



# St. George Parish Catholic Women's League Newsletter

**CATHOLIC**  
and **LIVING IT!**

September 2022

"For God and Canada"

Volume 2, Number 3

## 189 Paid Members

### Please Join Us

If you know of any woman who would like to join our CWL please call our Membership Chair, Cathie McIntyre 519-657-8981 email [cwlcmcityre@gmail.com](mailto:cwlcmcityre@gmail.com)

### Helpful Links

**St. George Parish**  
<https://springbankcatholic.ca/>

**St. George CWL**  
<https://springbankcatholic.ca/catholic-womens-league-st-george/>

**CWL of Canada**  
<https://cwl.ca/>

**Ontario Provincial CWL**  
<http://www.cwl.on.ca/>

**London Diocesan CWL**  
<http://www.cwllondon.ca/>

### Presidents:

**Rita MacIntyre - 519-455-8515**  
**Lianne Notarandrea - 519-474-3599**

### Reminder:

Please advise us of any changes to your membership info such as Phone, Address, or Email. See <https://springbankcatholic.ca/cwl-st-george-membership-renewal/>

### Contact Us

Email: [cwlstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:cwlstgeorge@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events



Please set aside the following dates. Mark your calendars for:

Sept 11 – Welcome Back Brunch, after the 11 AM Mass

Nov 5 – **Candy Cane Bazaar**

Dec 7 – Christmas Dinner, 5:30 PM

## History of St. George CWL



In this issue of the CWL Newsletter, we look at St. George CWL and some of the events and fundraisers that have been held over the years; how they got started and those who participated in growing and perpetuating an active and faithful CWL.



## St. George CWL

St. George Council was first established in the 1950's but was deactivated in 1960. In 1996, when our new church was built, a group of women comprised of Michele Ferri, Lynne Tomchuk, Cathy Emery, and others were able to reactivate St. George CWL. Many of these women are still actively involved in a leadership role on our executive. Michele Ferri is the Chair of Health and Safety, and Lynne Tomchuk sits on our executive as Past President. There are many strong, committed and faith filled ladies who have worked hard to keep our CWL strong and vibrant. This does not happen by itself. Without ladies willing to take on a leadership role, our CWL would not have thrived these past 36 years. But without new people with fresh ideas, we will not continue to flourish. Please consider offering your talents as a member of our executive committee.

## CWL Funeral Lunches



Father Rick Janisse was Pastor of St. George Parish in the late 1980's and until he came there was little going on. We were in the old church then and we did not have a CWL at the time. Father Janisse asked if we could start funeral lunches in the old Church. Women were eager to help and within a week we had fifty volunteers. We would make the food at home, and it would be dropped off at the church. We would cut the sandwiches and desserts, plate them and make tea and coffee. I remember as we were preparing for a funeral, one of the ladies would say each sandwich was made with a prayer. Father Janisse would always end the funeral with the song "How Great Thou Art" and that is how we knew it was time to put the sandwiches out. Father Janisse opened a

## CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!

Loving Father, open our hearts to your infinite love for all people, and to your presence with us wherever we go in your name.

Lord Jesus, deepen the spiritual life of the Catholic Women's League.

Strengthen the faith and good works of our members, building-up life in the world by being Catholic and Living It!

May we imitate you with works of mercy, welcoming the forgotten, suffering or vulnerable wherever we encounter them.

Holy Spirit, strengthen us to live our faith, witnessing to life, peace and social justice daily wherever we are in Canada.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel, may we be joyful and responsive to our Christian calling, by truly being Catholic and Living It!

We make this prayer through Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen



Our Patroness

Our Lady of Good Counsel

bank account for us from the donations the families made for the lunches. When our CWL was reactivated in the 1990s we had \$1,000 to start the Saint George Catholic Women's League. Many friendships were made in that basement and this tradition continues. We felt blessed that we could help the bereaved of our Parish in a small way.

*Reflection from Michele Ferri*

Any successful event requires leaders to get it off the ground and faithful committed people to keep it going. Lorrie Bouchard has been and continues to be, a faithful organizer of the Funeral Lunches for almost 25 years. Although we currently have only one funeral group, in the past, as the number of funerals increased, Chris Wincott organized a 2nd group for funeral lunches and Betty Davey started a 3rd group. Once again, it took these committed ladies to step up and keep this important ministry going.

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## CWL Honour Guard

Attending a funeral for a sister CWL member is a gift and I have learned so much by being part of this ministry. The family is always so grateful for our presence and we are a sign of our faith not just for the family but to those who attend outside our community as well. It is truly a way to show love and support for the bereaved family. It really is such a small commitment.

Let me share this story with you. One of our sisters' last dying request was to have an honour guard at her funeral. This was a faith filled woman, who was humble and hardworking at serving our parish community. How humbled I was to support her wish and honour this wonderful woman.

*Michele Ferri*

More recently one of our faithful members of over 60 years requested a funeral honour guard. How proud we were when 14 ladies stood guard for her. This brought so much comforted to her family and to her daughters who had carried on the tradition of being members of the CWL. Standing together and supporting each other is what makes the CWL strong. Passing on the torch is what has allowed the CWL to keep flourishing for over 100 years.

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## Welcome Back Breakfast



Our Welcome Back Breakfast will be held on **September 11<sup>th</sup>** after the 11 AM Mass in the church hall. A big thank you to the St. George Knights who will be cooking for us. Come out, bring a friend and connect with your St. George CWL sisters. The cost is \$5.00 which will be collected at the door. Please register online at <https://springbankcatholic.ca/st-george-cwl-welcome-back-brunch-2022/> so that we can plan accordingly.

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## Candy Cane Bazaar



The Candy Cane Bazaar is Back! After being unable to host the Candy Bazaar for 2 years because of COVID, we are happy to announce that preparations are underway for the bazaar. This year's Bazaar Convenors are:

- Craft Table: Rosemary Lyng 519-473-3445
- Jewelry: Patricia Smith 519-472-6616
- Penny Table: Rita MacIntyre 519-455-8515
- Country Kitchen (preserves): Cynthia Hellsten 519-641-3639
- Bake / Candy Table: Carol Candusso 519-473-3907
- Silent Auction: Lynne Tomchuk 519-657-9069
- Bottle Raffle: Claudia Hunter 519-657-7713
- Kitchen: Michele Ferri 519-657-8123

## About the CWL

- Established in 1920, the CWL is a national sisterhood of Catholic women who promote awareness and respond to political and social issues that affect all Canadians.
- We offer welcome and comfort to the vulnerable, the needy and the marginalized.
- We take an active role in the creation of resolutions that are presented to government annually on issues that impact families and communities at home and abroad.
- We are part of/join with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations representing Catholic women and the church around the globe. The CWL outreach supports many initiatives in developing countries.

## Mission Statement

The Catholic women's league of Canada is a national organization rooted in Gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.

## Who We Are

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is an inclusive and engaged community of Catholic women inspired by faith.

It is a vital participant in the church; a valued partner for social justice; a respected advocate at all government levels; connected to the world.

*Of course, no event can be successful without lots of volunteers. If you would like to help any of our Bazaar Convenors, please contact them at the above phone numbers. We are in need of someone to be Convenor for the Tea Room*

*You can also help by:*

- Donating canned preserves, jams, pickles, crafts etc.
- Donating bottles of perfume, wine, oils, etc. for the Bottle Raffle.
- Donating items for the Penny Table
- Donating items for the Auction

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## Martha's Retreat "Walk with Me"



*On June 25<sup>th</sup>, about 50 people walked with CWL member Martha Chisholm, including members of the L'Arche Community, Martha's circle of friends and our CWL Co-President Lianne Notarandrea. This was Martha's third retreat and it centered around the theme "Walking." It was appropriate then, that the bible passage Luke 24:13-35 "Road to Emmaus" was chosen as the theme. Martha is deeply connected to her faith and has a desire to share it with others. She connects with people easily, by holding hands and walking with them. Congratulations Martha on your third retreat!*

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## Farewell Fr. Saleem Amir



*It was sad to say goodbye to a faithful, servant priest such as Fr. Saleem Amir. St. George CWL gave Father a farewell gift of \$200 and a book about London. Our Co-President Lianne Notarandrea presented our gift to him at his farewell Strawberry Social. We wish Father Saleem all the best wherever God sends him. Please keep him in your prayers.*

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## Farewell Mary-Catherine



*A Farewell Receptional was held for Mary-Catherine on Sunday August 21st after the 11 AM Mass. A garden statue of Our Lady of Charity and words of thanks were presented to her from the CWL at the reception. After 16 years of service as Pastoral Minister to St. George Parish, Mary-Catherine has taken a position as Pastoral Minister for London South Family of Parishes. (St Justin's, St Martin-St Francis, St Leopold Mandich). Mary-Catherine has been a faithful member of the CWL for 28 years and a wonderful support to our executive. Most recently we awarded her the Maple Leaf Pin for exceptional service to our CWL. Mary Catherine has been the face of Christ to so many of us at St. George Parish. She will be greatly missed. May God bless her in her new parish home.*

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## Deacon Dennis



*As those of you who get emails already know, Deacon Dennis died on Sunday, August 1, 2022. Deacon Dennis was loved by so many and will be greatly missed. Dennis was a role model of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. In his battle with cancer he was a*



## CWL Videos - Powerful Stories

View powerful stories from CWL members. Scroll down to see the video links

<https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/>

## Support Holy Family Retreat House

<http://www.cwllondon.ca/files/Holy%20Family%20Retreat%20House.pdf>

## CWL Executive

### **CO-Presidents:**

**Rita MacIntyre,  
Lianne Notarandrea**

**Past Presidents:** Lynne Tomchuk

**Treasurer:** Patricia Smith

**Executive Secretary:**  
**Cynthia Hellsten**

**Corresponding Secretary:**  
**Mary Ann Crummer**

**Community:** Natalie Nesterenko

**Family Life:** Martha Cole

**Communications:** Vacant

**Education & Health:**  
**Michele Ferri**

**Spiritual Convener:** Joan Ives

**Membership:** Cathie McIntyre

*This Newsletter is published quarterly: March, June, September, and December*

source of inspiration for us all, living out his faith with courage and strength to the very end. Our hearts go out to Cathy, his wife and his two daughters, Christina and Danielle. Condolence cards can be sent to the parish for delivery to the Rivest family. Please keep them in your prayers.



## Regional CWL dinner

On June 27<sup>th</sup> executive members from our CWL region met for dinner at St. John the Divine church. A good time was had by all and many connections were made with executive members from CWL Councils in our area.

## Day at the Shrine



On June 27<sup>th</sup> about 125 CWL sisters from across the diocese gathered at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary at St. Patrick's church in Merlin, ON. Father Paul Kim, CWL London Diocese Spiritual Advisor along with assistance from local priests officiated at the Mass. Opening prayers were done by several CWL sisters. The rosary was said along the way of the Rosary Trail and the event closed with the crowning of Mary.

For those who missed the event, the shrine is open all year for personal prayers and reflections. There are four well groomed trails. The Rosary Trail, The Saints Trail, The Approval Apparition Trail, and the Stations of the Cross Trail. For additional information please visit Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine, Merlin, ON website at <https://olrshrine.ca/>

## From Our Spiritual Advisor

In Philippians Chapter 1:6 we read that God is at work in each of us, and that we are a work in progress, we are never a finished product. As long as we cooperate with God's plan, the good work continues in us until the day we die and meet God face to face. We may feel stuck or that our life lacks purpose. Maybe we think we're too old to change our thinking, or to take on new responsibilities. But there is always more to life than the present moment and to be confident that God is at work in us and through us, and His desires will bring about so much more for us.

I do want to believe, but I hope God is better at finishing what He starts than I am. I've got so many things on the go that I've been meaning to get accomplished and done. In essence, what I really need to believe is that God is not just better at finishing things, but better at beginning them. I may struggle to get going, but God does not procrastinate about deciding to show up in my life. All we need to know is that God works in all of us and calls for patience, that His work has begun and that is reason for us to hope. Do we truly believe that God is continuously at work in us?

Prayer: God of hopefulness and surprises, thank you for the good work you've begun in us. Grant us the grace to be patient with all that feels incomplete with us knowing that you will be there to help us complete it.

Exerts taken from Sam Sayer, SJ, editor for The Jesuit Post.

**Compiled by Joan Ives, Spiritual Convener**



## Recycle CWL Service Pins

If you are no longer using past CWL service pins and would like to have them recycled, please bring them to the church. There is a labelled container for them in the bottom drawer at the Welcome Desk.

*On July 15<sup>th</sup> CWL member Wanda Hatch dropped in at Ashwood Manor Retirement Home with her ukulele to entertain the residents there. A good time was had by all as they sang along with the music. Thank you Wanda for your gift of music*

*A small group of CWL ladies have been crocheting squares and putting together small and large blankets for childrens agencies and homeless adults. If you are able to donate washable yarn, new, or any part skeans are appreciated. Once we get enough supplies, squares are made, and put in a kit. Each Monday we gather to stitch together the squares. The blankets are ready to deliver in December. We hope to have enough to give to 4 agencies. Any ladies who would like to join our Monday Morning Group are welcome . We have kept a photo book to help you understand what is done. Each blanket is blessed and has a tag on it that reads: We hope for your warmth. We hope for your comfort. We hope for your Wellness. We hope for your Peace. We hope you Know that we Care. May this gift be a sign of God's Love for you. if you are interested in joining us, please email [CWLstgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:CWLstgeorge@gmail.com). A bin for yarn is in the parking lot entrance.*

*I kept you informed and in touch with your CWL. If anyone would like to take on some or all of this role, please call Lianne at 519-474-3599 or email her at [Lnotar001@gmail.com](mailto:Lnotar001@gmail.com)*

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## Walk With Martha Retreat



## CWL Regional Dinner

(Left to Right- Colleen Kelly, Lianne Notarandrea, Rita MacIntyre  
Centre- Dianne Kehoe, Regional Chair)



## CWL Visit to Ashwood Manor

*Good times were had with Wanda Hatch playing ukulele*



## Farewell Mary-Catherine & Brother Sunil



## Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine

