

2nd Update To Parishioners From The Transition Team

May 1, 2019

Dear Parishioners of Dresden, Port Lambton and Wallaceburg,

As was officially announced by Bishop Fabbro in the beginning of January, our parishes will be coming together as a new "Family of Parishes" this July 2nd.

New Name

After receiving guidelines from the diocese regarding naming our new family of parishes (which were to include one's geographic location), our transition team has proposed and received approval from the bishop of our new name. Though each individual parish will retain its own proper name, we will together be known as the "**Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes**".

New Mass Schedule

One of the issues we had to deal with immediately was the Sunday Mass times. Unfortunately, we cannot keep the exact same schedule. After lengthy discussion by the transition team, minor changes were proposed to the existing Mass times. Thank you to those who commented on the proposed mass schedule sent out in our first transition team update. After considering all of the feedback, the transition team still feels the times proposed will suit our family of parishes the best. The changes are seen as being the least disruptive while trying to accommodate everybody. At Sacred Heart, Port Lambton the Mass time will change from 9:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., and at St. Michael, Dresden the Mass time will change from 11:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. This change is necessary to keep the same number of Sunday Masses and to provide the priests sufficient time to travel between sites and to greet parishioners before and after Masses. This solution seeks to balance the concern for the large number of families with small children in Port Lambton for whom it may prove difficult to get there much earlier, as well as the concern for not putting the Mass for the people of Dresden too much further into lunch time.

There will also be some minor changes to the weekday mass schedule effective July 2nd. The weekday Mass at St. Michael, Dresden will be every Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the parish followed by a holy hour, with the sacrament of reconciliation available from 9:15-9:45am. There will also be Mass every third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Park Street Nursing Home in Dresden. There will no longer be a noon Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians Church on the 1st and 5th Thursdays of the month.

The Sunday Mass schedule effective July 2, 2019 will be as follows:

Saturday 5:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Wallaceburg

Sunday 8:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church, Wallaceburg

Sunday 8:45 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church, Port Lambton

Sunday 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wallaceburg

Sunday 11:15 a.m. at St. Michael Church, Dresden

Sunday 12:30 p.m. at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Wallaceburg (September-June)

Upcoming Social Events – We had a great turnout for our first social a few weeks ago, and a good time was had by all! We are looking forward to the following opportunities for us to come together as a family again. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend:

Social and card party - June 7th at 7 p.m. St. Michael, Dresden is hosting a social and card party for the entire family of parishes. All are welcome! Come out and meet your new neighbours!

Mass and dinner for our new family of parishes with Bishop Fabbro – Friday, November 22nd. All are welcome to a 5 p.m. Mass to be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church to celebrate the coming together of our family of parishes. This will be followed by dinner at 7 p.m. at the Ken Houston Memorial Agricultural Centre (Dresden Arena). Stay tuned - tickets for the dinner will be available soon!

Please continue to pray for our family of parishes as we prepare to come together, as well as all the new families of parishes across the diocese.

May we keep before us the great commission we received from the Lord to “Go out to all the world and proclaim the Good News!” May the Lord bless us and guide us as we move forward with coming together as a family of parishes.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Chris".

Fr. Chris Gillespie, Pastor, and the transition team members