Welcome to our Parish!

HOLY FAMILY PARISH
777 Valetta St., London, ON
N6H 2Y9

WEBSITE: www.holyfamilylondon.ca

PH. # (519) 472 - 0057
FAX # (519) 472 - 4758

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

SUNDAY MASS
Saturday 5 pm
Saturday 8:30 am 10:30 am
6:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASS
Tuesday 6:30 pm
Wednesday to Friday 10:00 am
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September 2017

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Family Matters is published on the first Sunday of the month.
Feel free to contact us with a story or witness talk, along with pictures by sending it to us at hfparish@dol.ca

Blessing of the Beginning of a School Year

Blessed are you, Lord God.
At the beginning of this school year, we implore your mercy:
  bless the students, teachers and staff
that together we may grow in faith, hope and love
as we learn from each other how to follow your Son Jesus.

excerpt from Blessings & Prayers for Home and Family
www.cccbpublishations.ca
Blessings to all as we enter into the last third of 2017. I hold all families involved the education/formation process in prayer. I am thrilled to welcome Pete Doiron as a part-time Pastoral Worker who will be offering ministry to our young folks preparing for the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation, through our five elementary schools and through our Crossfire process. He is bursting with energy and faith. Welcome, Pete! Pete will be working closely with Fr. Seejo and Sheila O’Brien. What a team!

I also want to inform you that a decision was taken to commit Holy Family Parish to a second year with the Divine Renovation Network. We have learned so much in the first year! We can’t wait for what year two will offer us! We are moving, steadily, from a maintenance to a missionary parish community. Our future vitality looks great! Come, Holy Spirit!

This weekend is the kick-off for our two ten-week fall Alpha sessions, both of which take place on Wednesdays, starting September 20th. Here at Holy Family, we are convinced that the best and only way to support the development of faith in families, is to encourage the parents of children. When parents have experienced a transformed faith in Jesus and in the Holy Spirit, they are sure to lead their children to experience the joy that they have discovered. Some of the voices in our secular culture suggest that nothing should be done to develop the faith lives of their children until they are old enough to decide for themselves. That is a voice of deception! Parents know only too well that they offer their children the best they can offer them as they grow from infants onward. The best love. The best support in sports development. The best education. The encouragement of developing other skills. The best friends. Etc. Could any parent neglect the faith development of their child, which offers a moral guide, inspiration, affirmation of one’s personal goodness, the development of spiritual gifts, the future destiny of their souls, in right relationship with God and with others? Dear parents, we are inviting you to increase your faith! Consider Alpha this fall. Keep in mind that we offer ministry for children during these sessions, plus dinner for all who gather with us! What a deal!
A WORD FROM FR.BOB continued…

You will remember that way back in May/June some 950 parishioners, 18 years of age and older, completed the Gallup Membership Engagement Survey (ME25). We have received the results and would like to share them with you. We have invited a Gallup specialist to join us on the evening of Thursday, September 28, to explain the results to us, and to help us to build an action plan to encourage more parishioner engagement. Please, come and join us, Thursday, September 28, from 7:00 to 9:00pm in All Saints Hall.

MANY THANKS! This past week we were blessed to have Fr. Fernando Suarez and Fr. Jeff Shannon lead us in healing prayer at mass and following mass. Some 600 participants were blessed by the powerful, healing presence of Jesus. We also celebrated our third Palooza this year, offering thanks to the countless number of persons who made the Building Community Campaign a complete success. Thank you to all who participated. Many thanks to all volunteers who made these events run so smoothly!

Kim Nikkel, who has been directing the Sunday 8:30am Family Mass Singers choir, completes two years of service with Holy Family Parish this weekend. We have appreciated her leadership and thoroughly enjoyed her presence and joy. Thank you, Kim! Next weekend, we welcome the return of Liska Jetchick to lead this choir. She returns to us following post graduate studies in choral directing.

Finally, Bishop Fabbro has invited every parish within the Diocese of London to celebrate Mass on Friday, September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, solely for the intentions of victim survivors of sexual abuse, and for the reparation of sin and damage caused by it. Come and join us on the 15th for Mass at 10:00am.

"Dear friends, I have recently been diagnosed as having a bowel cancer. Needless to say, this challenge is going to be occupying all my energies over the next several months. Susan and I would be most appreciative of your prayers and thoughts during this time."
A Theological Reflection by Fr. Seejo

What are your first thoughts about the Healing Mass we had in our church last Wednesday, August 30? Most of you will agree, with me, that it was a wonderful and powerful celebration! Almost every one who attended the service enjoyed it and some of them experienced some sort of physical healing too!! God is great and God is wonderful. Thanks be to God.

I suspect that some of you might have questions about healing services in general and perhaps some of you are skeptical about it’s “charismatic” nature. Some questions may have arisen from experiences of similar healing ministries performed by professional healers on TV. So, it is good for us to understand the purpose and nature of the healing ministry in the Catholic Church, handed down to us by Jesus, no matter how gifted the healer might be. As St. Paul teaches in Romans 12, we must discern what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The gospel is clear that Jesus performed many physical miracles. At the core of all those miracles, Jesus desires to lead people to deeper faith in Him as God and Saviour. The gospels also reveal that Jesus could not perform miracles in some cases because of a lack of faith in Jesus.

Jesus has given His power and authority to the Church to continue His ministry of preaching and healing. The Church must remain faithful to her responsibility to proclaim the Kingdom of God through teaching, preaching and healing. We need to understand the gift of healing in that context. The right purpose of every ministry in the Church is to help people to grow in faith and to surrender to Jesus, through transformation in the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately, sometimes people who are gifted with a healing ministry, give undue focus to physical healing. As a result, their explanation about healing will exceed the proper understanding of our Catholic teaching. For example praying for some one over social media, electronic media, over photographs of people, and so on. These types of presentations have to be viewed with caution. It is not helpful to promote superstition in our understanding of how God heals. It is our hope that those who experience physical healing will grow in commitment to Jesus and also in developing a deeper relationship with Him.
Hello everyone! My name is Jozef Maka, the new Business Manager here at Holy Family Parish. I thought it would be good to share with you all a little about myself. I am 1 of 12 children (I’m number 5) of Polish parents. I was born in Poland but lived in the Toronto area for most of my life. I studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining Holy Family I was working at ExxonMobil for 5 years: 2 years in Calgary, Alberta, 2 years in Houston, Texas and 1 year in Nanticoke, Ontario. I have been married for 3 years to my wife Genevieve and we have a 9 month old daughter called Teresa. I am in the process of becoming a secular Discalced Carmelite and I am very drawn to the teachings of the Carmelites and the Church Doctors. We currently live in Delhi, Ontario on our 8 acre hobby farm where we just began to plant some vines for a vineyard! We are parishioners at St. Mary’s in Tillsonburg and our pastor is Father Tom Ferrera.

Some of you may be wondering why on earth I would leave a very good job/company to come to Holy Family Parish and it’s a fair question. My Catholic faith is very important to me and my family and always has been. I learned very quickly that working in a secular environment was very challenging for me in that the religious aspects of everyone are kept private, at home and out of site. This was a direct conflict with me as I love my faith and to not be able to share it freely caused tension within me and constant unrest. I thank the Lord for my wife who had to deal with all my complaints and ideas about trying to find something more Catholic to do. I even once suggested quitting my job, taking our savings and going to Rome to study Theology at the Angelicum for 7 years. This did not go well as you can guess! All things changed one day when my wife had picked up the bulletin at Mass one day and had showed me the job posting at Holy Family Parish. I told her that I will apply for this and if I was offered the job I would take it as a sign from God. If not, I would stay on my current path at ExxonMobil and offer up my work to the Lord from then on out. I applied for the job, we prayed a Pompeii Novena to our Blessed Mother and the rest is history!

I am looking forward to getting to know all you of as much as possible. I feel more at peace with my life and feel that the Holy Spirit has been preparing me for this for some time. I am honored that God had given me this position and I will make sure...
“We are called, we are chosen, we are Christ for one another”. I feel very blessed to have been called and chosen to begin work as the new Pastoral Worker here at Holy Family Parish. Holy Family has always been home for me having been in the parish since 1980. I was very blessed to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Marriage at Holy Family Parish and I am so excited to be able to work with our young parishioners in their sacramental preparation and faith journey this coming school year. Along with my ministry to the elementary school students, I am a certified Early Childhood Educator (ECE) and a certified Teacher working at the London District Catholic School Board and cherish the many opportunities to work in our catholic school classrooms. I am a member of our Knights of Columbus (Council 10561), here at Holy Family Parish as well as an Eucharistic Minister at our Sunday evening Mass celebrations. My wife Sheryl and I have been married for twenty-one years and are blessed with three beautiful daughters, Hailey, Katie, and Stephanie. When I’m not teaching or volunteering you can most likely find me singing. I have been a professional singer for over thirty years performing with many live bands and as a solo performer singing Rock & Roll, Country & Western as well as my most beloved genre of Gospel music.
For many Catholics, when they hear the acronym RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), they think of a parish education program, running from September to Easter, and teaching adults whatever they need to know to become Catholic. The Church, however, intends a much broader vision for the initiation process. Embedded in the Rite, in articles #4 and #5, initiation is described as ‘a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful’, and as ‘a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God’s grace’.

The idea that those seeking to learn more about the faith, and perhaps to embrace it, can conform to a predetermined class schedule, and begin and end at the same time for everyone is contrary to this vision. Here at Holy Family, some changes to the initiation process have been introduced in the past year that are intended to better meet the expectations stated in the Rite. Our initiation process is open to accepting new inquirers throughout the year, rather than only in September, and it has three main components: participation in Alpha, a period of catechesis; and regular attendance at Sunday liturgy. Each of these three components is an important part of the inquirer’s discernment and ultimate conversion.

Participation in Alpha has proven to be an excellent way for those inquiring about the Catholic faith to make connections with other parishioners; to ask questions; to share their own stories; and to learn how others live out the values of their faith. Just as Alpha can prove to be transformational at the parish level, it has significant impact for individual participants who open themselves to the guidance and generosity of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The next 10 week Alpha series begins on Wednesday, September 20.

During the catechetical period, the evenings are based around a video series that explains many aspects of the Catholic faith, and still allows ample time for discussion and questions within the group. These sessions are open to all parishioners and anyone looking to deepen their understanding of Catholic teaching is welcome. The next ten week session in this component will be offered in January 2018.
Finally, those who are inquiring about the Catholic faith are encouraged to make attendance at Sunday liturgy a priority. Sunday is at the heart of our Christian life. It is here that we encounter the living Christ: in the assembly, in the Word, and in the Sacrament. Even though inquirers are not yet receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, the Sunday liturgy is still their primary encounter with Christ.

I have been involved in RCIA ministry in several different parishes: first in 1981, as a candidate, and later as both a sponsor and catechist. It is a joy and a privilege to journey with people who are discerning their response to God’s call. Responsibility for the initiation process extends beyond the RCIA team, however. Everyone in a faith community has a role to play. First, by the example of how we live our lives. So often an inquirer will tell me how their interest began by the witness of a family member, neighbour, friend or co-worker. Second, when you do meet someone in the parish who is already in the initiation process be a welcoming presence to them. Third, if you know of someone who has questions about the Catholic faith, invite them, and perhaps accompany them, to join with us. Finally, consider becoming involved yourself as a team member or sponsor.

Since January 2017, six people have been welcomed into full membership in the Catholic Church in our parish:

David Preston - January 03
Tiffany McClennan - June 18
Melissa Boston - June 18
Kristen Gardiner - July 04
Sheri Brunton - July 09
Katie Quinn-Ashton - July 11

Tiffany, Melissa and Kristen each made their Profession of Faith at the same time their children were baptized. Another candidate, Melanie Neerhof, will do so on the third Sunday in September when her three children are baptized. Currently, nine other people are at various stages of the initiation process.

If you are interested in learning about the Catholic Church, in what we believe and how we seek to live our faith in Jesus Christ, or if you would like to take steps to join us in faith, your inquiry will be welcome. You do not make any commitment or obligation by inquiring about Catholicism or beginning the Christian initiation process. We want you to take the time you need as you think about becoming Catholic and we respect your decision to stop or

For more information, contact me at deliawaldock@gmail.com
or Sheila O’Brien at sobrien@dol.ca.
When I was approached last winter to help out with Alpha, I did not know anything about Alpha and what it was. I soon found out that saying “yes” and attending would be one of the best decisions I would ever make.

The evening consisted of having dinner – which was a wonderfully prepared meal every week, watching a short well produced video and having some discussion afterwards. We have three children and were pleased to find out that there was child minding available, and in fact our older daughters ended up helping with the younger children. Not only did this turn out to be a night out, it was indeed much more.

My husband and I both attended, I know for him as well, but speaking for myself, it became a night of friendship, sharing, bonding and connecting in our faith. These were all people that for one reason or another felt called to come check this evening out. We looked forward to it every week! It was time for me to de-stress and ponder my beliefs and my life in general. Some of those in attendance were Catholic, and some were not. There were those who attended weekly Mass, and those who did not and there were those that had faith, and others that did not. All are welcome to Alpha!

No matter what our belief, we all felt the need to attend, whether to investigate our faith, to expand our faith, or renew our faith, we all had something in common – life, and questions that maybe we were afraid to ask or felt we should already know. The videos that were so well done with beautiful scenery and interesting interviews brought about questions. These questions pushed us to think beyond just sitting in the pew each week. There was never any pressure to share, you were welcome to just listen and everyone’s thoughts and opinions counted. Experiences shared made us each different but brought us together just the same. An evening of sharing a meal, and discussing the faith that we try to live by brought us together. It was an evening once per week - talking and listening about Jesus, the Bible, the Holy Spirit and our life. By the end of the session our table members who did not know each other at the beginning had become good friends, each of us feeling a new connection to the other. Friends that we now know we can share our faith with.

A simple decision of attending Alpha, an evening once a week to meet new people who question their faith from time to time, has now brought more meaning to my life and to my family’s life. I look forward to the Alpha program in the Fall, to meet others, to share in a meal, to share experiences and ask myself new questions – to look deeper into my faith and what Jesus means in my life.
It is hard to believe that it has been nearly 3 weeks since the church hall was filled with over 120 excited children and 50 eager volunteers! Holy Family Parish Summer Camp was a great success this summer and we couldn’t have done it without all of the support from the community. In addition to our incredible high the community. To everyone who contributed their time, donations, or prayers to the summer camp – THANK YOU! We couldn’t have done it without you.

Every day at camp was filled with fun and excitement. We started the week off with meeting the counsellors and playing games to get to know our group mates. At the end of day one we had an all camp game where we answered trivia questions and worked as a team with our colour groups! After all of the running around and fun the campers headed home tired and happy! On Tuesday all of the campers decorated pictures frames which, at the end of the week, they got to take home with a picture of their group. Hopefully these frames will remind them of everything they learned at camp and the new friends they made!

Wednesday was Water Day! It was a special day at camp because we had campers playing at the splash pad, swimming at the local pool, and participating in choice activities with water balloons and sponges. By Thursday everyone knew the routine and everyone had a blast with outdoor sports and crafts. To conclude our week we joined the community at mass Friday morning and everyone got involved with the actions to “Days of Elijah” and “Trading My Sorrows”. The Leaders In Training then had an opportunity to show us their leadership skills they had been developing all week with their all camp activity plan. Following the game we enjoyed a BBQ lunch. Finally over 30 brave campers took to the stage with our special guest, Elvis, to participate in the talent show. Overall we had an amazing week all together and we can’t wait to see the campers and volunteers we have gotten to know around the Parish!
Leadership in Training at Holy Family Summer Camp

I attended the leadership in training at our parish summer camp this summer. I am a student at St. Marguerite d’Youville Catholic Elementary School and I will be going into Grade 7 this year. I have attended camp in the past but this was my first time in the leadership in training group.

My first day I met some other students from other schools for the first time. We were all a little shy at first but then we played some team building activities and realized that we were going to get along great!

The rest of the week we learned how to be great followers of Jesus. Our leader Amanda taught us how to be good role models and leaders in our faith.

Throughout the week we split up into different groups so we could practice what we had been learning. The last day we were able to plan the events for the day for the campers and it helped many of us with our shyness and confidence. By the end of the week, the group of us that started out not knowing one another had become great friends. After finishing the week, I feel more confident and am looking forward to next summer’s camp!

Rachael Wright, Grade 7 student.
Building Community Palooza 2017
Imagine the young children of Holy Family Parish forming community - learning and laughing as they meet Jesus in each other and in the Gospels. When our own children were young, Liz and I had many difficulties sustaining faith and faith practices in our own family situation. That prompted me to consider ways to help other young families. Lots of pressures make it hard for parents right now...loss of cohesion in extended families, lack of time in an over-scheduled world and an increasing emphasis in specialization contribute to parents feeling they’re not qualified to teach and share faith with their families.

The Children’s Church ministry team invites volunteers to nurture a love of Jesus and the Church in a welcoming environment for children from JK to Grade 2. We are looking for both leaders (who tell stories and lead discussions) and helpers (who assist with crafts and activities). We supply orientation, ongoing support and all the materials that you’ll need each week. You supply a loving heart and compassionate hands as you use stories and activities to draw children into a loving relationship with Jesus that they can live as they grow. The children supply enthusiasm and energy that can’t be matched in any other ministry.

We run from October to June during the 8:30am, 10:30am and 6:30pm Sunday Masses. Volunteers can expect to serve every 4 to 6 weeks. We invite all adults and high school students who enjoy being with young children to join us in this amazing ministry experience.

Contact Jenna John at hfchildrenschurch@gmail.com or Mike Meinert at meinert011@gmail.com for more information.
### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE SEVEN MONTHS ENDED JULY 30, 2017

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Thank you to all our generous parishioners for your ongoing support!

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**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM OR MATRIMONY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH, PLEASE NOTE THAT IN ADDITION TO PREPARATION, WE REQUIRE THAT YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH US A MINIMUM OF 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF YOUR OF YOUR HOPED-FOR DATE FOR BAPTISM AND ONE YEAR PRIOR TO YOUR DESIRED WEDDING DATE.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BAPTISM, contact Sheila:** sobrien@dol.ca or ext’n # 222.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BAPTISM, contact Kelly:** kwilson@dol.ca or ext’n # 201.

**FOR FUNERALS OR FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING, contact Heather:** hcushing@dol.ca or ext’n # 260

Or Kelly: kwilson@dol.ca or ext’n # 201.

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If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to one our parish staff.

If you like to register, go to [www.holyfamilylondon.ca](http://www.holyfamilylondon.ca)