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THE PARISH OF
ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

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Fax 519-660-2902
E-mail stjd@dol.ca

The Diocese of London:
*Being a mission-oriented
Church that forms
disciples of Jesus*

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday
8:30 am—12 noon /
1 pm—4:30 pm
Website www.stjtd.ca

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, December 22nd, 2019



Christmas Masses
Tuesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
5:15 pm; 9:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25th
Christmas Day
11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 28th - 5:15 pm
Sunday, December 29th - 9 am & 11 am

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Tuesday, December 31st
New Year's Eve
5:15 pm
Wednesday, January 1st
New Year's Day
11:00 am



*The Parish Office will close at 12 noon on
December 24th and December 31st; and
will be closed December 25th, 26th, and
January 1st.*

Sunday Mass
Saturday 5:15 pm; Sunday
9:00 & 11 am

Weekday Mass
7 pm—Tuesday
12 noon—Wednesday
8:30 am—Thursday
8:30 am—Friday (at 7pm
during Lent)

Parish Rosary
half hour before each
weekday mass

*Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament: 11 am - 12
noon—Wednesday*

Children's Liturgy
11 am mass—September to
June

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Tuesday 6:15 - 6:50 pm
Wednesday 11:15 - 11:50 am
Saturday 4 - 5 pm
or by appointment

*Baptism - Please make
arrangements at least 12
weeks in advance with
Fr. Don*

*Marriage - Arrangements to
be made one year in advance*

Daily Mass
<i>There will be no daily mass Tuesday, December 24th, Wednesday, December 25th, or Thursday, December 27th. Please see the schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day mass times.</i>
Friday, December 27th - 9:00 am St. John the Evangelist Feast Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yolande Smith - Walter & Matilda Simler • Jane Lonsway - Paul & Kathy Meyer • Marilyn Metron - Rick & Karen Vandekieft
Friday, December 27th - Mass for the Unborn at St. Peter's Cathedral - beginning with the Rosary/Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 7 pm, and followed by Mass at 7:30 pm. Bishop Ronald Fabbro will preside. This special celebration is sponsored by the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Parish Family of St. John the Divine extends their sympathy and prayers to the families of: **Ralph Askew**, father of Mark Askew; **Tom Richardson**, brother of Bob Richardson. Please remember to keep them and the families in your thoughts and prayers.



2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are available for pick up in the north end foyer. **Please do not use the 2020 envelopes until the new year.** If you do not currently use envelopes and would like to start, or to sign up for pre-authorized donations, please give Pam a call in the Parish Office 519-471-7022. Donations can begin at any time of the year.



Charitable Donations for 2019 must be received by December 31, 2019. Donations received after that time, will be considered a 2020 Charitable Donation.

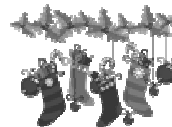
“*Keep Christ in Christmas*” magnets will be available for purchase during the season of Advent, in the Narthex. Your goodwill offering helps to support our Knights of Columbus in their endeavours throughout the year.

Youth Council calendars have now been reduced to \$10 each. Please consider purchasing one - all the money raised will be going toward the youth attending the Steubenville Catholic Youth conference in Toronto this summer.



On behalf of Fr. Don and our Parish Team, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Offertory Collections from December 14th / 15th, 2019		
Envelopes	188	\$4,665.00
Loose Collection		\$250.60
Renovation Fund	6	\$1,700.00
<i>Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our Parish community!</i>		



Third Annual Sock It to Homelessness Campaign

begins January 4th & 5th, 2020
Socks collected will be given to our St. Vincent de Paul for the “Cover Me With Love” Campaign
Please place the socks in the bins in the Narthex.



The **WINTER COAT** drive continues. If you have any “no longer needed” winter coats, we would gladly accept these, any size. These are to be distributed to the city’s homeless later this winter during the St Vincent de Paul ‘*Cover Me With Love*’ campaign. There are collection boxes at the back of the church.



Would you like to have your new home blessed? A new car? Please speak to Fr. Don at Mass or call the Parish Office for an appointment for him to administer this special blessing.

Are you, or a family member sick at home or in hospital? Are you going to be having surgery? Please speak to Fr. Don at Mass or call the Parish Office for an appointment for him to see you to administer the Sacrament of the Sick.

All men & young men are being invited to the 8th Annual Men of Faith Conference --- Saturday January 18th, 2020 @ St Michael's Church in London. NFL Superbowl Champion Quarterback , Elvis Grbac ; and the Director of The Faith Explained, Cale Clarke will challenge us to grow in our faith in the world today. “ 2020 Vision – Courage & Fortitude To Do His Will”. Sign up on line: www.famfi.ca/ More info: Mike 519-518-2025 ext. 22 / Mike@LegacyPartners.ca

St. John the Divine Prayer Line - **519-281-9580**

Looking for healing? Closure? If you are divorced, separated, or civilly remarried, consider applying for a declaration of nullity (an “annulment”). The Roman Catholic Diocese of London would like to help you. If you are interested in a Declaration of Nullity or if you simply have questions, please give us a call at 519-439-1553. There is no obligation in calling, and the process is free of charge.

Bring back the joy to your marriage. Your Marriage is worth saving! Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience. You learn the tools to communicate more effectively as a couple. All presenting couples have been through Retrouvaille. To learn more about Retrouvaille, or to register for the up-coming weekend January 17-19, 2020 at the Michaelite Centre, email retrouvaillelondonstthomas@gmail.com. Visit us on the web at www.helpourmarriage.com.

Missio Diocesan Newspaper: The Winter 2019 Edition of the Diocesan Newspaper, Mission, has been printed and copies are available in the Narthex. The current issue, as well as back issues, are available online at www.dol.ca/newspaper.

Youth Leadership Opportunity

We will be offering an 8-week course here at the parish for young people aged 13-18. It will be on Friday nights from 6:30 - 8:15 pm, starting on January 10th. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Bridget Corneil at bcorneil@dol.ca

By participating in the Youth Leadership program, young people will learn speaking and leadership skills that they will be able to use for the rest of their lives. They will learn to:

- Overcome the nervousness everyone feels when asked to speak before an audience
- Organize and present their ideas logically and convincingly
- Listen carefully to others’ ideas
- Offer advice that will help others improve their speaking and leadership skills
- Participate in - and even lead - group discussions and meetings

They will increase their self-confidence and, best of all, they will have fun while they learn with their friends.

This Youth Leadership course is a program of Toastmasters International which is a nonprofit organization that helps people develop communication and leadership skills. More than four million people around the world have benefitted from Toastmasters clubs since 1924.

In and through their motto “For God and Canada”, the women of the Catholic Women’s League never cease to spread the Gospel’s message through their words and deeds, and I have been privileged to witness this here at St. John the Divine. I’d like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank them.

Through their efforts in fundraising, we will be able now to fix our organ in the Nave of the Church. Over the years it has grown tired and is desperately in need of some TLC. Now, in January, the organ aficionados at Doddington’s, have been scheduled to rectify the situation.

Thank you ladies from the parish team and all the parishioners at St. John the Divine for your diligence, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Fr. Don Pumputis



**Enviro Tip: Recycle bottles and cans.
Take alcohol bottles to the Beer Store and cash in!**

Junior Kindergarten Catholic School Registration

will take place January 20th to February 7th. Your son/daughter must have been born in 2016, baptized Catholic, and parents are eligible to be Catholic School Ratepayers.



Please contact your local Catholic School:

- **St Jude Catholic Elementary School - 519-660-2785**
- **Jean Vanier Catholic Elementary School - 519-660-2771**
- **St. Martin Catholic Elementary School - 519-675-4422** (*please note that students of St. Martin’s are required to wear a uniform*)

Please be prepared to bring with you a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate, Birth Certificate and 2 pieces of address identification.

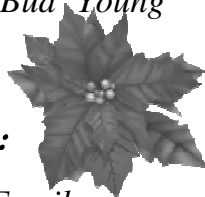
Please consider ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PARISH when preparing your Will

The flowers for Christmas were purchased through generous donations from our parishioners, in memory of their departed loved ones, especially.

<i>Sandra & George Benner</i>	<i>James Keane</i>	<i>Lawrance Pace</i>
<i>Robin Brannan-Gall</i>	<i>Angela & Sylvester Kelly</i>	<i>Ennio Pierazzo</i>
<i>Gerry Brennan</i>	<i>Jack & Eileen</i>	<i>Alton Rodney</i>
<i>Marian Coutinho</i>	<i>MacDonald</i>	<i>Rose Rusnica</i>
<i>Ilidio Dias</i>	<i>Leo & Mary Matz</i>	<i>Stan & Noreen Taras</i>
<i>Olga Dias</i>	<i>Margaret McDonald</i>	<i>John VanBommel</i>
<i>Elizabeth Donovan</i>	<i>Melanie McIsaac</i>	<i>Joseph & Maria Vella</i>
<i>Michael Donnelly</i>	<i>Ginger Metron</i>	<i>Edward Wiens</i>
<i>Sr. Julma Dries</i>	<i>Marilyn Metron</i>	<i>Charles Wright</i>
<i>Madeline Dries</i>	<i>Paul Mills</i>	<i>Arthur 'Bud' Young</i>
<i>Mary Ellen Heidel</i>	<i>Raffella Mizzi</i>	
<i>August Herceg</i>	<i>Elgin & Georgina Monk</i>	

and the deceased members of the following families:

<i>Belle & Sticksel Families</i>	<i>Andrew Kelly Family</i>
<i>Bissonnette Family</i>	<i>Libby Family</i>
<i>Blonde & Clifford Families</i>	<i>Lohonyay & Swift Families</i>
<i>Manuel & RoseMary Coquim Family</i>	<i>Matheson Family</i>
<i>Corriveau Family</i>	<i>McLaughlin & Joy Families</i>
<i>Hayman & Fournier Families</i>	<i>Metron, McHale & Zakoor Families</i>
<i>Hottot Family</i>	<i>VanKeer & Carter Families</i>



The Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEC) provides quality preparation for marriage in a weekend retreat presented in a prayerful atmosphere. The weekend is truly a spiritual experience, enriched by the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the celebration of the Eucharist. The CEC weekend is Catholic in thought, morality, ritual and expression. It gives couples the opportunity to discover the deep meaning of the Sacrament of Marriage within the Catholic Church and offer couples a unique experience which focuses strongly on fostering good communication in marriage and the importance of God in their relationship. The program solidly supports Church teaching in all areas. Available dates are March 6-8 and Oct. 17-19, 2020. Please contact Terry and JoAnne Burrell (St Thomas Aquinas Parish-Sarnia) 519 542-8826, jotab@cogeco.ca.

St. John's Wine - A Catholic Tradition

You may have noticed that the statue of Our Patron, St. John the Evangelist, has been moved from the Nave of the church to the Narthex. This has been done with the idea of greater visibility for the parishioners, and those visiting our city and parish. As people enter they will be able to see it as they approach the welcome desk for any information about our parish.

When I looked at the statue, I wondered why St. John was cast with a chalice in his hand. A little research revealed that, although he wasn't a martyr like the rest of the Evangelists, there were assassination attempts on his life. Our Tradition holds that St. John was given a chalice with wine to consume, but before doing so as was his custom; he blessed it with the sign of the cross. As he did this a snake came forth and without missing a beat he drank the wine and continued upon his duties.

Holy Mother Church has preserved a tradition, and formulated a special blessing found in the Ritual Romanum that a priest can give to wine.

On Friday December 27 at 9 am on the Feast Day of St. John the Apostle, we will be having a special mass in honour of Our Patron. After the mass if you bring a bottle or two of wine, there will be a special blessing. It will now become a sacramental to be used wisely in times of sickness and joy at a nice family and friend's dinner.

The Father or the head of the household lifts their glass for the toast saying "I drink you the love of St. John", and all should reply "I thank you for the love of St. John".

God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas

Fr. Don Pumputis