

*35th Anniversary of
Divine Infant Parish*

Divine Infant Parish
Annual Report
June 2018



As Divine Infant Parish celebrates 35 years of serving the people of this area, we also celebrate our volunteers who have so faithfully given of their time and talents over the years to benefit and enhance the life of the Divine Infant community.

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Stewardship Prayer

*Creator God, at Baptism, we accepted the call
to follow Jesus.*

*Be with us as we move along on our faith jour-
ney.*

*Send us your Holy Spirit, that we might have
wisdom for the journey.*

*Help us to develop and share our gifts as good
stewards, that we may use them in love and
service in your Kingdom.*

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Pastor's Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

Another year has come and gone. We put together this Annual Report to simply give you a good sense of what is the present status of our many activities, ministries and programs.

Every time, as I am reading through the Report, I am always amazed at the commitment and dedication of our parishioners, we should always be proud of ourselves for maintaining such a wonderful and vibrant parish community.

Second, there is that deep sense of gratitude and love, I see this Report as an opportunity for all of us to turn to our fellow parishioners and say "Thank you". This is not just a small group of volunteers, they are a good portion of our parish, people with big hearts and committing their time, talents and treasure almost on a daily basis. Also, don't forget, we always have room for new volunteers to join any ministry, program or parish group. Speaking about volunteers, together with our Parish Pastoral Council, we want to work very closely with all the parish groups and ministries in order to provide them with different opportunities to communicate and collaborate with each other, but also to be better known and appreciated by our parish family. This process has already been initiated and we all hope for some wonderful fruits to come. For the first time we attach a Parish ministry sign up form to this report. As you read through, maybe you will feel inspired to get on board, just fill out the form and put it in the collection basket, we will take care of the rest.

Please pray for each other and pray for our parish. Let me share with you this beautiful prayer we always say at the beginning of our Parish Pastoral Council meetings:

Amazing Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You have gathered us together as a parish to be Your visible life in our world. Here we unite in worship, proclaim Your word, celebrate the Eucharist, and are sent forth to share Your love and make disciples.

Lord, we take your Great Commission seriously and long for our parish to be so on-fire that we draw people to You. Help us in that endeavor, as we strive to work together - ordained, religious and laity.

Please make our parish amazing, through Your power and Your grace.

Amen.

In Christ,

Fr. Waldemar Podlasz SDS

Pastor

Pastoral Council

Jeff Orser, Chair

On June 1st, 2017, the Parish launched its Pastoral Plan. This Plan identified specific goals and initiatives to be implemented over the coming three years. As year 1 draws to a close, the majority of the initiatives outlined will move from the initiation and development to the project implementation phase. This progress is thanks to you, the parishioners of our faith community, for your support and contributions.

We are blessed at Divine Infant to have a parish community so committed and dedicated in the sharing of their time and talents. On behalf of the Pastoral Council, I wish to sincerely thank you for your continued support and prayerful consideration.

I wish to extend my appreciation to this year's members of the Pastoral Council for their support and great work. The members include: Father Waldemar (Pastor), Deacon Gerry Panes, Pamela O'Connor, Patrick Fletcher, Caroline Engmann, and Nathan Walker.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank past Council Chair Carl Ward, who stepped down after completing his term as Pastoral Council member, for his many years of hard work, dedication, and leadership. Carl was a driving force in the creation of our Parish's Pastoral Plan. The Pastoral Council serves as your representatives and as such, is always open and willing to consider your ideas and assist you in any way we can. We are a Parish family that strives to bring everyone closer together and closer to God.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer!

Finance Council

Dcn. Jeff Le Bane, Parish Manager; Susan Galarneau, Chair

The Finance Council is an advisory body to the Pastor. Its responsibilities include attending to the temporal affairs of the parish, developing administrative and financial policies, and ensuring the proper maintenance of the parish complex. It consists of the Pastor, a Chairperson and six members as well as ex-officio members such as the Associate Pastor and the Parish Manager. During 2017, two long serving members stepped down. Their contribution was significant and is much appreciated. Two new parishioners have come forward to replace them. Also, with our Pastor's strong support, the Chair of our Council kindly agreed to a one year extension to her term.

Following on the results of the parish survey, the Finance Council had approved the introduction in 2017 of quarterly reporting on parish revenues and expenditures. This reflected a desire on the part of parishioners to have greater transparency in parish financial activities and reporting. After several meetings, the present format was approved with the twin goals of making the reports easily understandable and informative. The reports have now become a regular reporting fixture in the parish and appear as inserts in the weekly parish bulletin, available to all parishioners. The response from parishioners has been highly favourable especially the sections devoted to *extraordinary income and extraordinary expenditures*, and information contained on parish taxable income and amounts to be paid on a quarterly basis.

The 2017 fiscal year ended in a healthy financial position for the parish. Special attention should be given to increased income. The parish is current in all its payments and there are no outstanding debts. This was an exceptionally important year as the Telus telecommunications project was brought to fruition, with installation work and the building of a service room starting in May and completed in October. This took up a large amount of worktime by the parish manager and the parish caretaker, resulting in some major projects

having to be deferred to the following year. However, with the completion of the telecommunications tower, several benefits were immediately derived for the parish: permanent and ongoing rental income, with a 3% annual increase built-in, a new service road to the back of the parish hall and enhanced access for our neighbours to telecommunication products.

However, several major repair and renovation works of importance to the parish were still able to be completed. These were made possible by the continued funding by Service Canada of a summer student, which facilitated our daily maintenance work while these projects were underway. Volunteers also played an important and generous role in maintenance work and again helped reduce expenditure costs. Specifically, new parish locks were introduced at all parish entry points as well as copy-free keys. This was a very necessary security enhancement. Because of the generosity of parishioners we were able to cover these costs completely through the Renovation and Expansion Fund. Railing was installed at the entrance to the front doors of the Church, an important safety feature for parishioners. Also, significant progress continued to be made in the introduction of LED lighting throughout the parish complex. This has been an important project of our parish caretaker and helped to reduce our hydro costs.

Cash on hand at the end of 2017 was \$61,179. Deposits to the Diocesan Loan Fund increased from \$166,472 in 2016 to \$171,472 on December 31, 2017. Receivables for deposit amounted to \$3,319. Parish equity totaled \$235,970.

Summary of 2017 Renovations and Major Projects:

- Installation of Telus Telecommunications Tower, Service Room and Service Road
- Installation of new parish locks with copy-free keys
- Installation of Church entrance railing
- Annual cleaning and restoration work to the complete parish facility
- Annual inspection and servicing of the parish generator
- Replacement of Church door stops and door closures
- Enhancement of sound system equipment in Church and purchase of wireless microphones
- Repair work to partition in Church Hall
- Introduction of LED lighting in Vestry and Church
- Maintenance improvements to parish computer system
- Flashing and caulking repair of Church roof and windows.

Liturgy Committee

Marilyn Geis, Chair

The Liturgy Committee are the ones who work closely with the Pastor and Clergy to bring together the various parts required to mould each liturgical celebration into an act of worship by Christians gathered to celebrate the mystery of Christ.

The Liturgy Committee is comprised of Children's Liturgy, Music, Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Ushers and Sacristans. Leaders of each ministry have submitted individual annual reports as shown on following pages.

Children's Liturgy

Rebecca Cherry, Leader

Children's Liturgy has 3 groups of children: Preschool, Junior and Senior (children up to twelve years of age). Each Sunday we do a religious craft so that the children are not only listening to the words of our Lord but are eager to construct their craft and when they show it to friends and family they are carrying out the wishes of our Lord "Go to every part of the world and tell everyone the Good News!" This year we held a number of group sessions – Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. The group sessions went very well. At times, group activities with so many children meant that the sessions lasted a lot longer than anticipated. The children were eager to respond with answers during simple discussions.

This year the children started bringing up the offertory gifts and my personal wish is that we could have children, with an adult, greet parishioners on a Sunday before Mass and assist with handing out bulletins as well as do readings. I also wish to see the church pews filled with children and more altar servers. Truly the children are the real treasurers of the church. With the help of our Lord, our Priests and fellow parishioners sharing the Good News will be surrounded by peace and last a lifetime.

I invite all young people, parents and grandparents to join us on Sunday during the 9:30 am Mass and become a leader or just sit with us. Your heart will weigh heavy with the love and appreciation that the children will extend to you. Honestly you will feel that the gospels are part of a novel and you will be excited for next Sunday's gospel. There are never enough volunteers and more would be most welcome and much appreciated. I humbly thank you all for inviting me to share in this joyous journey.

Music Ministry and Children's Choir and Adult Choir

Garth Periera, Leader

The Music Ministry at Divine Infant has had a great year with many excellent groups of musicians. There are 3 groups that rotate at the Saturday 5:15 pm Mass, 2 that rotate at the Sunday 8:00 am Mass, the Children's Choir that now sings every Sunday at the 9:30 am Mass, the Adult Choir that sings at the 11:25 am Mass, and 4 different groups of youth musicians that rotate at the Sunday 6:30 pm Mass. That is a total of 11 different music groups that provide music for Divine Infant Parish.

Unfortunately, Corey Arnold, the Music Director for the children's choir and the adult choir, who has been doing an excellent job with each choir, will be moving on September 1st and leaving Divine Infant in order to further his singing career. We are in the midst of seeking a new director for each of these choirs. There are candidates already in process.

Music speakers have been added in the altar area now for the priests and ministers to hear better. A beautiful new podium and microphone for announcements has also been added. Thanks to Rick Gibeault for building it.

Altar Servers

Blessilda Donoghue, Leader

The Altar Server's ministry remains to be special and privileged. Our heartfelt prayer is that through this ministry, all our servers grow in their love of their neighbour and in their relationship with God.

Altar Serving remains an important ministry and an integral part of liturgies (from Sunday Masses to First Communions and Confirmations, to weddings etc.) at our parish. We currently have a senior altar server who has graduated from high school who comes and serves on an occasional basis; there are nine high school students who serve; and ten from the elementary schools. Father Waldemar and I will soon have training sessions for new servers who have recently received their First Communion. Two have currently started. We look forward to having more altar servers serving at mass in the coming weeks. While most mass times have regular altar server presence, the 8:00 am and 11:15 masses continue to have limited altar server coverage.

We continue to have three dedicated Mass Coordinators. Jackie Kierulf who coordinates at the 9:30 am mass, Anna Thompson who coordinates the 11:15 am mass and myself, coordinating the 6:30 pm mass. We are still currently seeking volunteers to be Mass Coordinators for the 5:00 pm and 8:00 am masses. Victoria Pusiak continues to support this ministry by coordinating the altar server requirements in regards to First Communions and Confirmations.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Diane LeBlanc, Leader

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, also known as Communion Ministers, are key members of the Divine Infant liturgical team. They provide assistance to the Priest by serving communion to the faithful at weekend and weekday masses and on special occasions. They serve communion with dignity and humility impressing upon others the living presence of God in the Holy Eucharist.

There are five Mass Coordinators (one for each weekend mass) responsible for schedules and communication with their respective teams. Approximately 55 Eucharist Ministers are currently volunteering in this ministry. We are truly blessed with devoted ministers, however, additional volunteers are always welcome for all masses. A full complement of Eucharistic Ministers is critical to meet the needs of special occasions such as Christmas and the Easter Triduum.

This year, Joan Scott, the Ministry leader for many years decided it was time to step down to focus on other projects. Her outstanding leadership has been an invaluable blessing to the continued success of this Ministry of love. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Joan for her exemplary commitment.

Lector/Reader Ministry

Richard Boulianne, Leader

The Lector Ministry consists of a Head Co-ordinator, five Mass Co-ordinators and sufficient Lectors for each of the five weekend Masses. Each Mass co-ordinator schedules their Lectors for their specific Mass. They also canvas their Lectors to find volunteers for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter Time. Lectors are responsible for preparing for their assigned reading and for finding a replacement if they are unable to serve when scheduled.

Recently a new podium was installed for announcements since the lectern is reserved for Readings, Gospels, Homilies and Prayer Intentions. This gives a better view of the announcer and provides a clearer sound.

There are approximately 75 Lectors in total. New Lectors are welcome to join this Ministry.

Ushers/Greeters

Stephane Therrien, Leader

The number of ushers has declined over the past few years. More volunteers are needed, particularly at the 9:30 am and 6:30 pm masses. By working as a large team, we were able to meet the challenges of special masses like Easter, Christmas and First Communions.

Ushers work from a schedule so that they are not on duty each weekend. Additional volunteers would mean that more people are available for special occasions and volunteers would not have to serve as frequently on weekends. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry please call the number shown in the bulletin.

Sacristans

Marilyn Geis, Leader

Sacristans usually arrive about an hour before Mass to arrange the books needed for the proclamation of the Word and the presider's prayers, set out the chalice, paten, cruets, bowl, altar linens, hosts and altar wine. Doors must be unlocked, vestments, altar and chair cloths, appropriate to the liturgical season or feast day are laid out, lights and the sound system turned on, and candles filled and lit.

While we are fortunate to have many sacristans at this time, there is always a need for more to supply enough for each Mass during the weekends, on weekdays, for extra weekday Masses during Advent or Lent, and for replacements for those who must be absent or retire from the ministry due to personal circumstances.

During special celebrations such as Christmas or Easter, extra diligence is necessary to ensure that everything goes as it should. At funerals, daily Masses and sometimes during summer months, sacristans must not only see to the preparations for the Mass but also act as altar servers.

Parish and Community Life

Marilyn Geis, Leader

The Parish and Community Life committee oversees events which contribute to parish and community life, such as gatherings for celebrations, to say welcome or farewell, or just to relax, play and enjoy each other's company.

Activities this year included an RCIA Vigil Reception on May 31st, which featured fruit platters, assorted desserts, soft drinks and chocolate and vanilla cake made by Blessilda Donohue; a get-together after the Mass for the sick; and provided tea, coffee and cookies for a reception following the Palliative Care Meeting which was attended by members of the Bereavement and Pastoral Team Ministries as well as others.

A small group of persons assist on a regular basis and others offer their services from time to time. Also, some attendees graciously offer to help in the clean up after an event.

Baptism Ministry

Linda Moyle, Leader

The Baptism Ministry team is involved in three specific activities: Presentation Sunday is usually held once per month; Parent Gathering one Tuesday per month, except for Advent and Lent and a Baptism Ceremony is normally held twice per month. During the summer months there is a Presentation Sunday and Parent Gathering at the beginning of July and a Baptism Ceremony in July and August.

During the year there were 85 children baptised, 3 private baptisms, 9 school aged children and 4 children prepared for outside parishes.

Although our group is small, it functions well. More volunteers would be helpful and it is always nice when we occasionally have music for the baptisms.

Marriage Preparation

Deacon Michael and Josiane Seguin

The Divine Infant Marriage Preparation Ministry has changed somewhat in the past year. Since his ordination in September of 2016, Deacon Mike and Josiane Seguin have assumed responsibility for this ministry. A special thank you to Michael and Amy Hall for their hard work and dedication to this program over the past few years as well as their support during our transition period. Also special thanks to all those couples who participated in the marriage preparation program over the years in support of Michael and Amy.

Seven couples took part in a Marriage Preparation course over two consecutive weekends in January of this year. The couples followed the *Marriages for Mary* outline as designed by Gerard and Rita McCarthy. This program covers in detail the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage, the Power of Love, Marriage a Divine Plan, Intimacy & Sexuality, Natural Family Planning, Power of Praying Together, Growing in Love and Faith Together, and Love is Our Mission. After each session the couples were given time to pray and discuss the topics covered.

Many thanks to Pierre and Dolores Cyr for providing incredible meals during both sessions as well as to all the prayer warriors who supported the couples with intercessory prayers prior to and during the course duration. Blessings.

RCIA/RCIT

Dcn. Jeff Le Bane, Spiritual Head; Lynne Kaluski, Coordinator

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Teens (RCIT) is designed to help prepare persons who (1) want to be baptized, (2) to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church from other Christian faith communities and (3) baptized Catholics who have not received the other Sacraments of Initiation.

While the number of parishes offering RCIA programs in the Archdiocese has been declining, some parishes are now starting to reintroduce the program and are coming to our RCIA team for support. As a result, the parish is receiving increasing numbers of inquiries and applications from all over the City of Ottawa and from rural areas on the eastern side of Ottawa. In addition, working closely with the parish's Baptismal team and the Sacramental Coordinator for our Catholic schools, numbers have been further augmented. Approximately 95 inquiries were received over the past year as well as 25 applications. We continue to receive requests from young adults to audit the program from St. Paul's University and the Dominican College.

This year saw a wonderful response from parishioners to participate in the program as godparents and sponsors. They brought great vitality and faithfulness to the program as spiritual mentors. This is a tremendous responsibility, requiring considerable time on their part to attend weekly meetings and to participate in the various RCIA rites and events through the year. There is still a growing need for new team members. Team members must have a thorough knowledge of the Catholic faith, lead discussion groups and be prepared to give ample time to the ministry work as RCIA meets weekly. In addition, from the First Sunday of Advent, there are dismissal gospel reflection sessions at Sunday Mass. The Archdiocese, from time to time, offers training programs as well as enrichment sessions for all parish RCIA teams. This year also saw the introduction of completely updated *Journey of Faith* materials for use in our RCIA and RCIT programs. These are Liguori publications, which form the basis of our weekly sessions both in content and presentation. Their new format is much more focused and precise.

Dating back to the 4th Century A.D., the RCIA has always attached great importance to the Rites that candidates journey through on their spiritual development. There are three Rites of significance during the RCIA year: the Rite of Acceptance (First Sunday of Advent), the Rite of Election (First Sunday of Lent) at the Cathedral and presided over by the Archbishop, and the Easter Vigil, when the catechumens and candidates receive the Sacraments of Initiation as applicable. These Rites are complemented by the three Scrutiny Sundays (3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent) where special Sunday gospel readings and exorcisms make final their preparation for the receipt of the Sacraments. Also, in Lent, the RCIA candidates, team members and candidates from past years, lead the parish one Friday evening in the Stations of the Cross.

One other event this past year deserves special mention – the NET sponsored visit to the Archdiocese of the relic of St. Francis Xavier. One whole Wednesday session was devoted by the RCIA group to go to Ste. Marie Church to venerate his relic, which was followed by several people then going to the Cathedral for further veneration. This was an extraordinary spiritual event and gift for the RCIA community; from which many spiritual gifts were derived.

A special thank you should be made to Father Tavis, our Associate Pastor, who made himself available to the special sacramental needs of the group and candidates through the year.

The RCIA year will conclude for the first time, with a pilgrimage over the summer months. Finally, we have now started to receive inquiries for our Fall session and with God's grace, we continue.

Sacramental Preparation

Victoria Pusiak, Leader

School aged Sacramental preparation is for children enrolled in school seeking reception of the sacraments. Preparing and celebrating sacraments is one of the many important functions of our parish.

Baptism for school aged students this year had 20 students received into the faith. Profession of faith was received by 1 student this year. This is for those students who were baptized in a recognized valid Christian faith and have converted to Catholicism, one of the parents must be a Catholic for the profession of faith to occur.

Archbishop Prendergast SJ and Bishop Riesbeck CC conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on our parish students April 20th and 21st. We had two groups receive Confirmation for a total of 141 students. In the group of students receiving Confirmation we also had 1 student receive their First Eucharist. The students were asked to select a patron saint and to prepare a project on that saint. The quality of the projects was outstanding and they were displayed throughout the parish hall at the reception the parish hosted following Confirmation. At the time of Confirmation the Archbishop and Bishop confirmed the student in their first name along with their saint name. This has such a powerful impact and affirms the connection between the student

and the saint. Every year a few students select saints I may not have heard of before and it is always interesting to discover why they select their specific saints.

Father Tavis Goski met with the confirmation students in the classroom 3 times throughout the year. This allowed for much discussion and opportunity for questions. This is possible with the support of the teachers and principals for which we are grateful.

First Reconciliation for students in Grade 2 and above was held on two separate evenings in January; 195 students received this sacrament.

First Eucharist was received by 196 students in 4 beautiful Masses following Easter, May 5th, 6th, 12th and 19th with a few students receiving First Eucharist at a Tuesday night Mass on May 22nd. The students welcomed the families and proclaimed the word by the readings. It was truly lovely and a wonderful reception of the sacraments.

A portion of the preparation for First Eucharist includes 5 Wednesday evening catechetical instruction in the church, with almost 200 students and families it is a busy time. Fr. Waldemar lead the instruction which also gave them the opportunity to be in the sacred space and learn about specific aspects of our faith which increased their knowledge significantly. I also visited the Grade 2 classrooms twice a year to show a Brother Francis DVD and to chat with the students in the school environment. This also allows those students who are not receiving the sacraments this year to ask questions. I am always amazed at the profound questions, their understanding of God's infinite love, and how they intend to share it with the world.

We continue to see a growth in the number of young families receiving Baptism and First Eucharist. Depending on the birth year this number will always fluctuate. Our parish school class sizes for First Eucharist and Confirmation (for those students who attend the public school board or are in the French Catholic school board) continues to increase.

These special sacraments would not be possible without the generous support, guidance and prayers of our Pastor, Associate Pastor and Deacons. The actual celebrations are enhanced by the substantial gift of those who share their talents so selflessly with our parish, namely our Sacristans, Ushers, Altar Servers, Projector Operators, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and certainly the musicians. Our CWL also provides a wonderful token and rosary to each student for First Eucharist and a lovely bookmark and medal for Confirmation. The children are so excited to receive such a special present. A very huge thank you to all.

We look forward to another wonderful year of preparation for our students with registration in October and November 2018. Congratulations to all who received such glorious gifts from God in the sacraments this year.

Youth Ministry

Alisa Valks and Jacob Douglas, Leaders

DI Youth is wrapping up another wonderful year of ministry! We are closing in on the second year of a partnership between Divine Infant and NET Canada, and it's proven to have a lot of fruit! DI Youth exists to invite the youth of the parish to encounter and grow in relationship with Christ. We do this through fostering relationships, walking with youth in their spiritual journeys, and offering opportunities to grow in their faith.

Some highlights of this year include:

- Beginning the year with hosting a volunteer retreat for all those involved in youth ministry in the archdiocese, where volunteers had the opportunity to grow in their own faith while being equipped in sharing the Gospel.

- In October, we hosted a “Trick or Eat” event on Halloween, collecting donations for the local food bank.
- DI Youth received all Grade 6 students from the 7 feeder elementary schools, for Encounter Retreats. These day-long retreats offered all students, regardless if they were receiving the sacrament of Confirmation or not, an opportunity to encounter Christ.
- Facilitation of Youth Alpha in St. Peter’s High school for middle school students
- Classroom presentations at St. Matthew’s High School to build relationships with the youth attending that school
- At Easter, we had a Good Friday Passion Retreat with 2 other local parishes, in addition to leading Divine Infant through the stations of the cross in the morning

Ongoing events for DI Youth include youth nights and leadership formation, happenings for senior and junior groups on a biweekly basis. This year, we have had the great opportunity to invest in our leaders with a multiplying mindset - youth ministry is a team ministry and we are so grateful for all those who give of their time and talent. We still have a large retreat in June for middle school students at Camp St. Brigid and will be taking about a group of 20 youth to the Steubenville Toronto conference in July.

DI Youth desires that every youth at Divine Infant has the opportunity to hear about, respond to, and live for Christ. Please continue to pray for the youth of this parish.

Pastoral Care

Jennifer Millenor

Ministry Purpose

Pastoral Care is a ministry of presence and outreach to those among us who are sick and/or house-bound. Parishioners or their family members usually call the parish office with a request for a home visit and as we respond to these requests, which most often include bringing the Eucharist, we endeavor to convey our parish community spirit of care and concern to those we serve. We collaborate with the Deacons and Priests to assist these parishioners in also receiving other Sacraments such as Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick.

Parishioners Served: Approximately 220 individuals

Home visits: Serving 8 Individuals
7 private homes = appx 120 collective hours of service

Retirement and Nursing Home visits: Serving appx 92 individuals
(appx 260 hrs of collective service)

- Madonna Nursing Home (St. Joseph Blvd)
Bi-weekly Monday Communion Service to approximately 50 residents
Bi-weekly Saturday Rosary Service to approximately 10 residents
- Promenade Retirement Residence (Tenth Line at the River)
Weekly Sunday Communion Service to approximately 20 residents

- Queenswood Villa (Kennedy Lane East in Queenswood Heights)
Bi-weekly Tuesday Rosary & Communion Service to approximately 12 residents

Annual Mass for the Sick: Serving approximately 120 individuals

Annual Mass for the Sick (and Reception afterward) ~ Saturday, February 10, 2018
Approximate attendance of 120 people from within and beyond the Divine Infant Parish

Collaborative Efforts

Within the Parish

We began to more actively collaborate with the Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion and we invited guest speakers from other Ministries and from our own Pastors to speak about Ministry efforts or parish undertakings at one of our 4 quarterly team meetings.

Outside of the Parish

We are members of a community group called the *Orleans Community Pastoral Care* which unites many Christian Churches (Pentecostal, Anglican, Baptist, United, and others) in common goals to serve those in need of Christian love and support in Orleans.

One Ministry member also participates as a trained member of the *Emergency Spiritual Care Assistance Team* which is a multi-faith emergency response group run by The Ottawa Hospital.

Membership

11 Extraordinary Pastoral Ministers of the Holy Communion

5 Members who accompany

5 Members who are Intercessory Prayers for those we serve

* 2 Members retired over the past year

Future Goals

We would like to add weekly or bi-weekly service to both the Bruyere Residence and to the Symphony Residence. We also would like to be connected to more housebound parishioners who are unable to attend Mass on either a short term recovery basis or on long term basis. Both of these efforts are currently challenged by a need for additional members in the Ministry.

If you feel you might have a couple hours per week or a couple hours per month to contribute to helping parishioners who cannot attend Mass, please email DI.PastoralCare@gmail.com and we will most happily welcome you into this humble and loving Ministry.

Bereavement Group

Diane Jemus, Leader

The bereavement team is comprised of facilitators, greeters, hospitality people, as well as correspondence persons. Outside professionals are engaged as necessary. Our clientele consists of people of various religions – Catholic, non-Catholic, non-Christians, internal or external to the parish, all age groups and people at various stages of grief. Our goal is to help people acknowledge and manage their grief after the loss of a loved one. Also, we help them to validate their experience, emotions and feelings. In addition, we provide ongoing support.

We come together in faith, being present to others, listening as Jesus listened, offering encouragement and community with others in the same situation, offering fellowship, compassion, and opportunity to share in a safe environment. We come together as a group and parish community for All Souls Day Mass, to worship,

honour loved ones who have died and support those left behind. We hosted the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season and members of the group actively participated by carrying the cross or candles or by doing readings. We provide updates and articles in the *Divine Messenger*; participate in parish planning sessions and attend other seminars.

We are effective; we see a difference in the clientele from week 1 to week 8 of the program. They are comfortable in the group setting, there are fewer tears, they are more peaceful, hopeful, and share more openly and more positively regarding their circumstances. Ongoing friendships are made where they support each other in day to day activities (i.e. going to church, exercising, social outings). Client feedback is very positive throughout the sessions and the evaluation forms completed at the end of the program confirm this as well.

Clients bring other family members with them and have recommended us to others. Some clients attend the program multiple times. The All Souls Day Mass was very well received by the clientele and the congregation at large – so much so that there have been some discussions regarding a spring event.

Our program for individual and group counselling uses Dr. Bill Webster's DVDs *Grief Matters*, along with the accompanying booklet. We use a number of other written materials from various sources, ranging in subjects from spiritual, intellectual and wellness. We have a resource centre of books for all ages related to bereavement (i.e. how-to books, meditations, daily diaries and personal testimonies).

Cursillo Movement

Robert Chamberlain, Leader

Divine Infant Parish has 2 posters on the bulletin board describing what Cursillo is all about, and announcing upcoming weekend events. Four Cursillo weekends are held annually, typically in the spring and fall. A women's weekend was held March 8 to 22, 2018 and 2 women from Divine Infant attended. A men's weekend was held April 5 to 8, 2018 and 4 men from DI attended.

Shepherds of Good Hope

Allen Harvey, Leader

Summer of 2017 was another success regarding feeding the needy at Shepherds of Good Hope. Recruiting of volunteers was staged on the weekends of May 27/28 and June 17/18. We were blessed with good weather on both occasions and people were very generous with their intentions to help.

Additional recruiting was done by e-mail and telephone. A total of 185 Divine Infant volunteers participated. This number was consistent with past statistics.

On the Sundays of July and August, food for hundreds of meals was prepared for cooking and serving throughout the summer. In addition, volunteers assembled thousands of sandwiches to be handed out at the door. A total of 2087 wholesome meals were served. The number of meals eaten on any given Sunday in July or August ranged from 186 to 275.

Sign-ups for volunteering at this summer's soup kitchen will be held at the back of the church on Saturday/Sunday, June 2/3 and then repeated on Saturday/Sunday, June 16/17.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anne Seath, Leader

This year we have 12 ladies who attend the monthly meetings to pray, make shawls, exchange patterns and knitting and crochet advice. As well, there are several more ladies who knit shawls in their own home.

Approximately 50 shawls were given out this past year, including about 30 for the two sessions of the Bereavement seminars. These are very well received by the people who are ill, grieving or going through a difficult time as the shawl is a reminder that the person is wrapped in prayer.

We continue to receive donations of yarn, gift bags and cash for which we are very grateful and put to good use. If the donated yarn is not enough to make a shawl we pass it on to Kathryn Windeler to be used by the ladies who make twiddle muffs for retirement or nursing home residents.

Madonna Tuesday Tea

Marg Boeckler, Leader

Every Tuesday afternoon, our group of parish volunteers meet at Madonna Nursing Home and hold two Teas, one on the main floor and a smaller one on the second floor for those unable to come to the main floor. First, we go to each room and invite the residents to come to the Tea and have a short visit with them. If they wish, we sign them out and take them to the party.

Two piano players and three leading singers direct the singing while the other volunteers serve tea, coffee or juice to the residents. Sometimes an Elvis impersonator has a special show for them. Volunteers and residents join in the singing as they follow along in the songbooks. Bob Gordon has prepared a number of songbooks, and so sometimes the songs are Country and Western, Faith and Gospel, Remembrance Day, or Folk and Traditional.

Some volunteers also go to help feed people at mealtimes, some attend mass for the residents on the third Friday of the month, and some distribute communion to those in their rooms who cannot attend the mass. A knitting club meets every Thursday morning and is a very peaceful and friendly time for the residents. As well as playing the piano every Tuesday, Bob Gordon plays every second Thursday afternoon in the foyer of Madonna and Harvey Rule sings in the foyer ever Wednesday afternoon.

After the Tuesday tea is over, the residents are taken back to their rooms and the volunteers have a short visit with them. Many of our volunteers have gotten to know the residents and some have become friends who visit them at other times. The Tuesday Teas are a rewarding experience for all.

Pro-Life Ministry

Gar Knutson, Leader

Definition – The Parish pro-life group is a combination prayer group, education group and lobby group. The group provides an opportunity for parishioners to be involved in fostering respect for human life of the unborn, the aged and the infirmed, in our community.

Due to the nature of the issues the group struggles. While we are more active than at many other churches our numbers are modest. Not everyone is comfortable discussing abortion yet alone becoming active on the issue.

Activities include –

September – participate in pro-life street corner demonstration in conjunction with Campaign Life
November – sponsor Divine Infant Pro Life Saturday morning Mass
December – sell fruit cakes in support of Campaign Life
February – sponsor an education night at the church
April- participate in Hike for Life in support of Action Life
May – participate in March for Life on Parliament Hill
Other – Coins for Life, Precious feet

We get very good support from the parish priests and the office staff.

Mom's Morning Out

Andrea Heeringa, Leader

This past year Mom's Morning Out underwent a big change. With sadness we received the news Amy Hall would be stepping aside as the facilitator of Mom's Morning Out. For anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Amy, you know what a gift she is. We would like to express our gratitude to Amy and her dedication to the families of Divine Infant Parish. We hope to continue on with her original vision for the group. To grow deeper in our spiritual lives, while supporting one another on our walk with Christ.

We began the fall by doing a lovely faith study through the *Blessed is She* website. It was a four part series, the topics being Faith, Hope, Love and Mercy. They were each very short, but packed with inspiration. The questions gave much to reflect on. The study is free to download and we recommend it!

Next we chose to study Christopher West's *Theology of the Body for Beginners*. Christopher West has a way of bringing things we never knew, or hadn't noticed before, to life. If you are unfamiliar with his teaching, this video is a wonderful introduction: <http://corproject.com/cry-of-the-heart-trailer>.

Once school is out for the summer, we will begin our summer park hop around Orleans. For more information feel free to call 613-834-9968, email: andreaheeringa@gmail.com, or join our Facebook Group: "Divine Infant Friends." We look forward to where the Spirit leads us this fall on our next faith study! Hope to see you there.

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Laura Kiraly for Frances Chicot, President

Divine Infant's CWL is an 80 member strong council of The Catholic Women's League, a sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfillment; our national organization is rooted in gospel values calling members to holiness through service to the people of God.

We continue to keep prayer in our efforts to serve our parish and our community. Prayer at meetings, providing an Honour Guard at member funerals, and our prayer list, which was augmented this year with pocket prayer cards created for our members to keep with them. Our happy Executive members were joyfully installed at evening Mass this April, presided over by Father Waldemar Podlasz.

Divine Infant CWL was honoured to host the Diocese for the Feast of our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26. Fr. Waldemar presided at this Mass offered for our living and deceased members. It was made beautiful by Nancy Grimshaw's efforts, with a procession presenting the Books of Life from Parishes in the diocese, a rose for each deceased member presented by family members or sister councils. The homily was inspiring and the readings and music were lovingly provided by our own Council. A lovely reception followed.

This year we have raised and will raise funds for a number of initiatives and charities. As in every year we sold shamrocks to raise funds for St. Patrick's Retirement Home and we held our annual raffle for a chocolate Easter Bunny. Members were at Masses for our Baby Shower, held annually to assist the Miriam Centre. We assisted the Sacramental Preparation Team by preparing the commemorative gifts given to children receiving their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Our members hope to continue their efforts this year by making themselves available at Masses to collect donations from the parishioners for St. Vincent de Paul and the Cumberland Resource Centre. Toward Christmas, we shall also prepare stocking stuffers for the women at the St. Joe's Women's Shelter.

Unbound Ministry

Brenda Kortekaas, Leader

Unbound Ministry empowers people to reclaim their true identity in Christ as sons and daughters of the Father. This ministry is dedicated to equipping people to take hold of the freedom that they have been given in Jesus Christ and to help others do the same using the 5 keys of: Repentance and Faith, Forgiveness, Renunciation, Authority, Father's Blessing. Unbound Ministry is available for those who struggle with the same sin patterns, are frustrated with spiritual growth, have negative patterns of thinking, and feel stuck. Those requesting ministry are asked to read *Unbound, a Practical Guide to Deliverance*. This allows the Holy Spirit to work preparing hearts for a fuller surrender to His work during prayer ministry sessions. Reading the book also educates on what this ministry is and what it is not, managing any expectations. It is also recommended that recipients are part of a Church and/or a group of Christian friends who will support a deeper freedom in Christ. The ministry sessions have one leader, one intercessor and the prayer recipient in the room and they are confidential.

Most parishioners at Divine Infant have been hesitant about or disinterested in Unbound Ministry. We find there is a lack of understanding of this prayer ministry model, or the sense of powers and principalities at work, and a fear of the word deliverance. We have had some ministry requests, and have held two DVD conferences, both with low numbers given the size of the parish. We believe that openness to this ministry would grow from a place of trust. In other parishes and cities the priests and those who have an understanding of the ministry are the ones who often refer the ministry to others and discuss with parishioners how the Unbound Ministry is used to overcome struggles in the spiritual life. The keys of Unbound equip us for these struggles. More discussion of the ministry would develop an awareness, curiosity, and acceptance (make it safe/trusted).

Presently we have 18 volunteers for parishes in East Ottawa (from within and outside Divine Infant parish) that offer prayer ministry sessions. We are always open to people being trained for ministry teams. Those that are on team and involved in Unbound Ottawa Ministry are recommended for this ministry by their pastors. They have read the Unbound book, attended the Unbound Conference (or viewed the DVD Unbound Conference series), and participated in training sessions held at the Diocesan level. Here they are formed in this model of deliverance ministry through study and mentoring. They are also required to attend ongoing training sessions each year. Unbound is a ministry of the Archdiocese of Ottawa: www.catholicottawa.ca/unbound.

SIGN UP FORM
DIVINE INFANT PARISH

Yes, I am interested in joining our parish ministry(s), group(s) or program(s).

I'd like to find out more about

.....

.....

(please, write the name(s) of parish ministry(s), group(s) or program(s) in which you are interested)

My name is

Contact information:

Phone number

E-mail address

(Please, drop this form on the collection basket or bring it to the parish office)