



ST. GEORGE

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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***Rooted in Christ, we are called as servant leaders
to build a thriving and inclusive parish family
reaching out with compassion and love to all,
bearing witness to the Good News.***



Parish Ministry Directory

SEPTEMBER 2014

Dear Parishioner,

Through the gift of our baptism, God has bestowed upon us many talents and gifts that are called to be shared to proclaim the Good News of salvation.



Through prayer and reflection, Christ calls us to share and serve one another, the parish community and the world. In this way we embrace and respond to our mission which is guided by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

This Parish Ministry Directory describes the many different pastoral, social, youth, liturgical, outreach and spiritual ministries that take place in the parish. My hope is that everyone takes time to look through the various ministries to see where God is calling you.

Once you have decided to offer your gifts in a particular ministry or if you want more information, please contact the parish office. The staff will offer more detailed information and direct you to the appropriate ministry leader. They can also assist you if you are unsure where you would like to serve and how God is calling you.

Once again, we remember that we are called to be servant leaders (disciples) of Christ helping to build a thriving and compassionate parish always witnessing to the Good News. May we open our hearts and respond to God's invitation.

Let's celebrate and rejoice in the gift of our lives !!

Fr. John Jasica
Pastor

Liturgical Ministries

Liturgical ministries are key components in how we as a parish community celebrate our faith together. Those who fulfill these ministries allow the parish to truly celebrate the sacraments, especially the Eucharist drawing ourselves closer to God and to one another.



WEEKEND, FUNERAL & FAMILY ALTAR SERVERS

This ministry is required at all of our weekend liturgies in addition to our funeral celebrations. Pope John Paul II said, *“You are far more than mere helpers of the parish priest. Above all, you are servants of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest.”* This is open to all adults and youth beginning in grade 2. In addition to individuals signing up to serve at Mass, we also invite families to serve together – parents with their children. Funeral altar servers are also needed during the day to support families mourning the loss of a loved one. These servers are all adults. Training is provided. Fun activities & special gatherings take place throughout the year for our youth & family servers.

“Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful song.”
Psalm 100



CHOIRS – Weekend & Funerals

Singing and music adds so much to all of our liturgical celebrations. The choir ministry is open to everyone who has an open heart and a willingness to offer themselves in service. All the weekend Masses include various styles and instruments. Practices take place regularly during the week (call the parish for details). The Funeral Choir sings at our funeral Masses and rehearses 30 minutes prior to the celebration.

“He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’” Luke 4:16-21

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY



The hallmark of a thriving and faith-filled parish is hospitality. From the moment one enters the building it is essential that we welcome each person as a member of our family. The Ministers of Hospitality offer a warm welcome, direction and information when required and make each person feel truly part of the parish community. This ministry is divided into three categories – **GREETER** (welcoming people in the narthex), **WELCOME DESK** (offering general information, Mass cards, parish registration) and **USHER** (assisting in the worship space in addition to gathering the collection & presenting the gifts at Mass) Training is provided. You may sign up for 1 or all 3 of these distinct ministries.

LECTORS & COMMENTATORS

This ministry is open to all parishioners beginning with students in grade 9. The Commentator is responsible for the welcome, announcing hymns, offering the Prayers of the Faithful and important information while the Lector proclaims the Word of God. The Liturgy of the Word is the time during Mass in which we reflect on how God speaks to us through the Sacred Scriptures. Training and annual workshops are offered to support this ministry.



EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS



This appointed ministry invites parishioners to assist in the distribution of communion during our weekend liturgies. It is open to all parishioners beginning with students in grade 9. Special care, training and preparation are required for this ministry. The reception of the Eucharist brings us into the light and love of Christ. Training and regular workshops are provided for on-going support and formation.

"The culmination of the Mass is not consecration, but Communion."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

LIVING ROSARY IN SCHOOLS



The Rosary is one of the most sacred and powerful forms of prayer. This ministry (supported by the parish but operates as a distinct group in the deanery) promotes a devotion to Jesus through Mary by visiting elementary schools in the London District Catholic School Board. Leaders in this ministry teach and share how the rosary helps us in our Christian lives in addition to leading students in prayer. This ministry takes place in a school from October to May, usually one morning a month for one to two hours often at a grade level of the volunteer's choosing. Training and support are offered directly by the organization.

LITURGICAL DESIGN TEAM

This group helps create a powerful and grace filled experience for the faithful by decorating the worship space, narthex, chapel and hall throughout the liturgical year. If you enjoy decorating and/or working with flowers, this ministry is for you. Assistance is always needed.



LITURGY COMMITTEE

This committee meets regularly throughout the year planning for various celebrations and liturgical seasons in addition to addressing all the needs at our liturgical celebrations. This committee works together to make our prayer experiences true encounters of faith and hope with Christ.

Outreach Ministries

Parish Outreach Ministries are opportunities for parish family members to help, assist, support and connect with those in our community who have suffered illness, loss or simply need someone to be there for them. Through these outreach ministries we truly become like Jesus who reached out and healed all those who were in need.

MINISTERS OF COMPASSION

Visiting those who are housebound or have gone through an illness, loss or just needing someone to connect with is vital to the outreach ministry of the parish. Ministers of Compassion are trained ministers who visit and support our parishioners in need on a regular basis. Regular meetings, information sessions and workshops are included in this ministry.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TEAM



Going through the loss of a loved one is very difficult. The parish community, as the body of Christ, is called to support one another. The Bereavement Support Team assists in the planning of funeral celebrations, leads prayer vigils at the funeral home and follows up with the bereaved following the celebrations of life.

Quarterly meetings, workshops and training sessions help support this ministry.

OUTREACH EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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 those who are unable to leave their homes. Through this ministry, those who are housebound stay connected with their parish family.

NURSING HOME MINISTRY

This ministry of prayer, sacrament and presence involves visiting the long term care and retirement homes in the parish boundaries – McCormick Home, Ashwood Manor and Westmount Gardens/Longworth. There are many roles within this ministry that include visiting and praying with the residents, bringing Holy Communion, assisting in the preparation for the monthly Masses, and at different times gathering together to pray the Rosary.



PRAYER LINE



The power of prayer is mighty and it is the role of this group to pray for the sick, housebound, the parish community and those who need God's extra strength. This is done in the comfort of each person's home. Prayer intentions are distributed amongst the members when needed, through a monthly list, the bulletin (monthly general intentions) and a phone chain.

NEW DAY

Although not directly a parish program, "New Day" is a faith-based, non-therapeutic, support group for people living with mental illness, whether transitioning from hospital or already living in the community. It is run by caring volunteers. Its goal is to support people in their own recovery. This ministry takes place at the St. Peter's Cathedral Parish Centre and is coordinated by Deacon Bob and Joanne Hartman.



Y.A.N.A. (You Are Not Alone)

Although not directly a parish program, "YANA" is a Christian, faith-based support group for people supporting a loved one with a mental illness. It is a non-therapeutic group, run by volunteers. It is for people who share a similar life experience and see value in exploring their faith for strength and deeper meaning in the face of mental illness to those they care about. This ministry takes place at St. Michael's Parish and is coordinated by Deacon Bob and Joanne Hartman.



"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me you will find me..." Jeremiah 29:11-14

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES OUTREACH GROUP

The purpose of this group is to enhance the consciousness of parishioners regarding issues of justice and to encourage meaningful involvement in social action. This group discerns, plans and coordinates international and local outreach ministry in close association with the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights and the CWL.

THE “LAZARUS” GROUP

This ministry gathers together various times in the year (usually in 4 consecutive weekly meetings) all those who have ever lost a loved one and are seeking a time to pray, support one another and to seek God’s grace in a casual and relaxed way. The gatherings involve scripture and multimedia reflections in addition to quiet time.



PARISH WELCOMING TEAM

Consider this ministry the Catholic parish “welcome wagon”. When parishioners join the community or experience milestones in their lives this team will be there to connect with them in service, support and friendship. A phone call, visit and making connections with parishioners are key in this ministry. Meetings and training will occur as needed.

HELPING HANDS

This group works very hard to assist those in our local community who are in any kind of need. They gather food items for the St. Joseph Hospitality Centre and donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This group also coordinates the annual Christmas Project that includes a Giving Tree, food hamper and gifts for families in need.



Spiritual Life & Faith Formation

The driving force of our sharing and service to one another and the parish community is fueled by our spiritual lives. Spending time in reflection and prayer is key, prior to moving to service and action. Through our spiritual lives we become rooted in Christ and hear the voice of Christ calling, encouraging and supporting us.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES BOOK CLUB

Parishioners are invited to join this book club to deepen their faith life. Three sessions take place each year – Fall, winter & summer. Gatherings to reflect and share experiences of the books will take place in two forms – meetings on site at the parish and on line via the parish website. See website or bulletin for details.

EMMAUS ROAD - RCIA

The RCIA group is always looking for volunteers who are willing to share their faith and their lives with those adults who are seeking to become Catholic. Usually this journey takes place from September until April. Training provided and regular weekly gatherings during the process are needed in this ministry.



PARISH MISSIONS

At least once a year the parish invites someone to lead a parish mission. This usually happens but is not limited to Advent and Lent. This is a special time for the community to gather and reflect on the gift of our faith.

SPIRITUAL WIFI

The parish website has many different links that can assist in the deepening of one's spiritual life. This also includes the St. George weekly homilies, on-line retreats and scripture reflection podcasts. There is also something new being added to the site which can help each of us grow in our faith.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

This peaceful form of prayer takes place on the second Thursday of the month. Come experience a powerful time of prayer and worship. Come before our Lord in adoration.



RETREATS & REFLECTIONS SERIES

Throughout the year the parish hosts mini-retreats and special spiritual events for Advent & Lent. These take place at the parish itself or online. Various video series & group reflection allow all of us to share the gift of faith.



FAITH FILM SERIES

Every month the parish hosts a “Faith Film Night”. This is a free event for all which includes popcorn, cookies and drinks. Come and watch a faith provoking film in HD with a 9 foot by 16 foot screen with great sound. Another great way to deepen one’s faith through modern media.

“DIVINE DESSERTS” – THE SWEETNESS OF FAITH

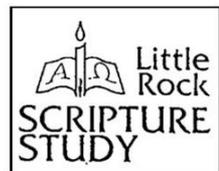
“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”

(Psalm 119:103). This speaker series takes place once a month from September to November and January to April. Each gathering open to all invites everyone to reflect and discuss different aspects of our faith. The night includes a guest speaker, small group discussion and of course, some sweets with coffee, tea and juice.



THE WORD ALIVE – (Scripture Study)

Do you want to learn more about the scriptures? *No experience necessary.* This scripture study leads people to a greater understanding of the Bible and provides an appreciation of how the Bible can be applied to daily life. Small group discussions, video presentations and a study guide help you discover the treasures of the scriptures. This program takes place once or twice a year.



SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITY

Using the CELEBRATING THE WORD faith guide, this group meets every Wednesday from 9 am to 10 am at the parish to reflect on the readings for the upcoming Sunday and discusses how they apply to our daily lives.

Community & Social Ministry

One of the key components of a strong and thriving parish community is the gift of gathering as family. The parish community has many different social events and ministries that make the parish itself a community centre in which we encounter the Lord through each other. This takes place when we pray but also when we have fun together.

MEGAFEST

This annual parish picnic/festival takes place in August at East Park. The day includes free games for the children in addition to discounted rates at all the activities that East Park offers including the water park, go-carts, mini-golf, golf, batting cages and the driving range. The Knights and the CWL host a free BBQ. What a great way to end the summer season !!

SENIOR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1 pm in the parish hall for an afternoon of cards and fellowship. The cost is \$2 per person and there are lots of prizes, a 50/50 draw, coffee, tea and goodies. Bring a friend and enjoy a great afternoon !!

ROAD PILGRIMS

Do you love road trips ? Do you like to see world class plays and shows ? Do you like great food ? The parish organizes a number of day trips to plays in Stratford, Toronto, Drayton, Grand Bend, Petrolia and other communities in addition to St. Jacob's Market and even a Blue Jays game. Travel in a first class coach bus, enjoy a great meal and leave the rest of the details to the parish staff. Trips are listed in the bulletin and online.



PARISH BREAKFASTS & OTHER EVENTS



Once a month from September until May the Knights host a monthly parish breakfast following the 9 and 11 am Masses. The food is great and the free will offering goes to a different charity or ministry each month. Great friends, great food and great causes !! The Knights along with the CWL and other groups help host a St. Patrick's Day social and other special dinners to be together as a parish family.

Parish Leadership

The parish community needs strong lay leadership to maintain and sustain the vision and mission of the Gospel. The main parish leadership bodies guide parishioners on how the Good News of the Gospel is practically lived out on a personal and communal level.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This group is the main leadership body for the parish community. The Pastoral Council discerns, discusses and plans the pastoral needs for the entire parish. Members are chosen through a discernment process and every year the council seeks new members.



PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

This parish leadership group has the responsibility of maintaining and monitoring the budget and finances of the whole parish community. In addition, the committee is responsible for personnel and building and maintenance issues. Members are appointed by the pastor.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE



Do you have a background in building design, maintenance and function ? This subcommittee of the Finance Committee monitors, plans and advises the parish leadership on the buildings and property owned by the parish. This committee meets twice a year.

Groups and Organizations

There are many different Catholic organizations that live out the Gospel through their own ministry but also working hand in hand with the parish community serving the needs of all.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

This group inspired and rooted in the life and ministry of St. Vincent de Paul are called to serve those in most need. This society helps those in need with food, clothing, furniture, appliances and anything else needed to live life more fully. In our parish the SVDP also supports the St. Joseph Hospitality Centre, Byron Cares, after dinner program at the Southdale Community Chaplaincy and Ronald McDonald House.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. They support, parish, local, national and international initiatives while also gathering socially as sisters in Christ. There are monthly meetings in addition to various social, fundraising and awareness events. General meetings take place monthly from September to June.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic organization of gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. This group supports the parish community with special events, fundraisers and social activities to build up the gift of the parish family. In addition, the Knights support a number of local and international charitable organizations. The Knights also gather as friends socially to support one another in the pilgrimage of faith.



"Jesus sent his disciples out two by two to give the Good News."

Luke 10:1

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry is extremely important for the parish community since it draws our young people closer to Christ.

THE KIDZONE – WEEKEND BABYSITTING

From September to June the parish employs trained and certified high school youth to run our KIDZONE during the 9 and 11 am Masses. This ministry helps young ones from infants to 3 years old enjoy games and toys in a safe environment while allowing parents to attend Mass and spend time in worship. Parents can register children at the weekend Masses.



SUNDAY FRIENDS – CHILDREN’S LITURGY

This faith-centred program for children in junior kindergarten to grade 2 is offered at the 9:00 am. and 11:00 am Sunday Masses. The children learn about the liturgy of the day, pray, sing and make a simple craft related to the Gospel reading. Adult and high school leaders are needed and are scheduled regularly. Materials and training are provided for volunteers.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

Every month the parish hosts a “Family Movie Night.” This free event gathers families together for a great and recently released movie. The night includes popcorn, cookies and juice while enjoying the movie on a large screen. An amazing Friday night for all !!



YOUTH SUMMER CAMP – K TO GRADE 6

Every year the parish hosts a summer camp for children from kindergarten to grade 6. The week long day camp invites campers to learn about God and the Church in a fun and entertaining way. Volunteers of all ages are needed to make this a fantastic experience for all.

NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION TEAM (NET)



Every year members of the National Evangelization Team come to lead a retreat for our grade 7/8 students from St. Nicholas, St. Theresa and St. George Schools. The NET team focuses on a number of different faith topics. They use songs, skits, witness talks and small group discussion to invite the youth to grow deeper in their faith.

GRADE 9 RETREATS

Each semester, the grade 9 religion classes from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School come to the church for their grade 9 retreat day. This is a fun filled day that invites students to reflect on the precious gift of faith in their lives.

TGIF – HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Once a month high school youth gather on a Friday night for fun. From bowling, movie night to a road trip or beach volleyball—young people gathering together to have some fun with friends in an open and inclusive environment.

TGIF
Teens Growing In Faith

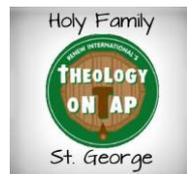
Y DISCIPLE – HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY



This small faith sharing group is focused on high school youth who gather in 6 week cycles to reflect and share about the Catholic faith guided by adult volunteers with amazing videos and other resources. These sessions take place both at the parish and St. Thomas Aquinas High School. Great friends and food. Come out and connect the faith to your life !!

THEOLOGY ON TAP – YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Young adults from 19-39 are invited once a month from September to April to a local pub to tap into the faith !! Every month focuses on a different aspect of the Catholic faith with a special guest speaker in a relaxed friendly atmosphere. Free munchies are provided.



“Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:19-20

Parish Services

There are many different opportunities to serve the parish community rooted in the many different talents and abilities of our faith-filled parishioners. These services help in sharing and serving the needs of one another.

OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM

With all the activities that take place in the parish, the office is very busy. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis to assist the parish office and staff with reception duty (answering phone calls, welcoming visitors), photocopying, filing, bulletin folding, and special projects. If you have time during the day and love working in a fun office setting then this ministry could be for you.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

The parish newsletter is an important tool and vehicle to share the lives and ministry of people in the parish community. Reporters, photographers and computer savvy individuals are required. The newsletter is published at Christmas and Easter.



MEDIA TEAM



Do you have audio/video/photography & computer skills ? Your gifts can be shared in support of our parish online presence covering various events and editing podcasts to be placed on the website. This team will assist the parish staff in communicating in the virtual parish presence on the internet. Homilies, interviews and podcasts will be offered as a means of evangelization.

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Our collection counters work Sunday mornings from 10 am until around noon counting the collection and sorting envelopes. It's helpful if volunteers have a background in banking or accounting, are good at working on a team and maintaining confidentiality.

GOD'S GARDENERS

Our garden team keeps our flowers and planters looking beautiful throughout the year. If you have a green thumb or just like to be outdoors, your help is most welcome. This ministry truly makes our parish building beautiful and welcoming.



STACKS SQUAD - LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We have a wonderful library located in the narthex, tucked in behind the Welcome Desk. All parishioners are welcome to borrow books, donate books or volunteer on the Stacks Squad. Members receive, review and categorize new library books and work towards keeping the library organized.

PARISH EVENTS TEAM

Do you love to host celebrations and have good organizational skills? Please consider being part of this team that organizes receptions and parish functions through the year to celebrate and to build community. Meetings will take place when required.

THE BLITZ TEAM

If you have skills and gifts to share with various committees on an "as needed" basis, consider adding your name to this open-ended category. There is often a need for additional computer skills, decorative abilities, or extra "willing hands" to complete a committee's work or project. Meetings and events will take place when needed.

"All baptized in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:27-28

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Heavenly Father,
you gather us as one parish family
united in faith, hope and love,
to be one as you, Father, are one
with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

You call us through prayer to share and serve one another and
to be stewards of all your gracious gifts.

May we always remember that your grace forms us into the
body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN.

MINISTRY PRAYER

Guide my hands, oh Lord
So that I might use them to your
glory.

Guide my thoughts, oh Lord
That I might speak always with
compassion
...and with love.

Guide my feet, oh Lord
As I volunteer in your Ministry.
For it is in serving others
That I grow closer to You.

AMEN.

WORLD MISSION DAY

Excerpt from June 11, 1995 – St. John Paul II

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

1. "The Church has received the Gospel as a proclamation and a source of joy and salvation. She has received it as a gift from Jesus, sent by the Father 'to preach the good news to the poor' (Lk 4:18). She has received it through the Apostles, sent by Christ to the whole world (cf. Mk 16:15; Mt 28:19-20). Born from this evangelizing activity, the Church hears every day the echo of Saint Paul's words of warning: 'Woe to me, if I do not preach the Gospel' (1 Cor 9:16)" (*Evangelium vitae*, n. 78).



Gift of the Father to humanity and continuation of the mission of the Son, the Church knows she exists in order to carry the joyful news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth, until the close of the age (cf. Mt 28:19-20).

The missionary mandate is therefore always valid and timely, and it commits Christians to be joyful witnesses to the Good News for those near and far, making available their energies, means and even their lives.

Mission passes through the Cross and the gift of self: like the risen Lord, those invested with mission are called to show their brothers and sisters signs of love, so as to overcome their disbelief and their fears.

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has descended upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Welcoming with joy the call to cooperate in the mission of salvation, every Christian knows he can count on the presence of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. This certainly gives vigour to his Gospel service and leads him to be bold and full of hope despite difficulties, danger, indifference and failures.

World Mission Day is the occasion to implore from the Lord an ever greater zeal for evangelization: the first and greatest service which Christians can offer the women and men of our time marked by hatred, violence, injustice and, in particular, by the loss of the true meaning of life. In fact, nothing helps us to face the conflict between life and death in which we are immersed more than faith in the Son of God who became man and came among us so that they might "have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10): it is faith in the risen Lord who has overcome death; it is faith in the blood of Christ whose voice is more eloquent than that of Abel, and which gives hope and restores to humanity its true image.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner February 2014



If you have any questions or are looking for more information regarding these parish ministries, services and outreach—please contact the parish office.



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