



We Are Family

## Capuchin Friars

Capuchin Website: [www.capuchins.ca](http://www.capuchins.ca)  
Fr. John Juhl, OFM Cap. Phone: 226-626-2220  
Fr. Manoj (George) Pathiyil, OFM Cap.  
Deacon Marcel DeClerk



Capuchins of Central Canada

### SOUTH KENT CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

#### St. Mary's Church

95 Marlborough St. N.  
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0  
Phone: 519-676-2025  
Fax: 519-676-7358  
Email: [stmary@dol.ca](mailto:stmary@dol.ca)

Office - 95 Marlborough St. N.  
Hours: Mon - Fri: 9am-4:30pm  
Bookkeeper - Deb Carey  
[dcarey@dol.ca](mailto:dcarey@dol.ca)

#### St. Michael's Church

26 George St., PO Box 478  
Ridgetown, ON N0P 2C0  
Phone: 519-674-3343  
Fax: 519-674-1020  
Email: [stmichridge@dol.ca](mailto:stmichridge@dol.ca)

Office - 26 George St., Ridgetown  
Hours: Tue - Fri: 9am-4:30pm  
Secretary - Lisa Heil  
[lheil@dol.ca](mailto:lheil@dol.ca)

#### St. Paul's Church

5 Alice St., PO Box 40  
Thamesville, ON N0P 2K0  
Phone: 519-692-3874  
Fax: 519-674-1020  
Email: [stpaulthames@dol.ca](mailto:stpaulthames@dol.ca)

Office - 26 George St. Ridgetown  
Hours: Tue & Thur: 10am-3pm  
Secretary - Carolyn CoDyre  
[ccodyre@dol.ca](mailto:ccodyre@dol.ca)

# LIVESTREAMED MASSES ONLY

Visit our website at

<https://southkentcatholicfamilyofparishes.ca/> and click on the 'Watch Sunday Mass' link to view Mass that will be livestreamed from St. Michael's on Sundays at 11am, and also Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30am.

DECEMBER 27, 2020 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH  
& JANUARY 3RD, 2021 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**Please Pray for Healing:** Frank Vercouteren (R), Sam Telford (T), John Eckert brother of Margie Mahoney (B), Betty DeBrouwer (B), Wendy Vercouteren (B), Art Kemp brother of Jeff Kemp (R), Carolyn Malic (T), Cathy Taylor (R), Peggy Vlasschaert Hart (B), Sister Emerita, Cheryl Ann Fisher (T), Linda Burk (B), Andrea Pike (R), Ray Breault (R), Sandra Sonneveld, sister of Randy Sterling (B), Max Connolly (B), Germaine Pynenbrouck (R), Connie Murray (B), Michelle MacLean (B), Irene Stepniak (R), Art Tremblay (B), Lena Mazan (R), Ruth Demaiter (T), Denise DeWitte (B), Frank Slemensky (B), Bill Van Loon (B), Lorraine Trinacty (B), Leatha Burke (R) and all others in our parish who need prayers.

**Please Pray for the Deceased:** Please pray for those who have died, Art Tremblay, and for all the deceased members of our families.

**Diocesan Ministers Prayer Calendar:** Mrs. Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Worker; Rev. Martin Johnston; Deacon Tim Raaymakers; Rev. James Roche; Institue of Secular Missionaries; Sisters of Service; Deacon Rudy Pflanzner; Rev. Canon Mitchel Kaminski; Rev. Frank Leslie; Deacon Gaston Mabaya; Deacon Gary Flewelling; Rev. Laurence Pare; Rev. Michael O'Brien; Sister Marija Ivic, SFBZ Pastoral Minister

**\*\*The Deadline for the bulletin is Wednesday at 10am for St. Mary's & St. Michael's and Tuesday at 11am for St. Paul's\*\***

Please phone the parish office concerning the Sacrament of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick and Communion visits.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Half hour before all Weekend Masses or by appointment

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Please phone the parish office at least six months before your planned wedding date.

Merry Christmas and Peace to people of good will. It is hard to believe that Christmas has arrived. It has been a very different year where often our hopes have been crushed. Yet we have hope. The reason for our hope is the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. This is such a wonderful mystery that we try to celebrate it with love and mercy. This year, with the silence of the lockdown, let us turn our gaze to Jesus and ask him to focus us on what really is important, the gift of family and friends. Together we can make the world a better place. Thank you for all your support over the past year, and all your greetings and gifts. Your kindness is truly appreciated. May God bless you and keep you safe.

In Christ

Fr Manoj and Fr John

You can visit our website at <https://southkentcatholicfamilyofparishes.ca/> for updates and the bulletin (*be sure to click on the date at the left of the page to see the full bulletin*). Sunday Mass at 11am is available by clicking on the 'Watch Sunday Mass' link.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/skrfamily>

### Morning Masses and Intentions

Morning Mass will be livestreamed on Wednesdays and Fridays starting December 30th at 8:30am, with intentions from all three churches or as requested. Masses can still be requested through telephone or email to the parish offices.

### EXTENSION OF DISPENSATION

I, Bishop Fabbro, am hereby extending the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, including the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Mary, Mother of God, until Easter. It seems unlikely that our situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will change in the near future.

Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

### \*\*\*STARTING JANUARY 5TH\*\*\*

Parish offices are closed to the public but the secretaries are working from home and checking emails and phone messages. They will return your calls and emails during regular office hours. Thank you for your patience.

### OFFERTORY DECEMBER 20TH, 2020

*St. Mary's:* Offertory \$1,819.75

*St. Michael's:* Offertory \$2,425.00

*St. Paul's:* Offertory \$1,477.00

*Thank you to all who continue to support our Parish, both spiritually and financially.*

### CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN

Thank you to everyone who donated to Canadian Food For Children over this past year. We collected 267 bars of soap, 62 boxes of powdered laundry detergent, and 152 bars of laundry soap plus other items. All items are greatly appreciated. Please continue to keep the poor in mind in 2021. May God bless you!

To receive a tax receipt for 2020, donations must be received by December 31st.

### 1ST RECONCILIATION CLASSES

Classes for First Reconciliation will resume in the new year via zoom with more details to follow. Please continue to keep these families in your prayers.

***Stewardship - A Way of Life - Sharing God's Gifts***  
*On this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God's incarnation into a human family who loved, protected and taught him. They were holy because they were perfect in obedience and virtue, blessed because they feared the Lord and walked in his ways.*

*We, too, may strive to attain this holiness, in our imitation of the Holy Family's example and through the grace of Christ.*

### BAPTISMS

Welcome Lilian Marie Boyd, who was baptized in the South Kent Catholic Family of Parishes. May God continue to bless you and your family.



Peace and Goodness! The Friars and Staff of South Kent Catholic Family of Parishes would like to wish you a Merry Christmas. May God continue to bless you and your families. Thank you very much for all you do to make our parishes vibrant. Your faith helps us to grow and serve you. We are grateful for all the good wishes and cards that we have received.

**Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

*"The Lord is our God, be mindful of his covenant forever."*

**Epiphany of Lord**

*"Lord, every nation on earth will adore You!"*

**South Kent Catholic Family of Parishes Mass Intentions - Livestreamed**

**December 29th, 2020 - January 3rd, 2021**

- Wed 8:30 am - †Lucy Zawrot (B)
- 8:30 am - Motherhood (B)
- 8:30 am - Intention of Rachel Bellamy (Birthday) (R)
- 8:30 am - †Leon and Frances Ramboer & Family (R)
- 8:30 am - †Irene Hart (R)
- 8:30 am - †Margaret DeClerk (T)

**New Years Day**

- \*Fri 10:00 am - For our Parish Family
- Sun Live streamed - 11:00am - For Our Parish Family



**January 5th - January 10th, 2021**

- Wed 8:30 am - Deceased Members of the Balog Family (B)
- 8:30 am - †John Vercooterren (B)
- 8:30 am - †Clara and Yvonne (R)
- 8:30 am - †Ed Zaleski (R)
- 8:30 am - †Margaret DeClerk (T)
- Fri 8:30 am - †Peter DeBrouwer (B)
- 8:30 am - †Francis Gazarek (B)
- 8:30 am - †Jure Banovic (2nd Anniversary) (R)
- 8:30 am - †Mary Hoskins (R)
- 8:30 am - Intention for the residents of Villa on the Ridge
- 8:30 am - †Margaret DeClerk (T)

- Sun Live streamed - 11:00am - For Our Parish Family

**THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD**

On this day of gifts and gift giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God. At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning. Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

The Little Ones

Los Más Pequeños





*If you look for Me  
at Christmas*

*you won't need a special star —  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,  
I'm right there where you are.  
You may not be aware of Me  
amid the celebrations —*

*You'll have to look beyond the stores  
and all the decorations.*

*But if you take a moment  
from your list of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find  
I'm waiting there for you.*

*You're the one I want to be with,  
you're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find Me in the stillness  
as I'm whispering your name.*

*Love,*

*Jesus*

# Bishop Fabbro's 2020 Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas will be different this year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to enjoy all the usual festivities: gatherings with family members who are far from us, concerts and pageants, and parties with friends and coworkers.

As we experience the government restrictions during this pandemic, we find inspiration in the example of Mary and Joseph. They respected the Emperor's decree and made the difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Mary was expecting a child. There was no place for them in the inn. They were away from home and family, isolated from everything that was familiar, but the promise of a child was fulfilled – a child who was Emmanuel, God-with-us. So much was taken away, yet so much more was given.

By his coming among us in such humble circumstances, Jesus blesses every home and family. Confident that he is with us in all things, we can celebrate his birth simply and genuinely in our homes – putting up the crib, telling the Nativity story, exchanging gifts, eating and praying together. Practices such as these build strong families of faith.

Yes, Christmas will be different this year, but it can be an especially graced time – an opportunity to enter into the mystery at the heart of this holy season. Christmas without the usual extravagance and busyness. Christmas as it is meant to be.



On December 8, Pope Francis proclaimed a *Year of St. Joseph*, which extends until December 8, 2021. "Joseph's attitude," the pope writes, "encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (1 Cor 1:27). He is the 'Father of orphans and protector of widows' (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst."

Christmas has always been a special time for us, and for our parishes, to help the poor on our streets, the working poor struggling to make ends meet, single mothers, refugees, and those who are isolated, marginalized and vulnerable. When we love "the stranger in our midst", we encounter Jesus and discover the true gift of Christmas.

I thank you for your continued support of our parishes this past year, and I extend my special thanks to our parish teams and volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the faithful can safely access our churches and celebrate the sacraments.

During this holy season, I want to assure you that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May it be a blessed time for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

|   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  <p><b>Kimberley's HEARING CLINIC</b><br/>141 Catherine St., Blenheim<br/>519-676-2323</p>  |  <p><b>MBI FINANCIAL</b><br/>SAVING INVESTING RETIRING ESTATE</p>   | <p>BLENHEIM<br/>519-676-8106<br/>48 Talbot St. W.<br/>RIDGETOWN<br/>519-674-3613<br/>4 Main St. E.<br/>mbifinancial.com</p>  | <p><b>RIGHT TO LIFE KENT</b><br/><i>Members Needed</i><br/>General \$15 Family \$25<br/>Seniors/Students \$10<br/>Cheques to 39 Grand Ave. W.,<br/>Chatham, ON N7L 1B4<br/>(Tax Deductible)<br/>Sponsor: Blenheim K of C No. 7744</p>   |  <p><b>Lasting Memories Flowers</b><br/>519-676-0530<br/>Jeanette Steen<br/>101 Ellen Street Unit B,<br/>Blenheim, ON NOP 1A0</p> |
| <p>info@blenheimchev.com</p>  <p>275 Chatham St. N. Box 970, Blenheim, ON NOP 1A0<br/>519-676-5495 Fax: 519-676-0196<br/>www.blenheimchev.com</p>                              | <p><b>BLENHEIM COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME</b><br/>Marc W. Eskritt<br/>Funeral Director<br/>519-676-9200<br/>www.blenheimcommunityfuneralhome.com</p> <p>MEETING THE BEREAVEMENT NEEDS OF BLENHEIM, RIDGETOWN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES</p>                        | <p><b>Sheila Young - Broker</b><br/>Advanced Realty Solutions Inc.<br/>Cell: 519-436-7485<br/>Office: 519-352-9400<br/>sheila@advancerealty.ca<br/>www.ckhomes.biz</p>   | <p><b>This SPACE is AVAILABLE!</b><br/>Please Phone<br/>519-676-2025<br/>or 519-674-3343<br/>or 519-692-3874</p>  |   |
| <p>Word Games Books for Children<br/>Creative Writing Book Discussion Group</p>  <p>Promoting Literacy in Chatham-Kent<br/>519-676-8140<br/>www.imaginationink.cfsites.org</p> |  <p>Manufacturers of RJ Packers, Boxes, Levelers, Planters<br/>JAMIE &amp; JEFF PICKERING<br/>75 Industrial Ave., Blenheim, Ontario 519-676-4110</p>                           | <p>Watkins • Muscle Mist<br/>Theritix • Rawleigh<br/>Porter's Salve • Rada Cutlery<br/>Diabetic Socks<br/>John • 519-365-6998<br/>See us <b>Wednesday</b> at the<br/><b>Chatham Sales Market</b></p>           |  <p>www.heuvelmanschev.com</p>  <p>519-352-9200</p>   |   |
| <p><b>This SPACE is AVAILABLE!</b><br/>Please Phone<br/>519-676-2025<br/>or 519-674-3343<br/>or 519-692-3874</p>  |  <p>141 Park Street, Blenheim 519-676-3451.<br/>76 Main Street East, Ridgetown 519-674-3141<br/>459 St. Clair Street, Chatham 519-351-2040<br/>www.mckinlayfuneralhome.com</p> | <p><b>St. Mary's Ladies Auxiliary</b><br/>Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month from September through June in the rectory basement.<br/><b>All Ladies Are Welcome!</b></p>                             |  <p>P.O. Box 2219, 125 George St., Blenheim, Ontario, Canada NOP 1A0<br/>Tel: 519-676-5446 • 1-800-263-4183<br/>Fax: 519-676-1338<br/>blenheimbranch@thompsonslimited.com</p>                                      |   |
| <p>Ted VanBoxtel Herman VanBoxtel<br/>C: 519-360-0289 C: 519-360-0288</p>  <p>R.R. #2 Kent Bridge, ON NOP 1V0<br/>P: 519-676-4965 Fax: 519-676-0989</p>                       | <p><b>Ridgetown FOODLAND</b><br/>Fresh food. Friendly neighbours.</p> <p><b>PIERRE MONETTE</b><br/>Owner &amp; Friendly Neighbour<br/>pierre.monette@sobeys.com</p> <p>32 Main St. E.<br/>Ridgetown, ON NOP 2C0<br/>519-674-5270 Fax 519-674-5271</p>           | <p><b>St. Mary's Hall</b><br/>Just right for any occasion!<br/>519-676-1295<br/>519-360-7444<br/>In-House Catering</p>   |  <p><i>Blenheim's Ice Cream Shop</i><br/>32+ Flavours • Milkshakes • Slushies<br/>Smoothies • Sundae • Frozen Yogurt •<br/>Ice Cream Cakes, Cupcakes &amp; Pies<br/>14 Talbot St. W. Blenheim<br/>519-350-6390</p> |   |
| <p><b>This SPACE is AVAILABLE!</b><br/>Please Phone<br/>519-676-2025<br/>or 519-674-3343<br/>or 519-692-3874</p>  | <p><b>BLENHEIM CHRYSLER LTD.</b><br/></p> <p>519-676-8131</p>  <p>ROB DRIESSEN</p>        | <p><b>This SPACE is AVAILABLE!</b><br/>Please Phone<br/>519-676-2025<br/>or 519-674-3343<br/>or 519-692-3874</p>   | <p><b>FIRST CHOICE DISASTER RESTORATION</b><br/>257 Colborne St. Chatham, ON N7M 3M3<br/>519-352-8900<br/>Brian Weber, CRT, CIP<br/>bweber@firstchoicebuilding.ca<br/>disasterrestoration.ca</p>  |   |
|  <p>Bed and Breakfast • Hair Salon<br/>Jojo Thibault 96 Main St. W.,<br/>Dorset, Ontario Ridgetown<br/>jojoparadisethibault@gmail.com 519-674-0702</p>                       |  <p>Blenheim, ON Phone: 519-676-8113</p> <p>Pellet Mill Dies<br/>Roll Shells &amp; Roll Parts<br/>Grain &amp; Feed Handling Equipment</p>                                    |  <p>Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 7:30 pm<br/>Sat. 9 am - 5 pm • Sun 11 am - 5 pm<br/>519-676-5467 49 TALBOT ST. W.,<br/>BLENHEIM</p> | <p><b>BLENHEIM PUBLISHERS</b><br/>For all your printing needs.<br/>62 Talbot St. W.<br/>519-676-3321<br/>pl.tribune@southkent.net</p>   |   |

**COMMUNITY VILLAGE MASSES:**

Mass is held every second Friday of every month at 10am at Blenheim Community Village, and every second Tuesday of every month at 10am at the Ridgetown Village. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**FOOD BANKS HOURS AND LOCATIONS:**

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>BLENHEIM FOOD BANK</b><br/>Blenheim Baptist Church,<br/>24 Talbot St. E.<br/>Wed. 1pm-4pm, Thurs. 1pm-4pm</p> | <p><b>RIDGETOWN FOOD BANK</b><br/>Salvation Army,<br/>18 Main St. 519-674-3765<br/>Tues. &amp; Fri. 10am-4pm, Wed. &amp; Thurs. 10am-12pm</p> | <p><b>THAMESVILLE FOOD BANK</b><br/>Thamesville United Church,<br/>107 Elizabeth St.</p> |
|---|---|--|

**FOOD BANKS:**

A basket is available at St. Mary's for anyone wishing to drop off donations for the Blenheim Food Bank for distribution to those in need. There is a cubby by the driveway at Thamesville United Church, open 24/7. Take only what you need. If you are able to help with donations, please bring to the front entrance of the United Church Monday through Friday.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE SPONSORS OF THIS BULLETIN**