

Family Matters

May 2018



Hail Mary



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Her children arise
And call her blessed;
her husband also and he praises her.
Many women do noble things
but you surpass them all."
Proverbs 31.28-29

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SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 6:30 pm
Wednesday to Friday 10:00 am

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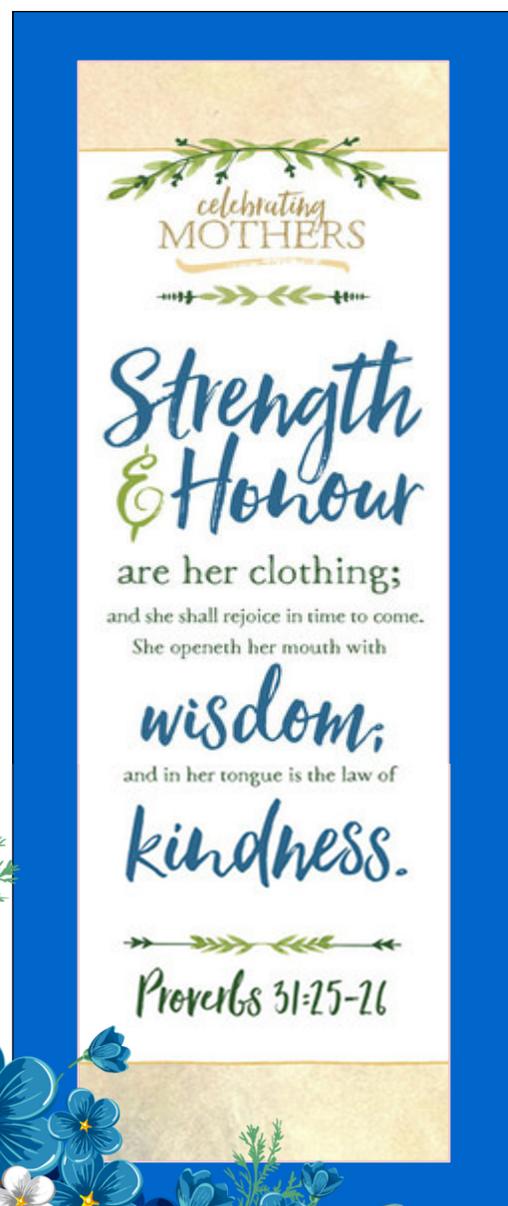
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Family Matters
is a monthly publication.
Feel free to contact us with
a story or witness talk,
along with pictures
by sending it to us at hfparish@dol.ca





A Word from Fr. Bob

What are the greatest religious feasts in your family's life? Be honest with yourself before reading on. These are mine, and why: At the top of the list for me is Christmas. Why? God sent his own son into the world to save the world (John 3.16). The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Obviously, the world was in need of a saviour. The direction the world was taking was leading it to destruction. Thank God for Jesus, that he chose to come.

Next is Easter. The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. This was the only way that we could be saved. This is how much he loved us and was willing to suffer for us. How do we express our gratitude to him for such love, for saving us? By a life of being faithful to him as he is faithful to us?

The third is Pentecost. God came into the world to save us. He died and rose from the dead to shatter our understanding of human limitations. Then Jesus sends "disciples" into the whole world, to proclaim that people need forgiveness, that they accept Jesus as their Saviour, and who would share both in the joy of salvation and be part of his saving work in the world. Jesus said to his disciples, "Go!" And the first disciples didn't go. They were afraid and they didn't understand the "Why." Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to his disciples after he ascended into heaven to bring a deep understanding of these saving events. We can not even understand these saving truths unless enlightened by the Holy Spirit. And finally, we have no courage and power to be faithful to Jesus' charge without the Holy Spirit, who animates all things in Christ.

Why aren't Catholics better witnesses to Jesus? Why are children and grandchildren abandoning the Church? Why aren't we doing a good job bringing people to faith? Church leaders have failed to help us to see and to understand the Whys of our beautiful faith, and have not shown us how to pray, and how to live lives for God. We have to do better!

Michelangelo Buonarroti once said, "The great danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it."

Now, more than ever, we need the Holy Spirit to heal the blindness of our real situation, to recognize it, to embrace it, and to pray for transformation as we surrender to Jesus and to the power of the Holy Spirit. God, speaking with Moses, referred to his people as being 'stiff-necked', rebellious, stubborn, unwilling to see their lives and the world from God's perspective. Perhaps the experience of Pentecost this year can make a difference in your life. Consider praying the nine-day novena prayer to invite the wisdom and the power of God into your life.

On May 1st, Fr. Graham Keep, the only priest-son of our parish, was present at one of our parish family funerals. We rejoiced to hear that May 1st was the date of his ordination 25 years ago. May 2nd was the day he would have celebrated his first mass of thanksgiving here at what was then called St. Pius X. Congratulations, Fr. Keep, on the 25th Anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood! Who will be the next priest ordained from Holy Family Parish? Who will be the first woman or man religious from our parish? Thank God, the parish has given three permanent deacons for service in the Church. Who will be next to honour this faith community in a life given for the Lord? "Pray to the Lord of the harvest, that he might send labourers into harvest!"

Talking about Vocations, this weekend we honour, give thanks for the gift of, and pray for all mothers. Their untiring, unstinting love has shaped us to be what we are today. Dear mothers, we thank you, we love you, and will always hold you close in prayer! To all mothers - a happy and blessed Mother's Day!



Alpha: A Faith Journey

... by David Preston



On the 3rd of January, 2017, I was officially received into the Catholic Church by Fr Bob. Sounds simple and straightforward-but it was not. I was born (a while ago) in South Africa and raised by two loving and devout parents in the Methodist Church. In December, 1977, I Married a wonderful girl, Barbara, and as many married men have discovered before me, my life has not been the same since! Barbara is a devout Catholic with an unwavering faith which was an inspiration to me and I have attended Mass regularly with her ever since and with our 4 children and 5 loving grandchildren when the opportunity arises.

Two significant numbers that appear often in the Bible are 40 and 7. I have attended the Catholic Church for 40 years since married and at every Parish, I have felt accepted and welcomed. My old Dad always used to say "never rush into anything", but I think waiting 40 years, was stretching it a bit. The second number is 7, which is the number of years since our first Alpha experience here at Holy Family Parish in 2010. ALPHA led me towards a more meaningful faith journey. Over the last few years, Alpha, Life in the Spirit seminars and the RCIA Symbolon series, among others, have convinced me of my need for a closer relationship with our Lord. This culminated in my becoming Catholic and a resolve to continue with my faith journey. We all have the presence of the Holy Spirit within us from Baptism and Confirmation, but the Bible speaks of the need to pray to be constantly refilled with the Holy Spirit and to search for opportunities for this to happen. Bishop Barron's video series called "Catholicism" completed in March, 2018 was so inspirational.

There are so many people I must thank for pointing me in the right direction, but Fr. Bob, Loretta Wilson and Deacon George Sebok and the whole Alpha program, need special mention. Every member of all the various groups and courses were also instrumental (also read music ministry) in helping me along the Journey. We have assisted in four Alpha sessions, sometimes helping in the kitchen or serving as host/helper of a small-group discussion table. We have enjoyed every one immensely. Alpha has really been fantastic. "Come and See" for yourself! Faith, fun, fellowship, friends, sharing and an excellent meal, PLUS the presence of the Holy Spirit. It would take a lot to beat that. The goal of Holy Family to create "Intentional Disciples" is well on its way.

I have completed my first full year as a new Catholic, experiencing many significant, holy events, including Easter and Christmas, as a full member for the first time. After so many years and in some respects, "peering through the brightly lit window", I felt I was truly, "Home for Christmas".

THANK YOU ALPHA and HOLY FAMILY PARISH!

OUR NEXT ALPHA ...

**Wednesday, September 19, 2018
to Wednesday, November 21, 2018
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATES!!





A Mother's Day Reflection by Erin Jardine

This weekend we honour Mothers. We take a whole day as a special time that is set aside to truly recognize and celebrate the sacrifice that mothers make for their children and families. It is also a day where mothers can stop and reflect on the many gifts that they have been given by our God. Children, of course, are an incredible gift and so is the accompanying grace that God presents in a special way that allows mothers to live out their vocation of love.

I was very blessed to grow up closely surrounded by my own mother and two grandmothers. All of these beautiful women have since passed away, but the role they played in my life is immeasurable. As a young woman with young children I am unable to call upon my own mother to share the joys and struggles that go along with raising a family. As a result, I am keenly aware of the important role that all mothers play in their children's lives, even when they're grown with children of their own. My definition of what a mother is has also broadened over these years of living without my own. A mother doesn't necessarily need to have given birth to a child. A mother is someone who nurtures and loves others, and who helps guide them along the path of life.

I have found many of these 'spiritual mothers' over the years of raising my own children. I am grateful to the women in our very own parish, who bring food to us when we're sick, offer babysitting, or even just give an encouraging word after we've struggled with our toddler through Mass. My mother-in-law and special friends who provide caring advice and wonderful examples to me, help me navigate this joy-filled but sometimes difficult life as a young mom. These mothers all are signs of God's ever-present love.

Most importantly, I have learned to lean on the greatest mother of all – the mother of Jesus, the first and most perfect disciple. She calls me to come to her and wraps me in her love. She listens as I worry about the kids and always points me in the right direction – to her Son. Through this relationship I have learned that my most important role as a mother is to lead my children to Jesus, to make disciples, and to foster in these children a deep love for Jesus so that they develop a true relationship with Him. It's so easy for me to be caught up in the 'right' ways to be a mother – do the children know how to play the piano, are they getting good grades, how many sports can they play, etc.? But then Mary brings me back to the first purpose as a mother – to help my children reach Heaven one day.





A Note from Jozef Maka *Business Manager*

We want to thank all those who donated generously to support our refugee family collection in March. Our target was \$4000.00 and our final total closed at \$6,600.00! All additional proceeds will go towards the needs of this refugee family. *Thank you once again!*

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

Operating Statement	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Budget(YE)	Prior Year (2017)
Revenue				
Offertory + Easter + Christmas	\$ 186,384	\$ 192,650	\$ 867,700	\$ 193,923
Donations	\$ 33,397	\$ 12,100	\$ 52,500	\$ 19,110
Ministry Programs and Other	\$ 12,555	\$ 18,320	\$ 85,100	\$ 23,050
Sub-Total	\$ 232,336	\$ 223,070	\$ 1,005,300	\$ 236,083
Special Collections Revenue	\$ 14,682	\$ 14,500	\$ 30,500	\$ 3,545
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 247,018	\$ 237,570	\$ 1,035,800	\$ 239,628
Expenses				
Compensation	\$ 140,120	\$ 138,300	\$ 533,560	\$ 138,235
Facilities, Ministry, Liturgy	\$ 80,882	\$ 89,860	\$ 300,730	\$ 79,241
Special Collections/Donations Paid	\$ 40,128	\$ 18,600	\$ 70,670	\$ 21,180
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 31,636	\$ 31,650	\$ 126,550	\$ 31,661
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 292,765	\$ 278,410	\$ 1,031,510	\$ 210,316
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (45,747)	\$ (40,840)	\$ (4,290)	\$ (30,688)

YTD = year to Date

YE = Year End

God's Gardeners are a small group of parishioners that gather, spring to fall, to bring some beauty to our church's garden.

We gather on Wed. afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, weather permitting! If you are interested please give Tom Bevil a call at (519) 472 0689.



Annual Pig Palooza

Save the date!

Friday, August 31, 2018

**Join us here on our beautiful parish grounds!
Back by popular demand - Appin Catering!**

We will have pork, corn on the cob, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, soft drinks and water.

Once again, Pete Doiron will be our spectacular entertainer. To help cover costs, tickets will be:

- ◆ \$10.00 per person over 12 years of age
- ◆ \$5.00 per person between ages 8 yrs. up to 12 yrs.
- ◆ No charge for persons under 8 yrs. of age

Tickets will be available at the parish before the end of June!

Everyone is welcome to share in this fun Holy Family Parish family event!

PARISH STAFF (OFFICE 519-472-0057; EMAIL: hfparish@dol.ca)

FR. BOB REMARK (ext'n #228)
Pastor

JOZEF MAKA (ext'n # 224)
Business Manager

FR. SEEJO JOHN (ext'n #226)
Parochial Vicar

HEATHER CUSHING (ext'n #260)
Pastoral Minister

SHEILA O'BRIEN (ext'n # 222)
KELLY WILSON (ext'n # 201)
Secretaries

DEACON TOM MACLEOD (ext'n #264)

PETE DOIRON (ext'n #258)
Pastoral Worker /Sacramental Preparation
of Children

ANNE SANDERSON (ext'n # 229)
Bookkeeper

DEACON HENRY KLING

DEACON GEORGE SEBOK

STEVE BALDINELLI (ext'n # 261)
Building & Property Coordinator

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

If you are an adult who has never been baptized, or baptized in another Christian tradition, the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) offers an opportunity for you to learn what Catholics believe and how we seek to live our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. In April 2018, The Christian Initiation Team at Holy Family Parish will begin a series of eight sessions designed to share with others the fruits of the Catholic faith and the fellowship of our faith community.

As others inspire and discern about joining us in our faith, Catholic sponsors are required to accompany them on this part of their faith journey. The value of your personal witness and encouragement cannot be underestimated. Please consider becoming a sponsor in the initiation process. Currently there is a need for sponsors who can speak Mandarin.

Please contact us if you require any further information:

Delia Waldock

deliawaldock@gmail.com

(519) 204-2079

Sheila O'Brien

sobrien@dol.ca

(519) 472-0057 ext'n # 222

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 connect with us a minimum of 3 months in advance of your hoped for date for baptism and one year prior to your desired wedding date.

For more information about BAPTISM, contact Sheila: sobrien@dol.ca or ext'n # 222

For more information about MARRIAGE, 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.

Do you need a PASTORAL REFERENCE LETTER? We need to know you continuously for one year before providing one. Please contact Kelly Wilson, to begin this process.

If you are NEW TO THE PARISH, please introduce yourself to one of our parish staff.
If you would like TO REGISTER, go to www.holyfamilylondon.ca

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