

# The Beacon

JUNE/JULY 2024

## Gratitude

What can we be thankful for?  
How can we share the many  
reasons we have been blessed?

**BLESS THE LORD**

*"Ten thousand reasons  
for my heart to find"*

Saint Patrick and Holy Family will become an invitational  
community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at  
the center of everything we believe, say, and do.



**Saint Patrick  
Holy Family**  
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

Vol.Iss.  
**II.5**

**wearelighthouse.ca**

# The Beacon



Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life (*John 8:12*)'. He draws every person to himself: to experience in him unimaginable love, unconditional mercy, and peace which flows from the heart. When we bask in that light long enough, we become like him. He says to his disciples, 'You are the light of the world (*Matthew 5:14*)'. We become like the 'light' and Jesus sends us out to be light for others, drawing them closer to Christ through our own witness of life.

We have come to understand that our new Family of Parishes' Vision and Core Values serve as a 'Lighthouse' of Jesus. He is using us as his humble servants, and this simple invitation - to call everyone to Christ. Each person is able to experience his life not only in our present life, but also in eternal life.

Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan and Holy Family Parish, London (Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes) is obediently responding to Jesus' great commission 'to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching [all] to obey everything that [he] has commanded' (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

**Come and allow yourselves to be drawn by Jesus, the Light. Find in him what you can find nowhere else, and in no one else. Come and see for yourselves!**



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## JOIN OUR TEAM



We are building a team of talented and passionate people who have a desire to help prepare our publications, including *The Beacon*

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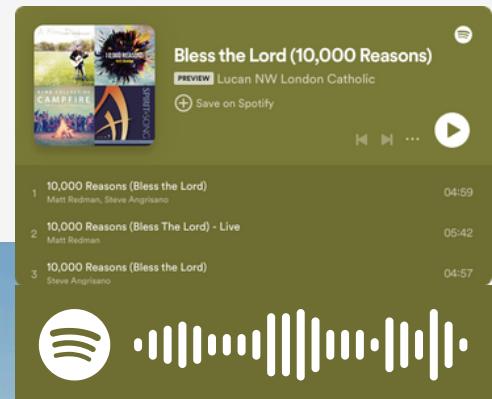
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Use the Lighthouse Examen to pray with thanksgiving using the Core Values



Scan Me

## FROM THE PASTOR

The woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years, ..., had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Jesus said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease'

(Mark 5.25-29,34)



Read a reflection based on this painting:  
[christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/matthew-9-18-26-2023/](https://christian.art/daily-gospel-reading/matthew-9-18-26-2023/)

**Encounter between Jesus and the hemorrhaging woman,**  
Painted by **Daniel Cariola**,  
Oil on canvas,  
Executed in 1998  
© The Encounter Chapel, Magdala

Many of us, like the woman who was suffering from a 12-year haemorrhage, understand what it is to suffer for a long period of time. Suffering surfaces in many ways: ill health, lack of work or meaningful work, broken relationships, isolation, loss of hope, fear, fleeing from one's home country as a refugee, and so on. We may believe that the suffering will not have any reprieve. I suspect that this woman had lost hope for her own healing. And then 'she heard about Jesus (vs.27).' Could it be that Jesus, the healer, could do something for her? Could she stir up enough hope, to after so many failed attempts, risk once more? How many temptations to despair did she have to overcome to try one more time? How could she, as one forced to live at the edges of society because of her situation, muster up enough courage to make one last attempt? 'If I but touch his clothes' unnoticed by anyone, will I be healed? Yes, she would exert herself one last time. She touches the fringe of Jesus' clothes. And with that touch there is immediate healing! What?! Is the healing real? Is it complete? Will it last? Who is this man, this healer? Her prison doors have been flung open. Her isolation is behind her. She has a totally new life. Because of him!

Many, through the experience of our faith community, have experienced this kind of miraculous healing. They have new life because of him! They have reached out to touch Jesus. They have allowed Jesus to touch them. They will never again be the same. Deeper faith has been born through a risk of faith. Isolation is no more. Battered souls have been healed. A new hope has arisen. A singular encounter with the risen Lord has made all the difference in this world and in the next. We thank and praise the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for actively seeking us out. He is the one who leaves the ninety-nine in search of the one. If you are one who has not yet experienced the healing touch of God, then may the Lord run toward you, embrace you, lift you up in his arms, and fill you with his saving love and mercy!!



Here's part of the miracle: you, the disciples who have been transformed by his love, are the same agents of supreme good news as in this gospel account. The woman with the haemorrhage heard about Jesus through disciple-making disciples. The courage to share our own faith stories gives others confidence to approach Jesus with their own wounds. We intentionally rely on the Holy Spirit to prompt us to reach out beyond ourselves. God's mercy to us provides a bridge over which others come to Jesus. Our warm hearts are attractive to those who yearn for healing love.

**I thank and praise God for all that you have believed and done in his name.**

Over the last ten years, the Lord has given us a vision of **becoming an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do**. Your love, prayers, courage and compassion have formed a **Lighthouse** with all to see and to experience. Jesus is the light of world. And you have made him so tangibly present here in the Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes. I thank and praise God for all that you have believed and done in his name. And I express my heartfelt thanks for your participation in growing the Kingdom of God right here. And yes, there is so much yet to do. And you can do it only in the power of the Holy Spirit, under the guidance of your new pastor, Fr. Thom Blondin.

Come, Holy Spirit! Blessed Mother, protect us under the mantle of your love.



*Fr. Bob Remark*  
Pastor

Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London Parishes  
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE FROM FR. JUDE C. OGBENNA, C.S.SP – ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Over a month ago, the pastoral moves of the Diocese of London Ontario for 2024 were communicated to us. You all know that I am affected by the recent moves. I have been transferred to the Perth-Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes.

The movement of priests is something in-keeping with Church's way of life. The wise man, Qoheleth, in the Book of Ecclesiastes says that **"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..."** (Ecclesiastes 3.1-9). I arrived Holy Family Parish, London on July 5, 2021, but now it is time to leave. The ancient Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, commenting on the transience of life concluded that **"Everything is in constant flux."** Events of life teach us that **"No condition is permanent."**

I came to this Parish Family principally to learn from you, and I have not missed any opportunity. You have taught me a great deal, more than anyone could ever imagine. Having come to the end of my stay here, I would like to thank God for everything. I thank the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario for appointing me to live and serve among you in this Family of Parishes.

### I would like to express my profound thanks and appreciation to all of you;

I would like to express my profound thanks and appreciation to all of you; especially to Fr. Bob Remark, Fr. Steve Wlusek and all the members of the Parish Team. My sincere appreciation goes to the Deacons, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, Hospitality Team members and the different choirs of both parishes. My sincere thanks and appreciation go to the custodians, the members of the different Councils of the Knights of Columbus, the different units of the CWL, all the Altar servers, all the children and young people, who were helped by their parents to worship with us. You gave me immense joy. I thank all the staff and students that I encountered through school masses. My heartfelt gratitude goes to our housekeeper, to the members of the Prayer Ministry, the members of the Divine Mercy sodality, the Rosary Group, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, those who look after the Holy Grounds Café. I cannot forget to thank those who taught at the Sunday Children's Church, all who assisted with live-streaming in the church, those who worked behind-the-scenes to clean our sacred linens and decorating our sanctuary with flowers, etc. I sincerely thank all those who have been generous to me in cash and in kind. May the Almighty and merciful God reward you and replenish the source of your generosity. Please, if I have missed mentioning some names/groups, may your blessings be greater.



**May the Almighty and merciful God reward you and replenish the source of your generosity.**



I am leaving for Perth-Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes with mixed feelings because I do not know anyone there yet, but I am familiar with most of you here. So, it is going to be a new beginning for me out there. My natural inclination would be to stay back here in your midst, to continue to enjoy your love, warmth and friendship. However, I take solace from Jesus Christ who said: **"Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do"** (Mark 1.38).

As I leave for Perth-Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes, I encourage each person to continue to nurture your faith and to contribute to the growth and progress of this vibrant Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes. Embrace your new priests with open arms. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers as I know that I will continue to commend you all to God for blessings and safekeeping. God bless you all!

*Fr. Jude C. Ogbenna, C.S.Sp.*



Fr. Bob speaks to Canadian delegates at the Leadership Conference (UK) 2023, with Shaila Visser, National Director (Canada) of Alpha

## Erwin Fung, Discipleship Formation Team Lead

Give thanks and gratitude for what the Lord has given to us. That has been a mantra or words of focus and prayer for me for many recent years. The many blessings and graces that the Lord has given to me is immeasurable. I am grateful for the ways that the Holy Spirit continues to lead and guide me as I journey with you, our Family of Parishes community.

I share in the sadness in the coming change and transition as our pastors, Fr. Bob and Fr. Jude start the next chapter in their own journey of discipleship. They continue to be faithful and trusting in where the Lord is leading them. They have been a huge part of our parish community and have been great examples of disciple-making disciples.

Fr. Bob, I am grateful for your trust and confidence in me as the Discipleship Formation Team Lead. I value the many conversations, discussions, and moments of prayer that we have shared. I am also grateful for your love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. I am grateful for our time together in London at the Alpha Leadership Conference and your joy and passion for sharing the Gospel with others.

I pray that the Lord continue to bless you in your retirement. Come, Holy Spirit!

Fr. Jude, I am grateful for your enthusiasm and love for our Lord Jesus Christ as well! May the Holy Spirit also lead you and guide you as you serve the community of Perth-Huron Crossroads Family of Parishes!

Change is hard, but the Lord has blessed us abundantly with transition - our process of welcoming change. We continue to pray to the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us on our new chapter!

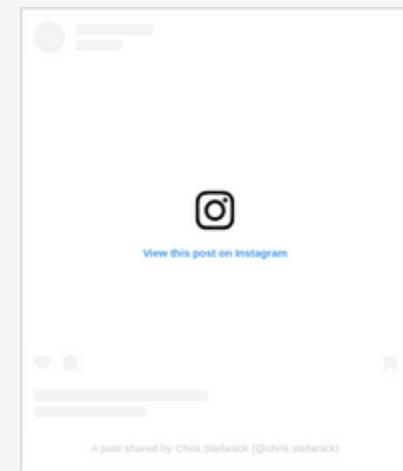
Come, Holy Spirit! 



Fr. Bob and Erwin at Big Ben (actually the Elizabeth Tower)

## GIVE THANKS – Chris Stefanick

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8AC-VzNTbN/?igsh=MXA1a2FrcDl3N3N4bA%3D%3D>



Fr. Bob and Erwin had a chance to meet Nicky Gumbel, creator of the Alpha Series, and his wife, Pippa



## OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for bringing us together as a Family of Parishes, called to be a light for the world.*

*We thank you for giving us a vision to become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples, who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.*

*May we rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire us to love the Scriptures, to share our faith stories, to foster right relationships, and to be warm-hearted.*

*We entrust our Family of Parishes to the care of Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, the Holy Family, and Saint Patrick, as we work together to bear witness to our core values, and to become the people you desire us to become.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.*

Amen.

## INTERPRETIVE KEY TO OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES LOGO

The cosmic Christ shines throughout the universe to every land and to every person

The gold band reminds us of our 'Communion in Christ' embracing Saint Patrick & Holy Family Parishes. It also speaks to us of the gift of the Eucharist

Symbols of Jesus as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and End of all, sit on top of the Lighthouse

The stripes on the Lighthouse refer to the formation path of disciples, up toward Christ. The path equips the saints for ministry

Turbulent seas surround the base of the Lighthouse – never to be overcome by them.

Jesus is the light of the world; reaching out first, to those who have not yet encountered Jesus Christ; second, to those whose Christian faith has grown cold or who are lost; and finally, to those who struggle to live faith wholeheartedly.

So here we are with these Core Values

The base of the Lighthouse is open. Everyone is invited to enter on the path of encounter and formation as disciples



**Jesus is our Light, our Lighthouse.**

[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)



## Natalia Szczesny and Isaac Lomas

Saint Anthony's Bread is a new ministry within our family of parishes, run by young adults, that serves the needs of the poor in two distinct areas of the city: London's downtown core, and the Limberlost community, a housing complex within Holy Family's parish boundary.

When we were called to begin Saint Anthony's Bread, we had no idea how much the Holy Spirit would move the members of our community to make this mission a reality. First, the charity and warmth with which we were met by our parish's Senior Leadership Team allowed the outreach idea to become a flourishing ministry.

Upon the ministry being confirmed, we were repeatedly blessed with generosity, our gratitude for which can scarcely be expressed. First, from our Lord, for putting outreach on our hearts, and granting the very name of the ministry to us during prayer. Next, for the donations and overwhelming support from our own family of parishes, easily among the most amazing aspects of this ministry. No part of this would be possible if not for the selfless giving of every one of you.



### Warm-Hearted

We recognize every person as an image-bearer of God. By joining people in their suffering and walking with one another, we are mutually transformed by Christ's love.

We have also been blessed by other institutions such as London & Middlesex Community Housing (LMCH) for permitting us to work within the Limberlost Community, and Starbucks for donating nearly 10 litres of coffee, as well as cups, milk and sugar every week for the homeless ministry. Further, through a parishioner whose father is a Knight of Columbus, we have been granted a generous weekly donation of fresh bread to accompany our home-cooked meals. We humbly thank all of those who have made this ministry possible, and we thank you for your continued support, remembering that every donation of \$2 erases hunger for a person in your community.

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 [@saintanthonybread](https://www.instagram.com/saintanthonybread)

## How to Support

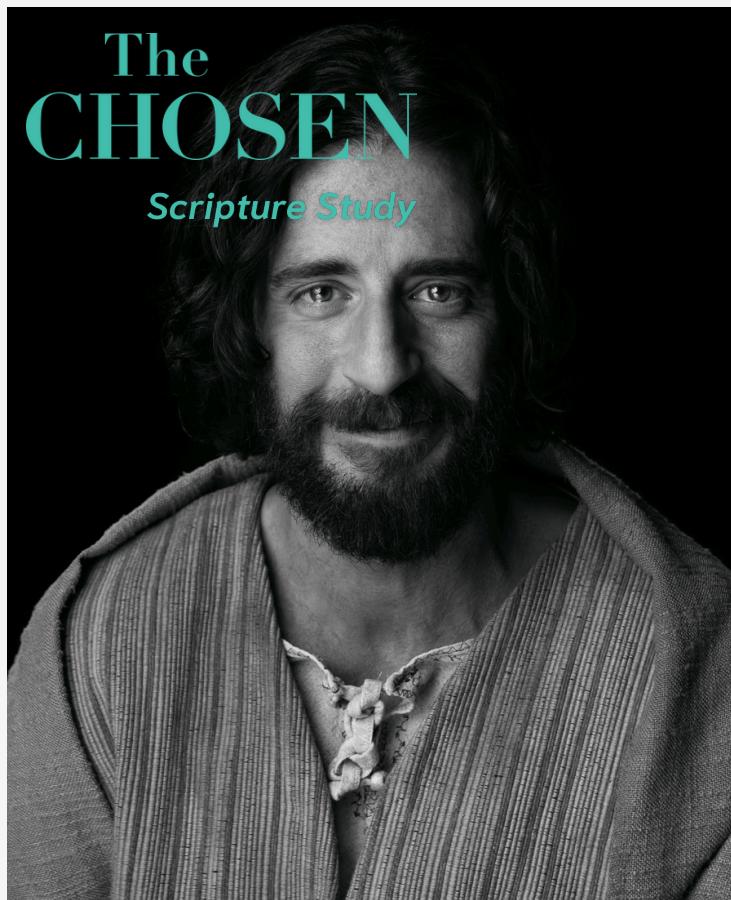
Interac e-transfer  
email: [hfparish@dol.ca](mailto:hfparish@dol.ca)



or through Plenty

Please include "Saint Anthony's Bread" in your comments of your donation!

[wearelighthouse.ca/saint-anthonys-bread](http://wearelighthouse.ca/saint-anthonys-bread)



On April 11, a group of parishioners began meeting once a week to watch an episode of *The Chosen*, a TV series about the life of Jesus. We began by reflecting on Scripture passages during Lectio Divina and then watched those passages come alive on the screen. People shared their thoughts, feelings and questions during our table discussions. This helped us all grow in relationship with Jesus, in faith and in fellowship with each other as we met each week until early June.

Here are some reflections from people who took part in group:

**"I am thankful for the whole series -- during the week I reflect on the many ways I and others have been 'chosen.' I have been blessed by the sharing of insights from our group. When I have challenges, our Lord brings to mind answers from one of the series."**

– Sheila



### Scripture-Soaked

By taking time everyday with the Word of God we soak in His Word and are better able to imitate the life of Jesus. We do this because we want to know Jesus and what He wants for our life.

**"It has been very emotional for me. I find myself crying as I watch each episode. It has really brought life to my faith journey. I still struggle to put my faith into action in my life, especially the Holy Spirit."**

– Marie

**"I saw Jesus' humanity and sense of humour. He became more of a 'regular' person who enjoys people on an everyday level. He laughed with his friends and showed his caring for people in pain and suffering."**

– Gaye

**"The Chosen has made a difference to my prayer life. I am a visual learner so when we do the Lectio, discussion, watch the video and discuss again, the text comes alive. The characters of the Bible are brought to life, especially Matthew, which helps to deepen one's faith."**

– Colleen

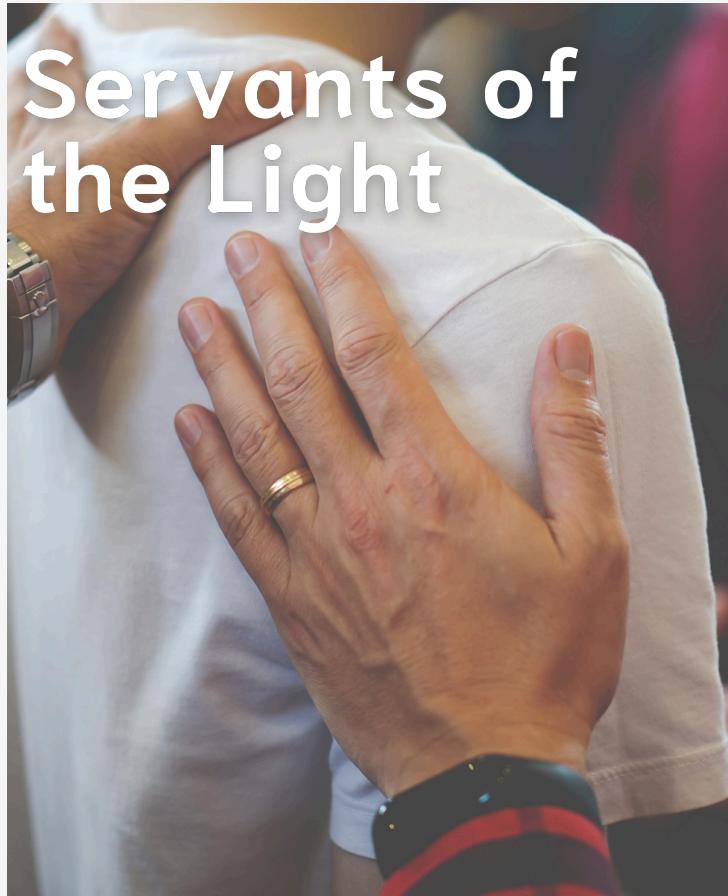
**The  
CHOSEN**  
*Scripture Study*

**Come and join us for  
Season 2 of  
"The Chosen"  
followed by table  
discussion.**

Thursday afternoons, starting  
**July 11, 2024**  
**Holy Family Parish**  
**– All Saints Hall**

**\*Specific Dates & Times on  
our website**

Please register: [wearelighthouse.ca/chosen-s2/](http://wearelighthouse.ca/chosen-s2/)



# Servants of the Light



We have members from South Africa, Nigeria, Tobago, Italy, Poland, and many other cities and countries. These beautiful children of God, coming from elsewhere, bring a sense of global community to us, as we learn new things from each other. We are a family and our ministry and community extends around the world. People are attracted to the warm-heartedness of our group and are drawn to us by their own spirit reliance.

We are grateful that we are called to meet together each week in every season, to sing praise and worship to our God, and to spend time listening to Him in prophecy, visions, and Scripture, when there are other demands on our times. In this, we are Spirit-Reliant and Scripture-Soaked.

We are particularly grateful to be called to pray in intercession for others in our meetings, and after Masses and other occasions. This charism is reflective of warm heartedness, and our call to be Beacons of Hope.

Our greatest gratitude is our unity in Christ, in the sacraments, and in our lives of faith in Servants of the Light. Christ is very present in and with us. We seek Jesus in the Eucharist when we break bread together with other parishioners in Holy Grounds Café, and then as we pray, sing in Praise and Worship and intercede for others in our prayer meetings. In all of these activities we are called to all five of our Lighthouse Core Values.

We are grateful for the intentionality and obedience to the Will of God of those who meet with us, and those who pray with us.

If you feel called to join us in our prayer meetings, ask for members of our Core team at Holy Grounds Café. If you feel called to join us in praying after weekend Masses for people, speak to members of the prayer team after any Mass you attend.

## Michael Brandon

The Servants of the Light community is the home of our parish Intercessory Prayer group, and also the hub for our Prayer Ministry after Masses, for special events, and also for impromptu prayer with individuals who seek us out.

In our faith journey, each of our members has come to the realization that Jesus died and was resurrected to save us from our sin. This has brought us each to an attitude of gratitude. Most of our prayer group members are retirees, though not all, and one of our first areas of gratitude is that we have been called to serve the Lord in this ministry. We are grateful that others feel the call of the Lord to join us in interceding in our post-mass Prayer Ministry.

We are grateful for the development by our pastor, Father Bob, and his team of the five Core Values of The Lighthouse (Lighthouse Living). Our gratitude to God for this blessing helps us to function and focus on these values in our ministry.

We are grateful to have people join us on Wednesday afternoons for our prayer meetings, from wherever they have been called by the Lord.



### Spirit-Reliant

We are dependent on the Holy Spirit's prompting and direction – that we might respond more fully to Jesus' mission to make disciples of all nations.



The group started more than 25 years ago with the purpose of making quilts and comforters for Birthright. It has broadened to include comforters for parishioners, Children's Aid, Merrymount Children's Centre, Mount Hope and St. Joseph's Hospice.

We provide comforters that serve as a symbol of God's love for people facing difficult situations, such as illness, hospitalization, surgery, bereavement or other challenges. When we choose our pattern and fabric and sew our comforters we think of the person, adult or child who will receive it. When we make comforters for refugees in our parish, we depict Canada and their home country.

We also donate comforters for fundraising, specifically the Brother Blaise Outreach Program in Peru and Holy Family Parish's Annual Bazaar. We welcomed six newcomers to our group and the seasoned sewers have used this ministry as an opportunity to share their faith and talents. This exemplifies our parishes' vision of being disciple making-disciples.



Our goal is to bring warmth to those receiving the comforters, purpose to our crafting, enjoyment in our friendships and exchange as fellow parishioners.

Our ministry reflects the Core Values of being Warm-Hearted, Scripture-Soaked and Beacons of Hope. Making comforters allows us to share our love and care for others, to make them feel special and appreciated. They can feel and experience the warmth of our prayers, thoughts and caring. We use donated unused fabric and pieces of scraps rather than disposing these items into landfill sites to take one small step toward protecting the environment for future generations. The giving of our time, talents and the enjoyment in the making of the comforters is summed up in 2 Corinthians 9:7: **"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."**



From September 2023 to May 2024, we made 104 comforters, including 20 for the Children's Aid Society and 40 for parishioners. People are touched by our ministry: one said being gifted a hand-made comforter "felt like I was wrapped in a protective cocoon of love and support" while another said it "brought hope into my uncertain times."

### Stitches of Comfort

The Stitches of Comfort Ministry are a dedicated group of women who meet and create beautiful blankets and comforters. Their creations are then given to those who may need one. These "fabric hugs" are given in love and care to those who may be feeling lonely, ill, or have experienced loss.

They meet every Monday Afternoon at 1:00pm at Holy Family Parish in the Mother of Peace Room.



### Beacons of Hope

We want to be a lighthouse on a dark sea and lead souls to the safety of Jesus, the Light. We do this by sharing our stories of how Christ is transforming us.



## Barb Preston, Coordinator of Lighthouse Formation Process

On Good Shepherd Sunday, Bishop Barron spoke on Pope Francis's three qualities of a good shepherd. **A good shepherd has to be out in front of his flock; he has to be in the midst of his flock; and he has to be behind his flock.**

As I reflected on these qualities, I realized how words cannot adequately express how abundantly blessed we have been with our own good shepherd, Fr. Bob Remark.

Leading from the front, he understood the need for radical change to revive and rejuvenate our Catholic faith. Inspired by, and obedient to, the Holy Spirit, he had the courage to take a risk, step out in faith and trust, and provide us, his flock, with a new vision.

Walking among his flock, Fr. Bob has been present and available to parishioners as they have looked to him for guidance and direction; taking to heart the vision that calls each one of us to be a disciple, to go out and make disciples, and to live with Jesus at the very center of our lives. This vision has become The Lighthouse. Journeying with parishioners in their joys and sorrows, Fr. Bob has encouraged us all to obey Christ's call to action through the five Lighthouse Living values of becoming Scripture-Soaked, Spirit-Reliant, Beacons of Hope, Repentant, and Warm-Hearted.

Leading from behind, Fr. Bob has shown compassion and warm-heartedness for the lost who do not know of the love, mercy and compassion of Jesus for everyone; for those who are lukewarm or have fallen away from the church; and also for the faithful who, through Lighthouse Living, follow Fr. Bob's leadership and endeavour to bring all into a personal relationship with Jesus.

Thank you Fr. Bob for being the Good Shepherd for our Family of Parishes. Your constant, gentle light has touched the hearts of many. In deep gratitude for the difference you have made to so many, and giving God the glory, we wish you a happy, healthy, peaceful and well-earned retirement!

I would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our Lighthouse Disciple-making Formation Process members. Your enthusiasm, energy and countless hours of dedicated commitment has helped further our vision of **becoming an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say and do.** The love and light of Christ shines through all of you!



## Lisa Wright, Sacramental Preparation

Gratitude is more than being thankful, it is the warm-hearted feeling that when we reflect upon, we see the wonderful generosity of the love of God and the people that God has lovingly placed in our lives.

As we reflect as another school year comes to an end, there is gratitude for all the happenings at Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes. Through journeying with others in faith and helping not only others but ourselves, grow and learn about the love of Jesus through the sacraments, we are grateful for the people that are here in our family of parishes.

As young people and their families have journeyed in faith, preparing for the reception of the sacraments for the first time, we are grateful for the people serving alongside them. Our sacrament facilitators have taken their time to help the families know the love of Christ. Our facilitators and helpers have relied on the Holy Spirit to enlighten their hearts and minds, helping families to grow and have Jesus in the center of their lives. Whether Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, or Confirmation preparations, it is this opportunity for our sacrament facilitators to be the Beacon of Hope and support that we are all in need of.



### Beacons of Hope

We want to be a lighthouse on a dark sea and lead souls to the safety of Jesus, the Light. We do this by sharing our stories of how Christ is transforming us.

Through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), I and others have had the opportunity to also share in the faith journey of adults who want to grow in faith and come to know Jesus more deeply. Not only have I had the pleasure of leading this incredible group but have shared in this with wonderful parishioners who have sponsored the catechumens journeying alongside of them. The candidates themselves bring their stories and experiences and what led them to RCIA and their want and excitement for the Lord. This reminds us all how grateful we should be. We have an opportunity each week to gather and learn not only on what we profess and believe in our Catholic faith but to take time to reflect on the Gospel readings, where we all have an opportunity to become more Scripture Soaked.

We are blessed in our family of parishes to have a wonderful community of disciple-making disciples. I have so much gratitude for Fr. Bob, Fr. Jude, Fr. Steve, and Deacon Jim who have continued to lead us in our discipleship path. Fr. Bob and Fr. Jude, our gratitude for all you have done for us is held deep in our hearts and we will be forever grateful to the Lord for you both being a part of our lives, reminding us all how grateful we are for the love of Christ Jesus, Our Lord.



## Rebecca D'Agostin

Prior to Alpha, I had not put much thought into the meaning of life. I was so busy with school, work and personal hobbies that I did not take the time to think about God. Before Alpha, Jesus was outside of my life. I was oblivious to the subtle nudges from God that now seem clear in hindsight. Despite these nudges, I wasn't ready to accept Jesus as part of my life.

Growing up amid various adversities, I found it easier to push away the idea of God, fearing rejection. However, Alpha at Holy Family Parish changed my misconceptions. The welcoming and accepting environment inspired me to learn more about the meaning of life and the Catholic faith. It was so nice to connect with people who were also questioning their faith and the meaning of life. I enjoyed hearing other people's perspectives and experiences. The group leaders were supportive and encouraged us to ask questions during discussions. My favourite moment of Alpha was attending Mass with my group.

After Alpha, I completed RCIA and celebrated Baptism and Confirmation during Easter at Holy Family Parish. I now have a personal connection with God. I find comfort in knowing that He has a plan. I am reading the Bible and praying more often. I am also attending Church groups to deepen my faith, make friends and learn from others.

What is:

**Alpha** - an 11-week series answering the question of "Is there more to life than this? by introducing who Jesus and the Holy Spirit are and the Christian faith

**RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - the process of introducing the Catholic and preparing those who want to be received into the Catholic Church

## Peter Nye

When I felt called to join the Catholic Church, transitioning from Protestantism, I was intimidated. As a 22-year-old man, I sought the fullness of truth. My faith was missing something, I hungered for the Eucharist and sacred tradition.

Upon contacting Holy Family parish, I met Lisa Wright, our Sacramental Preparation Coordinator, who introduced me to the Alpha Series. The weekly Alpha sessions fostered unity among participants from diverse faith backgrounds, while also offering enjoyable refreshments. After Alpha had ended, non-Catholic Alpha attendees, including myself, embarked on the RCIA journey, delving into key Catholic beliefs such as sacraments, devotions, Mother Mary, saints and the hierarchy of heaven.

Each catechumen was paired with a practising Catholic sponsor who guided them through the program. After nearly a year since beginning Alpha, our group concluded the journey by collectively embracing Catholicism, receiving Confirmation and first Holy Communion together. These programs provide remarkable opportunities to fully commit to the Catholic faith and partake in its sacraments, notably the Eucharist. If you feel called to embrace Jesus in the fullness of truth, I urge you to join Alpha and RCIA, witnessing the miracles that unfold.

Furthermore, if you are a practising Catholic who is feeling a call to deepen their faith, I encourage you to consider the immense blessing of sponsoring an aspiring Catholic through RCIA, and fulfilling our duty of spreading the good news to all and becoming a disciple-making disciple.

# Our Family's Treasure



**Tim Firth,  
Mission Support Team Lead**

On behalf of your Family Finance Council, we thank you for sharing your gifts from God. You have seen clear to support our Mission and Vision by increasing your offerings by more than nine percent this year, compared to last year, and that gives us confidence that God's work can continue to allow us to be disciple-making disciples.

All of our Ministries, including Alpha, RCIA, Sacraments, Parents & Tots, Holy Grounds Café, Online Presence (livestream, social and digital media), Lighthouse Disciple-making Formation Process, Life Groups, Music, etc., have costs attached to them. We have the best group of volunteers that a parish could imagine; however, there are still costs inherent in supporting the great work that goes on in the support of our Mission. Your parish staff are dedicated to ensuring that we are supported every day in the work that we do for God. All of that is made possible by your generous support and sacrifice.

In order to grow in our Vision and Mission, we ask that you take time in prayer to reflect on your support.

**"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."**

**- 1 Chronicles 29.14**



# Examen of Lighthouse Living

*How did I experience God's love today? How did I respond?*

**1** In faith, come into the Lord's presence. Give thanks for the blessings of your day.

**2** Ask the Holy Spirit for his light and direction in this reflection

**3** Examine your day, mindful of our five Core Values

 **Warm-Hearted**

When we see a need in another person, we respond to their need with mercy and compassion.

 **Scripture-Soaked**

We take time everyday with the Word of God, to soak in his Word and are better able to imitate the life of Jesus.

 **Spirit-Reliant**

When we sense God is speaking to us through His Word, we act on it.

 **Repentant**

When we become aware of a relationship tension, we actively move towards restoring relationships.

 **Beacons of Hope**

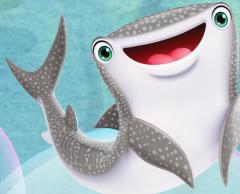
When we hear that someone has encountered God, we encourage and help them share their story with someone.

**4** Ask, "How have I responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit – In gratitude? In repentance?"

**5** Ask, "As a disciple, what has the Lord taught me today?"

This daily examen is a process of reflecting on our Core Values of Lighthouse Living to assist us in becoming a disciple-making disciple.

# SUMMER CAMP 2024



**Saint Patrick**

July 29 – August 2

**Holy Family**

August 6 – 9

# SUBA

diving into friendship with God

*Totally Catholic*



**Register  
on our  
website**

[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)



**Saint Patrick  
Holy Family**

Lucas Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

Pastoral Changes  
within Our Family  
of Parishes

In effect July 1, 2024

**Fr. Bob is Retiring!**

**Fr. Jude is moving**

to Perth Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes

We Welcome...

**Fr. Thom Blondin** – Pastor

**Fr. Matthew Sawyer** – Associate Pastor

**Please pray for our priests and our Family  
community during this time of transition**

# PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MISSION

GIVING AT SAINT PATRICK

Ways to Give



GIVING AT HOLY FAMILY

Ways to Give



For all the ways to support, please go to the Giving page on our website.

LEARN MORE HERE

## OUR FAMILY TEAM

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BARB PRESTON\*  
Senior Leadership Team  
[bpreston@dol.ca](mailto:bpreston@dol.ca)

\* Senior Leadership Team – advises and helps the pastor create long-term goals based on the parish's vision (The Lighthouse)

Saint Patrick Ph: 519.227.4726  
email: [stpatlucan@dol.ca](mailto:stpatlucan@dol.ca)

Holy Family Ph: 519.472.0057  
email: [hfparish@dol.ca](mailto:hfparish@dol.ca)

To meet the Team, please [click here](#) or scan the QR-code



## WELCOMING NEW PARISHIONERS



If you are new to Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes - Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London, please take a moment and [click here](#) for more information, or call the Parish offices: Saint Patrick at **519.227.4726 x20**, or Holy Family at **519.472.0057 x201**.

We want to support you in prayer

## Online Prayer Ministry

Join our Prayer Line to receive weekly prayers, reflections, music, and prayer.

To sign up or submit a prayer request, scan the QR-code or go to our website.

Submit your prayer requests online or email them to [stp.hfp@dol.ca](mailto:stp.hfp@dol.ca)



The Prayer Line is powered by Flocknote



[wearelighthouse.ca/online-prayer-line-ministry](http://wearelighthouse.ca/online-prayer-line-ministry)

Our next (Summer) issue of The Beacon will come in July.



Stay connected with us – sign up with Flocknote!

[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca) <sup>19</sup>



**TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS,**

**Thank you!**

Thank you for everything you do to support our mission!



**Saint Patrick  
Holy Family**

Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

**[wearelighthouse.ca](http://wearelighthouse.ca)**