gives us an important key to responding to relativism effectively—a Catholic moral worldview. Learn how Catholic morality is all about love, how making a judgment is not judging a person's soul, and how, in the words of Pope Francis, "relativism wounds people" and is "the spiritual poverty of our times." This study program gives Catholics greater confidence in God's moral law, greater clarity in how to explain it effectively to our secular friends, and greater compassion for those with whom we disagree.

**WHEN:** Monday evening – 7 PM-8:30 PM – 8 sessions beginning February 4, 2019

**WHERE:** Our Lady of Mercy parish hall

**COST:** \$25 for workbook

**REGISTER:** before December 28<sup>th</sup>

Contact Annie Ferrera for more details or to register: (519) 336-6952/ [a.ferrera@cogeco.ca](mailto:a.ferrera@cogeco.ca)

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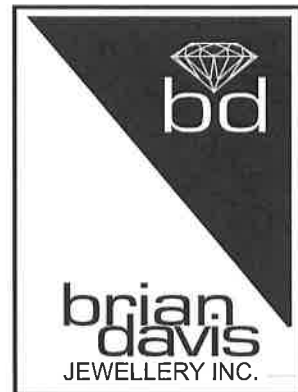
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