

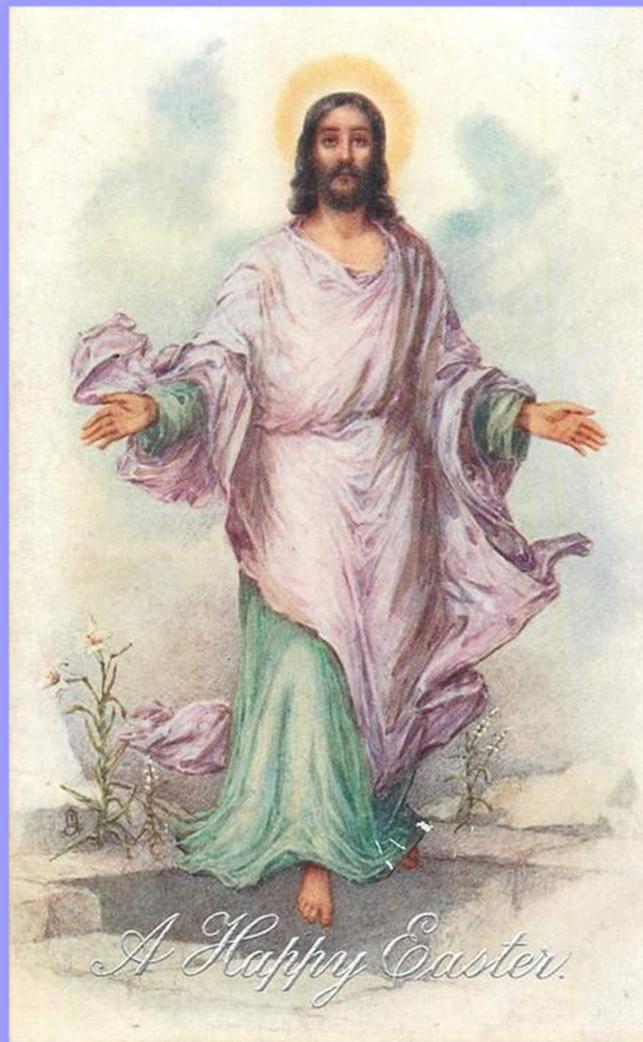


The Divine Messenger

A Contact with Divine Infant Parish

Vol. 17, No.2

April 2022



You are invited...

If you do not attend church at this time but would like to renew your church connections, please call 613-824-6822 to discuss anything with Father Waldemar, Father Gaudet or Deacons Jeff, Bill, Stephen, Gerry, Jim or Philip. We would love to hear from you!

Opening of the Synodal Process: Moment of Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith,

This year we are all invited to participate in the Synodal Process, a great preparation for a Synod on sodality. This process is marked and happens in the context of the mysteries and liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. I give you this reflection by Pope Francis, with my personal invitation to visit our parish website and take an active part in this monumental undertaking. You can do it as individuals, as well as in groups.

The Challenge of a Church Open to Newness

“There is no need to create ‘another Church,’ but to create a ‘different Church.’ With the words of Yves Congar, the Pope indicated the real “challenge” that awaits all the people of God, who are the protagonists of the synodal process. In view of the opening on Sunday morning, on Saturday, October 9, in the Synod’s new hall, the Pontiff presided over a moment of reflection for the beginning of the process, focused on the theme “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.” The following is the English text of the speech delivered by the Holy Father.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for being here for the opening of the Synod. You have come by many different roads and from different Churches, each bearing your own questions and hopes. I am certain the Spirit will guide us and give us the grace to move forward together, to listen to one another and to embark on a discernment of the times in which we are living, in solidarity with the struggles and aspirations of all humanity. I want to say again that the Synod is not a parliament or an opinion poll; the Synod is an ecclesial event and its protagonist is the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is not present, there will be no Synod.

May we experience this Synod in the spirit of Jesus’ fervent prayer to the Father on behalf of his disciples: “that they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). This is what we are called to: unity, communion, the fraternity born of the realization that all of us are embraced by the one love of God. All of us without distinction, and in particular those of us who are bishops. As Saint Cyprian wrote: “We must maintain and firmly uphold this unity, above all ourselves, the bishops who preside in the Church, in order to demonstrate that the episcopate is itself one and undivided” (De Ecclesiae Catholicae Unitate, 5). In the one People of God,

therefore, let us journey together, in order to experience a Church that receives and lives this gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit.

The Synod has three key words: communion, participation and mission. Communion and mission are theological terms describing the mystery of the Church, which we do well to keep in mind. The Second Vatican Council clearly taught that communion expresses the very nature of the Church, while pointing out that the Church has received “the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the kingdom of Christ and of God, and is, on earth, the seed and beginning of that kingdom” (Lumen Gentium, 5). With those two words, the Church contemplates and imitates the life of the Blessed Trinity, a mystery of communion ad intra and the source of mission ad extra. In the wake of the doctrinal, theological and pastoral reflections that were part of the reception of Vatican II, Saint Paul VI sought to distil in those two words – communion and mission – “the main lines enunciated by the Council”. Commemorating the opening of the Council, he stated that its main lines were in fact “communion, that is, cohesion and interior fullness, in grace, truth and collaboration... and mission, that is, apostolic commitment to the world of today” (Angelus of 11 October 1970), which is not the same as proselytism.

In 1985, at the conclusion of the Synod marking the twentieth anniversary of the close of the Council, Saint John Paul II also reiterated that the Church’s nature is *koinonia*, which gives rise to her mission of serving as a sign of the human family’s intimate union with God. He went on to say: “It is most useful that the Church celebrate ordinary, and on occasion, also extraordinary synods.” These, if they are to be fruitful, must be well prepared: “it is necessary that the local Churches work at their preparation with the participation of all” (Address at the Conclusion of the II Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, 7 December 1985). And this brings us to our third word: participation. The words “communion” and “mission” can risk remaining somewhat abstract, unless we cultivate an ecclesial praxis that expresses the concreteness of synodality at every step of our journey and activity, encouraging real involvement on the part of each and all. I would say that celebrating a Synod is always a good and important thing, but it proves truly beneficial if it becomes a living expression of “being Church,” of a way of acting marked by true participation.

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This is not a matter of form, but of faith. Participation is a requirement of the faith received in baptism. As the Apostle Paul says, “in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Cor 12:13). In the Church, everything starts with baptism. Baptism, the source of our life, gives rise to the equal dignity of the children of God, albeit in the diversity of ministries and charisms. Consequently, all the baptized are called to take part in the Church’s life and mission. Without real participation by the People of God, talk about communion risks remaining a devout wish. In this regard, we have taken some steps forward, but a certain difficulty remains and we must acknowledge the frustration and impatience felt by many pastoral workers, members of diocesan and parish consultative bodies and women, who frequently remain on the fringes. Enabling everyone to participate is an essential ecclesial duty! All the baptized, for baptism is our identity card.

The Synod, while offering a great opportunity for a pastoral conversion in terms of mission and ecumenism, is not exempt from certain risks. I will mention three of these. The first is formalism. The Synod could be reduced to an extraordinary event, but only externally; that would be like admiring the magnificent facade of a church without ever actually stepping inside. The Synod, on the other hand, is a process of authentic spiritual discernment that we undertake, not to project a good image of ourselves, but to cooperate more effectively with the work of God in history. If we want to speak of a synodal Church, we cannot remain satisfied with appearances alone; we need content, means and structures that can facilitate dialogue and interaction within the People of God, especially between priests and laity. Why do I insist on this? Because sometimes there can be a certain elitism in the presbyteral order that detaches it from the laity; the priest ultimately becomes more a “landlord” than a pastor of a whole community as it moves forward. This will require changing certain overly vertical, distorted and partial visions of the Church, the priestly ministry, the role of the laity, ecclesial responsibilities, roles of governance and so forth. A risk is intellectualism. Reality turns into abstraction and we, with our reflections, end up going in the opposite direction. This would turn the Synod into a kind of study group, offering learned but abstract approaches to the problems of the Church and the evils in our world. The usual people saying the usual things, without great depth or spiritual insight, and ending up along familiar and unfruitful ideological and partisan divides, far removed from the reality of the holy People of God and the concrete life of communities around the world.

Finally, the temptation of complacency, the attitude that says: “We have always done it this way” (Evangeliu Gaudium, 33) and it is better not to change. That expression – “We have always done it that way” – is poison for the life of the Church. Those who think this way, perhaps without even realizing it, make the mistake of not taking seriously the times in which we are living. The danger, in the end, is to apply old solutions to new problems. A patch of rough cloth that ends up creating a worse tear (cf. Mt 9:16). It is important that the synodal process be exactly this: a process of becoming, a process that involves the local Churches, in different phases and from the bottom up, in an exciting and engaging effort that can forge a style of communion and participation directed to mission.

opportunities. First, that of moving not occasionally but structurally towards a synodal Church, an open square where all can feel at home and participate. The Synod then offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church, to break out of our routine and pause from our pastoral concerns in order to stop and listen. To listen to the Spirit in adoration and prayer. Today how much we miss the prayer of adoration; so many people have lost not only the habit but also the very notion of what it means to worship God! To listen to our brothers and sisters speak of their hopes and of the crises of faith present in different parts of the world, of the need for a renewed pastoral life and of the signals we are receiving from those on the ground. Finally, it offers us the opportunity to become a Church of closeness. Let us keep going back to God's own "style," which is closeness, compassion and tender love. God has always operated that way. If we do not become this Church of closeness with attitudes of compassion and tender love, we will not be the Lord's Church. Not only with words, but by a presence that can weave greater bonds of friendship with society and the world. A Church that does not stand aloof from life, but immerses herself in today's problems and needs, bandaging wounds and healing broken hearts with the balm of God. Let us not forget God's style, which must help us: closeness, compassion and tender love.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is mori-

bund, loosens shackles and spreads joy. The Holy Spirit guides us where God wants us to be, not to where our own ideas and personal tastes would lead us. Father Congar, of blessed memory, once said: "There is no need to create another Church, but to create a different Church" (True and False Reform in the Church). That is the challenge. For a "different Church," a Church open to the newness that God wants to suggest, let us with greater fervour and frequency invoke the Holy Spirit and humbly listen to him, journeying together as he, the source of communion and mission, desires: with docility and courage.

Come, Holy Spirit! You inspire new tongues and place words of life on our lips: keep us from becoming a "museum Church," beautiful but mute, with much past and little future. Come among us, so that in this synodal experience we will not lose our enthusiasm, dilute the power of prophecy, or descend into useless and unproductive discussions. Come, Spirit of love, open our hearts to hear your voice! Come, Holy Spirit of holiness, renew the holy and faithful People of God! Come, Creator Spirit, renew the face of the earth! Amen.

L'Osservatore Romano
15 October 2021

HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO ALL!

In Christ,

Fr. Waldemar



Drawing by Anika Heuthorst

REFUGEE FAMILY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM DIVINE INFANT PARISH 2022-2023

Dear Divine Infant friends and parishioners,

As announced in April 2019, the Divine Infant Parish has undertaken a government private refugee sponsorship to resettle the Abo Saad family of three to Canada. They are refugees temporarily living in Lebanon. Our parish Refugee Sponsorship Committee has been working toward their arrival for almost two and a half years but efforts were delayed due to the COVID pandemic. Most recently, the Abo Saads completed a selection interview with our embassy in Beirut, and their medical results have been received. Our parish can now proceed confidently.

This letter is to announce the launch of a fundraiser on February 27, 2022 to finance the sponsorship of the Abo Saad family in our community for twelve months. This sponsorship will begin on their arrival, the date of which has not yet been confirmed.

The amount required to fund our sponsorship is estimated at \$45,000; this will cover the costs of housing, feeding, clothing and supporting the Abo Saad family for one year; coinciding with limited housing availability and accelerating inflation costs.

Commencing the weekend of February 26th and 27th, blue envelopes will be provided to parishioners for the specific purpose of financing the sponsorship of the Abo Saads. In addition, parishioners may make their financial donations using "[Canada Helps](#)" which you can access from our parish website [Home Page \(divineinfant.on.ca\)](#). These options will remain available to parishioners until we reach our goal.

At this time, our Sponsorship Committee will **NOT** be accepting donations of furniture and household items, as this decision cannot be made until we know the estimated date of arrival of the Abo Saad family. Please be assured that as soon as we can identify specific needs for furnishings and household goods, we will communicate this to our parishioners and supporters.

Effective November 2021, both George and Rita Abo Saad received their respective second vaccines, allowing them to travel to Canada and to gain Permanent Residence (PR) as soon as their immigration processing is finalized.

Thank you for your ongoing support to date and your demonstrated support previously of the Alhurira family, who have been successfully resettled and integrated into our parish community. I cannot thank you enough!

On behalf of your parish, the Refugee Settlement Committee and the Abo Saad family, we look forward with tremendous gratitude and hope to those of you who will respond with prayers, generosity, encouragement and ongoing support. May God bless you

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Waldemar Podladz, SDS
Pastor



Rita, George & Joumana Abo Saad

UP DATE ON THE SPONSORSHIP AND SETTLEMENT OF THE SYRIAN ABO SAAD REFUGEE FAMILY

Submitted by Guy Savard

On April 28, 2019, our Pastor, Father Waldemar, SDS, informed our parishioners that the Divine Infant parish had agreed to sponsor the Syrian Abo Saad refugee family. That was nearly 3 years or 1,100 days ago. Or, some 8 years or 2,900 days ago since escaping from Syria to Lebanon.

In the Advent-Christmas issue of the Divine Messenger (November 2021), I provided an update of the Abo Saad family highlighting their November 3rd, 2021 interview with our embassy in Lebanon.

The purpose of the interview was to assess their eligibility to immigrate and resettle in Canada. The key issue is to determine whether the Abo Saad family meets the United Nations Refugee Agency's (UNHCR) definition of the Convention Refugee Abroad class. The interview was successful.

Subsequently, in January 2022, the Abo Saad family undertook medical examinations administered by the International Organization for Migrants (IOM) on behalf of the Government of Canada (GOC). These exams are part of the "Admissibility" statutory obligations that also includes security and criminality reviews conducted by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and other agencies.

The conclusive test will be the GOC confirmation, to our sponsor Father Waldemar as Pastor of Divine Infant Parish and our Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) at the Archdiocese, of approval for the Abo Saad family's immigration to Canada as Permanent Resident (PR) AND the issuing of the Notice of Arrival (NCA).. We are confident that this will happen..

Unfortunately, in light of the continuing crisis in Syria as well as the emerging crises in the Ukraine and Afghanistan, it is very difficult to predict or even estimate the date of arrival.

In the meantime, your parish's Refugee Sponsorship and Settlement Committee is anticipating minimal advance notice for the NOA. Based on past experience, we believe that we may receive 10 or fewer days of advance notice. Nonetheless, we are progressing with our settlement plan and we will keep you informed and seek your continued financial, non-financial and moral support, and your prayers.

The Divine Infant Refugee Sponsorship and Settlement Committee consists of:

Guy and Barbara Savard, Chair and co-Chair of the committee
 Jim Kearns, Chair, Finance
 Eric McKay, Chair Communications
 Paul Boutette and Terry O'Donnell, co-chairs of the Settlement programs and groups

It is impossible to escape news of the current

and ongoing crisis in Europe, Middle East, Africa, etc. as millions of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants take desperate risks to reach what they hope will be friendly shores and borders.

According to a recent report, the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that, as of mid 2021, global forced displacement has surpassed 84 million including: 48.0 million internally displaced people, 26.6 million refugees and 4.4 million asylum-seekers. [UNHCR - Refugee Statistics](#)

The following articles are submitted for your compassionate reflection.

JESUS THE REFUGEE

As we head into the holy season of Advent, it seems like an appropriate time to reflect on one particular aspect of Christ's identity that I don't often hear emphasized: Jesus as a refugee.

We are familiar with the image of a weary Joseph leading a pregnant Mary around Bethlehem in search of a place to stay.

Less familiar though is the image of the family, baby Jesus now in Mary's arms, fleeing on a donkey away from Bethlehem and into the land of Egypt to escape King Herod's ruthless persecution.

By legal definition, as people with a well-founded fear of persecution based on their ethnicity, religion, and social group, this family would be protected under the Geneva Convention, which was put in place after World War II to protect people displaced across international borders.

Simply put, they would be refugees.

Source: [The Divine Mercy](#) By Jennifer Sparks (November 23, 2015)

WELCOMING THE STRANGER Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration

When Jesus talked about the poor man, Lazarus, lying at the rich man's door (see Lk 16:19-31), He may well have been remembering His earthly parents.

When Jesus said, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." (Mt 25:35), He had life experience of being a stranger and sojourner on this earth and in Egypt, far from home. He, Mary Immaculate, and saintly Joseph were all migrants, all refugees - all displaced persons in need of shelter, far from home.

So the Church calls us to a balancing act. On the one hand: Nations must have a due regard for the common good of their citizenry, national security, and the rule of law. On the other hand: Prosperous nations should offer mercy, hospitality, and openness to the people trying to enter their country in pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

Source: [Welcoming the Stranger, the Divine Mercy](#) (March 4, 2019)

POPE FRANCIS REMINDS US THAT JESUS WAS ALSO A REFUGEE

World Refugee Day 2019

According to the latest report, 79.5 million people worldwide have been forced to flee from their homes. It's an unprecedented number.

For the occasion, the Vatican has released a video message from the Pope. In it, he explains the theme of World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which the Church will celebrate on Sept. 27.

Pope Francis recommends reflecting on Jesus' life, whose family also tasted the bitterness of forced exile. "I have chosen as the title of my message: 'Forced Like Jesus Christ to Flee.' This places the experience of Jesus as a child, displaced and a refugee, together with his parents, at the center of my reflection."

The Church first designated a day dedicated to refugees and migrants in 1914. It is celebrated on the last Sunday in September. That day, Catholics are invited to consider the situation of those affected and to look for solutions.

Source: [Rome Reports | TV news agency](#) – an international TV news agency based in Rome specializing in covering the Pope and the Vatican [Pope reminds that Jesus was also a refugee | ROME REPORTS](#) (February 15, 2019)

LIKE JESUS CHRIST, FORCED TO FLEE

World Day of Migrants and Refugees – 2020

On May 13, 2020 Pope Francis issued his document proclaiming the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) with its theme "*Like Jesus Christ, Forced to Flee. Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating internally displaced persons.*"

The Pope recognizes internally displaced persons, an often unseen tragedy that the global crisis, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, has only exacerbated. Displaced people offer us this opportunity to meet the Lord. There are four verbs that capture this reality: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating displaced persons.

In order to welcome someone, we need to know and understand them – get close to them and their situation. The Pope indicates that to protect someone it is important to listen very carefully to them. When promoting the other person's cause, we need to be involved in their life in some manner. Integrating means to cooperate and build a future together.

Source: [Pope Francis | Catholic Refugee Sponsors' Council - CRSC](#) (The Catholic Refugee Sponsors' Council (Toronto) September 27, 2020)

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 Like Jesus Christ, Forced to Flee

The Pope concluded with a prayer inspired by the example of St. Joseph:

Father, you entrusted to Saint Joseph what you held most precious: the child Jesus and his Mother, in order to protect them from the dangers and threats of the wicked.

Grant that we may experience his protection and help. May he, who shared in the sufferings of those who flee from the hatred of the powerful, console and protect all our brothers and sisters driven by war, poverty and necessity to leave their homes and their lands, to set out as refugees for safer places.

Help them, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, to find the strength to persevere, give them comfort in sorrows and courage amid their trials.

Grant to those who welcome them some of the tender love of this just and wise father, who loved Jesus as a true son and sustained Mary at every step of the way.

May he, who earned his bread by the work of his hands, watch over those who have seen everything in life taken away and obtain for them the dignity of a job and the serenity of a home.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, whom Saint Joseph saved by fleeing to Egypt, and trusting in the intercession of the Virgin Mary, whom he loved as a faithful husband in accordance with your will. Amen.

Pastoral Care Ministry

By Beverly Demontigny

“Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.” (James 5:14)

For those who attended the Mass for the Sick at our parish on Saturday February 12th, these words of St. James became a wonderful lived experience! On that day when we came together for this special celebration, remembering Our Lady of Lourdes, the Sacrament of the Sick was given by Father Steven and Father John within the Mass, and without a doubt was a tremendous blessing for those who received it! May Our Lady of Lourdes continue to intercede for all those in our parish and beyond who are elderly, dealing with chronic illness, facing serious health concerns and/or preparing for upcoming surgeries. And may Our Lord, through Our Lady’s powerful intercession and the graces bestowed on us through the sacraments of the church, grant courage, strength, peace, healing and mercy to all!

In other news, as we began this new year, members of the Pastoral Care Team began a new outreach to those who are housebound. Under the guidance of Joan Harding, nine members of the team are making weekly phone calls to fellow parishioners. With a spirit of loving concern and genuine interest in their well-being, we hope to minister in some small but significant way to their needs,

providing both social and spiritual nourishment. We know of course, from past experience with our home visits, that the blessings are never one-sided and we often come away feeling deeply enriched ourselves through these encounters. If you would like to receive a weekly phone call from a member of the Pastoral Care Team please phone the parish office or connect with the team through their email address listed on the front of the bulletin.



Quotes Worth Remembering

“Lord help me trust you are not limited by my limitations.” - Amy Welborn, A Catholic Woman’s Book of Days

“The Lord recently spoke to my own heart and said. Don’t ever make a decision based on your age.” - Joyce Meyer - The Confident Woman.”

“Insecurity and a lack of confidence will steal the wonderful life that God has planned for you.” - Joyce Meyer - The Confident Woman.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” - African proverb.

“Don’t judge a book by its cover.” - Author anonymous

Shepherds of Good Hope

By Allan Harvey

The COVID pandemic has caused turmoil with everyone. The Shepherds of Good Hope had to re-invent how they serve meals and hence, how to best take advantage of volunteer help.

Due to capacity regulations, they currently do not invite large groups. On any given day, 3 people are needed for breakfast (6:30 am to 8:30 am), 8 people for lunch (8:30 am to 1:15 pm), 5 people for supper (1:00pm to 5:00 pm), and 5 people for after supper drop-ins (5:00pm to 9:00pm). With 21 volunteers, Divine Infant Parish could complete a day of service at the Shepherds of Good Hope.

Food preparation is done on the Lunch and Supper shifts and serving is needed for all shifts. Sorting donations is an important task and can be done at any time.

The Hope Garden has been running in Alta Vista on Kilborn Avenue since 2003. At this location, The Shepherds of Good Hope plant, maintain and harvest vegetables from May through September. This offers yet another opportunity for volunteers to participate in a meaningful way.

There will be sign-up sheets to recruit volunteers to help the Shepherds of Good Hope for the Sundays of July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14, 21, 28. These will take place on the weekends of May 28/29 and June 18/19 at the back of the church. If you wish to sign-up prior to these dates, select a shift and then call Allan Harvey at 613-824-8632. Just leave your name and where you can be reached.



The Caregiver's Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven please lend me a hand.

A hand on my shoulder to give me strength
A loving hand to help me when the load is too heavy
A gentle hand to guide me when the sadness is too great.

A gentle hand

When I feel I am all alone
When I feel that no one understands that I too need care
When I look in the mirror and don't see the person I was.

A healing hand

When I feel guilty for being the one who is well
When I know I can't make this suffering end
When taking time for myself feels like betrayal.

An understanding hand

Help me to realize that I am important
Help me to understand that my needs are important
Help me to make laughter an important part of my daily life.

A caregiver's hand

When my loved one is hurting, help me to ease the pain with a smile
When my loved one is sad, help me to show tenderness
When the nights are long and lonely, help me to pray.

A praying hand

I place all my worries and sadness in your hands
I ask that you wrap your arms of love around me
Give me the Grace to walk this sorrowful path.

This poem was written by Barb Fitzgerald when her husband started his illness and she became his caregiver. He has since died. She sent this poem to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and it was published in their magazine.



Library News

By Nina Regimbald

As library operations resume, you are invited to drop by and browse your Divine Infant Parish book lending library!

Library Services provides Divine Infant parishioners with shelves filled with books, videos and reference documents - offering material for education, personal growth, faith building, general interest, and sharing the good news.

Discover the on-site collection topics including: Scripture themes, Children & Young Adults, Prayer, Mary and Jesus, Spiritual Healing and Spiritual Life, Papal Documents, Faith Development, the Catholic Church, Sacraments, Liturgy, Theology, and so much more.

Borrowed books, DVDs and audio CDs are signed out and kindly returned into the drop box placed near the library desk.

Volunteers are now needed, as the aim is to remain open after each regular weekend Mass from September to June.

Questions, Suggestions, Volunteer:
email: dilibraryservices@gmail.com
For more information, visit the Parish Library link at: <https://www.divineinfant.on.ca/library.html>

****UPDATE**** *Until further notice, kindly refrain from donating used books / drop-offs. There is limited available library space at this time.*

Parishioners have been extremely generous with used book donations. It is hoped that we can return to accepting donations at a later date still to be determined.

Thank you kindly for your cooperation and stay safe.



Church Bulletin Errors - was it the computer? (not from Divine Infant of course!)

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.

Pot luck supper at 5:00 pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 pm. The

congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Miss Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

St. Peter Catholic High School

By Jay Williams

This year, St. Pete’s Lenten Outreach is two-fold.

1) We are collecting cash donations for the International Red Cross whose humanitarian work during times of war and with refugees is much needed in these times of war in Ukraine.

2) We are also collecting donated items for Cornerstone Housing for Women in the wake of the protests and occupation of our city. Our most vulnerable need our help.

Thank you for your donations and blessings during this Lenten season.



SPK LENTEN OUTREACH

Donate to help those suffering due to war in Ukraine



Donations to help the vulnerable in Ottawa after the occupation



NEW OR NEARLY NEW ITEMS
PLEASE BRING TO THE CHAPEL BEFORE EASTER

- Travel sized body wash
- Body lotion
- Large shampoos
- Fleece blankets, comforters
- General household spray cleaners
- Kettles
- Pots & pans
- Arts/craft supplies

More than a Pretty Face

Hedy Lamarr, a well known movie star of the 1940’s was a very intelligent woman who wanted to put aside her acting career to join the National Inventors Council. She was discour-

aged that she was only using her pretty face to sell war bonds. She found a way to do both and she helped invent, among other things, a remote-controlled radio system patented during World War II. Her invention has contributed to many technologies used today.

Divine Infant Parish Bereavement Suppers

By David Langedock

Welcome all new and previous members to the return of our Monthly Bereavement Suppers. It has been a long 22 months since the last Bereavement Supper was held at the Royal Canadian Legion on Taylor Creek Drive Orleans - February 12, 2020 to be exact.

If you recall, our last supper scheduled for March 10th, 2020 was cancelled - in part due to the departure of Peter, the Legion chef, when he took on a job with the Knights of Columbus in Rockland, and then almost immediately afterwards – and for the most part due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. That’s when the first of several lockdowns was put in place, shutting down indoor dining. It wasn’t until Covid restrictions began to be relaxed, that we could consider enjoying indoor dining again - albeit at 50% capacity.

A lot has changed since our last supper. The biggest change is a new Legion President-Ken Green, Prestige Catering Ron Clark-the executive chef, with a completely new menu, and a renovation to the kitchen and dining area. In mid-October of 2021, Elizabeth Page and Maria Huard retired from their positions on the Bereavement Supper Hospitali-

ty Committee, handing over the bereavement members’ phone and email contacts to a new committee consisting of Loretta Mosher, Sharon VanMeer and Dave Langedock.

By late October 2021, the Supper Committee was in contact with President Ken Green and Executive Chef Ron Clark to discuss details on a return to our monthly Bereavement Suppers at the Legion. At the onset of our meeting, it became quite evident that the Legion was very much looking forward to our return, and was willing to do everything possible to make it happen. By the end of our discussion, we had solidified a date for our first Bereavement Supper, scheduled as a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 14. Arrangements were also made for future suppers to take place on the third Tuesday of each month.

In mid November 2021, phone and email messages were sent out advising all new and previous members of the restart of the Bereavement Suppers on December 14 as a Christmas Supper. The supper menu was issued, and by early December we were able to confirm the attendance of 36 members - both long time attendees as well as participants from the most recent grieving seminar and guests. The Chef really outdid himself with a few extra surprises added to the turkey supper - which included all the trimmings.



Holly H, Dave L,
Sharon V,
Rae & Ken G.



Turkey Dinner

Mabel L,
Margaret B,
Barbara S,
Marj G,
Rita M.

Christmas spirit was definitely in the air that evening, with everyone enjoying good food, conversation and the best of company. Socializing with each other, making new or renewed acquaintances among our tables, was something we realized had been missing for such a long time. We relayed the many thanks our committee received to the Legion staff for their hospitality and appreciation in welcoming our return and confirmed our next supper for January 18th, 2022.



Nadia L, Norma D, Cathy P



Lynne M, Ralph M, Tom H & Victoria



Patrice C, Barbara M, Linda M.
Madeleine L, Loretta M.



Diane M, Norma D, Cathy P.



Diane J, Rosemary, & Allen H Irene M.



Jan C Linda R, Stephanie L, Merlie
& Dcn Jim S, Art L

The supper menu changes each month and can be served as a buffet or sit-down dinner upstairs at the round tables located between the bar and the kitchen. Members usually begin arriving between 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm, with dinner starting shortly thereafter. We typically reach out to all members by email or phone a week to ten days prior to the supper date with a proposed menu, requesting they confirm their attendance and that of a guest, by return email or by phone.

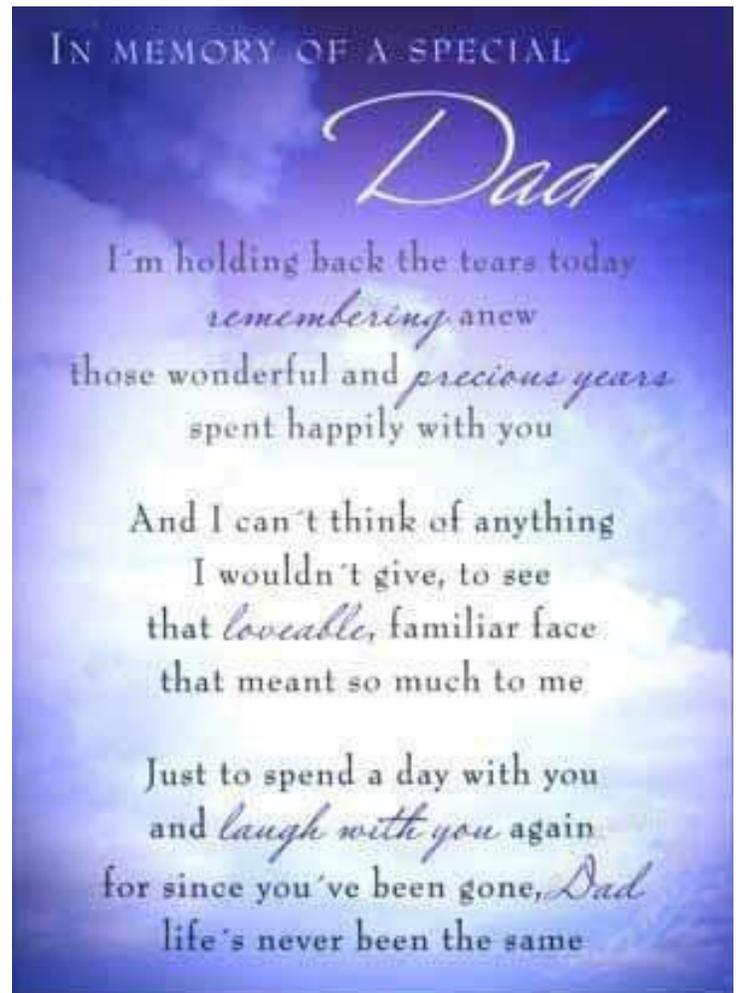
Anyone needing bereavement support can contact Diane at 613-830-5612. If you are interested, or know of anyone who would enjoy our Bereavement Social Supper get-togethers, please contact either David at 613-834-1333, Sharon at 613-841-7573, or Loretta at 613-841-2197.

We look forward to seeing you the third Tuesday of each month at the Royal Canadian Legion, 800 Taylor Creek Drive, Orleans.

On right is Executive Chef Ron Clark of Prestige Catering.



The two greeting cards below may be a little early, because Mother's Day is in May and Father's Day is in June. As our next issue will be out in late June, we are



Angels Among Us - God Works in Mysterious Ways

By Diane Je mus

The fall Bereavement session was well attended and strangers shared their grief journey with one another. Strangers the first night, quickly becoming supportive comrades. There were tears and laughter too. Tender moments that only those grieving could understand. Gleaning from one another ways to cope. Most importantly, they celebrated their dearly departed by retelling stories of their loved ones from the goofy to the poignant, with yes, a tear in their eyes and a smile on their face. Though the sessions are over, the relationships continue by sharing a meal at the monthly bereavement dinners, telephone calls and coffee dates. Some who attended these dinners have done so for at least 16 years along with those who were there for the first time.. See D. Langedock's article on page 9 in this Messenger.

Our photographer, Ki, was a gift from God - we to her and she to us, - in our mutual

need! Ki came that last night to the door looking for a place to pray, to find some peace. She was distraught. There was a grief element to her need so she joined us. As we scrambled to try and figure out how to approach this photographic task, Ki piped up "just do this, that and whatever" - sounded good from a techie but baffling for the rest of us to execute. I shyly suggested that perhaps she could perform the task. Ki gladly accepted. God provided us for Ki's comfort and Ki for our need. How good is God!

As we are upon the Easter season, let us own Isaiah's good counsel from chapter 61:3: "for mourning dress, the oil of gladness." Yes, "the oil of gladness" knowing full well that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones. This is our hope despite the pain of loss. Remember Father Lunney's good counsel "to love much is to grieve much - one begets the other." Grieve well - grief matters so that one lives well in the here and now. Going it alone is hard, sharing the journey is healthy. The Bereavement Ministry offers a host of services including individual and group consultation.



Above are participants in the Fall 2021 Bereavement Group Session with prayer shawls and teddy bears.

Top Row: Ki, Tom, Don, Dcn. Jim, Bruce, Stephanie, Art.

Bottom Row: Agnes, Rae, Diane (facilitator), Merlie, Lynne, Lynne, Janice (facilitator)

Note: Face coverings were removed by some for the photograph. Some participants/facilitators were not in attendance the evening the photograph was taken.

News from St. Francis

By Jennifer Conway

The staff and students at St. Francis have had a busy few months since we last connected through the Divine Messenger in November. It has been a very interesting time as we continue with mask wearing, social distancing and only spending time with our cohorts. As well, we had to switch back to online learning for a few weeks in January before returning to class. Here is a look at what we have been up to at St. Francis.

Highlighting Faith



During the month of December, we met virtually with other classes for weekly Advent prayer services as we reflected on Peace, Joy, Hope and Love. As a school community, we celebrated Mass with Father Steven, once again virtually. Father Steven also joined our Grade 4 students when they held their Bible Ceremony. It was great to welcome him to our school that day. Father Steven also spent time with the Grade 6 students (online) helping them to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

As we now enter the season of Lent, we are turning our attention to preparing for Easter. Some

classes spent time reflecting on the meaning of Shrove Tuesday. We gathered as a school community on Ash Wednesday for a virtual prayer service. Our Lenten fundraiser will be to raised funds for CanAm Wellness to purchase water filters for First Nation Communities in Ontario and Quebec.

The Christmas Season

During December each class prepared a virtual Christmas presentation for all staff and students. There was a lot of dancing, music with boomwhackers and bucket drums, as well as comedy acts, skits and light shows.

Mrs. Conway's Grade 3 students got their business (All Stars) up and running and spent time making ornaments which they sold on Shopify. Thanks to the generous support of the St. Francis community, they raised \$217.25 for the Ottawa Humane Society.



Enjoying the Snow

During January and February, students enjoyed spending time outside enjoying the winter weather, as they walked along snowy paths, went sledding down the hill and snowshoeing on freshly fallen snow. Some students even built Minecraft houses. Thanks to Mme Belanger for purchasing the sleds

and to Ottawa Public Board lending snow-



the Catholic School for the shoes.



Pink Shirt Day (February 23) provided us with another opportunity to make sure that our words and actions are kind and positive. Staff and students reflected on the importance of being a good friend to everyone. Together we created a banner with all our of names, to express our thoughts.



Black History Month

During February, staff and students spent time reflecting on Black History Month. We listened to St. Peter students read stories. We also created artwork and watched a variety of presentations.



There was also a focus on Indigenous culture and people throughout January and February as staff and students participated in a variety of activities and presentations, including Seven Grandfather Teachings, Indigenous Experiences Performances and a Medicine Wheel Presentation.



Throughout these past few months, staff and students participated in a variety of special days such as PJ and Stuffie Day, Bell Let's Talk Day, Black Shirt Day, Have a Heart Day, Flag Day and Twosday (February 22, 2022).

Days of Reflection

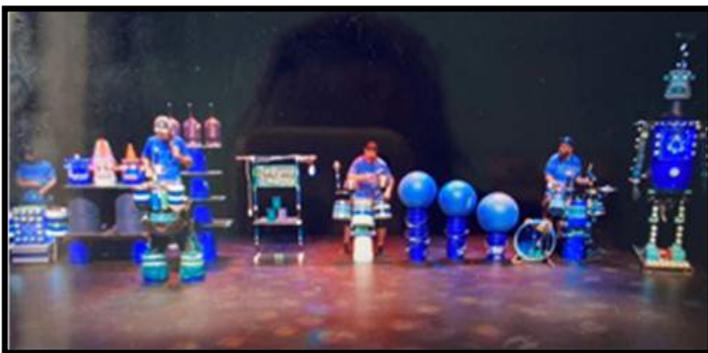
Kindness Week (February 14-18) gave our school community an opportunity to reflect on the importance of being kind to each other. We took on a challenge each day as we focused on ways that we can show kindness in our daily interactions with each other.



As a school community, we also found time to create individual “Joy” puzzle pieces that will be used to create an OCSB Joyful puzzle for next year’s board theme, Joy.



All classes took advantage of the many awesome online presentations that were available throughout the past few months. These included a Junkyard Symphony presentation en francais and a growth mindset presentation by David Bradley, the author of Big Head Bob.



Sports

Thanks to Mr. Boddy, students at St. Francis are back enjoying some lunch hour gym activities, as they participate in intramurals.



STEAM Week

During the week of February 28-March 3, students were actively involved showing off their creative and engineering skills as they participated in a variety of online presentations and cooperative activities that furthered their knowledge and skill in science, technology, the arts and math.

These past few months have been filled with lots of academic learning, collaborative activities and many opportunities to expand our learning through online presentations and performances. We are looking forward to what the last term will bring. First though, we are excited to experience the freedom and fun of the March Break.





You Named Your Daughter Well!

A tribute to a dear friend and a very special person – Angela Lavictoire
By Joan Neuheimer, CWL Organization Chair

I regret not having done so many things with Angela while she was alive - (3/11/47-21/11/21). We became friends during our time together at our church (Divine Infant), and in particular, during the time we spent together as members of the Catholic Women's League at the same parish.

During that time, many of us were caring for aging parents and also experiencing the trials and tribulations of our adult children as they encountered their own life experiences. But in spite of being very involved with our families, or maybe because of it, we were all very dedicated in our devotion to the causes of the CWL. And we supported others.

Angela became our CWL Spiritual Development Chair, which she embraced with zeal. She established a lending library that she personally transported and set up for the members at each monthly meeting.

Angela introduced many topics of interest for discussion and presentation during our meetings. Many of these remain favourites to this day. At the next general meeting following this idea, many members heard some touching thoughts on what their rosary beads brought to them. However, my favourite is the story of how a strand of pearls that needed some repairs was re-fashioned into a pearl rosary.

Another topic Angela introduced was the history of the Advent Wreath. I do believe my recollection was of my late husband (a school principal) lighting the first Advent Candle in front of the entire elementary school assembly, only to have the Advent Wreath go up in flames.

At the CWL there was a wonderful camaraderie amongst the group. We supported each other while working for others. Leaving a meeting one wintry night, I was touched to discover that Angela had gone out ahead to clean the snow off my car.

There were young members of Angela's family who required special prayers regarding health issues. We all prayed and supported Angela during

this difficult time. Angela supported our projects for the parish with her contributions and her presence. She and her mother attended our Fashion Show, and later enjoyed shopping from our clothing rack, following the presentation by our very own models.

Angela's passion was her work for the Pro Life Movement. She worked tirelessly for this cause. She organized peaceful marches, prayer vigils and Masses that were followed with breakfast in the parish hall. Each year she worked on this cause, with her firm beliefs coming through to us.

It was Angela who arranged to have a plaque installed in honour of the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima's appearance to the three children. It can be seen on the statue of Our Lady of Fatima at the back of our church.

Angela was a generous person who always thought of others. The year she and her husband visited Nashville, she brought each of us on the CWL executive, a wood shaving carving of the nativity.

I proposed that Angela be awarded the Maple Leaf Service Pin in acknowledgement of all her many contributions to her fellow men and women. The Maple Leaf Service Pin is an honorary pin given by the CWL in recognition of service on the part of one of its members. Angela was a very worthy recipient of this high honour.

For me personally, I like to reflect on the time when she told me that Divine Infant Parish has the honour of having its cornerstone blessed by a pope – Pope John Paul II in 1984 when he visited Canada. She went on to tell me that it was she and her young sons who searched the fields around the present church for a "suitable cornerstone."



Angela receiving her Maple Leaf Pin from Father Waldemar

While sitting with Angela's mother at Mass one Saturday evening, we listened together as Angela sang the opening hymn. I whispered to her mother – "You named your daughter well!"

In closing, I want to thank my lovely friend once more for singing Danny Boy – a last minute request on my part – the morning of my sister's funeral.

I know you "Rest in Peace" Angela. You have truly earned your reward. This is my tribute to a dear friend and very special person.

Message from the CWL President

By Martine Barney

My name is Martine Barney and I would like to start by thanking the CWL Divine Infant Council 2872 for the privilege and opportunity to serve as CWL President for 2022-2023. I am grateful for the opportunity to become a new leader in our faith community, deepen my own faith, and collaborate with a Council full of ambitious women with the energy to move mountains.

I grew up in a town called Thunder Bay in northwestern Ontario, and attended Mass at Our Lady of Loretto Parish. In my younger days, I was a creative and imaginative child, and even enjoyed some faith-based pretend play. My brothers, my sister, and I would mix our own makeshift holy water using household cleaning products found under the kitchen sink. I believed that with that particular concoction we could cleanse the stains out of the darkest of souls.

I have been a member of the CWL for 21 years. My mother bought me my first CWL membership when I was 16 years old because she truly believed in the organization and its potential. At the time, I may have rolled my eyes, because not all sixteen year olds want to become exactly like their mother. I moved to Ottawa 14 years ago for work with my wonderful husband Michael and I have been a member of Divine Infant Parish for the past 12 years. Upon our arrival, all the parishioners welcomed us with warm smiles and friendly faces. My husband and I now have two handsome and energetic young sons who explore every inch of the church, which they know as their second home.

One of the people who make this parish so special was Angela Lavictoire, a precious sister in the CWL whom we lost last year. Angela will be remembered for her beautiful singing voice, her passion for the pro-life movement, and her compassion and commitment to her community.

Angela always served the Lord with grace and joy. She would go above and beyond what was expected of her, all while humbly sharing the credit for her works with others. She valued life from the very young to the very old. She would always pray for the unborn children and ask the CWL to take part in her journey as she participated in The Walk for Life.

Although her own family had its share of health challenges, she always took the time to help lighten the burdens of others. She imparted her wisdom on our new and developing CWL members by using kind words and lovely stories, which fostered them as they became confident community leaders.

Angela was a true faith-filled Catholic role-model. Thank you, Angela, for sharing your wisdom, talents, time and guidance with our CWL Council. May the Lord welcome you with open arms and a piano as you enter into His kingdom.



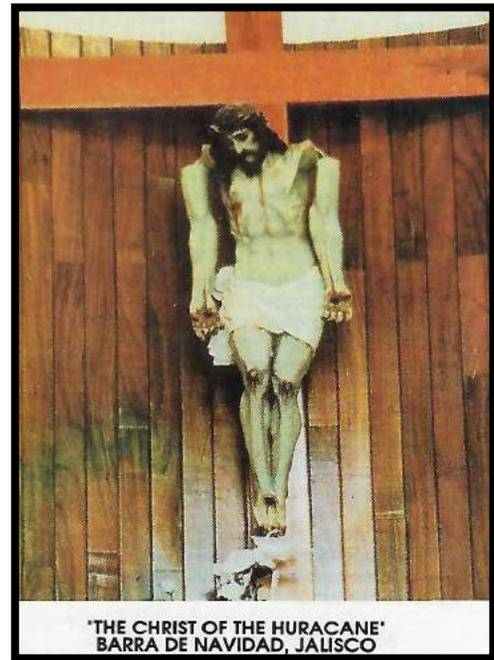
HAPPY
EASTER

Eucharistic Ministry

By Diane LeBlanc

Father Waldemar has said that he would like to have the Eucharistic Ministers start serving communion on a regular basis. For now there will be only two ministers for each Mass. They will be stationed at the front of the church, at the side aisles. An email has been sent to all team leaders asking them to canvas their groups to determine how many ministers are planning to return. Replies have not yet been received.

With the Covid 19 restrictions now lifted, the Eucharistic Ministry will soon be resuming normal practices. Past ministers are invited to contact their team leaders for more information. Those interested in joining this ministry are asked to contact Diane LeBlanc by phone at 613-837-0115.



Prayer for Good Friday

(Author unknown)

O Jesus, on this day we remember your death, the day your light went out from this earth. We sit in the darkness today, remembering the trials you faced on our behalf. You have borne our sin and made the ultimate sacrifice to save us! Today, as we recall your final hours, we consider a world without you and hold onto the hope we know we have in you. Lord commit my heart ever closer to you, because I don't want to live in a Good Friday world without you. I want you and your light in my life. I believe in you and want to follow you all the days of my life, even knowing the road ahead will be difficult. Come, Lord Jesus, come and fill this world with your light.

At dawn of September 1st 1971, Hurricane Lilly hit Barra de Navidad and the surrounding areas with full force. The arms of Christ on the church's crucifix fell from the cross and hung at his sides.

“And when the hurricane Lilly hit with all its fury, Christ dropped his arms.” This phrase will be repeated always by the local people who witnessed the miracle, and the crucifix remains to remind them. The town was ‘reborn’ as a result and attributes the miracle to Christ answering their prayers for salvation.

The surprising thing is that the crucifix which is made of plaster, was not damaged by wind or water and the arms hang as if by miracle.

This photo appeared in a local paper three days later. The crucifix can still be seen in the church of Barra de Navidad.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER



2022 SCHEDULE

WE JOURNEY TOWARDS EASTER

PENITENTIAL SERVICE - Wednesday, April 6 at 7:00pm

CHRISM MASS - Tuesday, April 12 at 10:30am at the Notre Dame Cathedral
(there is no evening Mass at Divine Infant Parish on Chrism Tuesday)

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 14th

(at the church and live streamed)

Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30pm

Liturgy of the Hours – 11:30pm

Good Friday, April 15th

Stations of the Cross by the Youth – 10:00am at the church

Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 3:00pm

(at the church and live streamed)

Church will remain open for private veneration of the Cross

Stations of the Cross led by the Clergy – 8:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 16th

Blessings of food baskets – 11:00am

Easter Vigil – 8:00pm *(at the church)*

Easter Sunday, April 17th

Masses at 8:00am, 10:00am (livestreamed), Noon and 2:00pm

There will be no Mass on Saturday at 5:00pm nor on Sunday at 5:00pm

There are no Confessions during Easter Triduum

Divine Infant Church Schedules

Regular

Weekday Mass Times :

- Monday 7:00 pm*
- Tuesday 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 9:00 am
- Thursday 9:00 am
- Friday 9:00 am
- First Saturday 9:00 am*

Note: On Statutory Holidays Masses are at 9:00 am

Sunday Masses

- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 8:00 am
- Sunday 10:00 am
- Sunday 12:00 noon
- Sunday 5:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction: Every
Wednesday after the 9:00 am Mass. (9:30 am)
First Friday after the 9:00 am Mass (9:30 am)

Confession Times:

Saturday & Sunday, 4:15-4:45
Weekdays, 1/2 hour before Mass
By appointment

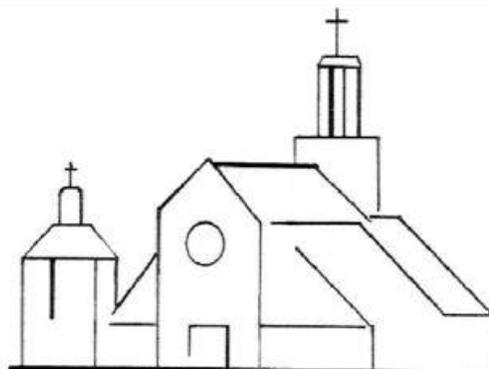
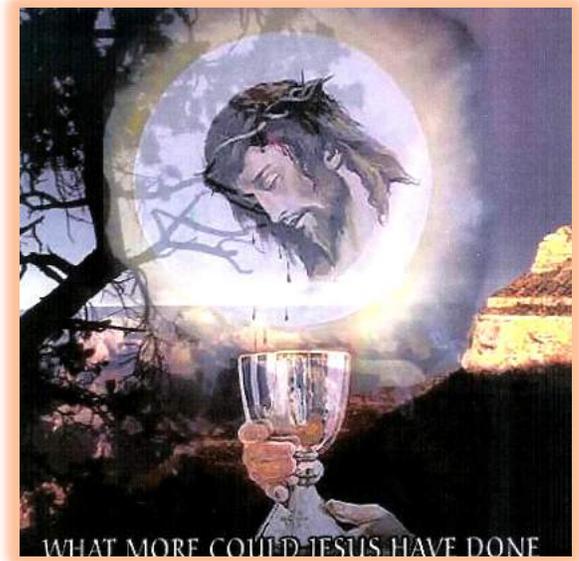
Recurring Weekly Events: (Some activities are cancelled due to pandemic and others may be cancelled.)

RCIA, Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall, ***Youth Programs***,

DI-JYN, Fridays, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall

DI-SYN, Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall

Please check our parish website (www.divineinfant.on.ca) for the latest updates or contact our Youth Ministry at (diyouthministries@gmail.com) for the latest information regarding the Junior and Senior Youth Group meetings at the parish.



St. Anthony of Padua

By Joan Scott

Everyone seems to know St. Anthony as the ‘go to’ saint for lost items. But there is far more to him than that. He is also known as the patron saint of the poor, sailors, fisherman, travellers, and protector of the mail.

In 1195 in Padua, Martin and Mary Bulhom had a son. They called him Fernando. At the age of 15, Fernando entered the religious order of St. Augustine. Two years later he asked to be sent to Coimbra where he spent nine years in intense study of Augustinian theology. Later he would combine this with the Franciscan vision. During his time with the Augustinians, Fernando learned of the death of five Franciscans by the Moroccans and this inspired him to become a Franciscan as he wished to be sent to the land of the Saracenes and eventually become a martyr. With permission of the Augustinians he took his vows as a Franciscan and assumed the name of Anthony in honour of the patron saint of hermits, a lifestyle he appreciated.

While in Morocca, Anthony became seriously ill and after several months realized he must go home. On the voyage home, there was a severe storm and high winds blowing across the Mediterranean Sea resulting in the ship landing in Sicily. The friars there took in this stranger and nursed him back to health. During his stay Anthony learned more about the Franciscan life of seclusion and contemplation in a hermitage.

Anthony was asked to speak at an ordination of Dominican and Franciscan priests. The attendees were impressed with his passion and knowledge. As a result Anthony’s life changed from a quiet one to a life as a public preacher. Anthony always encouraged honest conversation when he spoke to the penitents. “Saint” Francis, who was then head of the Franciscans heard about Anthony and had him transferred to Northern Italy.

In 1228, at age 33, Anthony met Pope Gregory IX in Rome who invited him to speak. He greatly impressed all who heard him. In 1231, in Padua, he gave a series of Lenten sermons in churches, piazzas and open fields, sometimes to crowds of 30,000. His days were spent listening to confessions, fasting and praying. He soon realized that he



had become so exhausted that he knew death was close. He started to return to Padua but the wagon trip further exhausted him and he had to stop at Arcella, near Padua, where he blessed Padua from a distance. Shortly after this he died, on June 13, 1231, at the age of 36. He had been a Franciscan for 16 years.

Because of the many miracles attributed to Anthony, both during his life and afterward, Pope Gregory IX declared him a saint in 1214. In 1946 Pope Pius XII declared him a doctor of the church. During his short life, St. Anthony touched many lives and many miracles have been attributed to him.

St. Anthony, pray for us.

Three Short Reflections for Holy Week and Easter

By Melannie Svoboda SND

“The Times We Live In”

Some of the Saints lived during terrible times. Take Catherine of Siena, who lived in 14th Century Italy. During her times, the Black Death raged throughout Europe killing 26 million people (an estimated 30% to 60% of Europe’s total population!), mercenary armies prowled the countryside cutting a path of death and destruction wherever they went, and Pope Gregory XI was cowering in Avignon, France, leaving the Church in the hands of corrupt legates. In many ways, Catherine’s times were “the worst of times.”

But Catherine did not bemoan her times. She did not say, “If only the Black Death would go away... If only the world were at peace... If only we had perfect Church leaders, then I could really live my Christian faith.” No, Catherine became a saint by accepting her times as the context in which she was called to live her faith. She did not run away from the critical issues of her day; she engaged herself with them.

Sometimes we are quick to bemoan our own times. We assume that the world used to be a kinder and gentler place, and our ancestors had it easier than we do. But a quick perusal of history shows that every age, for one reason or another, could be called “the worst of times.” But, as Christians, we believe our age is precisely the context in which we are being called to live our faith. Like Catherine, we are being called to respond to the critical issues of our times with attentiveness, courage, love, persistence, and great faith in Jesus.

* * * * *
* *

“Love Is not Fair”

As children, most of us had a keen sense of fairness. If our brother got a bigger cookie, if our sister was allowed to stay up later than we were, if it wasn’t our turn to feed the dog and yet we were told to feed him, we were quick to protest, “That’s not fair!”

No wonder Jesus’ teachings on love are so hard for us. “When someone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other one to him as well... from the

person who takes your cloak, don’t hold back your tunic as well... Forgive your brothers and sisters not seven times, but seventy-seven times..” We protest: “But that’s not fair, Jesus!”

But when we recall God’s incredible love for us, we realize: that’s not fair either! That the God of Goodness and Power and Beauty and Truth should create us, should love us, should love me, a sinner, is not fair. But both our existence and our salvation are rooted in the unfairness of God’s love and mercy. And here’s the hard part: As Christians, we are called to love others as God loves us: compassionately, consistently, inclusively, and forgivingly. (To do otherwise, would not be fair!)

* * * * *
* *

“Quotations on Spring”

“If spring came but once a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change.” (Henry W. Longfellow)

“Spring is God’s way of saying, ‘One more time!’” (Robert Orben)

“I wish each of us Easter eyes, able to perceive in death, life; in guilt, forgiveness; in separation, unity; in wounds, glory; in the human, God; in God, the human; and in the I, the you.” (Bishop Klaus Hemmerle of Aachen)



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~ Serving Seniors & Their Loved Ones ~

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year