

Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

The Beacon

FEBRUARY 2025



Discovering Hope



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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!

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 of our community

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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.

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

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

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

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.



FROM THE PASTOR

FR. THOM BLONDIN, PASTOR
Saint Patrick, Lucan and Holy Family, London Parishes
Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes



“...we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ”

Romans 5.3-5

When I think about the idea of “discovering hope” not only does the above Scripture come to mind but, also, the story we read in Mark 5.25-34. In this story we see that discovering hope means leaving behind despair and reaching out in a very real way.

I believe, and according to Max Lucado in his book, “He Still Moves Stones”, that there are times in our lives that all we have is a **crazy hunch and a high hope...** perhaps feeling we have nothing to give because we are hurting. And all we have to offer Christ is our hurt!

Hurt often keeps people from going to God while others take one or two steps in His direction. In doing so, they suddenly see all the others – so clean, so neat, so trim and fit in their faith. And in seeing them they block their view of Him. So they step back.

If that describes you, note carefully one person (Mark 5:34) commended for having faith. It wasn’t a wealthy giver. It wasn’t a loyal follower. It wasn’t an acclaimed teacher. It was a shame-struck penniless outcast who clutched onto her hunch that He could and her hope that He would!

Which, by the way, isn’t a bad definition of faith. A conviction that He can and a hope that He will.

So, in conclusion, we can agree with the above Scripture passage that hope does NOT disappoint when we live our lives and face our difficulties in faith and with trust! 🙏

Fr. Thom Blondin

Discovering Hope in the Eucharist



At a wedding in Cana, Jesus performed the first of his signs that the Messianic Era had begun – with his coming in our midst. After Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding, the steward said to the groom, “You have saved the best for last. Not only at this first of Jesus’s signs, but continuously through time, Jesus has revealed to people there is always a surprise of God’s abundant, lavish love that we can look forward to in our future. This is the essence of our hope. God is full of surprises that far exceed our greatest expectations.

In my service within our Family of Parishes, one particular ministry I treasure is that of spiritual direction. In meeting with those I minister to since the Christmas season concluded, I have been delighted to see how God has been working and revealing himself to them in new and fresh ways – through the liturgies of the season, family gatherings, and their private times of prayer. For some of them, they have had surprising and welcome experiences of reunion or reconciliation with family members from whom they have been apart for a while. One priest on the faculty of the Seminary often used to say in meetings of the seminary spiritual directors: “When God is at work, it’s good to be in the vicinity!” I have been delighted to see God working in the lives of people receiving direction. This consistently reaffirms my hope in the God of wonder!

“When God is at work, it’s good to be in the vicinity!”

Each time we come together to celebrate Eucharist, it is reassurance of our hope: our God makes himself present to nourish and heal us in each time and place.

Through it, we look forward in hope to the Kingdom in which God will be our all in all, caring for all our needs. The Second Vatican Council’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy affirms:

“In the earthly liturgy we share in a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the Holy City of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle. With all the warriors of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn of glory to the Lord. Venerating the memory of the Saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them. We eagerly await the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, until He our life, shall appear and we too will appear with him in glory.”

The Eucharist is, therefore, not just a sign but a foretaste of the heavenly life we will celebrate in God’s Kingdom. Let us then allow Eucharist each week to bolster our hope in the God who wishes to share abundant life with us eternally! 🙏

FR. STEVE WLUSEK

Discovering Hope in Disciple-Making Formation

“ And what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. ”

2 Timothy 2.2

BARB PRESTON

There is something about our Family of Parishes that draws people in, not only to the weekend Masses, but to gatherings throughout the week. There is a buzz, a hive of activity and joy abounds. People together sharing faith, hope and love.

In September 2021, with Fr. Bob at the helm, we began our first cohort with our disciple-making formation process – a process to train Disciple-making Disciples. Meetings were prayer-filled and Spirit-led and I was filled with hopeful anticipation as we began to equip 12 faithful parishioners who would, in turn, go out as disciples and teach others as well. This process has since grown to include three cohorts (60 disciples).

With Fr. Thom now at the helm, we look forward to welcoming a fourth cohort in September. This formation process requires dedication and commitment to attend meetings regularly, to grow in holiness as we focus on the Catholic Christian Outreach studies and share stories (being Beacons of Hope) of the love of our merciful God with others.

I am humbled and honoured to be a companion on the journey with these wonderful disciples who have taken to heart this call of Jesus.

I watch in awe as they step outside of their comfort zone to share their journeys of faith. How their

faith, hope, and trust in the Holy Spirit leads them to dig deep, to reflect on where they have been and grown on their journey, their highs and their lows, their struggles and their ultimate joy in experiencing the never-ending love and forgiveness of our merciful Father who loves them for who they are. Their hope is in the Lord who enkindles in them the fire of his love and guides them along the path He has planned for each one of them.

Every parishioner of Saint Patrick and Holy Family, whether they are part of the formation or not, form an important part of our disciple-making formation process. My hope for this Jubilee Year 2025 is that every parishioner who comes through the doors of Saint Patrick and Holy Family, takes to heart the five Lighthouse Living values of becoming **Warm-Hearted, Scripture-Soaked, Spirit-Reliant, Repentant, and Beacons of HOPE** for all, and in so doing, help us realize our vision of becoming “*an invitational community of disciple-making disciples who have Jesus at the center of everything we believe, say, and do.*”

We are so blessed to have three parish priests who have embraced this Lighthouse Living vision and values and promote it in our Family of Parishes. 🙏

Comments from parishioners:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, This says to me, that because God comforts us and offers us hope, we want to share the same comfort and hope to others, with our stories.

Recently, I experienced a crisis in my life, and yet amid this struggle and turmoil, I have a calm, hope, and peace about me that I can only attribute to the Holy Spirit and the formation process.

I believe this Family of Parishes can be viewed as the cornerstone of the lived core values of its Mission and be an example for our Diocese.

Barb Preston is a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the Lucan Northwest London Catholic Family of Parishes

Discovering Hope in Christ in New Places

LILLIAN MACPHERSON

Several years ago, I took a leap of faith when I accepted a teaching position with a school division in northern Alberta. After much prayer and conversations with my family and friends, I drove across the country.

My son assisted with the preparations, packing my vehicle, and giving me tech advice and driving tips. He waved goodbye as I drove away from our family home, my daughter in the passenger seat as navigator, and Stewie our family pooch in the back seat.

In Edmonton, my daughter flew home to London and I continued driving north. I had no idea what to expect at the other end of my journey.

**“Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
(Hebrews 11.1)**

Amid my anxiety and uncertainty, I hoped for an easy transition, placing my trust in God. I hoped my faith in Christ would lead me to an understanding of God’s promises for me. Frankly speaking, my experience was not easy as there were many challenges and surprises during my time in Alberta. However, my faith in action became more alive and vibrant. Life was more than I had hoped!

For a little over a year, I had the privilege of serving the Dene nation in their school. They welcomed me with warmth and kindness, inviting me to join their community for Mass and liturgies in the church on their land. I had landed in a Catholic community in the middle of the bush!



My time in the north came to an end when I accepted a teaching position with a Catholic school division in central Alberta. Again, what ensued was more than I could ever hope for. The division was permeated in faith in the classrooms, and in supporting teachers’ faith journeys. I taught, shared faith, studied, and prayed with my colleagues and friends. Retreats in the mountains, assuring me of God’s goodness in creation, renewed my spirit. Jesus led the way and I followed with confidence and hope in God’s promises of strength, protection, peace and love. 🙏

Jesus led the way and I followed with confidence and hope in God’s promises of strength, protection, peace and love.



Discovering Hope After Tragedy in New Orleans

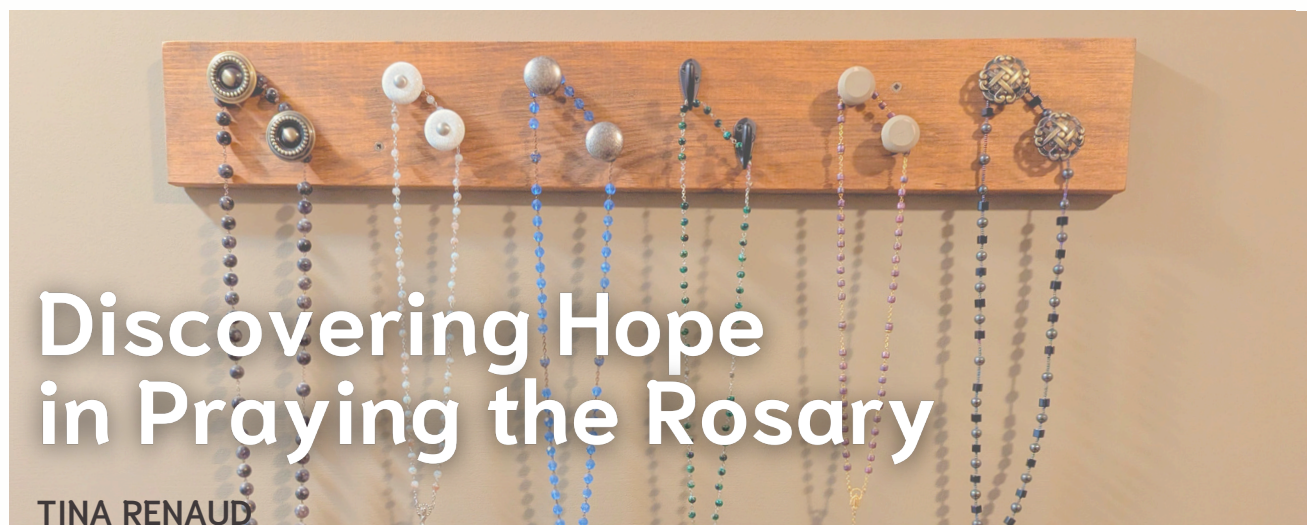
What would you do if you woke up tomorrow and your home, workplace and neighbourhood were gone? For the people from Louisiana to Alabama this was an actual living nightmarish reality after Hurricane Katrina made landfall in late August 2005. Some communities in New Orleans were submerged under six metres of water, sewage and oil for days. If homes were still standing, they were now uninhabitable. The days after the water receded were spent surveying the damage and searching for lost loved ones and treasured mementos.

Rebuilding wasn't a short or easy process. I had the privilege of going down to New Orleans in the fall of 2009 while I was in Grade 11. Even four years after the storm, there were many neighbourhoods still waiting to be rebuilt and the uninhabitable houses were still standing. The smell and the sights of these dilapidated buildings are still burned into the back of my mind.

What struck me most about my time there is that the first places the communities started to rebuild were the places the people could gather together: churches, community centers, football fields and schools. The people knew they needed places to come together and celebrate. When you visited these schools and churches, you could tell how proud the people were and how grateful they were that they could come together.

Some of the community members were still living in camper trailers, but as long as they had a church to go to on Sunday and a school for their children, they didn't mind all that much. In the face of catastrophe, the people of Louisiana showed their love of God and love for their community. Everyone in it was stronger than any wind Katrina could throw at them. When we are facing our own battles, our own storms, how will we respond? Where is our focus? Is it on the material things of this world, that can be given or taken away in an instant? Or is our focus on something deeper, something that can't be bought: love, faith, and hope? 🙏

FR. MATTHEW SAWYER



Finding hope in everyday life is something I strive for. I have found praying the rosary helps me to be grounded in my faith. In times of struggle or worry, I pray the rosary. When things are going well, I pray the rosary. I ask for Mary's intercession to assist in finding my way forward to a place of happiness and fulfillment or to demonstrate my thanks to Jesus. Times of prayer help me to see the way forward with grace and confidence. I feel a sense of calm that things will turn out the way they are meant to be.



images: Tina has a good collection of Rosaries. Each with a significant story - from gifts from different stories, to a rosary made from flower petals from the casket flowers from a loved one.

Though I may struggle, or things may be difficult, I believe that my future will be meaningful and fulfilled through hard work, prayer and the love I have for my family; and the good times are sweeter knowing that through my faith in Jesus my future is bright. Even though I may not know what is in my future anything is possible when you believe. 🙏



The Rosary in a Year Podcast

In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life.

Listen to The Rosary in a Year podcast using your favorite podcast app.



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the Giving page on our website.

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

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



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.

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.

Saint Patrick



519.227.4726
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To meet the Team, please click
here or scan the QR-code



Holy Family



519.472.0057
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The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

Franciscus



Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

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