

The Beacon

NOVEMBER 2024

Give God Permission

How can we respond to God's invitation to us; to give him permission to tell us how he is asking us to grow closer to him and to serve him and our brothers and sisters.



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.

Vol. Iss.
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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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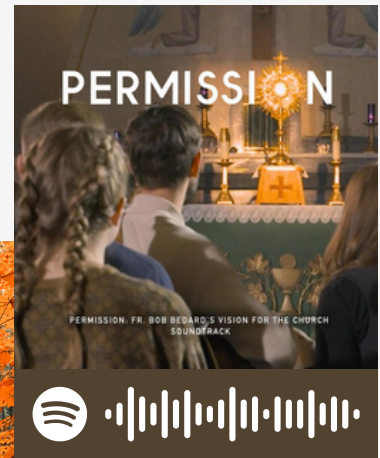
JOIN OUR TEAM



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

If you are interested, please contact Erwin Fung at efung@dol.ca

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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.

What is *The Beacon*?

Jesus invites us to be **Beacons of Hope**. we do this by sharing our stories of how we are being transformed by encountering Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The Beacon is how we are sharing the stories of transformation from members our community

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

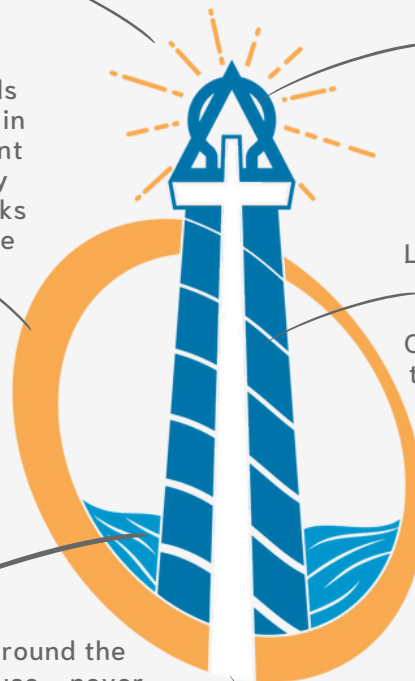
The stripes on the Lighthouse refer to the formation path of disciples, up toward Christ. The path equips the saints for ministry

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As I reflected on our theme this month, to “Give God Permission,” I remembered a story that Monsignor Cavanagh, a professor and House Spiritual Director at Saint Peter Seminary, told us seminarians during one of his Spiritual Talks.

He spoke of how he grew up in a large family and in a very small home and that, as a child and young man, he would often pray to live in a big house with lots of rooms. After he was ordained a priest, he was sent for further studies in Rome and eventually moved into a very large “house” with many rooms – Saint Peter Seminary! “God does have a sense of humour”, he would tell us, and Monsignor lived in that very big house for over 40 years! He also told us, “be careful what you pray for” and “mean it when you do”!

What is amazing about that story was that Monsignor Cavanaugh was open to the Will of God and embraced his new life with integrity, honor and love. He was open to God’s Will even though his preference was to be a Parish Priest. He allowed God to use him! Even though he meant something totally different when he prayer to “live in a big house”, he was open to being used by God.

**He allowed God to use him!
Even though he meant
something totally different.**

During the celebration of Holy Mass, we pray together our Family of Parishes Prayer — **“to become the people you (God) desire us to become.”** Do you mean it? Are you open to being used by God and to follow His Holy Will? Can you embrace and use the gifts He has given you? Will you do so for the Glory of God and in service of His people? Will you be His disciple-making disciple? Will you give Him permission?



Rest assured of my continued prayers for all of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Thom Blondin".

Pastor

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

GIVE GOD PERMISSION: A VISION OF EVANGELIZATION FROM FR. BOB BEDARD, CC

Erwin Fung



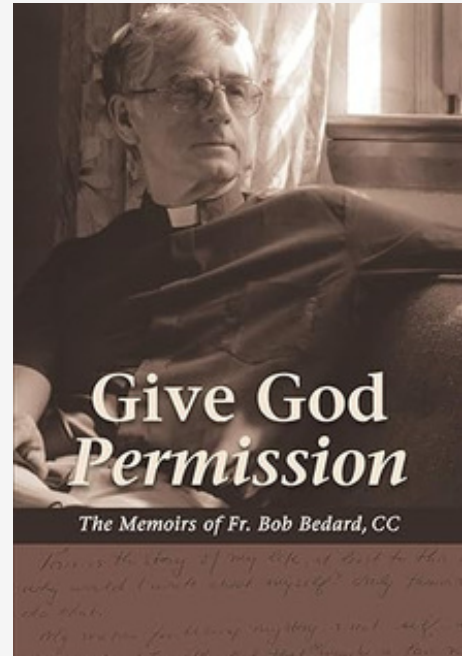
This month, we draw inspiration for our theme from the life, vision, and charism of Fr. Bob Bedard, CC (1929-2011) and the Companions of the Cross. Fr. Bob founded the Companions of the Cross as “a community of Catholic priests inviting people to know Jesus and empowering them to share Jesus.”* Back in Lent 2024, we had invited Fr. Allan MacDonald, CC to lead our Family of Parishes Lenten Mission (titled, “Crisis Precedes Renewal”) where he was able to share a little about the Companions of the Cross and the charism of this community.

We are inspired by this theme to Give God Permission to “write” on our hearts how he wants us to give back to him the generous gifts he has given to us. These gifts include how we spend our “free” time; how we serve him in touching the lives of our brothers and sisters (church, neighbourhoods, cities, the world); and how we give financially to support the mission of the church. Everything we have (yes, everything) is a generous gift from God. We read in the Bible that he asks us to give back to him in abundance. To be like the servant in the parable, and return in abundance the “talent” that the master (the Lord) gave to him. It is possible for us to do. We just have to give him permission (not that he requires it, but because he gave us free will) to respond to his invitation. This is how we are Lighthouse Living, and being Spirit-Reliant in what he has given to us. We shouldn’t be giving from our excess, but from the abundance that he has provided to us.

Fr. Bob (Bedard) encouraged everyone to ‘Give God Permission’:

**“Lord, I give you permission to do
whatever you want in my life.
Whatever you ask me to do, Lord
– I will do it.”**

For some, this is easier than others. We all live in different circumstances, state in life, and means (financial and otherwise). God is not asking us to become impoverished and to suffer for the sake of suffering, but he is inviting us to respond to his invitation to rely on him and to invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts to tell us how to respond. Let us Give God Permission today to respond to his invitation to be “disciple-making disciples, who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.”***



Fr. Bob Bedard, CC was born July 17, 1929, and died October 6, 2011.

He founded the Companions of the Cross with four seminarians in 1985. Many have embraced Fr. Bob as their ‘spiritual father in Christ’.

His key teaching was encouraging people to Give God Permission, wave the white flag of surrender, roll out the red carpet for the Lord.*

“The eyes of the Lord roam over the whole earth, to encourage those who are devoted to him wholeheartedly” (2 Chronicles 12.9). This describes the life of Fr. Bob Bedard, Founder of the Companions of the Cross, wholehearted for the Lord and to the carrying out of his holy will. He came from humble beginnings in Ottawa where he was raised, went to school and was ordained a priest in 1955. His open and surrendered approach to his faith throughout his life, enabled him to say “yes”, when the Lord asked for his permission to begin a new community of priests and seminarians in 1985. A teacher for many years, the Lord transformed his ministry to his students and as a result many were evangelized and returned to their faith. Through his involvement in the Charismatic Renewal and extensive speaking at conferences about the renewal of parishes he had a tremendous impact and helped numerous people allow the Holy Spirit to be active in their lives. He is truly a remarkable servant of the Lord and a pioneer of the new evangelization in the Church. **



* from the Companions of the cross website (companionscross.org)

** description from Amazon.ca from the book, *Give God Permission*, Fr. Bob Bedard, CC (2010) (a.co/d/1iOXC2h)

*** from *The Lighthouse* - our Vision and Core Values

PROFILE – FR. STEVE



Fr. Steve is part of the preaching team for our Family of Parishes. You can watch recordings of his homilies on our YouTube channel.



Fr. Steve Wlusek, 66, began serving as spiritual administrator of Saint Patrick Parish, Lucan in July 2021 and was appointed as associate pastor of the Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes a year later. Fr. Steve grew up in Windsor and has a brother, sister, nephew, niece-in-law, and two great nieces aged three and five. He was ordained May 4, 1986.

'We need to view Jesus as our lighthouse'

Nikita Fonseca

Nikita Fonseca: Can you share about your background and how you felt called to serve as a priest?

Fr. Steve: Being a priest is not something I had always wanted. I was sick a lot as a child, and saw the priests in my church as a role model of sorts, they were energetic, and I thought that I wouldn't be able to do what they did. After my father passed away at a young age, and due to my sickness, I developed a strong prayer life. It was then that I felt a call to become a priest. Upon inquiring, Saint Peter Seminary suggested I take a philosophy course at the University of Windsor, where I was already majoring in computer science. After just one class, I decided to switch my major to philosophy and then joined the theology program at the Seminary. This was driven by my desire to serve God and His people.

NF: What brings you joy and excitement about joining our Family of Parishes?

FS: I find the Family of Parishes very joyful, energetic, and welcoming. I am excited most by the parish's multi-ethnic and diverse community, which enriches our community, and its outreach, which furthers our mission to make disciple-making disciples. I am happy to be working with the new priests, who bring new energy, ideas and insights to our parish, and look forward to getting to know the parishioners in years to come.


NF: How do you hope to keep contributing to our community through your ministry, and how do you see yourself collaborating with parishioners in the future?

FS: I was privileged to serve at Saint Peter Seminary where I had the luxury to complete my postgraduate studies in Catholic Theology. I hope to share spiritual wisdom and Christian heritage through contributing to discussions in Alpha, partaking in the parish book clubs and through my homilies. I want to collaborate with parishioners by being involved in different ministries, wherein we can share faith stories and the comfort of Jesus during difficult moments like the loss of a loved one, and come close to the Lord.

NF: The Lighthouse symbolizes guidance and hope; what personal experience or message of hope would you like to share with our community as we journey together?

FS: The core values are based on the words in the Scripture. I have a painting of a lighthouse that I've had since my seminary days hanging in my room. In difficult moments, looking at it gives me hope and strength. We need to view Jesus as our lighthouse, and let the stability of the light in the stormy waters guide us and call us to *"have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do."*

NF: How do you like to spend your free time, and what hobbies or interests do you hope to continue or explore in your new role?

FS: I enjoy golfing with my friends. I visit the gym, to maintain my health, strength, and vigour. I enjoy chatting with my seminarian and old parishioner friends over dinner, preferably Italian. I also enjoy movies, I watch Netflix — usually the top 10 picks — and enjoy reading: James Patterson, Sue Grafton, *Experiencing God in the Ordinary* by William A. Barry, and Mother Teresa's life story, *Come Be My Light*. 

**“Work through me today Lord.
Let me be your hands and feet
and voice!”**



Lorraine Moir

That is my prayer before arising from my bed each morning. I was struck recently by how this prayer manifested itself.

It was at our Saint Patrick's CWL (Catholic Women's League of Canada) pie-making day - in preparation for the Bazaar on November 3. Approximately 30 ladies gathered at the Parish Hall to peel apples, roll dough, assemble and package 110 pies to be sold to raise money for local charities. As I looked across the room, I saw all these beautiful women talking, laughing, working together and allowing God to use their gifts and talents. Whether they were simply peeling an apple, teaching someone how to make pie dough, or lending an ear to a fellow CWL sister confiding her troubles, the joy of God's presence was palpable.

He was working through all of us to support one another as Catholic women, strengthen our bonds to our beloved Saint Patrick Parish and to our wider rural community through the charities we will be financially supporting. I have no doubt that each of us were His hands and feet and voice that day! 🙏

**Whether they were
simply peeling an apple,
teaching someone how
to make pie dough, or
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fellow CWL sister
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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.

Catholic Women's League of Canada (CWL)

A national organization that includes local chapters and councils, and is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith.

**Read more about our local councils
on Page 21**



“Let the Children come to me”

Linna Zaleski

What started as a prayer for help as a new parent, has become a wonderful journey of growth and love. As my husband and I embarked on our parenting journey, we felt inundated with parenting books and contradicting advice. I wanted to be confident in my parenting and knew deep down that my approach had to be rooted in the truth.

My prayers were answered and through a series of happenstance encounters, my now friend Monica asked me whether I would like to be part of starting up the Children’s Church ministry with a group of moms. I said yes, and of course had doubts. The commitment has impacted my life in so many positive ways, but most importantly, my relationship with God has deepened, matured, and transformed into a nurturing source of truth.

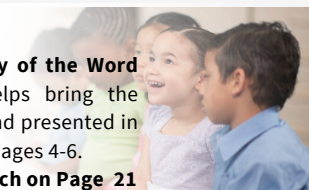
My habits have changed to accommodate this responsibility. I started to pray more regularly and am more mindful of how I spend my time. As I prepare for the Children’s Church lessons, going through the Gospel carefully this time around feels different, now that I have some more life experience under my belt and a different perspective.

As for my parenting, I am much less hard on myself about “getting it perfect,” and more focused on my relationship with God and more cognizant about how I show up for my family. He is merciful, and I have to remember that and live a life of faith knowing that when I mess up, he forgives, I learn, and we start the process over again. None of this I could have predicted when I said yes, and for the first time in a long time I feel as though I am on the path God has planned for me. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve and am excited for what is to come!

Children’s Church

More commonly known as **Liturgy of the Word with Children**, this program helps bring the Sunday’s Gospel message to life and presented in a age-appropriate way for children ages 4-6.

Read more about Children’s Church on Page 21



Lorraine Nediger

For many years, I resisted God’s call to share my gifts and serve. Jesus came to serve, all the saints served, and while it made sense, I still resisted.

But a few years ago, I felt a strong pull in my heart to serve at Holy Family, though I wasn’t sure where I was meant to. I kept putting it off, producing excuses, until one day, during prayer, I clearly heard God gently ask me, “If not now, when?” It was then that I decided to give God permission to guide me, and I committed to choosing a ministry to volunteer with.

I clearly heard God gently ask me, “If not now, when?”

Shortly before the pandemic, there was a need for volunteers to lead Children’s Church, so I seized the opportunity to serve. Although we had to pause due to the pandemic, God always opens new doors when one closes, and I soon found myself volunteering to welcome and seat parishioners.

After the pandemic restrictions were lifted, I attended the Parents and Tots group, and connected with other parents who felt called to bring back Children’s Church on a regular basis.

What I love most about this ministry is giving children the chance to actively participate and share in the life of the Church. They have so much to share, and teaching the Gospel in ways they can understand helps their faith grow. Just as their involvement strengthens their faith, it has also deepened mine.

When I gave God permission to use my gifts and offered my time, it became a true blessing. Through this ministry, I have built deep friendships, grown in understanding, and living of the Gospel, and learned to give more of myself to others while deepening my trust in God. I am so grateful for this opportunity and am thankful for the volunteers and leaders who have joined me on this journey. 🙏



Dora Johnston

The idea of attending a Life Group, sharing faith and delving more into Scripture appealed to me. I was able to find a group that filled my needs.

The group members are all unique. Each person has their stories of triumph and trials through life, but the common thread is love of God and dependence on the Trinity for guidance in life's challenges. I feel totally accepted and respected by the group and loved.

I am also able to share my faith with my husband. That is growth in our marriage. I credit this to the Life Group which encourages such faith sharing with others. I look forward to each meeting and miss it when I can't go.

Antoinette and Rolf Schneider

We were invited to join the Vineyard Life Group and early in September, attended our first meeting. We were welcomed sincerely and warm-heartedly.

At our meetings we have come to see the Holy Spirit working individually in each of us and the group as a whole. Sharing and discussing the Word, examining the lives of the saints and listening to individual testimonies strengthens both our knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ. We have come to understand that we are not alone in our struggles in this world, and that we can depend on the Godly support and encouragement from our Life Group community.

We look forward to walking together with our group members as we seek a greater reliance on God the Father and His beloved son, Jesus our Saviour who has given us the Holy Spirit, to draw us closer to Him so that we may know His will and purpose for our lives.

Barb Preston

Back in March of 2020, with the outbreak of Covid bringing life as we knew it to a sudden stop, our Vineyard Life Group could not meet in-person. Wanting to keep our momentum going, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, early one morning I awoke and created an agenda for members to have their own meeting in their homes. This was just before Zoom became our regular practice.

For fun, I suggested they play "pass the parcel" and the prize would be a roll of toilet paper. Hélène and Fred took the agenda to heart, as can be seen by the attached photo!



above: during the pandemic, even our Life Groups had to get creative and continue community. Hélène Malcolm and Fred Green - winners of a at-home game of "pass the parcel."

Hélène Malcolm

For me, "Giving God Permission" is a way of surrendering my life to God. I have participated in a Life Group for six years since the inception of Life Groups, once called Connect Groups. I now hesitate to use the word "group." We are so much more than that -- we are family!

Together we break bread, pray, read Scripture, share our faith journeys, laugh and sometimes cry. Through it all, we support one another with warm-hearted hugs, and assist one another in ways we are able. We give God permission to be part of our "family."

I like to refer to the Vineyard as "my extended family." If you are not a part of such a "family in Christ," I do encourage you to consider it. 🙏

The Vineyard Life Group came into being in October 2018 and is still going strong. We have become a family that prays, supports, and grows together in faith.

Life Groups

Life Groups are intentional medium-sized groups gathering 10-15 people meeting regularly to connect, pray, grow, and serve.

Visit wearelighthouse.ca/lifegroups to find more about Life Groups. Descriptions of most of our Life Groups are also included on pages 19 & 20

Email Stacy Paneras at hflifegroups@dol.ca if you have questions (or are interested in joining a Life Group.)

wearelighthouse.ca

Letting Go and Letting God




Monica Vandenberg

I am so abundantly blessed. I grew up in a devoted loving family. I now have a beautiful dynamic growing family. I have never had to go without a warm meal, a warm bed or a warm embrace. God has given me so much through the years and to top it off, I have never doubted His love for me.

Over the years I have come to realize that I must give back. It is important to give God permission to use me to share with others what has so generously been given to me.

I was baptized at Saint Pius X Parish (now Holy Family Parish) in 1967 and remained there until I was married in 1991. At that time, I moved to Lucan, where my new husband, Marius, lived, and joined Saint Patrick Parish. I have been part of the Lucan Northwest London Family of Parishes my entire life.

I learned at a young age from my parents to be involved with church activities. I remember being part of the children's choir back in the 1970s, and I continue to help with music ministry today. As a teenager I helped at CWL bazaars alongside my mom at Holy Family, and today I help at Saint Patrick. Back in the late 1980s, Marius — then my fiancé — and I were involved with youth group activities at Holy Family. Youth ministry, Alpha, and Life Group opportunities all find a place in my life today. Getting involved in parish life is one way I can give back.

Giving God permission to use me feels scary at times. Will I have enough time for myself? Will I be able to keep up with my other obligations? Will I be happy? A saying keeps popping up around me: once in confession and another time my daughter wrote it on my chalkboard at home. "Let go and let God." It is a simple saying but so profound. When we let God use us, that is when we are most fully living and truly happy. 



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.



Barbara Milanovic

Last Spring a few of us came together to participate in a new bible study called When You Pray in order to see if it might be worthwhile to offer it to the parish at large.

Our response was a resounding “yes”!

By the end of the study our conclusion was that it surpassed our expectations in terms of its benefits to our prayer lives and in establishing a mutual and more meaningful relationship with Jesus.

As we reviewed the books and progressed through the videos and group discussions it became evident that this was not a typical bible study in terms of past experiences.

Although based in scripture the primary focus of the study is on understanding the essential nature of prayer and its importance to our spiritual well-being; and to overcoming obstacles that stand in our way to establishing a deeper commitment to our faith in God.

We know that to Jesus prayer was integral to his relationship with his Father. We know He prayed for 40 days in the desert and was triumphant against the temptations of the devil to deviate from his divine mission on earth. He prayed following such miracles as the multiplying of the loaves and fishes; and he prayed tears of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane as he struggled with his own human resistance to following the will of God.



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.

Despite our desire to encounter God's love as humans we know that prayer may not always come easily.

The apostles asked Jesus how to pray and he taught them to pray the Our Father. In a different situation when asked by Jesus to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane they fell asleep failing to understand God's need for our prayers and the mutuality of the loving relationship between God and ourselves.

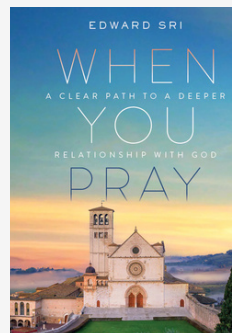
Through the study I became aware that I was not alone in sometimes being distracted during prayer; or perhaps too busy on some days to even begin. I had sometimes wondered if God was even listening or if he truly understood my struggles.

I came to recognize that my own weaknesses in praying consistently were shared by many; but that God understands me and continues to wait without judgment for me to seek Him out. I was able to acknowledge with gratitude that God is waiting for me to come to Him and to reveal his unending love for me and for all of us.

While progressing through the study I became more consistent and open to speaking with Jesus about my weaknesses and struggles; and in empathizing with those around me.

I found that on the days that I focused on scriptures and prayer that the day just seemed to go better and I felt lighter. The inevitable problems and annoyances remained in perspective; and sometimes disappeared in their significance in my daily life.

In addition to the guidance provided by the study resources I was strengthened and supported through the generous sharing and encouragements of my fellow group members. I was able to grow in awareness of the daily presence of God in my life; to build my trust that God is with me through happy, sad, and challenging times; and to believe that God really does have a plan for me. 🙏



Registration for When You Pray may be found on our website and will run from the week of November 3rd until the week of December 8th.

Please consider participating in this study in order to help deepen your prayer life and relationship with Jesus.

You may even find that you are transformed.

Mission Support:

Ensuring Saint Patrick and Holy Family parishes are equipped to live out our Vision

CHRISTIANS ARE TO GIVE TO THE CHURCH IN PROPORTION TO GOD'S PROVISION.

Tim Firth,
Mission Support Team Lead

We are taking the time every three months to give you details of the financial health of Saint Patrick and Holy Family parishes. Communicating financial statistics and details is challenging because some parishioners don't want too much detail while others desire more information. We hope this two-page summary* gives you the information you need to make sound decisions about how much to give to support the mission of your parish in the short- and long term as we strive to "become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples" (see our Lighthouse Vision). As always, we welcome your questions and insight.

Both Saint Patrick and Holy Family are in need of more funds in order to sustain their respective ministries. Healthy funding and financial support will encourage and enrich the development of "Lighthouse Living" in the months and years ahead. We have been absolutely overwhelmed with the levels of participation in The Lighthouse Disciple-Making Formation Process, Life Groups, Alpha, and Intercessory Prayer (to name a few), but we have not seen a corresponding increase in financial support, and many of our costs continue to increase, like you are experiencing in your own life.

As of July 31, 2024, (see attached statements), each parish is in a deficit position, and we have had to withdraw funds from our savings accounts to support monthly cash needs. Regardless of the fact that our revenue has increased and our expenses have decreased, compared to last year, this is not sustainable.

In order to balance the books for the rest of 2024, Holy Family parishioners will need to come up with an additional \$53,640 (as of July 31) and Saint Patrick parishioners will need to provide an additional \$20,084 (as of July 31). In addition, we are looking to sponsor two more refugees from Syria **at a cost of approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000**. They could be here as soon as December 31. Also, our sound systems need some work, and **our latest minimum estimate to get us up to where we need to be, is over \$30,000**.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth...But to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment."

(1 Timothy 6:17)

Two amazing opportunities await us. The first is our annual "Thanksgiving Appeal." The Diocese of London does not include funds donated to the Thanksgiving Appeal in its calculation of the 15 per cent assessment fee that we pay to support the Diocese and its missional goals, initiatives, and services. Money donated to the appeal allows us to keep 100 per cent of it for our needs. Please keep that in mind when giving to the 2024 appeal. If we were to use the Thanksgiving Appeal funds to pay for our assessments, which the Diocese encourages, we would need to raise \$138,500 for Holy Family, and \$21,000 for Saint Patrick. Yes, that is what it costs. The Diocese does amazing work, it employs incredibly talented people, and its services are extraordinary. None of that happens for free, and the funding for all Diocesan work comes from parishioners like you, not Rome.

THE FUNDING FOR ALL DIOCESAN WORK COMES FROM PARISHIONERS LIKE YOU, NOT ROME.

The second opportunity is Christmas. This is a very typical liturgical calendar 'happening', when Christians all around the world celebrate the birth of Emmanuel – "God with us" – who is our Lord and Saviour.

Your Family Finance Council, chaired by Maureen Looby, have begun its fall meetings, and they will look forward to your feedback and support in finding ways to ensure that our vibrant and growing parishes remain a strong and healthy place for worship, community, and formation of disciple-making disciples.

Please reach out to Tim Firth (tfirth@dol.ca), Fr. Thom, or Maureen Looby (Finance Council Chair) if you have any questions.

Give God Permission to grow in a deeper relationship with him

ALPHA

Helps churches to develop a culture of hospitality and invitation by creating a space where anyone is welcome; 'where one can have a real encounter with Jesus, the risen Lord; where people can feel listened to and loved; where the stranger can become a friend; and where people far from God can find a place to belong. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explore the basics of the Christian faith. Alpha creates a culture of invitation within our Family of Parishes community and is a great "front door" for people exploring faith. [CLICK HERE](#)

ALPHA YOUTH

Creates a space for young people to hold meaningful conversations about life, faith and purpose. Discussion time is interspersed throughout the short talks to make it simpler for them to share their thoughts and questions. [CLICK HERE](#)

BIBLE STUDY

Our Ascension Bible Study series take you on a journey to explore different themes (Jesus, Mary, the Mass, etc.) to better know our faith through scripture, and to build the practice of praying with scripture to hear the voice of God in our lives. By taking time every day 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. [CLICK HERE](#)

OUTREACH MINISTRY WITH SENIORS

Looking for volunteers who would be interested in bringing Holy Communion to nursing homes and seniors' residences, either on Sundays or through the week. Training provided. Ministry to the elderly or home-bound members of our communities is offering compassionate care and encouraging a sense of belonging and connection to the Body of Christ through Eucharist and the people of God. [CLICK HERE](#)

GOD'S GARDENERS

Do you have a green thumb, some spare time or just love working in the garden? God's Gardeners Ministry is a great way to serve God, and 'bring beauty to our church properties. We are so grateful to Tom and Monica Bevil, and Dave Preston for the dedicated work in our gardens but they could use some assistance. There are several ways to get involved from helping twice a year in the fall and spring to clean up the flower beds. Help is also required throughout the summer to weed, clean up, and water various flower beds. [CLICK HERE](#)

"Teach us to give and not count the cost"

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Give God Permission to live out my faith...



LECTORS

The Liturgy of the Word is the time during the Mass in which we reflect on how God speaks to us through the Sacred Scriptures. The mission of the Lector is to encourage the faith of the parishioners and inspire them to discipleship by proclaiming the Word of the Lord with clarity and conviction. [CLICK HERE](#)

ALTAR SERVING

is a vital part of the liturgical ministry. As an Altar Server, you are involved in the most sacred events of worship. You assist the priest, to make the worship more reverent and beautiful. Altar serving is a great opportunity to increase your faith and knowledge of the Mass. [CLICK HERE](#)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

It is our hope that beginning the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, we will begin to distribute the Blood of Christ in addition to the Body of Christ at all of our masses at both Saint Patrick and Holy Family. This will require a larger pool of Eucharistic ministers to facilitate this. We would be delighted to welcome any person of high school age and up. Training will be provided. [CLICK HERE](#)

HOSPITALITY

Help to create an open, welcoming, and inviting environment for everyone who comes to Mass in-person and online. We want to ensure that from the moment people pull into the parking lot until the moment they leave they feel welcomed and connected. [CLICK HERE](#)

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

"Although it's difficult today to see beyond the sorrow, may looking back in memory help comfort you tomorrow." Our Bereavement Team are members of our parish community who walk alongside of grieving families offering compassion, understanding, guidance, and a genuine listening ear as families mourn, pre-plan and arrange for the Vigil Prayers, Funeral Mass/Service, reception, and burial of a loved one. We continue that journey throughout the year as we reach out to the families, letting them know that although their grief may continue, we hold them in constant prayer, inviting them as well to our Annual Mass of Remembrance, in November. [CLICK HERE](#)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We are looking for more volunteers to help us in teaching our children about the love Jesus has for them. Anyone including parents or youth may apply. We use a program that is very easy to follow. Children's Church happens at the 9 AM Mass at Saint Patrick and the 11 AM Mass at Holy Family. [CLICK HERE](#)

RCIA – A JOURNEY IN FAITH

RCIA is a journey in one's personal faith. It can be a path to Baptism or Full Communion with the Catholic Church or it can be an opportunity to grow in one's faith as a Catholic, learning and growing in faith while supporting others as a sponsor or a facilitator. RCIA begins with that personal relationship with Jesus, through the Alpha Series. Through Alpha and knowing more about Jesus and moving to want to know more about the Catholic faith – it moves into a deeper understanding to what we as Catholics Profess as our Faith.

Helping with RCIA: sponsors to journey with those in RCIA – journeying aside an RCIA candidate, facilitators to be part of the team – weekly meetings. [CLICK HERE](#)

LITURGICAL DECOR AT SAINT PATRICK AND HOLY FAMILY

The Decorating Team enhances the liturgical space according to the seasons so that parishioners' praise-filled and thankful worship are heightened. Do you have an artistic talent or just an artistic sense? We need you. Or maybe you just like decorating with plants & flowers. The time commitment depends on the liturgical or special seasons – Lent/Holy Week/Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas are our busiest times when we may spend a few hours the morning prior to the eventual Celebration of Liturgy. During Ordinary Time we make use of Green Plants. [CLICK HERE](#)

What will I give permission to God...



TRADITIONAL CHOIR AT HOLY FAMILY

This choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, and on Sundays 45-minutes before Mass. Adults and high school students are welcome to join the choir (parent consent forms will need to be signed if under the age of eighteen). Reading music is an asset but it is not required. If you can carry a tune and want to share the gift of music by leading the congregation in song and praising the Lord, you can join us! [CLICK HERE](#)

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR AT HOLY FAMILY

The Contemporary Choir is responsible for leading the congregation in song at the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday nights. We practice every Monday in the church from 7:00pm until 8:00pm – 8:30pm approximately. We also do a quick practice at 4:30pm just before 5:00pm Mass starts on Saturdays. We are currently in need of a guitar player also. And of course, new voices to sing are always welcome. We mostly sing hymns from the *Gather* hymnal and other hymns from sheet music as appropriate, more contemporary, and some praise and worship hymns. We have a wonderful pianist who also helps to lead as well. [CLICK HERE](#)

WORSHIP BAND AT HOLY FAMILY

The Praise and Worship Band's mission is to lead people to Jesus and encourage them to sing to Him with all their hearts. As part of the team, there are opportunities to serve the community at the 2:00pm Sunday Mass, church-held retreats, and special services throughout the liturgical year. Practices are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–9:00pm. A certain level of skill is necessary, but please do not be intimidated by the application and audition process. Musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists) and those interested in sound tech are invited to apply. [CLICK HERE](#)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Get ready for the harmonious return of the Children's Choir to Holy Family this Fall! The melodious voices of our young talents will once again grace our services, filling the air with inspiration and joy. Join us in celebrating their musical journey and the spirit of togetherness through music. Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, September 9, from 9:00am–11:00am. [CLICK HERE](#)

9:00AM MASS CHOIR AT SAINT PATRICK

If you like to sing, please consider joining them in the choir loft for 9:00 AM Sunday Mass. They would like to add some extra voices, and they welcome all ages. No choir experience is needed – just a love for singing. There will be some occasional Wednesday evening practices, and you are welcome to join us on Sundays whenever you're available. Contact the office at 519.227.4726 or [CLICK HERE](#)

5:00PM MASS AND 11:00AM MASS CHOIRS AT SAINT PATRICK

The choirs from the 5:00pm Mass and 11:00am Mass are eagerly looking for new members to join! These Masses mainly consist of traditional music with accompaniment on the piano. We practice approximately once-a-month on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm. Please feel free to join us at Mass anytime or if you have any questions please contact Barb Morkin at 519.227.4184 or [CLICK HERE](#)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Do you want to deepen your relationship with our Lord and his Blessed Mother? Are you looking to join a parish group that seeks a greater intimacy with the Holy Spirit? Do you feel called to spend time with a group who pray weekly for the needs of the parish? [CLICK HERE](#)

What will I return to the Lord for his generosity to me...



PRAISE AND PROMISES

Youth and young adults need a place to come together to learn how to build a relationship with Jesus beyond Alpha alongside their peers. We want to provide an opportunity for young people to experience true, meaningful relationships with each other and the Lord to further their walks in faith. The youth community of the parish can benefit from a place like this to flourish and truly feel like they belong and have a purpose in the Kingdom family. [CLICK HERE](#)

PARENTS AND TOTS GROUP

Join us for our parents and tots play group in the All-Saints Hall at Holy Family on Wednesday mornings after the 10 am Mass and Saturdays at Noon! The groups will run for a couple of hours. Toys and activities will be available for various ages, and food/beverages will be provided. [CLICK HERE](#)

DIGITAL MINISTRY AND LIVESTREAMING

At Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes, we embrace digital ministry as a means of extending access to the grace of God within the realm of online community experiences. Our aim is to create a seamless connection between our virtual and in-person interactions, underscoring the abounding grace of God and the ever-present Spirit that accompanies us, no matter where we find ourselves throughout the day.

We continually seek individuals eager to share their talents and join our vibrant community. Take a moment to explore the opportunities listed below, and if you're interested, don't hesitate to connect with us.

Are you a blogger, photographer, videographer, graphic designer or just a social media savvy person? Do you have A/V & computer skills? Do you know your way around a PC, microphone, OBS, green screen or Pro presenter, video recording or editing? Ever heard of Canva?

Reach out and engage with us if you feel drawn to contribute. Your involvement is greatly valued and can help us further our mission of fostering a connected and spiritually enriched community. [CLICK HERE](#)

STITCHES OF COMFORT MINISTRY

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. [CLICK HERE](#)

COMMUNITY BUILDING MINISTRY

What does the post-Covid church look like? Some changes are here to stay, such as having an online presence and a greater awareness of practices to keep one another healthy and safe. But after so much time not doing church in the “regular” way, what many of us say we missed the most is the relationships—a sense of community with the other people in the parish. For the Post-Covid church to recover and grow, we need to have a greater focus on the relational aspect of what it means to be a church. We can re-energize the church by creating more space for people to develop deeper connections with each other. This is where we need your help to get this new ministry started. Looking to bring people together and think of new ways of engaging and working together to create a community culture in our parish and beyond engaging our rich ethnic and linguistic diversity. [CLICK HERE](#)

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers who are proficient in Office 365 and providing a welcoming environment on the phone and when visitors come into our offices. [CLICK HERE](#)

What will I return to the Lord for his generosity to me...



FINANCE COUNCIL

In accordance with Canon 537 (i.e. the laws of the Roman Catholic Church), every parish is required to have a Finance Council to assist the Parish Priest in the administration of the temporal goods (i.e. material or tangible assets, including building, property and finances) of the parish and to enable the parish to fulfill its mission in the Diocese, the Church and in the world. In our Family, the Finance Council plays a strategic role in ensuring that we become an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say and do. Fund development to support the attainment of our Vision and Mission has become a priority, and we encourage our Finance Council members to participate with a sense of looking forward. [CLICK HERE](#)

FAMILY OF PARISHES PASTORAL COUNCIL

With the launch of our new family of parishes vision and core values, we look forward to integrating these into all of our ministries and parish groups, over the next number of months. Having said that, it is also essential to bring together discerning people from both parishes to offer inputs, wisdom, and observations of where the Lord is working and how we can get better at it. Our family of parishes is looking for individuals aged high school and up, who would make themselves available for a monthly meeting either in person or online, the summer months excluded. People who offer themselves for this ministry will be invited to participate in a session of discernment, helping them to evaluate whether this is a good fit or not. [CLICK HERE](#)

LIGHTHOUSE TEAM

With the launch of the Family Vision and Core Values (The Lighthouse) on the weekend of September 15–17, we are committed to forming disciples of Jesus Christ, who will themselves help to form other disciples. St. Paul talks about 'equipping the saints for ministry.' The process of forming disciples in our Family invites parishioners who will invest themselves in prayer, discernment, sharing faith stories, and a willingness to assist others in their own faith journey. The formation process takes about two years, followed by investing in this process with others. Those who indicate an interest in this ministry will be invited to a discernment process this coming November/December. This ministry is at the heart of who we are as a family of parishes. Perhaps the Lord is inviting you to seriously consider this leadership development process. [CLICK HERE](#)

SOCIAL JUSTICE

For those who feel called to respond to social justice issues in the church and the world. These would include: advocating for particular groups, such as refugees, education environment outreach. If you are interested in helping with the renewal of this ministry please [CLICK HERE](#)

MEN'S FAITH GATHERINGS

Join us monthly for our Men's Faith Gatherings for the Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes, to be encouraged and be part of a fellowship – a brotherhood – of Catholic men. All Catholic men are called to encounter Christ, to grow in their faith, and become strong foundations of their faith, grounded to support their families in their journeys of faith. [CLICK HERE](#)

HOLY GROUNDS CAFE

Come and join us every Wednesday after the 10:00 AM Mass in the All-Saints' Hall at Holy Family Parish for coffee, baked goods and fellowship. Come and spread the cheer! Experience warm-hearted hospitality and hope. Build community, re-establish old friendships, and make new friends. Share stories of family, faith, and fun. Enjoy a hot cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate and home-baked treats.

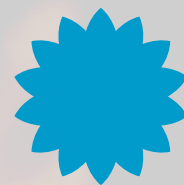
When: Every Wednesday morning following the 10:00am Mass. We are open till noon and you are welcome to drop in for as long, or as short, as you like. Every third weekend of the month, after each Mass.

Needed: Volunteers to make coffee, set-up, serve, and clean-up. No skills needed. Training given.

18 Come with an open heart to share warm-hearted hospitality. [CLICK HERE](#)

wearelighthouse.ca

Give God Permission to pray, connect, grow, and serve...



LIFE GROUPS

In a large parish there is a danger of getting 'lost in the shuffle.' In a small parish there is a danger of being the 'new person' or 'the outsider.' Life Groups are an opportunity to gather in a smaller gathering of 10 to 15 people via Zoom or in-person on a regular basis. There are morning groups and evening groups. [CLICK HERE](#)

Below are some of our current Life Groups:

RISING DISCIPLES

A young adult life group committed to growing faith in our secular generations. While growing faith, we strive to act in love for God's creation and will.

Meet Tuesday evenings in-person at Holy Family Parish, every other Tuesday.

WALKING WITH BARNABAS

A young adult life group committed to growing faith in our secular generations. While growing faith, we strive to act in love for God's creation and will.

THE VINEYARD

We are men and women 60+ The vineyard symbolizes Connectedness. Our connectedness to Christ, to each other and those we reach out to.

Meet Monday mornings 10:00am to Noon. We meet every other week sometimes in-person at Holy Family Parish and sometimes online.

SERVANTS OF HOPE

We are men and women 60+ Our core values are, pray, connect, grow, and serve those in our parish and the wider community.

Meet Monday mornings 10:00am to 11:30am. We meet via Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Monday each month.

MARIANS

We pray with each other and have grown in faith and support each other with love and humility. We are a group of men and women 50+.

Meet Monday evenings 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We meet via Zoom, every other Monday.

JEREMIAH 29:11

Through fellowship and support of each other we are growing in faith, prayer and friendship; and serve our parish in various ministries.

We are a group of women of various ages 50+ who meet mostly online every other Monday evening from 7pm – 8:30pm.

RUNNING WITH GOD

We are of various ages and are parents of elementary and high school children. At our meetings we have used various online studies on the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. We also spend time in prayer, Lectio Divina and share our faith journeys.

Meet Monday evenings 7:00pm. We meet every 2nd or 3rd Monday of each month.

Join a Life Group today

Give God Permission to pray, connect, grow, and serve...



LIFE GROUPS

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION ("CIA")

Men and women of various ages. Our meetings include an ice-breaker activity, prayer, a video teaching/Lectio Divina, song and end with prayers of thanksgiving and intercessions.

Meet Tuesday evenings. Once-a-month via Zoom and once-a-month in-person at 7:00pm at Holy Family Parish.

LIVING WATERS

Our newly formed and the first Life Group to be based at our Saint Patrick location. The group is currently comprised of 14 members of which 12 have Saint Patrick as their home parish and 2 have Holy Family as their home parish.

Gatherings are held on the first and third Monday's of each month.

SEEKERS OF GRACE

A group of men and women ranging in age from late- 50s to 70s. We've based our discussions on a book that members purchase after voting on a title. We conclude each meeting with prayer and a song.

Meet every other Tuesday evening via Zoom 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

THE ORCHARD

We are parents of toddlers to teenagers. We have family gatherings one Sunday morning where the children play and then join us in prayer and song. The adults meet via Zoom on another evening for prayer, faith studies and reflection.

Meet once a month on Tuesday evenings via Zoom from 8:30pm to 9:30 and our family gatherings are after Mass on a Sunday morning.

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY

We have grown together in our commitment to one another and our personal relationship with the Lord. We are men and women, 55+, with some residing out-of-town.

Meet Wednesday evenings 7:00pm to 9:00pm – on Zoom.

GROWING IN FAITH

We've been meeting for prayer, a video teaching, reflections, and discussions. We also continue to serve those in need. Mostly women, 45-60.

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening of each month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm; once via Zoom and once in-person after the 6:30pm Mass.

ON EAGLES' WINGS

We share Scripture readings, reflections, discussions, and prayer. We always close with coffee and fellowship.

Meet Thursday afternoons 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We meet every other Thursday in person at the home of one of our member's.

LIFEGROUPS

Give God Permission to be Warm-Hearted...



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Founded in 1833, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is an international lay organization, united in the mission to serve persons in need. In Canada alone, the SSVP helps more than 350,000 people each year. We provide material support in the form of non-perishable food, clothes, household items and furniture to individuals and families across the country. Whether in their homes, on the street, in shelters, in hospitals or in prison, our work knows no boundaries. The Society also provides assistance to refugees, immigrants, and northern communities. [CLICK HERE](#)

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL YOUTH

As the Society was founded by youth, the role of young people in the Society continues to grow and develop. In Ontario, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has youth conferences in London, Mississauga, Kitchener-Waterloo and Windsor. We are always looking for energetic youth between the ages of 13 – 30 who want to make a difference in the lives of people in their communities, either at the current or new youth conferences.

The benefits of joining one of our existing youth conferences or trying to start your own are tremendous. Whether you are looking to make some new friends, help a neighbour who is in need, or have an idea for a project to improve the lives of those in your area, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is looking for youth with a passion for the service of others. [CLICK HERE](#)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – SAINT PATRICK

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month after the 7:00pm Mass.

The Saint Patrick CWL supports our church with flowers, Coffee Sunday Socials. We support our youth through sacramental gifts and receptions, our seniors with calls and cards, and local charities through monies raised by our bazaar and so much more. [CLICK HERE](#)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – HOLY FAMILY

We've been meeting for prayer, a video teaching, reflections, and discussions. We also continue to serve those in need. Open to all women, 16 and older. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening of each month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm; once via Zoom and once in-person after the 6:30pm Mass. [CLICK HERE](#)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – SAINT PATRICK

This council meets monthly on Mondays to support parish and local needs through volunteering and fundraising. The amount of commitment varies for each member. [CLICK HERE](#)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – HOLY FAMILY

A Knight of Columbus is a practising Catholic man who gives material and moral support to the Church and her works on all levels – promoting the programs of the parish and diocese, and coming to the aid of the missions, the needy, and the underprivileged, and supports the Church in her defense of marriage and family life. A Knight strives to have a greater knowledge of the teaching of Christ and His church and to accept, respect, and defend the Church's authority to teach, govern, and sanctify the faithful. [CLICK HERE](#)

**JOIN
US!**

Ministry Fair

Give God Permission to work in your heart

Saturday, November 16
and Sunday, November 17

AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES



wearelighthouse.ca

GIVE GOD PERMISSION

EDWARD SRI

WHEN
A CLEAR PATH TO A DEEPER
YOU
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
PRAY

**Join us this Fall for 6 weeks
to deepen your relationship with God**

Click here to find out more:
wearelighthouse.ca/bible-study



Scripture-Soaked



Visit ascensionpress.com/whenyoupray for details on the resource.

ASCENSION
The Faith Formation Leader

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](#)

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* 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

Holy Family Ph: 519.472.0057
email: hfparrish@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



The Prayer Line is
powered by Flocknote



wearelighthouse.ca/online-prayer-line-ministry

Please visit our website (under Worship > Mass Intentions) to see our Mass Intentions for the Week and Weekday Mass Schedule.

Updates, including funerals, will be posted there.



Stay connected with us –
sign up with Flocknote!

wearelighthouse.ca

**TO ALL RECEIVING
SACRAMENTS FOR
THE FIRST TIME
THIS SEASON,**

Congratulations!