



# *The Divine Messenger*

*A Contact with Divine Infant Parish*

*Vol. 17, No.1*

*November 2021*



***You are invited...***

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

## A Message from Our Pastor

### Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, we've just started the first, diocesan stage, of the new "Synod on Synodality". This process invites us all to engage and become an active participants. Our Archdiocese and all the parishes are in the process of preparation of this important phase. As a way of introduction and to encourage your interest, I'd like to share with you this article written by *Fr. William Clark, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, College of the Holy Cross.*

**On Oct. 10, 2021,** Pope Francis formally opened a two-year process called "a synod on synodality," officially known as "Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church." In brief, the process involves an expansion of an established institution, called the "Synod of Bishops." This means that bishops around the world will consult with everyone from parishioners to monks, nuns and Catholic universities before coming together for a discussion in 2023.

The topic? How the church can learn to rely more fully on this kind of consultation-and-discussion process – how it can become more "synodal" in its governance.

Throughout the centuries, the Roman Catholic Church has held many gatherings called "synods" – but seldom one this sweeping in its potential consequences.

### Coming together

Many people – even many practicing Catholics – may find the name "Synod on Synodality" and its purpose puzzling. What is a synod in the first place?

The word derives from an ancient Greek term that means "coming together" or "traveling together." Ancient Christians developed a custom of local leaders coming together to pray and make decisions about matters affecting all the Christian communities in a region. They gathered in the faith that their prayers and discussions would reveal God's will and the way to achieve it.

These gatherings came to be called "synods" and began a tradition of regional synods for bishops, as well as larger ones called "ecumenical councils."



In principle, these were for all bishops around the world to discuss issues that were consequential for the whole church.

Over time, as the power of the papacy grew, ecumenical councils continued to be called, but regional synods diminished in importance. After the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, such gatherings of Catholic bishops happened infrequently, and only with express permission of the Pope. Meanwhile, even ecumenical councils became rare – only two were held in 400 years.

The most recent one, the Second Vatican Council or "Vatican II," met from 1962 to 1965 and launched important changes in church law and structure.

One of Vatican II's goals was to revitalize the importance of bishops as heads of their local churches and emphasize their cooperation with one another. As a "college" under the leadership of the pope, the bishops are mutually responsible for the governance of the whole church.

To assist this revitalization, Pope Paul VI created a permanent structure for a Synod of Bishops, with a secretariat in Rome and a General Assembly gathered regularly by the pope. Since 1967, the popes have brought this assembly together 18 times: 15 "Ordinary Assemblies" and three "Extraordinary," in addition to a number of "Special Assemblies" involving particular regions of the world.

### "A Church which listens"

Pope Francis has shown special interest in the Synod of Bishops since the beginning of his papacy in 2013. The following year, he convened an

“Extraordinary General Assembly,” outside the usual three-year cycle, on “the vocation and mission of the family.” These discussions continued into an “Ordinary Assembly” in 2015.

2015 also marked the 50th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops established during Vatican II. At a ceremony for the anniversary, Francis gave a speech that laid out his views on “synodality. The word “synod,” he reminded the audience, is about cooperation.

“A synodal Church is a Church which listens,” he said, pointing out that mutual listening has been the goal of much of the church’s renewal since Vatican II.

“For the disciples of Jesus, yesterday, today and always, the only authority is the authority of service, the only power is the power of the cross,” Francis declared.

Since then, Francis has taken steps to give the church examples and a concrete framework for a more “synodal church.” In 2018, he issued new regulations that encourage much wider consultation with members and organizations of the church at all levels as part of the synod process.

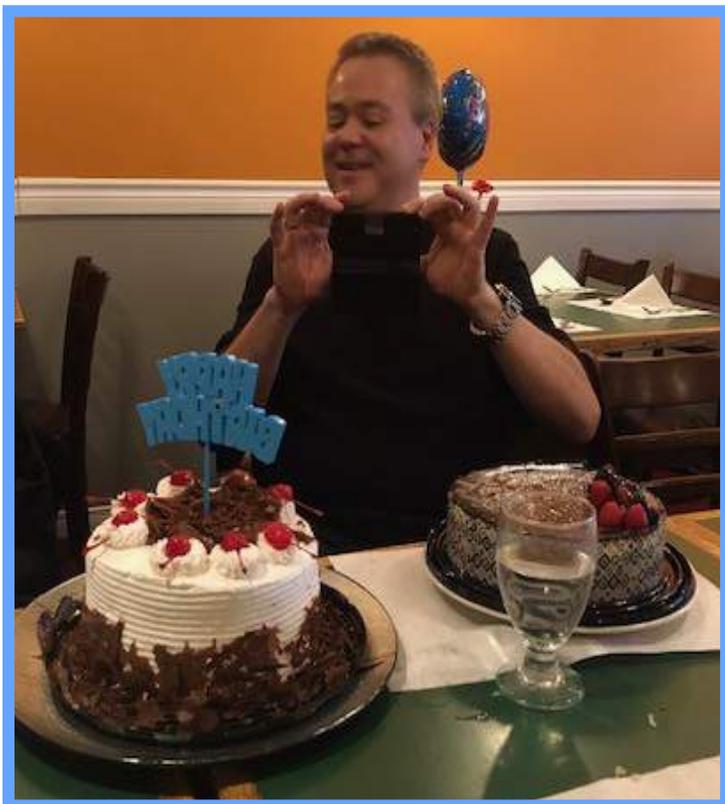
And in 2019, he followed up a “Special Assembly” for bishops of the Amazon region with “Querida Amazonia,” a kind of papal document known as an “exhortation.” Here, he took the unusual steps of recognizing the authority of the synod’s own final document and referring important structural and procedural changes to their continuing work in their home churches, rather than to intervention by the Vatican.

### Preparing for 2023

The current “Synod on Synodality” is the culmination of all this effort to bring a greater degree of openness, collaboration and mutual listening to the church. Unlike previous synods, this one officially begins in dioceses all over the world, with opportunities for mutual consultation at every level and among many different church organizations.

When the General Assembly meets in 2023, its task will be to prayerfully consider how to move forward as “a more synodal Church in the long-term” – a church that “journeys together.”

For more information, please visit: <https://en.archoc.ca/synod-2021-2023#preparatory>



Happy Birthday Father Waldemar!





### Children's Liturgy Halloween Treats after Mass



## When St. Michael Miraculously Saved Rome From a Deadly Plague. The Supernatural Story of Castel Sant'Angelo.

Author Unknown



Have you heard this miraculous story about the Castel Sant'Angelo?

The Castel Sant'Angelo is a large fortress near Vatican City with a gigantic St. Michael the Archangel on top. This statue signifies a magnificent story of God's love and care for his people through the angels.

Around 590 A.D. Rome suffered a terrible plague causing many deaths. Pope St. Gregory the Great pled for the angels' help to fight this epidemic. The pontiff celebrated Masses and tirelessly processed through Rome with prayers and incense.

St. Michael later appeared on top of the castle with his sword.

In the book *The Golden Legend: Readings on the Saints*, author Jacobus de Voragine writes:

“The plague was still ravaging Rome, and Gregory ordered the procession to continue to make the circuit of the city, the marchers chanting litanies. An image of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin was carried in the procession.”

“And lo and behold! The poisonous and uncleanness of the air yielded to the image as if fleeing from it and being unable to withstand its presence: the passage of the picture brought about a wonderful serenity and purity in the air. We are also told that the voices of the angels were heard around the image singing...”

“Then the pope saw an angel of the Lord standing atop the castle of Crescentius, wiping a bloody sword and sheathing it. Gregory understood that that put an end to the plague, as, indeed, happened. Thereafter the castle was called the Castle of the Holy Angel.”

Pope St. Gregory the Great then built the St. Michael statue on top of the castle, representing his protection over Rome and the Church.

Let us turn to St. Michael the Archangel in defeating the coronavirus pandemic!

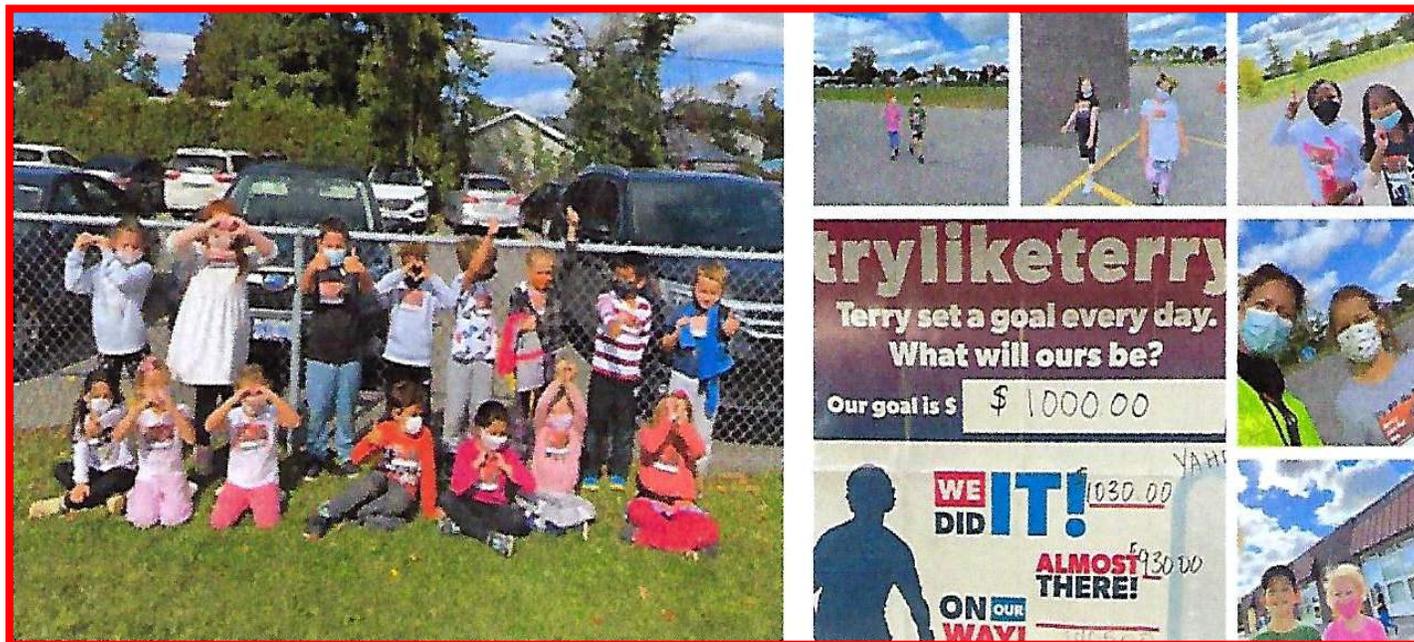
St. Michael the Archangel, please defend us in this day of battle!

### Our Lady of Wisdom School

By Renee St. John

Terry Fox inspired countless people around the world with his Marathon of Hope. On October 1st, staff and students at Our Lady of Wisdom School continued in his legacy . Our Owls proudly

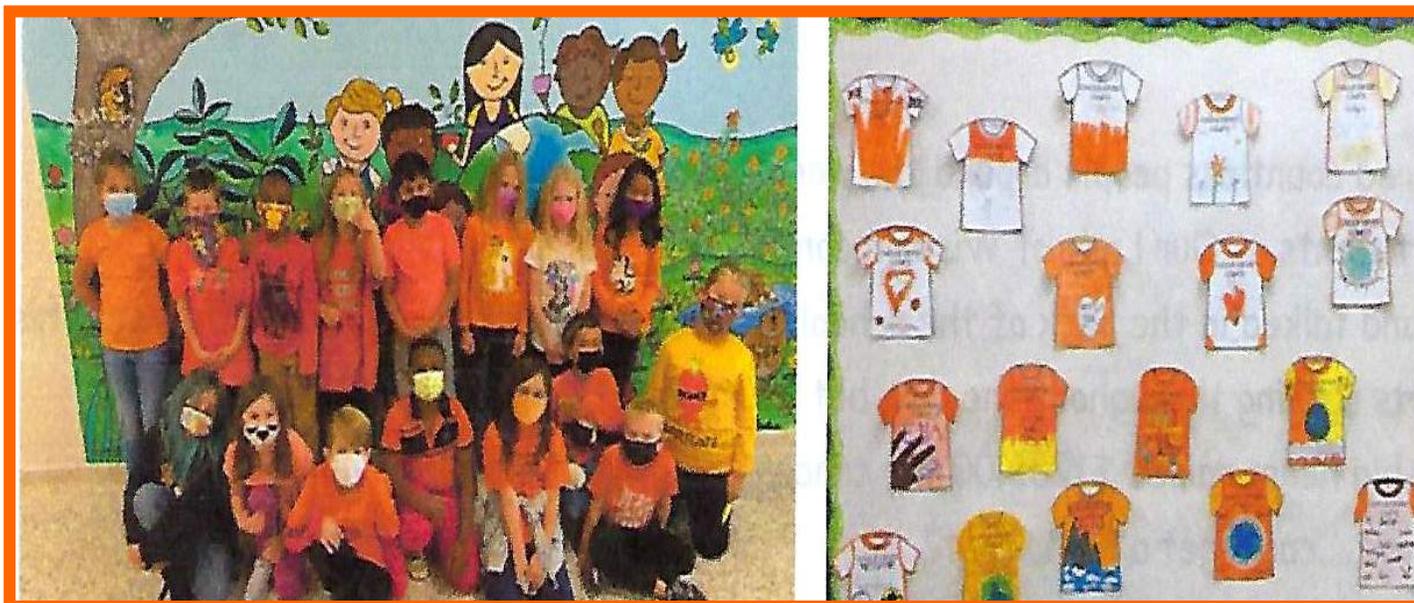
ran, walked, smiled and talked in the back of the school yard. Our run may have looked different this year with cohorts running throughout the day, but the end result was the same. The little school with the big heart raised \$1235.00 for cancer research and had a wonderful time doing it. Way to go Owls.....can I get a hoot, hoot?



### Orange Shirt Day

September 30th marked the first time Canada recognized the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. At Our Lady of Wisdom, it was a sea of orange shirts in every classroom. Students and staff began to explore the importance of remembering the history and impact of residential schools. Time was

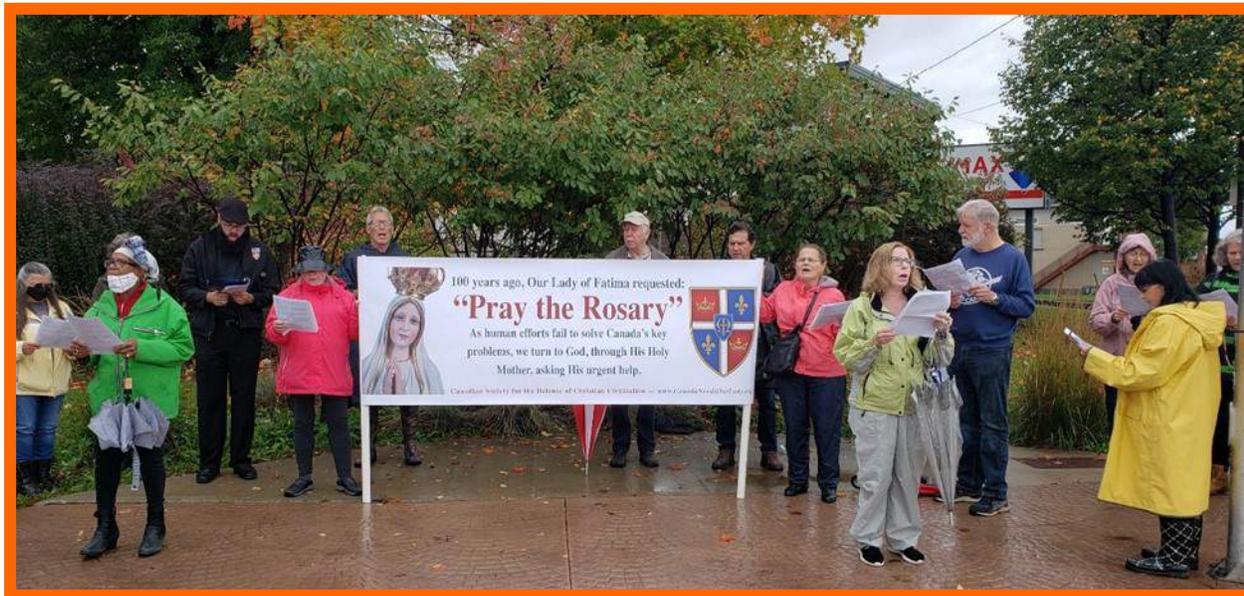
spent discussing why orange shirts are worn and how Phyliss Webstad had her clothes, including an orange shirt, taken away when she went to the residential school. Beginning to acknowledge this time in our collective history through education is an important step and our students have demonstrated that they are ready to listen and learn.



## Orleans Rosary Rally

Attached are pictures of the public rally in Orleans which took place recently. Despite threatening weather, there were 54 individuals who were inspired to show gratitude to Our Lady of Fatima, and to plead for her intercession. These 54 souls were divided into two groups since we had this number of banners from Canada Needs Our Lady. We were blessed to have Father Steve Gaudet, along with

Deacon Guy Dacquay, lead their respective groups in prayers and give the final blessing. The rosary in each group was recited in two choirs, with Divine Infant Parish Rosary Team members leading each choir. We are grateful to all those who attended and who contributed to this event. We know that the success of this rally was entirely due to God's grace acting through Our Lady. It is therefore fitting that we offer up our humble efforts for her glory, and for the intention of her Immaculate Heart.



Orleans Rosary Organizers and Contributors



## Divine Mercy Cenacle

By: Cindy Kearns-O'Hara and Stan Siok

Divine Infant's Divine Mercy Cenacle began hosting a nightly Zoom gathering for anyone who had been impacted by the restrictions imposed by the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic - which has prevented parishioners from gathering in person. The virtual Zoom Cenacle session takes place every night, seven nights a week, at 8 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes. The focus is live stream Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, accompanied by a series of prayers of praise and petition, as well as prayers of reparation. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is the central prayer.

Albeit virtual, the Zoom platform has engendered a sense of community and solace for those who need it. Cenacle members receive prayer intentions from the parish community and regularly from beyond Divine Infant Parish. Spiritual benefits from these prayer intentions have been experienced by many people. Anyone is welcome to sign in to a Zoom session any evening. You can join by accessing <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8458147835> and by entering the password: Faustina.

With the lessening of provincial restrictions, we have been blessed to return to a scaled down form of in-person Cenacle gatherings. We have the monthly 7 p.m. Mass for Cenacle members and their families. This usually occurs on the first Monday or Tuesday of the month. These Masses are popular and are followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praise and Worship music, recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and a special litany and prayers.

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, there was a public Rosary Rally held on the corner of St. Joseph and Orléans Boulevard. This Rosary Rally is one of 654 held in Canada, and one of over 20,000 in North America that are held worldwide on the same Saturday following October 13<sup>th</sup> to honour our Blessed Mother's final apparition to the children at Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 1917. Cenacle members were involved with organizing and facilitating this grace-filled event as we prayed for Canada and other intentions.

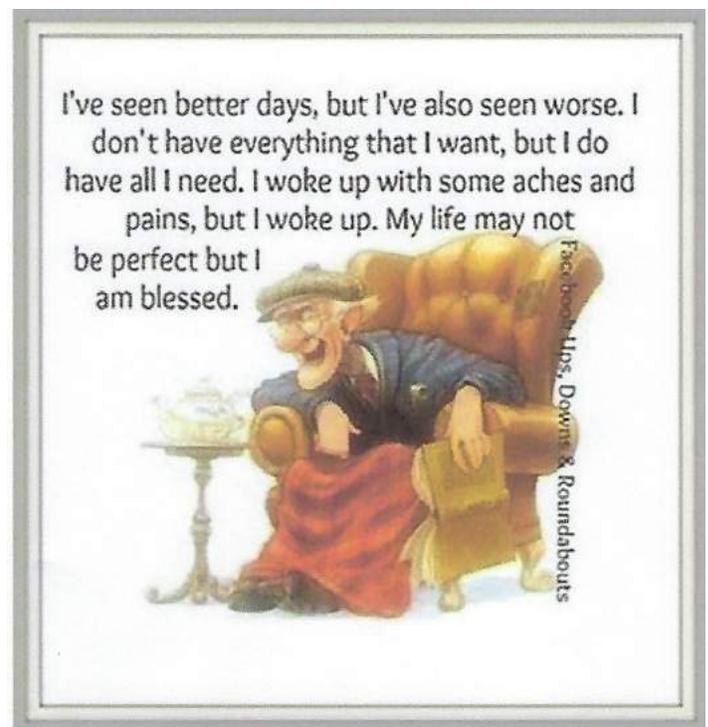
Pastoral-care visits to seniors' residences are resuming. Several Cenacle members take part in this important ministry, as it enables them to engage in

much needed acts of mercy to the elderly and the sick of our parish. It is another great example of inter-ministry partnership at Divine Infant!

Last Advent, the Cenacle members joyously got together to engage in a special *Twelve Days of Christmas* project, when we "adopted" a young family of five from the parish who was facing difficulties. Each day during the Hour of Mercy between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., a Cenacle member or two, would arrive at the family's door to deliver gifts and well wishes. The gifts were thoughtful and creative, and ranged from home baked goods, toys and books for the children, gift cards, decorations and offers of help - with some singing thrown in for good measure. The Cenacle will be doing this again this coming Advent. We cannot wait to spread goodwill and offer help to another family in our parish. What a terrific opportunity to be apostles of Divine Mercy!

We wish you a prayerful and peaceful Advent, as together we journey in anticipation of the birth of our beloved Divine Infant Jesus. May you have a blessed Christmas and a health filled 2022.

In His Mercy!



### News from St. Francis of Assisi

By Jennifer Conway

On September 7, 2021, everyone in the St. Francis of Assisi school community was thrilled to be back at 795 Watters Road. We were so happy to see our friends and colleagues, to renew friendships, and to welcome new students to our wonderful school. Although we continue to wear masks and to social distance, it is great to be back together. During

these past months, we have participated in many classroom and school activities that reinforce and enrich our learning. These included extending our technology skills as we learned about new programs, building on the 6Cs as we worked on STEAM and other creative activities, and participating in a variety of school-wide initiatives that allowed us to support and encourage each other. We can't wait to tell you about some of them!



### Gratitude

Our Board theme this year is Gratitude. In all of our classrooms, we have participated in prayer, meditation and discussions about gratitude, listened to great readalouds, added gratitude rocks and hands of gratitude to our prayer tables, created a Gratitude Tree and written journal entries. As a school com

munity, we are joining together in a year-long slide deck project, which involves two students each week providing reflections about gratitude. Everyone also took the time on World Gratitude Day (September 21) to meditate on all the things we are grateful for in our lives. Many of us went outdoors on that day to give thanks for all the gifts of nature.

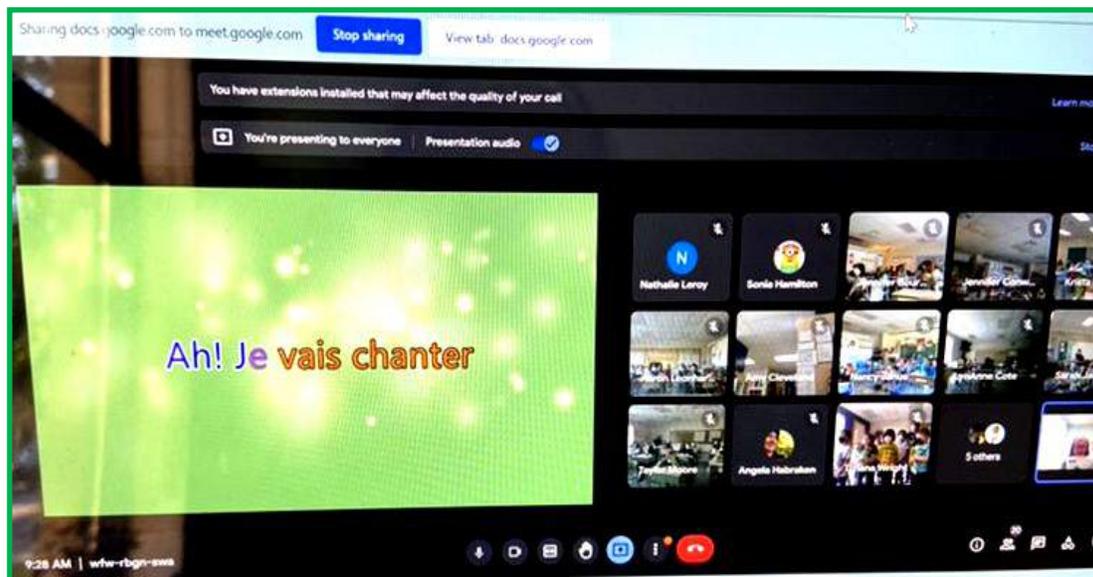


### First Communion

On September 18, some of our Grade Three students gathered at Divine Infant Church. They were thrilled to take another step on their faith journey as they received their First Communion. We extend our congratulations to them and hope that their faith in Jesus continues to bring them peace and comfort throughout their lives.

### Journee Franco Ontarian Day

On September 25, we wore green and white to celebrate the contributions of the francophone community to our cultural, historical, social, economic and political life. During the day, we enjoyed some special activities such as joining together as a school community through Google Meet, listening to French music and completing a Kahoot.



### Terry Fox Run

Our Terry Fox Run looked a bit different this year. On September 28 and 29, students participated in their Terry Fox Run with their cohort. We

were thrilled to hear that as a school community, we raised \$2955.00 to support Terry’s dream. And we enjoyed watching Mr. Boddy and Mrs. Harrington “get pied in the face” too! We extend our thanks to our school community for their generous support.

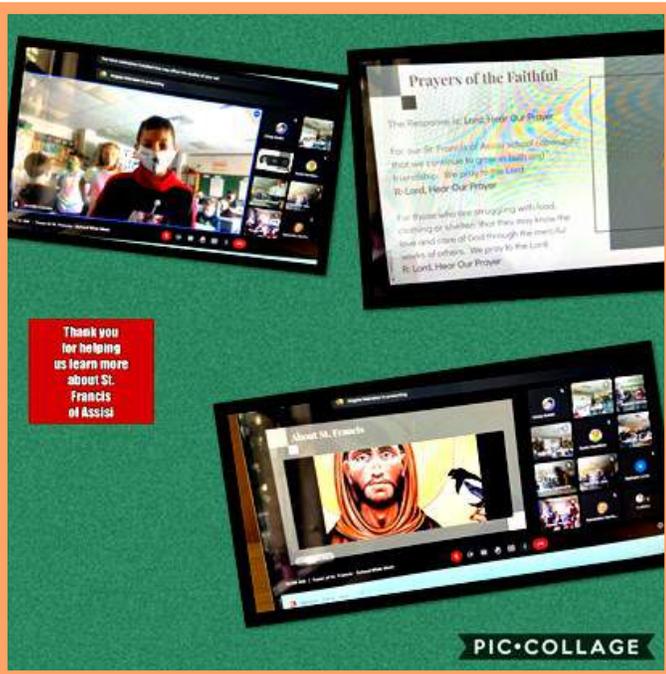


### Orange Shirt Day

On September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we wore orange shirts to remember and honour all those impacted by residential schools. We took part in a variety of activities that included: painting and decorating Reconciliation Rocks, listening to readalouds about Indigenous children, learning about Phyllis Webstad by watching her video and reading her book, The Orange Shirt Story, completing our own Every Child Matters shirt; creating a padlet of messages for residential school survivor, Lillian Elias and watching other videos such as Spirit Bear and Children’s Native History

### Feast of St. Francis, Our Patron Saint

On October 4, we began our day by gathering for a virtual prayer service, led by Mrs. Ha-braken and Ms. Conway’s classes as we learned about the life of St. Francis, gave thanks to him and asked him for his blessing on us, on all animals and on our environment. We continue to fill a basket with prayers to St. Francis.



**Our Prayers to St. Francis**

### Pajama and/or Stuffed Day

Pajama and Stuffed Day took place on October 15. We were thrilled to take part in this special activity so that we could support the Orleans Cumberland Resource Centre.



### Take Me Outside Day

Take Me Outside Day was on October 20. On that day, many classes spent time learning outside as they took part in activities (i.e. colour explosion experiments, collecting signs of nature; playing games).

### Confirmation

On October 29, our former Grade 6 students received their Confirmation. We extend our congratulations to them.

### School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

On October 20, School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, we took the time to thank our wonderful bus drivers for all they do so that we can get to school and back home safely.

### Halloween

Halloween was celebrated throughout our school as well as in our classrooms as we took part in a variety of activities. In our classrooms, we participated in Halloween STEAM projects and Science experiments; took part in pumpkin investigations, made Halloween crafts, read about and researched Halloween characters and symbols and solved Halloween math problems. We were surprised to hear a knock on our classroom door and find out that “we had been BOO’ed.” We were all invited to take part in a school-wide pumpkin decorating contest and were very impressed to see the creativity shown by all classes and students. On Friday, October 29, we were all invited to wear our Halloween costumes to school and participate with our cohorts in a Halloween dance.

### Upcoming Events

During the months of November and December, there are many special days that we will celebrate and remember, including Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas. We are looking forward to gathering with our classmates and school community to reflect and to share with each other





## Knights of Columbus

By Paul Bourke  
Grand Knight

### Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of Divine Infant K of C Council 7873, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome Father Steven Gaudet to our parish and commend him on his recent Ordination. Congratulations!

We are overjoyed for the beatification of Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. On May 27, 2020, Pope Francis announced on his approval for the beatification. On October 31, 2020, Fr. McGivney was beatified at a special Mass held in the Cathedral of St Joseph, Hartford, Connecticut. Blessed Michael McGivney was an Irish-American Catholic priest based in New Haven, Connecticut. He founded the Knights of Columbus at a local parish to serve as a mutual financial aid and fraternal organization, particularly for immigrants and their families. The Knights of Columbus is now a worldwide organization with over 230,000 Knights in Canada. Blessed McGivney is now one step from canonization as a Saint.

It goes without saying that the past 18 months have been challenging for all. Despite the difficulties, as Grand Knight, I want to express my respect and admiration to our esteemed Knights, who have continued to support both faith and community events with professionalism and commitment.

A very special thank you to the Director of our Grocery Card Program for his tremendous work. Funds raised from this initiative directly support our donation commitments to numerous charities and local school bursaries.

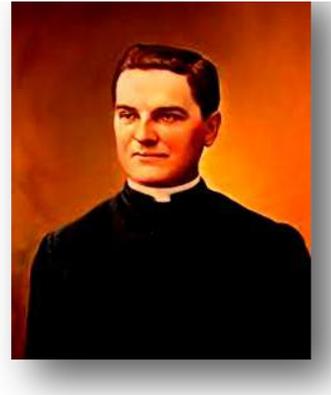
Some of our “in-person” achievements include: Silver Rose Rosary, Feast

of our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Deceased Members Mass, and Visit from Santa. During Lent, we also held a 19-Hour Adoration Vigil with the virtual participation of parishioners.

Our dedicated Council has continued to convene for Executive and General meetings online, with the inclusion of a number of special guests. The first of which was seminarian Michael El Nacheff, who spoke of his seminary journey. Other Special Guests’ included the following: Richard Lussier - President of Help Our Students Program, Council Member, Matt Luloff - Orleans City Councillor, and Deacon Danny MacDonald from Chalice, Catholic Sponsorship Program. Furthermore, we started a virtual bi-weekly Knights Coffee Chat to maintain members’ connection, as well as a Knights Phone Tree to bring members’ together and dispel the feeling of isolation during lock down.

I would like to highlight the initiation of the Grocery/Pharmacy Shopping and Delivery Program – an outstanding project initiated by one of our members, the support and participation in the KofC State 50/50 Pilot Draw, and last but certainly not least, the Knights who sacrificed their time to assist with the restoration of the Church doors, and who helped a parishioner in need with lawn/garden work.

Vivat Jesus!



## Divine Infant Youth Group

By Pia Ocenar  
Parish Youth Coordinator

This is my first year at Divine Infant as the new youth coordinator for the parish. Thank you for your warm welcome. When I first arrived, it was beautiful summer weather and I couldn't wait for our first Youth Night. Although it wasn't a big hit, the re was potential. During the summer, we participated in a variety of outdoor Youth Nights and collaborat-

ed with Annunciation of Our Lord Youth Group. It was a great way to connect within the community, especially with the youth. All the youth nights have been successful up to this point especially with the lessening of restrictions. The Youth Group is steadily growing, with youth eagerly inviting their friends to join. They are so excited to share this community with their friends. . I can't wait to see where the rest of the year takes us.



Drawing by Anika Heuthorst

## The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

By Dan Therrien

November 12, 2021, marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Canada (Quebec City). The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic volunteer organization whose mission is: "To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy."

Many people believe that St. Vincent de Paul is the founder of the Society named after him. He was born to peasant farmers in 1581 in a small village in France. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1600. Around the year 1623, Father Vincent suffered an intense, spiritual crisis. He vowed that if God were to take away the darkness that he was experiencing, he would dedicate his life to the service of the poor. His anguish went away, and Father Vincent remained faithful to his vow for the rest of his life.

In addition to his many works of charity, in 1633, Father Vincent along with Louise de Marillac, co-founded the Daughters of Charity, an order of non-cloistered nuns dedicated to hands-on ministry to the poor. He is regarded as a most admirable example of charity in action. He died in 1660 and was canonized on June 16, 1737. It is fitting that he was named the patron of works of charity by Pope Leo XIII, and later became the patron saint of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The recognized founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a man named Frédéric Ozanam. He was a man of great intellect and extraordinary holiness. Born in 1813, he studied law at the Sorbonne. It was there that he observed a society deep in turmoil and detached from its faith.

He became sensitive to the needs of the poor, but it wasn't until he was confronted by a fellow student who asked, "What are you doing for the poor? Show us your works," that he realized faith must be translated into action. So, Frédéric Ozanam met with some friends in May 1833, and the "Conference of Charity" was born.

With the help and guidance of Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity, Frédéric Ozanam and his friends learned how to minister to the poor. As a

lawyer he fought for social justice and the working classes. He died in 1853 and was beatified by Pope John-Paul II in 1997.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul arrived in Quebec City, Canada in 1846. It expanded into Ontario, arriving in Ottawa in 1860, under the guidance of Mr. Jimmy Joyce and his companions. This first Conference was a bilingual one, known as Notre Dame de la Merci Conference.

Today there are upwards of 900 Conferences across Canada and 10,000 volunteer members. One of the strengths of the Society in Canada is that overhead costs are kept low by having only two paid employees - the National Executive Director and the Executive Assistant.

The poor in the city of Ottawa are served by 17 Conferences attached to parishes extending as far west as Kanata and as far east as Orleans - all run by volunteers. The JMJ Conference in Orleans is comprised of four parishes. These are Divine Infant, St. Joseph, Ste. Marie, and Notre Dame des Champs.

The generous donations of parishioners fund programs that help feed, clothe, and house the poor. In addition to donations, the Society in Ottawa also relies on the revenues from three St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores. The stores operate with a blend of paid employees and volunteers, but direction and oversight is provided by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Although some of the store jobs pay minimum wage, store employees enjoy good working conditions and a generous benefits package, fully funded by the employer.

Store profits are distributed annually to the local Conferences to assist with their programs. Additionally, on an on-going basis, the stores give thousands of dollars' worth of clothing, furniture, and household goods directly to those in greatest need.

Thank you for being a part of that program. In the city of Ottawa, in the year 2020, thanks to your generosity, 1715 homes were visited or otherwise helped; 1,947 adults and 1,341 children were helped; \$203,319 was given in food support; \$141,757 was given out in the form of merchandise,

goods, services, clothes, furniture and house wares to people in need.

Like many organizations, the Society depends on volunteers. Do you know that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers different ways of volunteering, and that in some cases, you can do so even from the comfort of your home?

Would you like to help your teenagers earn their volunteer hours? Do you have a particular skill set, such as: writing, web design, marketing, advertising, retailing, furniture repair, handyman, window display, training, health and safety, librarian, arts and crafts, event planning, warehouse management, de-

livery truck driving, upholstering, communications, social media, project management, sewing? These are just some of the many volunteer roles that are needed. Whatever your skills are, we can utilize them, and you can make a difference in someone's life.

Volunteers are critical to the well-being of our society. Everyone has talents. Please consider becoming a volunteer - if not with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, then somewhere else, because, "If not YOU, then WHO?"

Dan Therrien  
Parish Contact

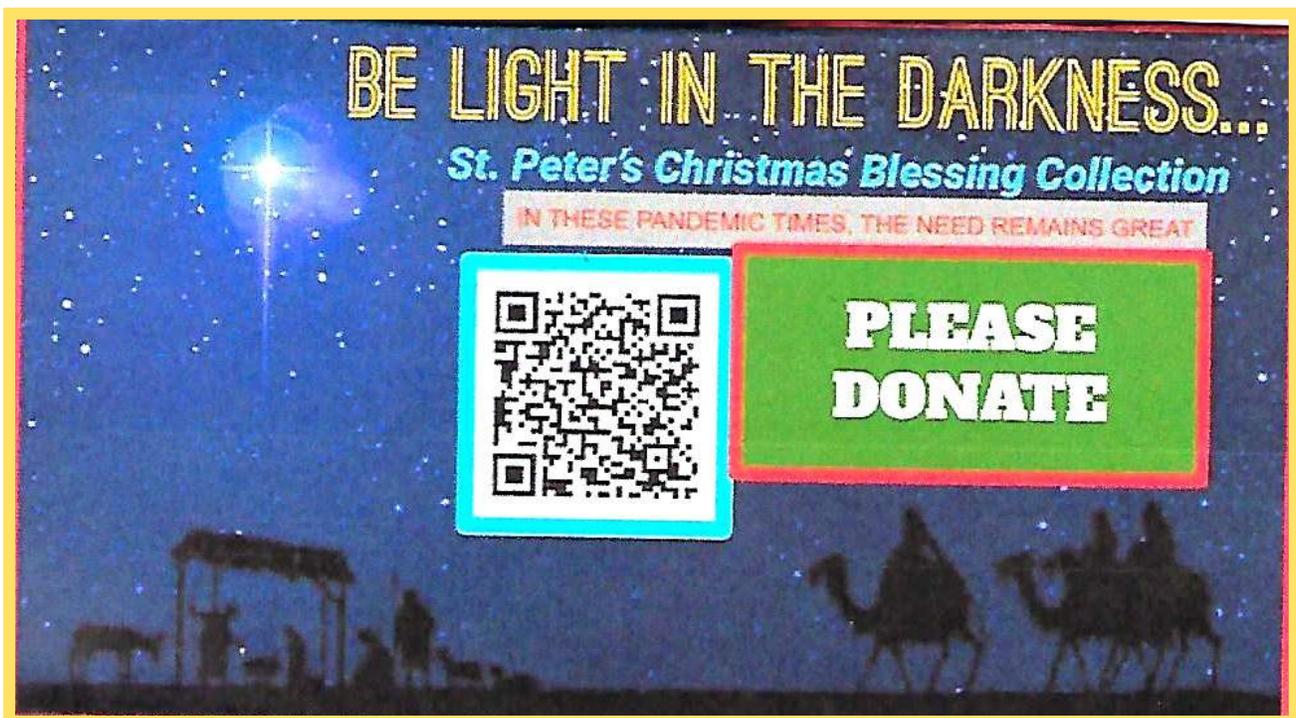


### St. Peter Catholic High School

By Jay Williams

It's hard to believe that we are already two months into the school year as we continue our journey at the Castle. The St. Peter's school community has impressed me with their resilience in the face of challenge during these pandemic times. One of the ways we cope is to lean into our faith and remember

the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. This year the need continues to be great and we at St. Peter's appreciate any help the Divine Infant community is willing to give towards our Christmas Blessings Collection. All donations will go straight into serving struggling families in our community. Thank you for considering our project.



## Pro Life Report Fall 2021

by Angela Lavictoire

Fall 2021 was a busy and well-supported time of Pro Life events.

Forty Days for Life began September 22 and ended October 31, 2021. Volunteers from the east end parishes, including Divine Infant, held the full 12 Hour Vigil on Sunday, October 17. The prayers and support were amazing and each hour had at least 2 people.

Life Chain was held on Sunday, October 3 on the corner of Orleans Boulevard and St. Joseph Boulevard. It was very well-attended by pro life supporters and we experienced many positive and encouraging "honks" and "thumbs up." There were also some negative remarks, but fewer than years past.

Divine Infant Parish offered a Mass for the recognition of the sanctity of life and an end to abortion.

Prayer is a very powerful weapon and a merciful and gentle "tool of conversion." To influence the politicians, our society must have a heart-changing experience, where the actual reality of the significance of what life is and when life starts and the sanctity of each and every life is addressed. When people as a whole, fully grasp the fact that the "pre-born baby" is a human person from conception, we will see politicians lobby to protect life at all of its ages and stages. They (politicians) will then be open to better funding for mothers and parents who require financial, social or psychological assistance in having and raising their children. We have all seen that politicians are heavily influenced by what the people, and particularly the press, have to say about issues. So, we must pray.

While at the vigil site this year, I spent some time contemplating and praying beneath the sign that has been erected because of the Safe Access to Abortion Services Law. To have the word "safe" in the same phrase as the word "abortion" struck me as such an oxymoron.....no, an abomination!

There is absolutely nothing safe about creating a safe path to death and destruction. That is the safe access our Ontario government is providing to the victimized women seeking these services. There is no one to see their pain, to witness to their an-

guish or to understand that they may be conflicted and would possibly be encouraged and strengthened by knowing they are being prayed for or by making them reflect that maybe, just maybe, they don't really want to do this to themselves or their baby.

And what about the baby? Our tax dollars are paying a doctor to kill him/her. The culture of death personnel is careful in their nomenclature. Imagine if people would read this sign the way I did in my mind and heart: Clear Legal Path to Kill Unborn Babies Law.

No one is allowed to be closer than 50 metres to help, advise, teach or show images or words on signs or pamphlets or even to show that all of the victims are being prayed for - the babies, the mothers, the fathers, the grandparents, and the health care providers.

One of the saddest things in all of this is that they feel they are doing the "right thing," the "best thing," under the circumstances. The death-care providers see themselves as being compassionate and caring. The individuals involved see themselves as "victims of circumstance." May God bless and protect them all. May He enlighten them and guide them to a life-affirming resolution to their situation.

May God lead us to be His instruments in revealing His wisdom in all things, but in a special way in the promotion of the sanctity of life. Let us pray to the Lord!

*Note: We are very sorry to tell you that Angela, who wrote this report, died very suddenly on Sunday, November 21, 2021. Angela has been a vital part of our parish for many years. Please keep Angela and her family in your prayers and may God bless them.*





## Parish Library News

By Nina Regimbald

As library operations resume, drop by and browse your Divine Infant Parish Book Lending Library!

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

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

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

Book donations are gratefully accepted in clean and excellent condition. We cannot add them to our library, donate or resell them if they are damaged, torn, have any notations, writings, notes, children's markings, personal dedications, odour, etc.

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

Questions, Suggestions, Volunteer:

email: [dilibraryservices@gmail.com](mailto:dilibraryservices@gmail.com)

For more information, visit the Parish Library link at:

<https://www.divineinfant.on.ca/library.html>

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe.

*Wishing you a Most Blessed Advent Season and a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!*

## Religious Article Ministry

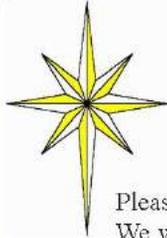
By Monique Sutherland

Covid-19 has made the ministry a little difficult to manage in the past 18 months. With the help of the office, which agreed to be the pick-up place, we have remained available for anyone wishing to purchase articles. With Deacon Steve Donoghue's assistance, we were also able to post photos of available articles on the Divine Infant website photos. At this time, our supply is limited. That is mainly due to the pandemic, but also because the business we dealt with has changed hands.

We are still not able to have a regular sale, but both Mary Michel and I are always ready to help with your needs.

On a happy note, we were able to hold our "Holy Garage Sale" in the parish hall, with Covid-19 protocols in place. Once again, the parishioners made it a really successful one.





**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S  
MASS SCHEDULE  
AT DIVINE INFANT PARISH**

**ADVENT RECONCILIATIONS**

Please note that we will not host an Advent Penitential Service this year. We will continue to offer the sacrament of reconciliation according to our regular reconciliation schedule. Additionally, we will have two priests available for reconciliation before Mass on **Tuesday evenings** and **Wednesday mornings** throughout Advent.

**CONFESSIONS:**  
Saturday & Sunday, 4:15pm - 4:45pm  
Weekdays, 1/2 hr before Mass  
Or by appt.

**MASS REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY**  
[www.divineinfant.on.ca](http://www.divineinfant.on.ca)

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday, December 24 | 3:30 pm<br>5:30 pm<br>7:30 pm<br>9:30 pm<br>12:00 Midnight |
|---------------------|--|

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, December 25 | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am <i>(live stream)</i><br>12:00 Noon<br><b>No 5:00 pm Mass</b> |
|-----------------------|--|

**SUNDAY MASSES AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Sunday, December 26 | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am <i>(live stream)</i><br>12:00 Noon<br>5:00 pm |
|---------------------|---|

**MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Friday, December 31 | Vigil Mass 5:00 pm<br>Adoration & Benediction 11:30 pm |
|---------------------|--|

*“in thanksgiving for graces received in 2021  
and for all needed blessings in 2022”*

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Saturday, January 1 | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am <i>(live stream)</i><br>12:00 Noon<br><b>No 5:00 pm Mass</b> |
|---------------------|--|

**SUNDAY MASSES AFTER NEW YEAR'S DAY**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Sunday, January 2 | 8:00 am<br>10:00 am <i>(live stream)</i><br>12:00 Noon<br>5:00 pm |
|-------------------|---|



# Bereavement

By Diane Jemus

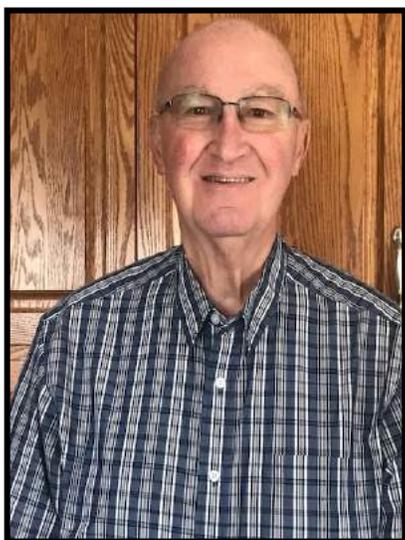


## All Soul's Day 2021

The Bereavement Team came together for the first time since the COVID shutdown. What a reunion it was on the Feast of All Souls Day at the Mass commemorating the Holy Souls! It was great being together again serving our grieving community along with so many of our volunteer family. Shown

here are Sarah Rankin, Lynne Morel, Sandra Foran and Diane Jemus. Absent is Ralph Marcogliese. (Masks were worn but removed for the photo as is the case in the entire pictorial essay.) In addition to this core team we have many other volunteers including family members.

## Bereavement is a Multigenerational Family Affair



Mike, Sandra's affable husband, always has a smile on his face and a helping hand whether serving cake, transporting his dear wife Sandra, lighting and snuffing out candles. Whatever needs to be done, Mike is ready and willing to help.

Grandson Alexander is no stranger to the Bereavement Ministry. He first graced the pages of the Messenger featured in the June 1919 issue with his cousins, Ellie, Hannah and Dave Langedock as they selected stones for the Memorial Garden, at Laporte's. Now he is earning volunteer credits as our photographer. Previously he has worked in partnership with June Regler and Pierre Poirier as well as solo shoots.



Three years ago, Maria’s son Paulo died. Tears, sadness and tenderness were her constant companions. Her voice so very soft, made speech next to impossible. At a Holy Thursday Mass, Maria had her feet washed in honour of her son Paulo. She also represented all the mothers who had lost a child.

At that service she experienced Paulo in the church. He was everywhere. Later, on his birthday, as she walked a familiar path, she experienced the scent of roses despite that it was a flowerless place. Maria sensed this was a gift on his birthday to her and her husband. When asked to give the testimony before the All Souls Day Mass, she thought that she might struggle so declined. Then she quickly realized she had to be strong, and stepped forward.

Before the Holy Thursday Mass, her husband said: “Paulo is trying to protect us. He wants to honour you, Maria.” In his childhood, Paulo often told his mom, “I did it again, Mommy.” Maria gave her testimony to share God’s gift and encourage others in their grief - with a little help from Paulo, the link between heaven and earth is unbroken.



Maria shares her pain and consolation

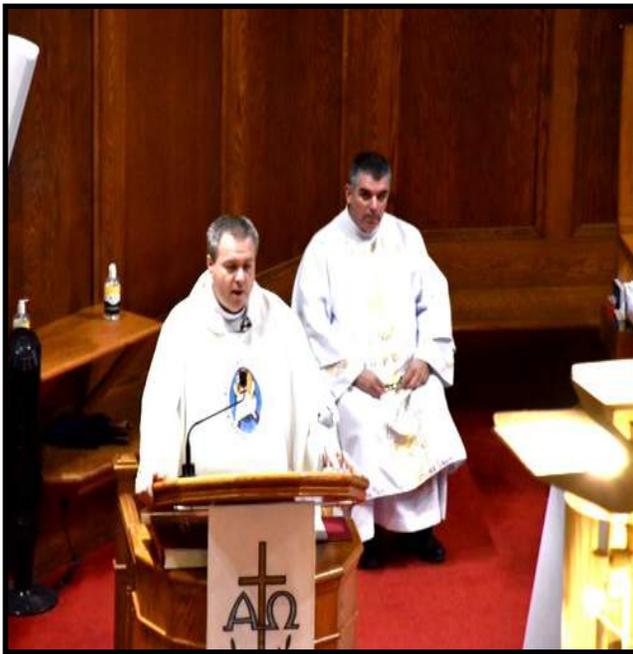


Maria and Father Waldemar

There are no rules for surviving holiday grief. Do what you need to do to survive. Honor your loved one how you need to, and do what feels best for your fragile, aching heart. You are missing a huge piece of you, so do whatever you need to do to find a sliver of peace.

- Angela Miller -

 ForeverMissed.com



Love never ends. Life is greater than death.

All Soul's Day Mass

Father Waldemar acknowledged the pain of death on a very human level. The sadness, the loss., the overpowering expression of emotions, the need to find something to restore PEACE, the communion of saints coming to our aid much like the consolations experienced by Maria. Saint Paul counselled us, "do not grieve like those who have no hope." He recognized the need for a period of mourning - visible signs for example in some cultures like the wearing of black. We grieve for a time, then shed the dark clothing signalling the change to move on to joy via hope. We never forget. We pray for them. They pray for us much like the Little Flower promised. We cheer each other on looking forward to the day of Resurrection. "Death," as John Paul II said, "opens up for us to reach true life, eternal life" to a place of Light and Peace. Love begets that we encourage one another yes, to mourn, but also to experience joy.

This celebration was well attended and well received. For some it was transformative. The

weather did not cooperate but the Spirit was gentle., peaceful and still. Thanks to all who supported us from clergy, staff, the sensitive ushers, the efficient registrars, our angelic musician and, especially all those who joined us in person or on line. A special thanks to the Holy Souls praying for us. If you missed it, and find that the live streamed version is not on the You Tube channel, contact me and I will send you the link.

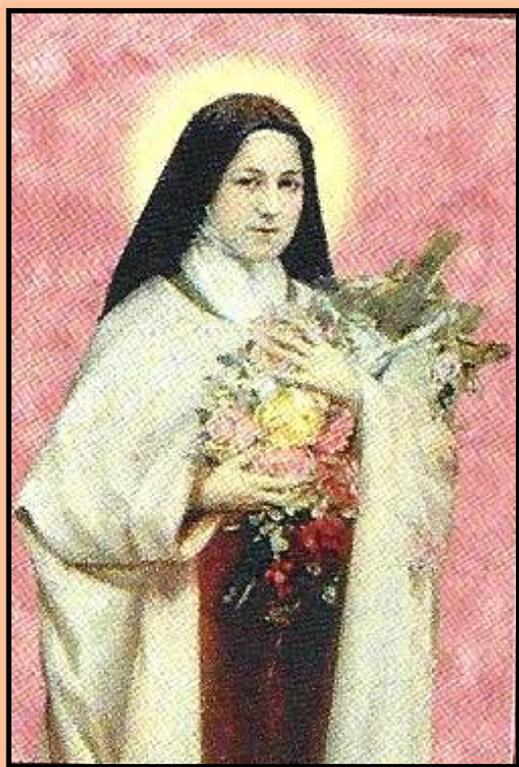
In December, the monthly Legion Bereavement Suppers will start up again. Beth Page and Maria Huard have retired from the hospitality committee. Replacing them are Dave Langedock, Sharon Vanmeer and Loretta Mosher. We have already begun the fall bereavement group sessions and plan to start another in January.

Anyone needing bereavement support preparing for the holidays, is asked to contact Diane at 613-830-5612.



## St. Therese of Lisieux –The Little Flower

By Joan Scott



Thanks to the generosity of a parishioner, Divine Infant Church has a beautiful statue of St. Therese. Many people like to light a candle in front of this statue. Some do so in the hope that the saint will intercede for them in their needs. Others light a candle in thanksgiving for a prayer being answered. She is a widely respected and revered saint, and many people beseech her help when they are in distress. St. Theresa's feast day is October 1st.

Saint Therese was born in 1873 and was given the name Marie Françoise Theresa Martin. A precocious child, Theresa was aware of her spiritual vocation, and when she was only 14, she asked her widowed father if he would let her enter the cloistered order of Carmelites. Despite her father's permission, the Carmelite superior and the Bishop felt she should wait a little longer. In 1887 she went on a pilgrimage to Rome where she pleaded with and begged Pope Leo XIII to permit her to enter the convent. At the age of 15, impressed with her fervour, the pope told her to have patience and said to her, "You shall enter if it be God's will." She continued to pray for the next year until she was allowed to join the order. She was given the name Sister Therese of the Infant Jesus, and later "and of the

Holy Face" was added.

Sister Therese happily worked, meditated and did penance. In her autobiography *The Story of a Soul*, she described herself as "the little flower of Jesus" in God's garden of souls. When she attained the age of 20, she wanted earnestly to join the missionary Carmelites in French Indochina. Unfortunately this was not to be. Incurable tuberculosis destroyed any chance of her becoming a missionary, but she did counsel two missionaries and wrote to them, often offering spiritual encouragement.

At 24 years of age, before her death, Therese, was in constant, agonizing pain as she watched the roses she loved blooming outside her window. With the confidence of God's love she promised, "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth."

I, for one, can attest that St. Therese is still keeping her promise.

When my son was dying, I prayed to St. Therese, Saint Jude, the Divine Infant and St. Faustina, among others. No, I was not praying for a miracle. I knew it was too late to hope for a recovery, so I prayed that my son would have a good death. Two days before his death, he received the Sacrament of the Sick, and was able to say the prayers with the priest. Later that afternoon, his daughter arrived from out west. The next day, as the hospital had said he could have as many visitors as wanted to come, he saw many of his family and friends, and was able to speak with them all. His daughter and my youngest daughter stayed with him for the last two days and nights of his life, and were with him when he died. The day before he died was a significant birthday for me, and my children had wanted to have a nice celebration. Due to my son's condition and Covid restrictions, this was not possible. Instead, my children each had a floral bouquet delivered to my home on the morning of my birthday. They even included one from my son who was in the hospital. It took the delivery man three trips to bring up all the flowers. As I looked at each arrangement, I saw many roses and I knew that St. Therese had indeed heard my plea and was letting me know it would be answered. And it certainly was because my son's death was peaceful and I know he died happy.

### Prayer to St. Therese

Patroness of the Universal Missions,  
we call upon you  
in this our time of need.  
So much wrong had been committed  
to our Indigenous brothers and sisters,  
through the Residential Schools.  
You know that our God wants all of us  
to be in a good relationship with Him  
and with one another.  
We failed deplorably.

You found your vocation to be  
'love in the heart of the Church' ...  
and in the heart of the world.  
Shower down upon us,  
more of that love.  
Shower down upon us,  
Roses of Healing for our country  
and for our church.

As we express our anger and sorrow,  
at what has been done,  
shower down upon us,  
Roses of Truth, Peace and  
Reconciliation.

Help us to be committed  
to walk hand in hand  
with our indigenous brothers  
and sisters; to have  
more respect for one another,  
and to learn from one another.

Shower down upon us,  
A stronger will to walk a new path  
toward peace and healing.  
Shower down upon us,  
a fresh vocation -of LOVE.

AMEN

### The Caregiver's Prayer

By Barb Fitzgerald (written when she was her husband's caregiver)

Dear Father in Heaven please lend me a hand,  
A hand on my shoulder to give me strength  
A loving hand to help me when the load is too heavy  
A gentle hand to guide me when the sadness is too great

A gentle hand

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

A healing hand

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

An understanding hand

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

A caregiver's hand

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

A praying hand

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





## Catholic Women's League of Canada

By Laura Kiraly

### CWL Prayer for Renewal

*God of new beginnings, ever faithful God,  
we thank You for your constant care for the women  
of The Catholic Women's League of Canada.  
We have sought to serve You in faith by service to  
your people.*

*Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the  
help of Our Lady of Good Counsel,  
we continue to discern Your call to seek justice  
and build Your Kingdom on earth each day.*

*We ask your guidance as we plan the evolution of  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada.  
Grant us wisdom, the grace of discernment, and  
strength.  
May each of us open her heart and mind to Your will  
and welcome the new life You bring to the League.*

*We ask this through Jesus, Your beloved Son and  
Our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the  
Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. AMEN*

The CWL of Canada celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020, and the above-noted Renewal Prayer has been guiding the League as it launches into its next 100 years. When the prayer was authored, we could not have known just what “renewal” would also include: how to live in the aftermath of a world-wide pandemic. All of us, including the CWL, are trying to do just that.

We can certainly understand that the next century will be so very different from the first “100.” The use of social media had already been promoted as a means of communication with members. Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter are getting the message out that the CWL is “Faith in Action.” Use of these means of communication increased as we were faced with so many restrictions. For an inspiring visual picture of what the CWL is all about, please visit the national website at: <https://cwl.ca/to-inspire/#national-sisterhood>.

### Activities

The pandemic has put a damper on in-person activities, which have been a mainstay for our League and the Divine Infant Parish Council. We have, of course, kept in touch through emails and on-line meetings. In addition, our Spiritual Development Chair has ensured that the DI Council's Prayer List is up to date so that our devotion and spiritual connection continues to reach our Lord. Thanks also to our Education and Health Chair for her work to provide gifts and cards for the children receiving their sacraments of initiation. Congratulations and may God bless all the children.

### Membership

The 2022 Membership Drive is ongoing. Our council knows that we need the benefit of the many parish women to help fulfill the Lord's work through the initiatives that we support. Joining is easy. Payment methods include e-transfers to: [CWLMembershipDivineInfant@gmail.com](mailto:CWLMembershipDivineInfant@gmail.com) as well as traditional options. Please contact Tina McKay, Organization Chair at: [tinamckay.CWL@gmail.com](mailto:tinamckay.CWL@gmail.com) for more information.

### Upcoming

We hope to be able to expand our personal contact with the parish during the coming year.

Watch the bulletin for information about upcoming events and activities.

Contact: [cwlcommunicationsofficer@gmail.com](mailto:cwlcommunicationsofficer@gmail.com)

#### *Words of Wisdom*

*Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, and tolerant of the weak ... because someday in your life you will be all of these.*

## Update on the Sponsorship of the Syrian Refugee Abo Saad Family

By Guy Savard, Chair of the Divine Infant Sponsorship Committee

This is an update to the June 2021 issue of the Divine Messenger article on pages 17, 18. Below are a few highlights and some updates.

### To recap:

\*George and Rita Abo Saad, along with their four-year-old daughter Joumana, are Syrian refugees currently living in Beirut, Lebanon.

\* Rita is the sister of Sawsan - wife and mother of the Alhurira family of seven that was successfully sponsored by our parish on their arrival in Canada in February 2016.

\* In April 2019, Father Waldemar informed our parishioners that Divine Infant Parish would sponsor the Abo Saad family, who had claimed refugees status, in Lebanon in 2013.

\* In December 2019, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) informed us that the Abo Saad application had been approved, in principle, and had been sent to our Embassy in Lebanon for processing.

\*The Canadian Embassy’s critical interview with the Abo Saad family was then scheduled for March 16th, 2020. Sadly, this interview was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions enacted by the federal government. More than 18 months would elapse.

### “Patience” is the “watchword!”

Given the thousands of applications for immigration processed annually by IRCC, our Sponsorship Committee (and many concerned parishioners) realized that delays would be inevitable, as our government has attempted to navigate the seemingly interminable process of arranging interviews, processing myriad legal, medical and other requirements, while ensuring the health and safety of government officers, the Canadian public and applicants themselves.

From the cancellation of the interview with Embassy officials in March 2020 until late October 2021, it seemed that progress was at a standstill and the Abo Saad family appeared to be in “limbo.” In reality, our Sponsorship Committee remained in regular contact with George and Rita, as did members of the Alhurira family. It must be said that George and Rita have persevered. They never lost hope and have maintained their faith in our parish’s good will. Their own deep Catholic faith has doubtless enabled them “to stay the course.”



The Abo Saad family  
Rita, Joumana (Jiji), George  
November 2021



- Joumana (Jiji) and -  
Saint Rita of Cascia  
Patroness of “impossible causes.”

## Interim Financial Support - “Free Will” Donations

The COVID pandemic has had a devastating impact on the Abo Saad family, including loss of employment and the risk of potential eviction due to lack of resources to cover monthly rent payments, etc. With the generosity of some twenty parishioners, monthly money transfers were made to the Abo Saad family to ease their struggles and sufferings. Three fund raisers were initiated, resulting in a collection of \$7,500 in “Free-Will” donations. These monies helped cover some rent arrears and expenses during the period from March 2020 to December 2021. We are most grateful to all donors.

## Great News: Seeing the Light at the End of the Tunnel

Finally, the long awaited and critical interview with Canadian officials was rescheduled to November 3, 2021 - 597 days after the original cancelled interview of March 16, 2020. The long wait was over.

The main purpose of the interview was to determine their eligibility to immigrate to Canada as Permanent Residents. In short, did the Abo Saad family meet the United Nations Convention Refugee status and Canada’s requirements? The interview was a success!

However, there remained a few more hurdles. The Abo Saad family still had to meet admissibility requirements of immigration to Canada, such as meeting medical requirements. This is being planned and pending.

## Anticipated Arrival to Canada – If Approved

The date for arriving in Canada has not been determined. It has been estimated that their arrival could be as early as the Easter season or summer time.

## COVID Vaccination

Both Abo Saad adults are fully vaccinated, with doses acceptable to Canada (Astra Zeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech). Nonetheless, a quarantine plan is required and will be developed.

The Abo Saad family continues to utilize on-line English programs (e.g. TV) in order to learn and develop their English speaking and listening skills.

## What’s Next

From a sponsorship and resettlement perspective, the Abo Saad family and our parish would benefit in that their Canadian-Syrian family (The Alhuriras) will be a great asset considering their experience, and the composition of the family.

The Abo Saads will benefit from the Alhurira family’s own resources, including four qualified drivers, plus their network of friends and professionals (e.g. doctors, etc.). Consequently, the workload on our parish and its parishioners will be reduced significantly

Simultaneously, the quality of the parish sponsorship is enhanced while the resettlement of the Abo Saad family will be enriched “ten-fold” and benefit all concerned.

Our parish - with the full support of the Alhurira family - is well advanced in sponsoring the young Abo Saad family. Thank you all for your support.

*Note: The saint of Cascia, shown on previous page belongs to the great host of Christian women who “have had a significant impact on the life of the Church as well as society.” (Mulieris Dignitatem, 27. Saint Rita is well loved by the Syrian people. She interpreted the “Feminine genius” living intensely in both physical and spiritual motherhood. “Pope St. John Paul.*

*Source: Apostolic Letter Mulieris Dignitatem of the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II on the Dignity and Vocation of Women on the Occasion of the Marian Year.*

*“To change the world, we must be good to those who cannot repay us.” Pope Francis @Pontifex, (World Refugee Day)*

Joumana is Covid compliant!



Joumana (Jiji) - 4-year old

## 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    |
|           | 10:00 am   |
|           | 12:00 noon |
|           | 5:00 pm    |



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

### ***Confession Times:***

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

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

**RCIA**, Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall, (with COVID precautions in place.)

### ***Youth Programs,***

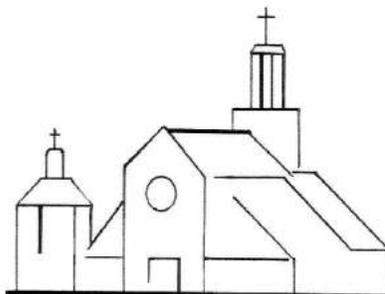
**DI-JYN**, Fridays, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall

**DI-SYN**, Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm, Hall  
(with COVID precautions in place.)

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

**\*Note :** On statutory civic holiday Mondays, Mass is at 9:00 am instead of 7:00 pm. On First Saturdays extra Mass is at 9:00 am.

Please see the bulletin for upcoming special events and more information on ministries or associations.



## Veni, Veni, Emmanuel O Come, O Come Emmanuel



Welcome, dear parishioners of Divine Infant, to a new liturgical year. With the great celebration of Christ the King, the Church looks back at the year it has had, and looks forward to the coming season of Advent. It has been my absolute pleasure to be with you all here at Divine Infant since August, and I am very excited to celebrate with you, my first Advent as a priest.

Advent brings several changes to our Catholic liturgy. Our readings will direct us to make ready our hearts. The priests will wear purple for penance, as we await our coming King. The music we will sing highlights that we are a people in waiting, waiting for our Messiah.

Of all the wonderful Advent music in our Catholic tradition, perhaps there is none as well-known as *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. It is the quintessential Advent piece. With each of the seven stanzas, we pray that God may come, using a different title for our Lord...

O come, O come,

... Emmanuel  
O Wisdom from on high  
O great Lord of might  
O Branch of Jesse's stem  
O Key of David  
O Bright and Morning Star,  
O King of nations

With each of the famous “O Antiphons” we remember a different devotion - a different angle with which to reference the coming of Christ. In this way, this hymn beautifully provides us with an abundant source for our meditation. And so as we prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent, let us welcome Him - Emmanuel-*God is with us* - into our hearts. May we be attentive to the wisdom of Christ, our great Lord - born in the line of David; the son of Jesse (*1 Samuel 16*); the guiding star of our faith; the king of all nations.

Wishing all of you a blessed Advent

*Fr. Steven Gaudet*

### **Christmas Reminders**

*May the Christmas presents remind you of God's greatest gift - His only begotten Son.*

*May the Christmas candles remind you of Him who is the light of the world.*

*May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree on which He died for you.*

*May the Christmas cheer remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."*

*May the Christmas feast remind you of Him who is the bread of life.*

*May the Christmas snow remind you of the cleansing power of Christ.*

*May the Christmas bells remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.*

*May the Christmas carols remind you of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all mankind.*

*May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ your King.*

*- Author unknown*

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