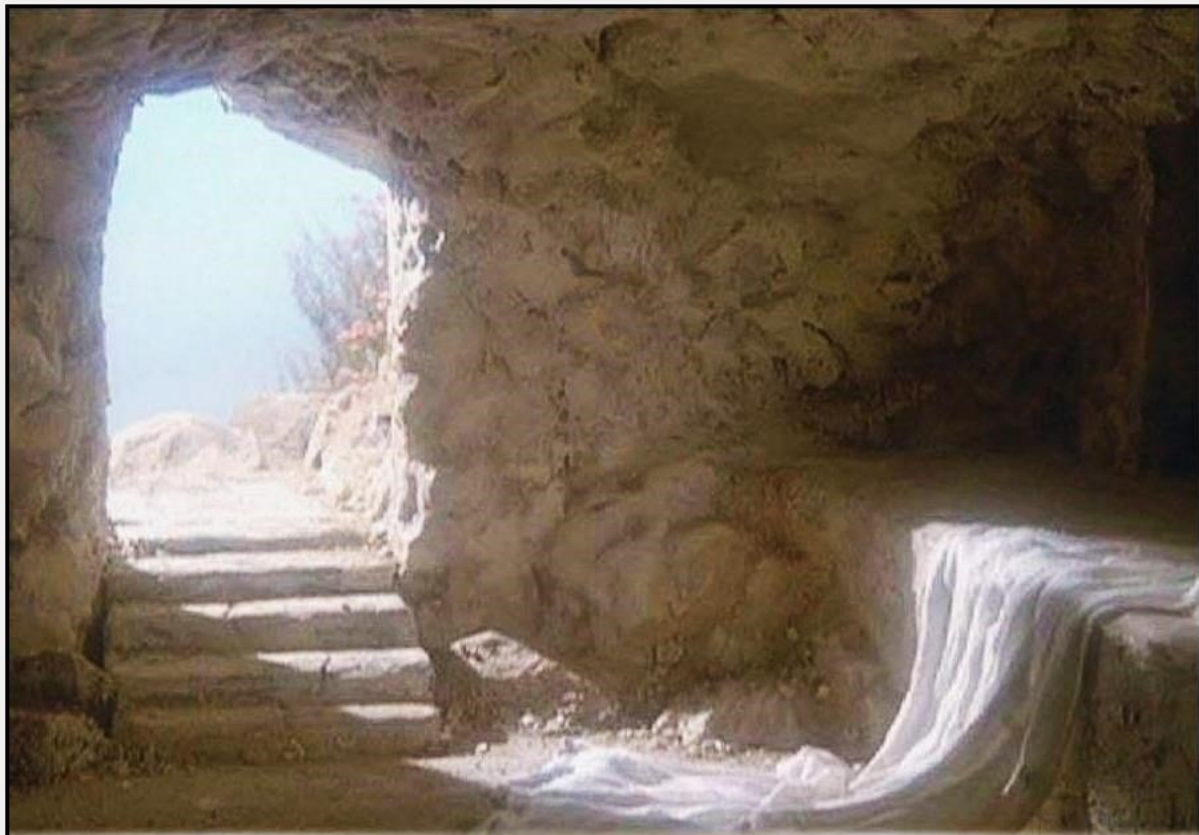


# *The Divine Messenger*

*Divine Infant Parish, Orleans, ON*

*Vol. 20 No.1*

*March 2025*



*You seek Jesus of Nazareth,  
who was crucified: he is risen, he is not here.*

*Mark 16:6*

## A Message from our Pastor

### Dear Friends in Christ,

For this issue of our *Messenger*, I'd like to share with you the Pope's message for Lent of 2025. It beautifully corresponds with the motto of the Jubilee Year: *Pilgrims of Hope*. This letter can become a great tool for our Lenten journey. As Holy Father suggests, we can use it as a personal Examination of Conscience, leading to deeper and more profound experience of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. God Bless!

Fr. Waldemar



Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:54-55).

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, to journey. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that



Second, to journey together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. Gal 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

Third, let us journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise. May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, “the human being



needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (Rom 8:38-39)”. Christ, my hope, has

risen! He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God’s help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5). Hope is the “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”. It moves the Church to pray for “everyone to be saved” (1 Tim 2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: “Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one” (The Exclamations of the Soul to God, 15:3).

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

FRANCIS



## **Sacristans**

Diane LeBlanc

Sacristans prepare for all liturgical celebrations to ensure that the Church is a welcoming, visible sign of love and reverence toward God. The sacristan assigned will normally arrive approximately one hour before Mass. This timing provides an opportunity for parishioners to come into the church to pray quietly and receive the sacrament of Reconciliation when it is offered. The sacristan unlocks the doors and begins preparation for the mass. The correct selection of readings for the proclamation of the Word, as well as the appropriate mass and prayers of the day for the presider are an important aspect of the sacristan's duties. The altar linens must coincide with the Liturgical season, Feast Day, Memorial, or other celebration (funeral, wedding). The Catholic ORDO, is a daily reference booklet which readily provides all the necessary information. The sacristan prepares the chalice, paten, cruets for wine and water, water bowl, and altar linens in the Sacristy and sets them on the credence table on the altar. The Sacristan must also ensure there will be enough hosts for the congregation at communion. Other duties include turning on the sound and lights, filling the altar candles with oil, and lighting the candles before mass.

During special liturgical seasons, such as Christmas and Easter, added diligence is necessary to ensure that all aspects of the celebrations proceed as expected. At daily and Sunday masses, the sacristan is often called upon to act as altar server and Eucharistic minister in addition to making all the required preparations for the mass. For funerals, weddings, and special occasions, more experienced sacristans are often needed as altar servers.

At Divine Infant, we are very fortunate to have a current total of fourteen dedicated sacristans. They are always prepared to provide coverage during the absence of a colleague and readily adapt to any changes in the processes. Their contribution and service to the parish and its parishioners is steadfast and exemplary.

If you have an interest in becoming a valued member of this important team, please contact Diane LeBlanc 613-837-0115.





## **Pastoral Care**

Bev deMontigny

### **The Mass for the Sick took place on Saturday February 8th**

Each year our parish celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on a Saturday closest to its actual date (February 11) as we honour the mystery and beauty of the Blessed Virgin's Immaculate Conception. The World Day of the Sick, established 33 years ago by Pope St. John Paul II to coincide with this feast, offers the church a special opportunity to pray for the sick and for those who care for them, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady.

Our parish Pastoral Care Ministry team is always blessed to 'host', as it were, this yearly celebration, which appropriately begins with the prayer of the Rosary, during which time the Sacrament of Reconciliation is also offered, prior to the beginning of the Mass. I am always moved by the beauty and richness of this day as we come together as a community to pray for those among us and across the world who carry the heavy cross of illness and suffering and who have come (or who we bring through our prayers) to the fountain of life, the Holy Eucharist, to receive hope, comfort, consolation, strength and healing from our Risen Lord.

In his homily Fr. Waldemar quoted from a Papal letter, written for this celebration in this Jubilee Year of Hope, in which Pope Francis identifies three ways in which "God remains close to those who are suffering...through *encounter, gift and sharing*". It is a beautiful, hope-filled letter, well worth reading and pondering, especially for those who are suffering and those who accompany them. (You can access the letter on the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) website)

After the homily, the Sacrament of the Sick was offered by our priests, Fr. Waldemar, Fr. Michael and Fr. Tavis, to those present who are dealing with serious or chronic illnesses, those who are elderly and/or those preparing for surgery. The majority of those in attendance came forward to receive the Sacrament.

When the Pastoral Care team first became involved in celebrating this World Day of the Sick some ten years ago, it was thought we would be serving those we were visiting on a regular basis. But we have come to understand that Our Lord and His Blessed Mother gather a different group of people on this day. For the most part their journeys, sufferings and struggles are not known to our team, but only to their close family members and perhaps clergy and friends. This is understandable since they are not in need of the home visits that we offer, because they are still able to attend the Sunday Eucharist. None-the-less we want them to know that their needs are included in the monthly Mass offered for the intentions of all those we serve and have served. We hope this brings each of them a measure of comfort and consolation in their time of need, knowing that their journey is held in prayer by our parish community.

Following the Holy Eucharist a lovely lunch reception was held in the parish hall. The tables were beautifully prepared and comfortably accommodated the 80+ people who joined us for some delicious homemade pea soup, which has become something of a tradition, and an assortment of sandwiches,

biscuits, cheeses, fruit and vegetable platters as well as a variety of desserts. This time of fellowship is a cherished part of the day and gives each of us an opportunity to meet and connect with others in a mutual exchange of care and friendship.

“Many hands made light work” and with this being the Jubilee year Pastoral Care decided it would be a perfect opportunity to invite CWL and Divine Mercy Cenacle members *to help us celebrate* being “Pilgrims of Hope” to our parish community and the result was truly a wonderful community exchange of Love, given and received by all!

As a new year has begun, we are truly blessed with the gift of bringing Jesus Christ through His Word and in the Holy Eucharist to the people we visit and serve whether it be in their homes or at Senior’s residences. If you would like to learn more about our wonderful ministry, please contact us at [di.pastoralcare@gmail.com](mailto:di.pastoralcare@gmail.com) We look forward to hearing from you.





Dolores Cyr, Leader - Pastoral Care Ministry with Pedro 91.

The photograph of Dolores and Pedro encapsulates what exactly it is that this ministry does - no words needed. It was taken during one of the (many) weekly visits to retirement homes in our community in Orleans.



As Catholics, receiving the sacraments is an important part of our faith journey. There are those, because of age, illness or incapacity, who cannot make it to Sunday Mass at the Divine Infant Parish any longer. This is when Dolores Cyr and members of this small, dedicated group of Eucharistic Ministers of the Pastoral Care Ministry visit homes and retirement homes in Orleans to ensure you can receive Holy Communion. Our parish takes special care to minister to the spiritual needs of the sick; this continues today and is an important part of our ministry in the Divine Infant Parish.

If you need to receive Holy Communion or know someone who does please make contact with the Parish Office or email [DI.PastoralCare@gmail.com](mailto:DI.PastoralCare@gmail.com)

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## **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Lead: Diane LeBlanc

Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist serve communion with dignity and humility, impressing upon others the living presence of God. They assist the presider in serving communion at regular weekend masses, daily masses, and special occasions.

Once a year, all Eucharistic Ministers attend the *Rite of Commissioning*.

The Presider addresses the candidates as follows:

*"In this Ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct. You must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup. As ministers of Holy Communion be, therefore, especially observant of the Lord's command to love your neighbour. For when He gave His Body, as food to the disciples, He said to them: 'This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you'."*

Volunteering as an **Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion** is one way to be good stewards of those gifts and talents which God has given us and to use them wisely and well for His greater glory and for the benefit of others. This is a beautiful ministry that is both rewarding and fulfilling.

If you are considering this ministry, please contact Diane LeBlanc 613-837-0115



## *Legion of Mary Ottawa*

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope!*



The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic Association of Catholics who, with the sanction of the Church and under the powerful leadership of Mary Immaculate, Mediatrix of All Graces, serve the Church and their neighbour on a voluntary basis in about 170 countries. With the approval and support of the Popes and a great many Bishops, Priests and Religious, as well as the prayers and efforts of legionaries, the Legion, by the grace of God, has grown into a worldwide organisation with several million members.

The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active co-operation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's Evangelizing work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ.

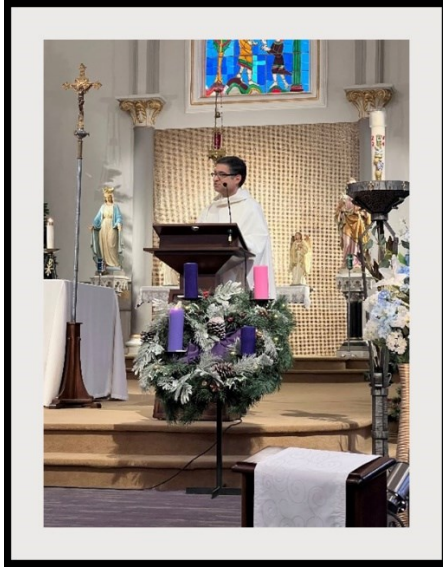
**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium, Divine Infant Parish**, is led by President Mildred Walker under the spiritual guidance of Pastor Waldemar Podlasz SDS. The Praesidium meets every Thursday at 10am at the Parish.

All active and auxiliary members attend. Through the routine of the weekly meeting and assignments, our Blessed Lady has been brought to literally thousands of souls contacted by the Legion. Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

Visiting with the sick in homes and hospitals and praying the Rosary amongst senior citizens are few of the key activities of our Parish Praesidium. Additionally, the Praesidia of all Parishes in Ottawa come together for Spiritual Retreats, Days of Recollection, Junior Day Camps and Market Ministry are other events. For more information on upcoming events in 2025 visit <https://legionofmaryottawa.com/events>.

On February 1, 2025, in the Jubilee Year of Hope, legionaries from across Ottawa were invited to spend one hour before the Blessed Sacrament at the Divine Infant Church between 2-3 pm. In the words of Msgr. Ambrose Sheehy, Spiritual Director of Toronto Senatus, "It would seem a most appropriate and a grace-filled enterprise to send forth to heaven a united and intense crescendo of prayer beseeching her to grant us extraordinary graces that our lives and work as her Legion might bear great fruit and flourish.

On December 7, 2024, the Regia of Ottawa held its annual General Reunion for Active and auxiliary members at the Paroisse St-Joseph in Orleans. Fr. Hezuk Shroff, Spiritual Director of the Ottawa Legion of Mary, celebrated Holy Mass. There were over 100 active and auxiliary members in attendance and the day's events included entertainment and a potluck meal. There was a vibrant sense of fun, fellowship, grace and renewal at the gathering.





## **Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort is the Patron Saint of the Legion of Mary**

Few men have contributed so much to spread Marian devotion as Louis de Montfort. He was a popular and vigorous missionary from the west of France, who died at the age of 43 in 1716, exhausted by his sermons and his penances. His famous books such as *Mary's Secret* or *The Treaty of True Devotion*, which became known a long time after his death, had a considerable influence. "It is also through Mary that we must approach God and unite ourselves perfectly and strictly to his Majesty, without fearing rejection".

## **The Servant of God, Frank Duff, Founder of the Legion of Mary**

Frank Duff was born in Dublin, Ireland, on June 7, 1889. He entered the Civil Service at the age of 18. At 24 he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul where he was led to a deeper commitment to his

Catholic faith and at the same time he acquired a great sensitivity to the needs of the poor and underprivileged. Along with a group of Catholic women and Fr. Michael Toher, Dublin Archdiocese, he formed the first praesidium of the Legion of Mary on September 7, 1921. From that date until his death, November 7, 1980, he guided the world-wide extension of the Legion with heroic dedication. He attended the Second Vatican Council as a lay observer.

His profound insights into the role of the Blessed Virgin in the plan of Redemption, and the role of the lay faithful in the mission of the Church, are reflected in the *Legion of Mary Handbook* which is almost entirely his composition.

Today there are an estimated 5 million members in the Legion of Mary worldwide. Requirement for membership is that one is a practising Catholic, over 18 years of age and has a willingness to abide by the Legion system which is modelled on that of the Roman Army. There two grades of membership: Active and Auxiliary.

## **Why Join? Be Our Guest this Jubilee Year as a Pilgrim of Hope**

The first step to becoming a member is to be a guest at a meeting of the Legion of Mary. Joining the Divine Infant Legion of Mary Praesidium is a way in which we can help save souls and combat some of the evils we face in today's world. The Legion is an opportunity for Catholics to fulfil their apostolic duty. It provides an opportunity to learn and grow in the faith through spiritual prayers, readings, discussions and talks given by the president. The Legion of Mary is a platform in which you can enrich your faith and devotion to Our Lord and Our Lady.

Members place themselves at the service of Mary and wish to help her in her mission as "Mother of the Church."

To find out more please contact Mildred Walker or Lorna Baier: [di\\_office@rogers.com](mailto:di_office@rogers.com)

*O Mary, conceived without sin.  
Pray for us who have recourse to you.*

The Legion of Mary is a lay catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country.





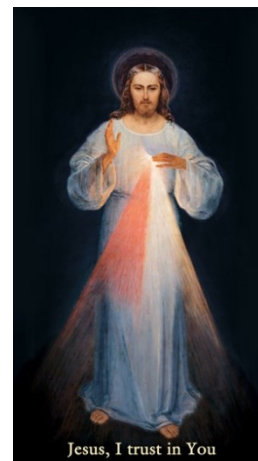
## Divine Messenger March 2025 - Divine Mercy Cenacle Ministry

*Written by Sunita Gomes, member, Divine Mercy Cenacle, Divine Infant Parish.*

### Just Start. Jesus, in His Infinite Mercy, Will Meet You There

Ninety-Four years ago, on Sunday, February 22, 1931, the first Sunday of Lent, Christ passed on the message of Divine Mercy, to a simple, young, uneducated nun, Maria Faustina Kowalska, who was living in her community's convent in Plock, Poland at the time. The day began with recitation of prayers and attendance at Holy Mass and was followed by the nun's regular tasks working in the kitchen or the vegetable garden.

But in the evening, while the 25-year-old was alone in her humble cell, she suddenly saw a vision of Jesus Christ that would come to be honoured by thousands, if not millions, of people worldwide in the years to come.



In the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, she recalls that first vision: "In the evening, when I was in my cell, I saw the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand [was] raised in the gesture of blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From beneath the garment, slightly drawn aside at the breast, there were emanating two large rays, one red, the other pale... After a while, Jesus said to me, **"Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory."** (*Diary, Divine Mercy in My Soul*, 47-48).

Though she could not paint, she promised to venerate this image. At the beginning of 1934, Bl. Fr. Michał Sopoćko (St. Faustina's confessor) commissioned a Vilnius artist, Prof. Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, to paint the image of the Merciful Jesus, the painting that has now become the famous image of Divine Mercy. In our Divine Infant Parish, outside of Lent, it is hard to miss this image prominently placed to the right of the altar as you enter, accompanied by the phrase, "*Jesus, I trust in You.*"



Jesus would continue to appear and speak to her, and for four years St. Faustina recorded Jesus' words, her visions, and her own thoughts and prayers in a personal diary.

**Fast forward to 2024:** Up until a couple of years ago, I did not know what Divine Mercy was all about. I had, of course, seen the white, red and blue



image of Jesus in various churches around the world. I had seen the words “Jesus, I Trust in You”. I even cursorily recited the Divine Mercy Chaplet after moving to Orleans in 2021, in the concluding phase of Wednesday’s Eucharistic Adoration, per the parish format and reading from a printed sheet. I never knew what the image symbolized or what the story behind it was. Or where the Devotion fit in.

*Divine Mercy*

I did what I do best. I bought ‘the *Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*’ on Amazon. And tried to read it straight through. Twenty pages in, I put it down, depressed and discouraged. It is not eloquent, certainly not a work of great literature or an advanced theological discourse, or, as I later discovered, even a chronological narrative. I so wanted to read and understand this book. But I simply could not wrap my head around it.

**Enter the faith community:** Whether through Mass, Lent or Advent, groups of people have realised the joy and fruitfulness of journeying actively in faith with people they have come to know, love, and trust.

All the evidence shows that living and growing in our faith is best done as part of a small group - turning church pews into circles.

The best thing I’ve done for myself recently is join the Divine Infant’s Divine Mercy Cenacle, a growing ministry that started in 2016 and includes small groups of people that meet every Monday to learn about the unfathomable love and mercy our Lord Jesus has for each of us and our Church as revealed to St. Faustina; to share and discuss our faith, using the Diary of St. Faustina, Scripture and the Catechism as your guide. With my friends in this small faith community, I have learned to read the Diary for what it is: a mystical testimony showing how God works in souls, and a monumental document that has sparked the one of the greatest grassroots movements in recent Church history.

Our ministry emphasizes the importance of faith sharing, but also includes prayer, outreach and a focus on living a sacramental life. Those who are touched by the message of Divine Mercy, as I am now, often cite a passage in the *Diary* that gives us the courage and inspiration to work at promoting the devotion: **“Souls who spread the honour of My mercy I shield through their entire lives as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Saviour.”** (*Diary*, 1075).

As I press on with the Merciful Lord over the word ‘witness,’ eager to see how He will continue to reveal more to me via the Diary of St. Faustina through this Jubilee Year of Hope, I’ve already uncovered a few simple truths. For example, when it comes to sharing our faith, witness is a noun, not a verb. In Acts 1:8, Jesus says, “...**you will be my witnesses**”. He doesn’t say, you will do some witnessing for me. Or, you can try and witness to people. He says you *will be* a witness. We are not called to do witnessing; we are called to be witnesses. This has been an important distinction for me because when I shift my understanding here, my life *is* a witness. I am a witness. There is something about ‘*being*’ instead of ‘*doing*’ that takes the pressure off trying to say the right thing at the right time to help others encounter Jesus. Instead, people must encounter Jesus through the way I live my life, the way I show mercy through my actions, my words and my prayers, and the hope I have. How strongly our Lord speaks about this to St. Faustina: **“I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.”** (*Diary*, 742)

As a Pilgrim of Hope this Jubilee Year, I invite you to join Divine Infant’s Divine Mercy Cenacle on Mondays and witness - and be a witness - to the Triune God working in all of us through the Holy

Spirit. Instead of despairing over the condition of our country and of the world all the time, in lieu of being anxious and afraid and angry all the time, rather than waking up to an onslaught of provocative media, social media in particular, we can show mercy and pray for God's mercy. Every. Single. Day.

What is called for is Divine Mercy, works of mercy. The answer to the evil and suffering of the world today is Jesus, the face of the Father's mercy. When we practice our faith, live in the state of grace, and do works of mercy, we show the face of Jesus, the face of the Father's mercy, to the world. We heal the wounds, bind up the injuries, help set the world to rights. We can do reparation for the sins of our brethren, our forebears. We can help heal old hurts, pursue justice both socially and individually, and in all ways, allow the Light of the World to brighten a very dark time".

(Chris Sparks. <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/jubilee-year-bring-hope>)

If you are seeking to grow in your faith or if you are looking to join a small group within our large parish community where you will experience a more personal connection to community and be supported in your personal life through the prayers of other Divine Mercy Cenacle members, why not consider joining us on Mondays?

**All are welcome to come and try out one of our small group sessions held every Monday. For further info, send an email to David Langedock (Daytime Cenacle), or Stan Siok (Evening Cenacle) at [divineinfantcenacle@gmail.com](mailto:divineinfantcenacle@gmail.com)**



## **REJOICE and READ**

Nina Regimbald

This Lent and Easter season of renewal and hope are you looking for prayerful books to lift you up, support and guide you through your faith?

Choose a paper book to add to or create your own Catholic bookshelf?

Prepare your heart this season and enjoy your precious reading time by holding, touching and leafing through the printed book, new or used. Choose print books to avoid symptoms of screen fatigue.

### **BROWSE:**

Pause at the parish library in the hallway on your way in or out, to mass, adoration, thanksgiving, reparation, confession, youth group, courses, meetings, or gatherings. You will find resources to help deepen and grow your Catholic life with devotionals, meditations, inspiring stories and wisdom of the saints, reflections, bibles, biographies, catechism, healing, grief and loss, and so much more.



**BORROW:**

Select from the wide collection of over 1500 + titles. Borrow material for 3-week checkout periods. Connect to the “Parish Library” link from the main website to search by title or author.

**NOW:**

Sign up at the Library desk to volunteer just a few minutes of your time. Volunteers are needed to keep the library open following each weekend mass.

For more information, e-mail: [dilibraryservices@gmail.com](mailto:dilibraryservices@gmail.com)

**Library Update - NEW:**



**Free Section:** Pick up & go with your complimentary books, magazines, prayer cards or leaflets, cds/dvds, from the open ‘Free’ shelves across from the desk.



**Sale Section:** Gratefully accepting donations for the many soft and hardcover's available in the ‘Book Sale’ section for a nominal donation. Proceeds for our Church needs. Share or keep items from this selection. Perfect and thoughtful gifts to celebrate baptisms, weddings, all the sacraments and occasions.

*“We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence, and we are able to share it with others.” Pope Francis*



**Bereavement Ministry**  
**Photos and Stories of Comfort**

Diane Jemus

The Bereavement session focused on Memories is truly gut wrenching, happy and heartwarming all in one. Tears are shed with a sense of a shared tender experience. And, so too, belly laughs, warm, loud, proud and grateful. There is a sense of understanding shown in the tenderness on their faces, a shake of the head, speaker and listener both reaching for a Kleenex. As well, there is the loud outpouring of laughter, a comforting reminder of the good days, the good memories each cherishes in their hearts.

Dr. Webster tells us that “Grief invites us to remember not forget”.

The participants bring formal photos, snapshots, jewelry, keychains and clothing for show and tell. They describe their loved ones and share beautiful stories. As Dr. Webster reminds us, “the person who died,

also lived. We must let the light of the years shine on the event rather than letting the event cast a shadow on the years.” Let me introduce you to this year’s winter 2025 bereavement participants through the group and individual photos. They are a lovely bunch. I wish you could meet them personally. Well, a photo and a story will do!



Bottom Row: MC, Perpetua, Vickey, Jim, Lynne (Facilitator)  
Second Row: Liz, Ron, Susan, Darwin, Margaret, Marj, Brian, Darrell, Ralph (Facilitator), John  
(Six Participants were missing)

Some of these participants have returned for a second time. As one father told us, last time I came for my daughter, this time I am coming for me. Another Dad joined us, within a few weeks, his daughter came with him and said, “I didn’t know that I needed this.” Some have lost one precious loved one, others two back-to-back. They are grieving the loss of a child, parents, siblings, spouses, in-laws and friends. They grieve with hope, prayer and gratitude for the memory. They join us as strangers and quickly become intimate friends on this unwanted journey. John, the gentleman on the far right in the back row told us his wife was always late. When he shared the story of the sweatshirt he was holding up with the words “ALWAYS LATE BUT WORTH THE WAIT”, we laughed as well as felt and experienced his tenderness for his dear Vanessa. Darwin in the back row, fourth in on the left shared that he was the family photographer. Being the photographer, he had lots of photographs but few with him in the shot. Finally, he found a couple of his wedding day and anniversary.





Marj is holding her keychain with a photograph of herself and her sister, Cathy. She is also wearing a silver feather medallion, on the backside is a fingerprint of her sister. These treasures comfort her and maintain a sense of physical presence.



Jim wrote that “he is forever grateful that she was with me in my life”. He especially liked this photo with his wife’s hand on his shoulder. Touch being so very important, a reminder of her special touch.



This photo of MC with her Dad resonated with her, she just wanted to share it. We were grateful that she did. She told us of the many joys she shared with her dad including much love for their dog (now, too passed away) and many other happy experiences.



Perpetua and her late husband Cliff. She misses him a lot. She told us that he has done so much goodness in the world, especially all over Africa.

These stories and exercise support our need for honouring our loved ones and the desire that they never be forgotten reminiscent of Greek mythology: Zeus and Aurora, the goddess of the dawn. When Aurora's son died, she went to Zeus asking that her son would be honoured and never forgotten. She shed many tears. He granted her wish. The next morning, she awoke to what seemed to be dew all across the land. In reality, they were her tears. The community recognized the dew as Aurora's tears, her sorrow over her deceased son. They then related to their own sorrows. Heart touching heart. Note that Aurora's sorrow did not stop her from ushering in the dawn, doing her job, continue living.

Dr. Webster tells us that "we honour our loved ones by going on with our lives".

As Christians, we have the hope of the resurrection. We will meet again. As Father Waldemar has told us "Our dearly departed have arrived, we are still on the journey". A comforting thought even amid our tears, questions, lonely moments and happy memories. Jesus cried. He continued with His mission. Our Lady continued. The apostles continued. And so should we.

\*Dr. Bill Webster has spent a lifetime devoted helping individuals and organizations cope with grief, develop programs for support groups. He is a Canadian with an international outreach recognized internationally for his work by our country, the UK.

The Bereavement Ministry use his videos and books in the group sessions which are effective resonating well with our participants.

## Suffering, Remembering, Helping Others

Diane Jemus



When you see a WhiteCycle pray for all concerned - the victim, family and all involved.

Share the road remembering that  
**SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT.**

\*Dr. David Kessler has been praised by both Mother Teresa and Elizabeth Kubler-Ross for his book, *FINDING MEANING* and his lifetime work. He has coauthored a book with Elizabeth-Kubler Ross and worked very closely with her. He has written many books, is a grief counsellor, teacher and hosts a podcast.

As I am preparing to write this article, we are edging toward lent in preparation for the consolation of Easter celebrating Jesus' resurrection, hopeful for everlasting life for ourselves and our loved ones especially those gone before us. Winter weather is still with us, but spring is not far off when we shed our boots for runners, skates and bikes of all sorts. The street will be full of walkers, joggers, cyclists and the like. Unfortunately, so too, the sight of the WhiteCycle (ghost bikes) decorated with flowers and other memorabilia.

A ghost bike, also referred to as a ghost cycle or WhiteCycle is a bicycle roadside memorial, placed where a cyclist has been killed or severely injured, usually by the driver of a motor vehicle. Apart from being a Memorial, it is usually intended as a reminder to passing motorists to share the road.

The bike shown above is personal for the Orleans community. The victim was an Orleans boy, Simon, who attended St. Matthew High School, where there is a plaque with a saxophone on it honouring him, the student and musician. Just a little while before, in the 2019 Messenger published the poem he wrote about Our Lady, winning a prize from the CWL. Family, friends, the parish and school community mourned him well.

Graciously, Ragheda, his mother gave us permission to share this story as a reminder to those sharing the road - be mindful. Be careful. Soon, the road will become active again with cyclists of all ages. Even the sidewalks with motorized vehicles such as scooters, bikes, etc. it is our collective responsibility to "look out for one another". Child loss is very hard. It never really goes away. It's tough for everyone.

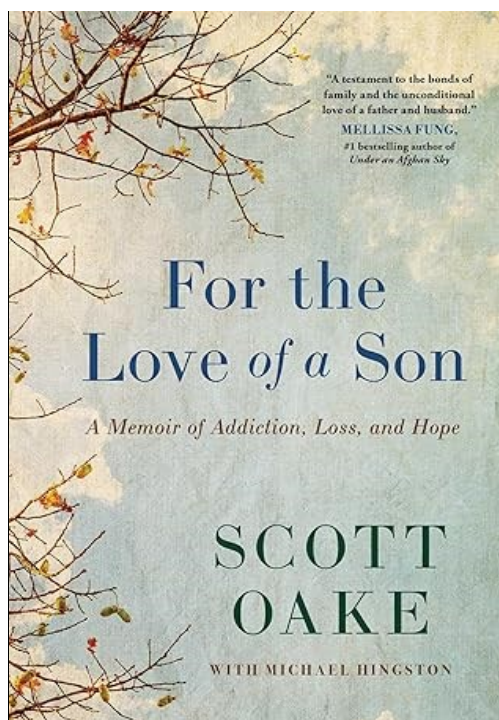
Dr. David Kessler tells us that "finding meaning" is very important. Acceptance of the loss is important otherwise it can paralyze us. Finding meaning can empower us to help ourselves and others. Ragheda has chosen to share her loss, her love of Simon to hopefully prevent another family experiencing such sorrow, longing and emptiness.

## Coping With Overdose Loss

Diane Jemus

Death by overdose is now an all too common event. We have welcomed a number of parents who have suffered this loss. Fathers and Mothers. Vicky is one such mom who comes to the sessions and placed a stone in the Bereavement Memorial Garden. She could barely talk. She shed many tears; we heard heartfelt sobs. We related. She told us of her daughter's accidental overdose.

Vickey had hoped for recovery, yet she knew all too well the slim chance, "so few are able to overcome the addiction, it's a hard lifelong process". So much compassion for her daughter. She said, "We miss her so". Yet, she is filled with gratitude. She is full of compassion for her daughter and others who suffer. Despite the hardship, she describes happy times with her daughter pre and post addiction. Vicky laughs and we join her. It's a heartwarming lovely laugh. Vicky cries and we empathize. She recalls her daughter's basketball days, (Vicky is still called upon to help the team) and ordering pizza as well as just sitting around chatting and laughing as mothers and daughters do, well, all family members - dads, siblings, etc.



When Scott Oake's book came out, *For the Love of a Son*, another group member bought it for Vicky and donated a copy to the Bereavement Ministry as often happens. Comfort and care come in many forms.

Scott Oake's son Bruce also accidentally overdosed. This book describes the joy of the birth of his first born son Bruce. Those early perfect days. Bruce's smile. Then, the change first brought on by medical issues, and various transitions. Highlighting through it all, loving parents of a still beautiful yet struggling, challenging son. Scott Oake very much echoing the sentiments of professionals for the need of understanding and patience in the world of recovery. And relaying the times, the family missed the mark, etc. The tragic death of his son led to the now open Bruce Oake Recovery Centre in Manitoba. As Scott Oake wrote, this project was "meant to give a voice to our grief and try to make a difference".

Orleans United Church hosted an information session regarding this tragic situation focusing on Harm Reduction. Pamela was the lead speaker along with Ruth. Pamela is a full time worker in this field. She told us that dying by overdose is more likely to happen to the housed not unhoused. Those affected



could easily be our own associates, friends, families, coworkers, etc. Often, the people who use illegal drugs to manage pain are those who do not have medical coverage such as in the trades. They are cut off from prescribed drugs despite still in pain so the injured, sick try to find alternative relief. Pamela suggested that each one of us should have Narcan on us to enable us to save a life. She believes that helping the addict and family members “reflects Jesus”.

From this Healing Hearts link <https://www.momsstoptheharm.com/healing-hearts-groups>, people can obtain much information including the Healing Hearts web page.

## **Honouring Our Loved Ones**

Diane Jemus

Now not all of us have the influence or contacts to open a treatment centre to both help others while honouring our own. There are other ways.

Dave Langedock started a memorial donation to the CWL in memory of his wife Madeleine, a longtime member of the CWL.

This donation covers the membership for one year one of the members.

Those who paid their membership are included in a draw. Two are selected and voila the membership is courtesy of Dave honouring his wife, one of their CWL sisters.

We can make a donation to the Easter flowers claiming God’s promise of eternal life adding some spring beauty to the liturgies and symbolic meeting.

Loretta blows bubbles symbolic kisses to her husband. When they come back, she believes the kiss is returned.

Until the day when “He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death and mourning”, we continue in faith and hope for the resurrection promise. Also, we can by God’s grace hold onto the words in the beatitudes “blessed are those who mourn”, may I add, blessed are those who comfort those who mourn recognizing that grief is hard. There is darkness before the dawn. Life will be different but can still be good. One step at a time.....Give the grieving time to “grieve well”.



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)

By Margaret Chan-Heuthorst

With Christmas over and 2025 just begun, the Catholic Women's League is in full swing. Our big mission, *"Living the Beatitudes, Love in Action"* is well underway. Our parish has journeyed through three of the eight Beatitudes: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"* led by the Legion of Mary, *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"* led by the Bible Study Group, and *"Blessed are those who are meek, for they will inherit the earth"* led by the Music Ministry. On March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, the Eucharistic Ministry will lead the fourth Beatitude, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*

This mission has been an exceptional opportunity for spiritual growth where every parish ministry and every parishioner is invited to consciously learn, live and love in accordance with each Beatitude. As we journey, a decal is placed on the church wall, and we follow a prepared booklet. The booklets for each Beatitude are permanently placed on the CWL page of our parish website. Please visit <https://www.divineinfant.on.ca/beatitudesmain.html> to read these booklets. By January 2026, our parish will have learned about and lived all eight Beatitudes.

We also installed a Beatitude Blessing net in the foyer of the church with the caption *"Put into the deep... Luke 5:4"*. Parishioners are invited to write their blessings on a fish and toss it into the net. Here are a few blessings that were caught in the net:



"Blessings of my family and friends."

"Waking up with a healthy body and soul, thanks be to God".

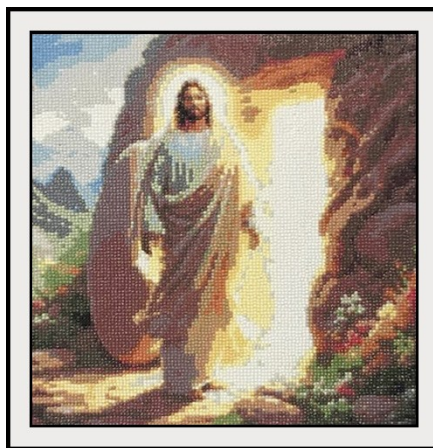
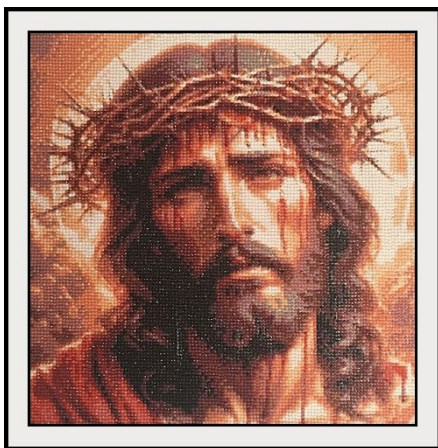
"To have a relationship with God, we need only open our hearts and say, "please come in".

"The Blessing of Jesus".

"The realization that in God's universe, everything, no matter how small, has a perfect purpose in God's plan. Therefore, in every moment God, who created me, is steering my path to Him. I am so thankful and fortunate".

The Catholic Women's League is looking forward to your participation in a number of upcoming events:

- Silent Auction this Lent (ended March 9)
- Annual Chocolate Easter bunny raffle – April 5 & 6
- Baby Bottle drive in support of the Miriam Centre – May 10 & 11
- The Annual Spring Tea – June 7
- There will also be a few planned events for this Jubilee Year, *"Pilgrims of Hope"*, so stay tuned.



To learn more about the Catholic Women's League, please visit our page on the parish website, <https://www.divineinfant.on.ca/cwl.html>.

We will close with a prayer to our patroness, *Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel, filled with the Holy Spirit, you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your Son. Intercede with your Son for us that we may be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers. Amen.*



## **Agape Bible Study Group**

Previously, I reported that the Agape Bible Study Group had three new participants. One participant canceled her Wednesday morning class due to a long-term activity. Never leaving anyone behind, we will find a suitable time that accommodates our busy schedule.

In preparation for Lent and Easter, the Group will be studying the Lent and Easter series of lessons offered on the [Agape Bible Study](#) website. The participants already know that the lessons are chock full of information about each topic. As a result, we will concentrate our studies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday starting on March 5.



## Volunteering at Divine Infant Church

Joan Scott

I have been asked to write this article about my experience as a volunteer at Divine Infant Church. To make it clear I just want to say that this article was not my idea as I am usually more of a private person who does not flaunt any accomplishments that I, through the grace of God, have managed to achieve. My hope is that anyone who reads this may be favourably inclined to volunteer as much as they can. It is truly rewarding.



When I first came to Divine Infant Church in 1989 or 1990, I was asked by a member of the CWL if I would like to join their organization. I thought it might be a good way to meet some of the parishioners, so I agreed to become a member. Now, in 2025, I am still a member and what a ride this has been! My parents set an example of always being willing to help anyone in need, and I have always tried to follow their advice. Another piece of advice I received from them was “if you see something needs to be done, do it.” This explains why I am writing this, as I am not usually prone to ‘blowing my own horn.’

To return to the Catholic Women’s League, I have now been a member for almost 35 years. During that time, I assisted with all the events in which the CWL was involved both in our parish and at numerous conventions and meetings in other cities. In the 1990’s I became President of our local council and was involved in many activities such as fundraisers, funeral receptions, special parties, etc. One of the things that I promoted in 1999 was a free lunch for seniors, as that was the National Year of the Senior. The night before, I asked one of the ladies that if I could not get to the luncheon would she look after it. At the time my husband was in hospital, and I wanted to go see him that morning. While I was with him, he died a peaceful death, after receiving a special blessing from Archbishop Marcel Gervais, several days before.

While I was president of the Divine Infant CWL, another parishioner asked me if I would go with her and speak at the meeting that was being held to try to ensure that proper steps would be taken to keep the computer at the National Libraries safe for children. We went, as did one of the deacons from our parish, and we gave our talks. The next morning, I heard myself on the radio news and so did others. One of the listeners was the president of the Ottawa Diocesan CWL. She phoned and asked me if I would take on the City Diocese CWL presidency. I accepted and became the diocesan CWL president. During my tenure we were trying to start new council at parishes where there was no CWL. We would



go, two at a time, to a church and speak at all the weekend Masses to tell them about the CWL and, if there was enough interest, we would assist them in starting a new council. This was very well received, and a number of new councils were established. As long as possible I remained active in CWL affairs. Now I just retain my membership and my interest in the CWL.

Over the years, I have been a Lector and Head of Lectors, a Communion Minister and Head of Communion Ministers. For several years I participated in Bible Study class and then, at the Deacon in charge's request, I led a Bible group for several years. Somewhere about 2000 I became a Sacristan at the 8am Mass and the Thursday morning Mass. During the Covid Epidemic I assisted at many more Masses and did a lot more related activities, such as serving at school Masses, funerals, etc. In fact, over the years Marilyn Geiss and I served at many, many funerals and special Masses. We also organized and assisted at the Easter Triduum each year for a long time. I also looked after setting out the procedures for each event, including preparing the necessary guidelines for each occasion. This involved being at the church each afternoon to prepare things and then staying each evening until everything was finished and doing the cleaning up afterwards.

Another Volunteer activity I was involved in was helping out at the Shepherds of Good Hope. At the time Divine Infant parishioners assumed responsibility for the Sunday lunch meal. It was a very rewarding feeling to see these people being so grateful for a good meal. Another occasion for helping was when the Travelling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was on loan to our parish for a few days. Volunteers would sit in the church to ensure that the statue was safe and that everything was going well. While watching I was struck by the effect that kneeling to pray to Our Lady had on our parishioners. In fact, it impressed me so much that I decided to purchase a small statue of Our Lady of Fatima that would be available for parishioners to take home for a time. A young of son Marleen Holt kindly made a beautiful wood and glass case for the statue and people are still borrowing it for a week or two at a time.

Each year I used to prepare the Parish Annual Report, but one of biggest volunteer activities began way back over 20 years ago when I agreed to take on the task of creating a newsletter for the parish. This was a labour of love, and I enjoyed doing it, even though I sometimes got frustrated with the computer or how the stories were sent to me. I had to give up this heartwarming activity because of poor eyesight, but I am delighted to see that someone has taken on the task and is probably making the newsletter even better.

I thank God for giving me the opportunities to serve others over the years. He has blessed me in many ways, and I have been asked to tell you the story of a miracle that He graciously gave. This is a story that I have told to very few people, but perhaps it is time to let others know that miracles do happen. This is what took place. After my last child was born, I suffered severe hemorrhaging. My doctor had me go to the hospital for a procedure which was supposed to stop the bleeding, but it made it worse. My doctor came to the hospital that evening from his cottage in Quebec when the nurses told him that they could not get the transfusions started. My doctor tried but was also unable to get a vein, so he called an anesthetist to try. By 4am the bleeding was no better. The doctors and nurses rushed out into the hall, and I guessed that it was to have conference. I was well aware of the seriousness of my condition after starting to pass out, and while they were in the hall I spoke to God and told him that if needed me I was ready but, if possible, I would like to be able to help my children grow up. When the doctors returned, they did something that stopped the hemorrhaging almost immediately. When my condition stabilized my doctor said he would be in a room up the hall if I needed him. In the morning, they did a

hysterectomy operation. I later found out that the doctor had actually cut into the vein in both arms in order to start transfusions. I know that was a miracle and I thank God for permitting me to stay a little longer with my family. Until now there were very few people who knew this story, but it is living proof that God listens to our prayers. I thank Him everyday for this and all the other many blessing that He has given me.

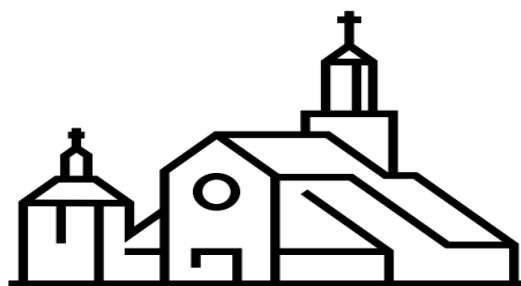
I hope that this story will encourage many others to become a volunteer.



## Divine Infant Church Schedules

### Regular Mass Times:

Monday	7:00 pm*
Tuesday	7:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am
Thursday	9:00 am
Friday	9:00 am
Saturday	5:00 pm*
Sunday	8:00 am
	9:30 am
	11:15 am
	5:00 pm



**Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction:** Every Wednesday after the 9:00 am Mass

**\*NOTE:** On **statutory or civic holidays** Mondays, Mass is at 9:00 am.  
There is no 7:00 pm Mass on that day.

**There is a Mass on Saturday morning at 9:00 am for**

- First Saturdays of the month
- Solemnities & Feast days, and Marian Feast days which are on a Saturday, and
- During Advent or Lent

Please visit our parish website ([www.divineinfant.on.ca](http://www.divineinfant.on.ca)) to read the latest updates and to read the parish bulletin for upcoming special events and information on ministries or associations.

*"No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass.  
The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright;  
sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtue and merit increases;  
and the devil's schemes are frustrated." ~ St. Lawrence Justinian*

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER



### 2025 SCHEDULE

#### WE JOURNEY TOWARDS EASTER

PENITENTIAL SERVICE - Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm

CHRISM MASS AT NOTRE DAME BASILICA - Tuesday, April 15 at 5:00 pm  
(There will be no evening Mass on Chrism Tuesday at Divine Infant Parish)

### EASTER TRIDUUM

#### Holy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 pm

11:30 pm— Liturgy of the Hours and  
reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>

Stations of the Cross led by the Divine Mercy Cenacle – 10:00 am

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

The church will remain open for private veneration of the Cross

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

#### Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Blessings of food baskets – 11:00 am

Easter Vigil – 8:00 pm

#### Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

Masses at 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am and 2:00 pm

*There will be no Mass on Holy Saturday at 5:00pm or on Easter Sunday at 5:00pm*

*There are no Confessions during Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday – Easter Sunday)*

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