

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
Website: 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

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Mateusz Sobierajski, C.S.M.A. - ex. 16
Email: matthews@dol.ca

Deacon

Deacon Lyle LaLonge - ext. 26
Email: llalonge@dol.ca

Pastoral Minister

Leonia Downie - ext. 15
Email: ldownie@dol.ca

Secretaries

Lisa De Sena - ext. 14
Anna Iafrate - 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)

January 6, 2019 The Epiphany of the Lord

FINDING GOD

The splendid magi, all sparkle and dash and solemnity, march right up off the pages of Matthew's Gospel and into our churches today. Matthew alone tells us this grand and seductive story so that we might see the light and know that the child these magi visited is the fulfillment of prophecy, the king of the world that stretches to the magi's home country and beyond, right down the ages to us. We too see and understand anew. Like the magi, our patron saints for this day, we see in the newborn child the king of the universe and light of the world. Like the magi, we find in ourselves a new faith and a new life. Like them, we return to our home by a new route. We are asked to come away from this festive season ourselves renewed and awake to the presence of God among us. We are asked to find God where God is to be found, to be attentive and surprised and ready to bow down in adoration and to offer our gifts.



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Stewardship Reflection...

*"Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."
Matthew 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to embrace. Each of us is called to open our gifts before Jesus, offering Him what He needs. We can remember that we are called to share our gifts by keeping one of the Magi from our Nativity set on our desk or dresser as a year-round reminder to bring our gifts to Jesus.

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
Family Service Advisors: Jennifer Siklosi & Tiffanie Vancoillie

Weekday Masses & Intentions	Pray For	Meetings & Happenings
<p>St. Benedict <u>Tues. Jan. 8 - 6:30pm</u> Mary Frankovic (Mary Kokotec) Kristen Detailleur (Deery Family) Fr. Rick Dales (Mary Thrower)</p> <p><u>Thurs. Jan. 10 - Vision N.H. Mass - 10am</u> Lydia Jaklic (Rachel Lamb) In Honour of St. Joseph (The Parish) Maria Dos Anjos Moniz & Francisco Ferreira) (Daughter Edwarda & Family)</p> <p><u>Thurs. Jan. 10 - 6:30pm</u> Mary Frankovic (Mary Vukobratc & Family) Manuel DaSilva (Ilda Berta & Faustino Raposo) Katherine & Ivan Vukobratc (Mary Vukobratc & Family)</p>	<p>Our prayers and sympathy to the family of...</p> <p> † Ann Puppi † Carl Smith</p> <p><i>May they and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.</i></p> <p>Diocesan ministers to pray for</p> <p>~ Deacon Gary Flewelling ~ Rev. Lawrence Pare ~ Rev. Michael O'Brien ~ Sister Marija Ivic, S.F.B.Z., Pstrl Min ~ Rev. Jozef Denys ~ Rev. Francis Thekkumkattil, C.S.T. ~ Ms. Cathryn Hall, Pstrl Min</p>	<p>St. Benedict</p> <p>Jan. 8 9:00 am - CWL Exec Mtg 10:00 am - CWL Gen Mtg 6:00 pm - KC Exec Mtg 7:00 pm - KC Gen Mtg 7:00 pm - Finance Mtg</p> <p>9 6:30 pm - RCIA Mtg</p> <p>10 7:00 pm - Cenacle Mtg 7:00 pm - Franciscan's Form Mtg</p> <p>13 11:00 am - 1st Reconciliation Class 11:00 am - SVDP Mtg</p>
<p>St. Joseph <u>Wed. Jan. 9 - 9:30am</u> John Williams (Joe & Liz Palko) Mary Santavy (Juanita Kuiack) Joan Nelson (Wayne & Susan Chamberlain)</p> <p><u>Sat. Jan. 12 - 9:30am</u> Eleanor Turner (Mary Mitro & Family) Mary Feener (St. Joseph CWL) Intention of Odette Duggan (LMC)</p>	<p>Please pray for our sick</p> <p>Sonya Smith, Mary Debus, Sheridan Penhale, 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 & 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 & Dan Lynch, Cheryl Kelly, Joseph Dias, Rose Hayes Marcy, Eleanor Bruner, Mariamma Jacob, Jackie Croskery, Moira Spowart, Luba Pelletier, James Fader, Pamela Cunningham, Yvonne LeBeau, Claude Lalonde, Pat Foster, Jean-Marie Labrie, Averi Durocher.</p>	<p>Our Lady of Mercy</p> <p>Jan. 8 6:15 pm - KC Exec Mtg 7:00 pm - KC 1429 Gen Mtg 7:30 pm - St. Rocco Mtg</p> <p>9 11:30 am - Perpetual Help Devotions 12:45 pm - Soup Social 7:00 pm - Alpha Mtg 7:00 pm - Choir Practice</p> <p>11 1:00 pm - Art Group</p>
<p>Our Lady of Mercy <u>Mon. Jan. 7 - 12:10</u> Peter Hilbert (Allan Mearns) Jack O'Rourke (Michael & Janet O'Mahony) Intention of Gerard Villemaire (Ginette)</p> <p><u>Tues. Jan. 8 - 12:10</u> Raffaele Fanelli (Mario & Iole Moscone) Intention of Alexander McKeown (Family) Terence & Iris Coates (Rey & Rose Jusi & CFCFFL)</p> <p><u>Wed. Jan. 9 - 12:10</u> Antonio Mezzatesta (Wife Rosa & Family) Ernie Mitro (Rose, Rey & Maybelle Jusi) Giuliano & Domenica Giovannelli & Anita Tius (Bonifa Dias)</p> <p><u>Thurs. Jan. 10 - 12:10</u> Giovanni Ferrera (Wife Anna & Family) Alfred Guay (Roger & Bev) Margaret Brown & Jean Du Domaine (Joan Naug)</p> <p><u>Fri. Jan. 11 - 12:10</u> Domingos Correia (Maria Correia & Sons) Raffaele Fanelli (Leo & Jocelyn Lara) Anna D'Ippolito (Salvatore & Eilleen Evangelista & Family)</p>	<p>St. Joseph</p> <p>Jan. 8 7:00 pm - CWL Mtg 11:30 am - Perpetual Help Devotions</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Perpetual Help Devotions - Wednesdays Our Lady of Mercy Church - 11:30 am</p> <p>Perpetual Help Devotions - Wednesdays St. Joseph Church - following 9:30 mass</p> <p>Exposition/Devotions - 1st Fridays Our Lady of Mercy Church - 11 am</p> <p>Card Night - 1st Fridays St. Benedict Church Hall - 7 pm</p> <p>Meat Bingo - 1st & 3rd Thursdays Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall - 7 pm</p> <p>Soup Social - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays Our Lady of Mercy Hall - 12:30 pm</p> <p>Sat. Parish BBQ / Sun. Parish Breakfast 3rd Sat/Sun St. Benedict Church Hall (after Mass)</p> <p>Children's Sunday Liturgy: 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>	<p>St. Vincent de Paul Meeting Sunday, January 13 St. Benedict Church - Mtg Rm Immediately after the 10am mass. All are welcome.</p>

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE



CWL Membership Dues Reminder

2019 CWL Dues (\$25) continue to be accepted until mid February. Envelopes are available in your church envelope box set, at church entrances, or you can use a plain envelope and mark on it CWL, your parish, your name, address, and phone number. Thank you to those who have renewed, and welcome to our new members.

Our Lady of Mercy CWL

The OLM CWL is collecting all used postage stamps. Please leave them on the desk at the parking lot entrance at OLM or bring to the parish office. For more info please call 519-383-7541.

St. Joseph CWL

CWL meeting - Tues. Jan. 8 at 7pm, Earl's Room
All members are welcome.

St. Benedict CWL

General Meeting - Tues. Jan. 8 at 10am, Church Hall
Executive will meet at 9am before the General Mtg.

ALPHA

Do you know someone, who has been away from the Church for a while and is searching for answers? Extend the invitation to **Alpha, Wednesday, Jan 23rd at Our Lady of Mercy hall**. It is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. It's just an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's big questions together. More at Alpha.SarniaCatholic.ca

If you want to help us run Alpha, contact Theresa Doyle (tmldoyle@gmail.com) or Fr. Matthew (matthews@dol.ca).

We are looking for help with preparing the supper and welcoming the guests. All are welcome!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



St. Benedict Council 11164

Tues. Jan. 8 - Executive and General meetings in the parish hall. Executive: 6:15pm and General after 6:30 evening Mass.

Sun. Jan. 20 - Parish Breakfast, following 10am Mass. Proceeds will be used for several ongoing council projects. Thank you for your support!



Note: Parish Barbecue in January is cancelled and looking to warmer weather to decide if will resume.

Sat. Jan. 26 - KC Annual Basketball Free Throw at Holy Trinity School Gym. Registration: 8am. Winner will advance to the District Finals in February. All schools within our parish boundaries have received a package of qualifying details for entering the tournament. Anyone interested should contact their school for details.

Fri. Feb. 1 - Next Card Night, 7pm, parish hall.

2019 KofC Membership - dues are payable now. Please place your dues in an envelope and mark St. Benedict KofC Council 11164, 2019 Dues, Att: John Ramsay. Also, include your name, address, email address, and phone number. Please place your envelope in the weekend collection basket. For men wanting to join our growing ranks, information is available in church pamphlet racks, or speak to any council member.

Parish Ministries



Are you looking for a parish ministry to contribute to? Why not consider ministering to those in our nursing homes. We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers for Afton Park Nursing Home. This only requires about one hour of time for one Thursday morning each month. Training provided. If interested, please contact the parish office and leave your name and contact information.

2019 Envelope Box Sets

Reminder: those who have not yet picked up their envelope box set for 2019, they are located at the church entrance, including box sets for auto-debit users with special collection envelopes. Please check the label on your box set to ensure the information is correct. If you are an envelope user but were not issued a box set, please contact the office.

****PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR 2018 OR PREVIOUS YEAR ENVELOPES AS SOME ENVELOPE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN REASSIGNED.**

Pre-Authorized Debit

If you would like your weekly Sunday offering changed to monthly automatic withdrawal, please contact the parish office. Whether you choose to give with an envelope or pre-authorized debit, **THANK YOU** for your support!

Tax Receipts

Tax receipts will be ready for pick up at church entrances at the **end of February**.

Sarnia Deanery Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel (Location: Our Lady of Mercy Hall)

Adorers are needed for the following hours:



Sun. 7-8am; 9-10am 12-1pm; 2-3pm; 5-6pm; 7-8pm; 10-11pm

Thurs. 7-8am; 8-9pm; 9-10pm

Mon. 7-8am; 8-9am; 3-4pm; 6-7pm; 10-11pm

Fri. 10-11am; 2-3pm; 4-5pm; 8-9pm; 10-11pm

Tues. 7-8am; 8-9am; 11am-12pm; 4-5pm; 5-6pm; 7-8pm

Sat. 9-10am; 11-12am; 12-1pm; 4-5pm; 5-6pm; 6-7pm; 8-9pm

Wed. 7-8am; 8-9am

If you are able to commit to any of these hours, please contact Eufrazio Pinto 519-336-0192.

Mass Intentions

In the bulletin every Sunday you have probably noticed the **Mass Intentions** listed with the daily Masses. If you have attended a weekday Mass you have also probably heard the intentions of the Mass being spoken. On Sundays, according to Diocesan law, the Masses are offered for the intentions of all our parishioners. Masses can be offered for either the living or the dead (repose of their soul). **Having a Mass offered for someone is the greatest single thing we could ever do for them.** The person is united through the Holy Spirit to the Sacrifice of Christ on the altar of the Cross in offering to the Father. St. Pope John Paul II the Great wrote (Ecclesia de Eucharistia #43):

"In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church prays that God, the Father of mercies, will grant His children the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they may become one body and one spirit in Christ. In raising this prayer to the Father of lights, from whom comes every good endowment and every perfect gift, the Church believes that she will be heard, for she prays in union with Christ her Head and Spouse, who takes up this plea of His Bride and joins it to His own redemptive sacrifice."

Occasions for Offering Mass and Giving Mass Cards - People regularly have a Mass offered for someone on the anniversary of their death or their birthday. People will also frequently have Mass intentions offered for someone alive on the occasion of special milestones in their life or if there is a particular need or special intention.

A Mass card, also known as a Mass offering card, memorial card or a remembrance card, is a greeting card given to someone to let them know that they, or a deceased loved-one, will be remembered and prayed for in the intentions at a Mass.

How do I arrange to have a Mass offered? You are welcome to come to the parish office during regular office hours (Monday-Friday) to arrange a Mass intention and book a special date if needed. The Mass offering is \$10.

The Mass is the greatest spiritual thing that we could do for another person. It is a gift that we cannot imagine the benefits of. The practice of having Masses offered goes back at least as far as the 2nd century in the catacombs of Rome. St. Ambrose (d. 397) said it so beautifully, **"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord."**

Offertory Collections - Thank you for your generous support of our parishes.

Dec. 23	St. Joseph	OLM	St. Benedict	Dec. 25	St. Joseph	OLM	St. Benedict
Reg Env	\$1,655.00	\$2,671.00	\$4,949.25	Reg Env	\$ 215.00	\$ 815.00	\$ 982.00
Loose	25.29	264.86	587.40	Christmas	2,040.00	5,555.00	6,701.00
Christmas	140.00	1,227.00	885.00	Christmas Loose	<u>1,003.33</u>	<u>852.75</u>	<u>1,971.00</u>
Auto Debit	<u>323.21</u>	<u>608.77</u>	<u>964.38</u>	Total	\$3,258.33	\$7,222.75	\$9,654.00
Total	\$2,143.50	\$4,771.63	\$7,386.03				

Dec. 30	St. Joseph	OLM	St. Benedict	Jan. 1	St. Joseph	OLM	St. Benedict
Reg Env	\$1,225.00	\$2,276.00	\$3,501.00	Reg Env	\$	\$ 245.00	\$1,129.00
Loose	80.21	237.50	207.00	Christmas		150.00	50.00
Initial	10.00	40.00		NYD	710.00	1,290.00	1,930.00
Christmas	170.00	340.00	587.00	NYD Loose	99.75	241.00	308.35
NYD	15.00	220.00		Initial	<u>100.00</u>	<u>396.00</u>	<u>1,006.00</u>
Auto Debit	<u>323.21</u>	<u>608.77</u>	<u>964.38</u>	Total	\$ 909.75	\$2,322.00	\$4,423.35
Total	\$1823.42	\$3,722.27	\$5,259.38				



We have been trying our best to make the best use of your generous gifts for the support of the parish. In December we were able to send more money to deposit with the Diocese of London. As of year end we were able to **reduce St. Joseph's debt to \$94,313.45**. This is actually owed to OLM. **OLM itself has accumulated savings of \$277,594.09**. This is positive as we are **planning to spend \$1/2 Million in the second phase of the OLM exterior work**. Finally **St. Benedict has savings of \$278, 202.29**.

With Deacon Chuck being transferred to Corunna we have had to adjust our **liturgy schedule for the priest's and Deacon Lyle**. **Thanks to Deacon Lyle for making up the schedule**. It is a little more complicated now something which I discovered on New Year's Eve when both Deacon Lyle and I were prepared to preach! He graciously deferred to me.

I just finished reading **Brant Pitre's The Case for Jesus: The Biblical and Historical Evidence for Christ**. This is an excellent book which I learned much from. Brant Pitre explains well the origins of the Gospels showing that two of them are in fact biographies of Apostles (Saints Matthew and John) and the others were disciples of two Biblical figures (Saint Mark being a disciple, Saint Peter and Saint Luke a follower of Saint Paul). Despite a trend for the past century amongst scholars showing later dating and anonymous authorship, more contemporary researching is reinforcing the long held origins and authority of the Gospels. Highly recommended.

Visiting the Vatican has never been so easy. Students and experts from Villanova's faculty have spent the last decade on a project that re-creates some of the most astounding Vatican and Roman sites for 3D digital tours. The gallery of tours — which currently includes St. Peter's Basilica, St. John Lateran, St. Paul-Outside-The-Walls, The Sistine Chapel, and the Vatican Necropolis — is made available on the Vatican website, free to use by anyone with a computer or mobile device. See http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/index_en.html Noted from <https://aleteia.org/>

You may notice that there is now an old marble crucifix atop **the tabernacle at OLM**. A parishioner requested asking to make the tabernacle more pronounced as is fitting of the Lord's Eucharistic Real Presence. The old marble crucifix was probably at one time already in the church. This is a good reminder for us to bestow the greatest reverence and piety towards the Blessed Sacrament.

On January 7th the Church in Canada celebrates the **Memorial of St. (Brother) Andre Bessette (1845-1937)** the 'miracle worker of Montreal'. Following Mass a blessing with St. Joseph's (from the Oratory of Montreal) will be available.

This Sunday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Epiphany is the **manifestation of Jesus as Messiah** of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the **neighbouring pagan religions**, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation (Catechism #528)." Pope Benedict said: "The light that shone in the night at Christmas illuminating the Bethlehem Grotto, where Mary, Joseph and the shepherds remained in silent adoration, shines out today and is manifested to all. The Epiphany is a **mystery of light, symbolically suggested by the star that guided the Magi on their journey**. The true source of light, however, the "sun that rises from on high", is Christ. In the mystery of Christmas, Christ's light shines on the earth, spreading, as it were, in concentric circles. First of all, it shines on the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Virgin Mary and Joseph are illuminated by the divine presence of the Infant Jesus. The light of the Redeemer is then manifested to the shepherds of Bethlehem, who, informed by an Angel, hasten immediately to the grotto and find there the "sign" that had been foretold to them: the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. The shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, represent that "remnant of Israel," the poor, the anawim, to whom the Good News was proclaimed. Finally, Christ's brightness shines out, reaching the Magi who are the first-fruits of the pagan peoples. . . . The Magi worshipped a simple Child in the arms of his Mother Mary, because in him they recognized the source of the twofold light that had guided them: **the light of the star and the light of the Scriptures**. In him they recognized the King of the Jews, the glory of Israel, but also the King of all the peoples." (2006 01 06). One Epiphany custom is to **bless the family home**. To bless your home pick up a piece of **blessed chalk and the prayer ritual** on the piece of paper at the entrance to the Church.

Next Sunday is the **Baptism of the Lord** and we will be using the **sprinkling** rite to recall our Baptism.

Quote of the week... "Whoever really loves his partner loves not only for what he receives, but loves that partner for the partner's own sake, content to be able to enrich the other with the gift of himself." Pope St. Paul VI (Humanae Vitae)

CD spotlight. Check out our display of Catholic CD's. The display is located near the handicap washroom at St. Benedict. At OLM they are in the hallway near the entrance of the Baptismal Font. While at St. Joseph's they are by the bulletin board near the front entrance. The cost is \$4/CD. You can also **download** all of these talks through the mp3 download of the month: <http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/mp3club> The latest CD is Canadian **Hudson Byblow** **In Pursuit of my Identity: Homosexuality, Transgenderism, and My Life.** This is a very good and moving personal testimony which is also very faithful.

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. Please contact the parish office.

Youth Ministry Certification - Finally, after 5 years without there being a good option to obtain a Certificate in Youth Ministry, there is some great news to share! The Diocese of London has partnered with the Catechetical Institute at the Franciscan University of Steubenville to provide for the training of those interested in Youth Ministry. This program will be the expected standard for those who desire to work as a Coordinator of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of London. Additionally, anyone can participate in the workshops to enrich their existing ministries. More information is available at www.dol.ca/ymcertification

Learn for Life Series - No papers, no exams, just learn for Life! Assumption University invites you to register for the Learn For Life 2019 Winter/Spring courses at www.assumptionu/learnforlife. Upcoming topics include An Introduction to the Health Care Ethics Guide, Religion and Politics, and a study of the Pope's encyclical, Laudato Si'.

Retrouvaille Program - You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry at each other? Do you argue... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the program, or to register for the February program beginning with a weekend on Feb. 1 – 3, 2019, please phone 519-243-0687, email retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Continuing Education in the Catholic Faith - Registration is now open at St. Peter's Seminary for those interested in auditing a course or taking one for credit. This year's selected topic is Women and the Bible, taught by Scripture scholar Professor Andrea Di Giovanni on Wednesday evenings, 7 – 10 pm, beginning Jan. 9, 2019, and ending on April 3, 2019. To register, please email jo-ann.bester@uwo.ca or phone 519.432.1824. Descriptions for this and other courses, class times, and instructors can be found at www.stpetersseminary.ca/Programs/Theology--Timetables-&-Course-Outlines/Theology--2nd-Semester-/34. Further information can also be obtained by contacting Dr. Bernardine Ketelaars at bgketela@uwo.ca.

An Evening with Dr. Edward Sri - The Family and Youth Ministry outreach office is pleased to welcome Dr. Sri to spend an evening with us on Friday, Jan. 18, 2019, at Visitation Parish, Comber. Ticket information can be found at www.dol.ca/drsri. Dr. Edward Sri is a theologian, author and well-known Catholic speaker who appears regularly on EWTN. Each year, he speaks to clergy, parish leaders, catechists, and laity from around the world.

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

Some thoughts on Godparents and Sponsors

Many of us have been given the honour of being a **godparent** (i.e. Baptism) or **sponsor** (i.e. Confirmation). This honour brings with it **responsibilities** too. What is expected of us? We are to help the person to receive the Sacrament, to assist them to live a Christian life and to fulfill their own duties that come from receiving Baptism or Confirmation. We become like a 'spiritual guardian' to someone special to us and we should be praying for them daily.

The basic **requirements** to be a godparent or sponsor are to have been fully initiated into the Church (Baptized, Confirmed, Confessed and to have received Holy Communion), to be living out the life of faith and to be at least 16 years old (Code of Canon Law 872-874)

Practically this means that godparents/sponsors should be faithful members of the Church, attending Mass on Sundays (including Saturday nights), who receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance. They should be living a **moral** life worthy of imitation, keeping the Ten Commandments and following the Precepts of the Church. Godparents/sponsors should be people of **virtue** able to encourage the person they are helping to live the Christian life. They should also be able to **give guidance in the faith** to their godchild by word and example.

Let us choose wisely who would be a good godparent/sponsor. We should choose someone who is willing and able to fulfill their duty as a godparent/sponsor. A practical suggestion for godparents and sponsors is to spiritually mark the anniversary of the day of the Baptism/ Confirmation with that special person in some way. May we also live out our own responsibilities as a godparent/sponsor.

THE DAILY DECALOGUE OF POPE ST. JOHN XXIII

- 1) Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
- 2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
- 3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.
- 4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.
- 5) Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.
- 6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.
- 7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.
- 8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.
- 9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good Providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.
- 10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

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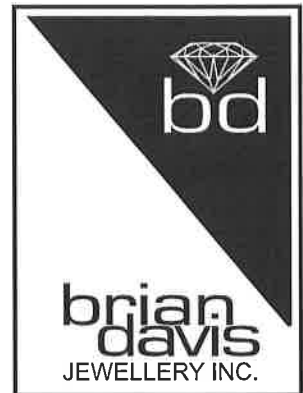
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