

Parish Briefings

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

King's University College still Accepting Applications for Fall 2021

If you want to continue your journey in Catholic education, King's is still accepting applications for fall 2021. You can get more information at <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/future-students/admissions/>.

St. Mary School Choir and Orchestra Program - Virtual Open House

For families in the London District Catholic School Board, the St. Mary School Choir and Orchestra Program is having a virtual open house on January 26. More information and registration details are in the flyer at this [link](#).

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employment Opportunity

Perth Huron Crossroads Catholic Family of Parishes is looking for a full-time Coordinator of Youth Ministry. Details can be found at this [link](#).

Help Stop Bill C-7 (Medical Assistance in Dying)

The federal government has been given an extension to February 26, 2020 to pass amendments to the Criminal Code that will make Medical Assistance in Dying ("MAID" or euthanasia) more accessible, putting the disabled and elderly at risk of having their lives terminated, possibly without their full consent. Please encourage your parishioners and anyone else you may know to read the CCCB's response and contact their MP. More information and contact options are available at this [link](#).

REMINDERS

The Other Seventy Percent - A series of workshops to support ministry to those not currently in our pews.

We invite Priests, Deacons, LEMs, Secretaries, and parish volunteers to join us for one, or all, of the following free workshops:

Engaging Families in the Middle of a Pandemic - January 28

This workshop, hosted by Christine Coyle, will provide real-life, practical tools to help parishes engage with families when our in-person gatherings are limited to maintain and nurture their relationship with the parish community.

Social Media is Relational Ministry- February 4

Senior communications specialist Matt Clarke will partner with our Family and Youth Ministry Specialist, Alex Fung, to discuss social media best practices and ways to stay connected with your parishioners through social media platforms.

Volunteers are Still Your Best Tool - February 11 & February 18

So many of our parishioners are sitting at home looking for something to do and we have the opportunity to form them into missionary disciples, and at the same time expand the ministry that we are able to do by engaging them in the mission. There are two parts to this workshop; the first (Feb 11) is with Jean Beneteau who will walk us through the tools we need to help discern the gifts of our people and the second is with Chris Laforet (Feb 18) who will discuss how we can engage volunteers in our current situation.

Your Parish Website is Your New Narthex - February 25

Matt Clarke will provide tips and tricks to make your parish webpage inviting, informative and relevant and help with parish fundraising.

How to do Mission-Minded Maintenance - March 4

Doing ministry in the midst of a pandemic can be exhausting, and many are finding themselves barely keeping their heads above water doing the basics like Sacramental prep and Mass recordings. Colleen Keane and Colleen Zimmer will share how they have managed to work their way through the overwhelm to be "Mission-Minded" in the midst of this pandemic.

Register for the workshops at this [link](#). All workshops are on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and will be recorded for viewing at a later date. Parishes are asked to forward this email to their volunteers.

The Pope Francis Fund – Application Process is Open

The Pope Francis Fund has opened the application process for grants to be distributed in 2021. Last year nine organizations received funding and this year a total of \$42,500 is available. The application process and criteria are at this [link](#). The list of 2020 recipients, including stories about they put their funding to use, is at this [link](#). Pastors are encouraged to announce the following when livestreaming Masses over the coming weeks: "Organizations are encouraged to apply to the Pope Francis Fund for grants for charitable works that help the poor. Application details and criteria are available at ww.dol.ca." The application process closes on February 28.

Retrouvaille Weekends – Upcoming Dates for Windsor and London

The **Windsor** Retrouvaille Community is holding a virtual Retrouvaille weekend starting Thursday, February 11 until Sunday, February 14. Space is limited and the deadline for Registration is January 31. Interested couples should go to the Windsor Retrouvaille [website](#) to register. **London/ St Thomas** Retrouvaille is hoping to have an in-person weekend in London, that will adhere to the appropriate government mandated COVID-19 protocols, on Friday, April 9 until Sunday, April 11. If we are in lockdown, we will offer a virtual weekend. Couples must register at www.retrouvaillelondon.com as space is limited and confidentiality is assured. For more information, please see the PDF flyer at this [link](#). Additional JPG images that can be used in parish bulletins are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Laudato Si' Resources

The special Anniversary Year for *Laudato Si'* runs until May 24, 2021. The Pastoral Services office has compiled links to several additional resources to help promote Pope Francis' encyclical:

-From the Archdiocese of Ottawa: *Care for God's Creation - A Guide for Parishes* in [French](#) and [English](#)

-A *Laudato Si'* [study guide](#) and a [backgrounder](#) on the Green New Deal by the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith

-A statement from the Assembly Catholic Bishops of Quebec (in [English](#))

Is it Okay for Catholics to be Vaccinated Against COVID-19?

The letter from the CCCB, written by the bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, explains why taking the COVID-19 vaccine is morally permissible according to Catholic teachings. The letter is available in [English](#) and [French](#). The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna/NIH vaccines have been deemed “ethically sourced” by the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI) and others. With the Lozier Institute, the CCBI has been following the development the vaccines and you can learn more about their analysis at this [link](#).

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

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