

The Divine Messenger

Divine Infant Parish, Orleans, ON

Vol. 20 No.2

June 2025



It was you who set all the boundaries of the
earth; you made both summer and winter.

PSALM 74:17

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

For your summer reading and personal reflection, I am sharing with you the homily of Pope Leo XIV from his inauguration Mass, often called the “programme homily”. These are the main points that will shape the pontificate of our Holy Father and guide our Church. Have a wonderful summer!

Fr. Waldemar

HOLY MASS

FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE PONTIFICATE OF POPE LEO XIV

HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV

Saint Peter's Square, Sunday, 18 May 2025

Dear Brother Cardinals,
Brother Bishops and Priests,
Distinguished Authorities and Members of the Diplomatic Corps.



Greetings to the pilgrims who have come for the Jubilee of Confraternities!

I greet all of you with a heart full of gratitude at the beginning of the ministry that has been entrusted to me. Saint Augustine wrote: Lord, “you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you” (Confessions, I: 1,1).

In these days, we have experienced intense emotions. The death of Pope Francis filled our hearts with sadness. In those difficult hours, we felt like the crowds that the Gospel says were “like sheep without a shepherd” (Mt 9:36).

Then, on Easter Sunday, we received his final blessing and, in the light of the resurrection, we experienced the days that followed in the certainty that the Lord never abandons his people but gathers them when they are scattered and guards them “as a shepherd guards his flock” (Jer 31:10).

In this spirit of faith, the College of Cardinals met for the conclave. Coming from different backgrounds and experiences, we placed in God’s hands our desire to elect the new Successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome, a shepherd capable of preserving the rich heritage of the Christian faith and, at the same time, looking to the future, in order to confront the questions, concerns and challenges of today’s world. Accompanied by your prayers, we could feel the working of the Holy Spirit, who was able to bring us into harmony, like musical instruments, so that our heartstrings could vibrate in a single melody.

I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love, for he wants us all to be united in one family.

Love and unity: these are the two dimensions of the mission entrusted to Peter by Jesus.

We see this in today’s Gospel, which takes us to the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus began the mission, he received from the Father: to be a “fisher” of humanity in order to draw it up from the waters of evil and death. Walking along the shore, he had called Peter and the other first disciples to be, like him, “fishers of men”. Now, after the resurrection, it is up to them to carry on this mission, to cast their nets again and again, to bring the hope of the Gospel into the “waters” of the world, to sail the seas of life so that all may experience God’s embrace.

How can Peter carry out this task? The Gospel tells us that it is possible only because his own life was touched by the infinite and unconditional love of God, even in the hour of his failure and denial. For this reason, when Jesus addresses Peter, the Gospel uses the Greek verb *agapáo*, which refers to the love that God has for us, to the offering of himself without reserve and without calculation. Whereas the verb used in Peter's response describes the love of friendship that we have for one another.

Consequently, when Jesus asks Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" (Jn 21:16), he is referring to the love of the Father. It is as if Jesus said to him, "Only if you have known and experienced this love of God, which never fails, will you be able to feed my lambs. Only in the love of God the Father will you be able to love your brothers and sisters with that same 'more', that is, by offering your life for your brothers and sisters."

Peter is thus entrusted with the task of "loving more" and giving his life for the flock. The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ. It is never a question of capturing others by force, by religious propaganda or by means of power. Instead, it is always and only a question of loving as Jesus did.

The Apostle Peter himself tells us that Jesus "is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, and has become the cornerstone" (Acts 4:11). Moreover, if the rock is Christ, Peter must shepherd the flock without ever yielding to the temptation to be an autocrat, lording it over those entrusted to him (cf. 1 Pet 5:3). On the contrary, he is called to serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them, for all of us are "living stones" (1 Pet 2:5), called through our baptism to build God's house in fraternal communion, in the harmony of the Spirit, in the coexistence of diversity. In the words of Saint Augustine: "The Church consists of all those who are in harmony with their brothers and sisters and who love their neighbour" (Serm. 359,9).

Brothers and sisters, I would like that our first great desire be for a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.

In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference, and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest. For our part, we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world. We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

This is the missionary spirit that must animate us; not closing ourselves off in our small groups, nor feeling superior to the world. We are called to offer God's love to everyone, in order to achieve that unity which does not cancel out differences but values the personal history of each person and the social and religious culture of every people.

Brothers and sisters, this is the hour for love! The heart of the Gospel is the love of God that makes us brothers and sisters. With my predecessor [Leo XIII](#), we can ask ourselves today: If this criterion "were to prevail in the world, would not every conflict cease and peace return?" ([Rerum Novarum](#), 20).

With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God's love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made "restless" by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.

Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another.



FAREWELL FR. MICHAEL AND HAPPY RETIREMENT DEACON JEFF LE BANE



This is the season for saying farewell.

First, to Fr. Michael El-Nachef, who after two years at Divine Infant Parish, is being reassigned to Notre Dame Basilica in downtown Ottawa.

We thank Fr. Michael for being with us these short years fulfilling his vocation as a priest in celebrating Masses at the church, schools, and senior facilities, presiding at baptisms, funerals and weddings, offering home visits, confessions and words of wisdom to reflect upon. Fr. Michael has been a big part of our parish family and will be greatly missed. We wish Fr. Michael God's abundant blessings and graces as he continues to minister to the parishioners at Notre Dame.

The second, is Deacon Jeff Le Bane who, after 20 years as our Parish's Administrator, is retiring. His dedicated service over the years has seen many changes: a new parking lot, new roof, new tractor, resurfaced church pews, Telus Tower, Cupola repairs and the latest, the Rogers tower. We thank Deacon Jeff also for helping us get through our COVID years!

We thank him for being such a beautiful blessing to our church, offering us an uplifting smile, encouragement and support in all that we do to make our parish a home away from home.

The good news is that Deacon Jeff will continue to be with us in the capacity of his liturgical functions as a Deacon. We look forward to having him assist at the 5:00 pm Saturday night Mass, preside at baptisms, and weddings, and oversee our RCIA program.

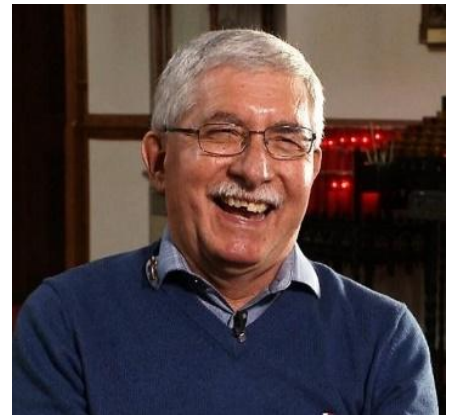


Photo from CTV Ottawa

To both Fr. Michael and Deacon Jeff, we wish you well and offer warm prayers for the next chapter in your book of being God's humble servants.



MY TESTIMONY

Deacon Phil

From a young age, I have grappled with a deep sense of not belonging, a feeling that intensified the day my father sat me down and delivered the heart-wrenching news. With a serious expression, he shared that I was adopted, that he and my mother were not my biological parents. It was as if the ground beneath me had shifted, leaving me suspended in a reality I could barely comprehend.

As he spoke, words like "real mother" and "given up" echoed in my mind, turning my previous notions of family into a puzzle with missing pieces. I remember the rush of emotions—confusion, betrayal, and profound sadness—as I struggled to process what this meant for my identity. The revelation didn't end there; he went on to disclose that the sister I had grown up with and shared countless memories with was also adopted, her biological connection to me just as nonexistent as mine to our parents.

In that moment, my entire world felt as if it had been shattered; the family I believed I belonged to suddenly transformed into a stranger's facade. At the tender age of eight, I was ill-equipped to deal with such a storm of emotions. With no understanding of how to articulate my feelings, I felt the weight of them pressing down inside me, forcing me to bury them deep within, concealed from the world around me.

Despite my best efforts, I found it challenging to cultivate a deep connection with my father, mother, and sister. There were moments when I would observe my friends, laughing and sharing lighthearted conversations with their parents and siblings, their warmth and closeness shining brightly. In stark contrast, the distance I felt within my own family was palpable, like an invisible barrier separating us even in the same room. It was perplexing—especially since we all dutifully attended church together every Sunday, our voices mingling in hymns of praise. My sister and I would eagerly participate in Sunday School, yet somehow, the bond that seemed so effortless for others remained elusive for us.

Six years later, as I stood on the brink of high school, preparing to embark on the journey of ninth grade, my parents made a significant decision. They believed it would be advantageous for me to enroll in the Bible Baptist School, a quaint institution nestled about half an hour's walk from our front door. This choice was fueled by their concerns about the public high school, which they heard was mired in an unsettling environment—one riddled with the influences of marijuana, hash, and an array of even more potent drugs. The thought of such surroundings weighed heavily on their minds and guided their decision toward a more sheltered academic path for me.

I should highlight that my father served in the Air Force, which means I grew up as a military brat. Our family's frequent relocations took us to various corners of Canada every three to four years, exposing me to a kaleidoscope of environments and cultures. Each new place came with a different school, a fresh slate, and countless opportunities to meet new people. However, as someone who tends to be shy and struggles with trust, I found it challenging to forge deep connections. These constant changes only deepened my feelings of isolation, leaving me with a persistent sense that I never truly belonged anywhere.

As I crossed the threshold of high school each day, I was embraced by an atmosphere that felt both solemn and uplifting. Our mornings began promptly at 8:30 a.m., heralded by the gentle sound of a bell signaling the start of our daily church service. The chapel, with its warm wooden pews, became a refuge where we gathered together as a community.

For thirty minutes, we immersed ourselves in a ritual that resonated deeply within us. The air was filled with the harmonious notes of hymns, our voices rising in unison, creating a tapestry of sound. Each song was a call to reflection, and as we sang, I could feel a sense of connection among my classmates.

After the music, we took a moment to bow our heads in reverent prayer, whispering our hopes and concerns into the stillness of the room. The minister standing at the altar delivered a concise yet poignant sermon, weaving together lessons of faith and life that lingered in my mind long after the service ended. As the session drew to a close, we were invited to participate in an altar call, an opportunity to step forward and embrace the community, reaffirming our beliefs and supporting one

another. Each morning unfolded in this sacred routine, setting a tone of reflection and unity that accompanied us through our school day.

During one of our morning meetings, a captivating missionary from South America stood before us, sharing vivid tales of his experiences in the field. His eyes sparkled with passion as he recounted the challenges and joys of serving Jesus, spreading the Gospel, and witnessing the transformative power of faith in the lives of those he encountered. Each story resonated deeply within me, painting a picture of a life dedicated to a higher purpose, filled with fulfillment and joy derived from following God's will.

By the end of the meeting, I found myself filled with an overwhelming sense of conviction and excitement. It felt as if a divine spark had ignited within me, compelling me to embrace a personal relationship with Jesus. In that moment, I sensed a powerful calling—a calling to become a missionary in South America, to share the love of Christ with those in need. The thought raced through my mind, electrifying my spirit, and I could hardly contain myself as I envisioned the life that lay ahead.

Bursting through the front door of my home, I was practically bubbling over with excitement. I rushed to my parents, their faces a blend of curiosity and concern, and poured out everything that had transpired that morning. With wide-eyed enthusiasm, I articulated my desire to dedicate my life to God's service as a missionary in South America. For the very first time, I felt a profound sense of belonging, as if I had found my true purpose in life, ready to embrace whatever adventures lay ahead on this remarkable journey of faith.

As my father began to speak, his voice carried a weight of concern that hung thick in the air. He believed that the ordinary Anglicans we grew up with didn't express their faith in such fervent terms, and he feared that the influence of the Baptists was shaping my young mind in ways he deemed troubling. "Give your life to Christ, be a missionary—not my son," he stated, with a mix of disbelief and urgency. It pained him to think that I might be drawn into what he saw as the depths of fanatical Christianity, a path he couldn't bear for me to take.

I was utterly taken aback, my mind racing with confusion and hurt. Could it be that all those Sundays spent in pews, singing hymns and listening to sermons, had been built on some sort of illusion? "So, all those years of going to church were a lie?" I asked, my voice trembling with the weight of my realization. He didn't respond to my probing question; instead, he quickly redirected the conversation, almost as if he were trying to erase the moment. "Go to your room," he ordered, leaving me to wrestle with my thoughts and the unsettling shift in my understanding of faith and family.

As the days turned into weeks, I found myself increasingly subjected to the harsh mockery of my parents. Their words pierced through my confidence, leaving me feeling foolish and unintelligent for daring to entertain such thoughts. Each jab felt like a weight pressing down on my spirit, pushing me to bury my emotions deep within a hidden compartment of my mind. Yet, every so often, I'd open that compartment, and the memories would flood back, rekindling a profound sense of alienation. Gradually, the realization that I didn't truly belong to anyone began to nestle itself like a cold shadow in the depths of my soul, gnawing at my sense of self-worth and filling my heart with an aching loneliness.

At that same time, the Pastor, who also held the position of principal at the school, began to level unfounded accusations against me, claiming I was involved in things I would never do. It was baffling to me how someone in his position could fabricate such blatant lies; I found myself grappling with the confusion of why he would choose to target me in this manner. Once again, I experienced the profound sense of loss as the one place I had always felt I truly belonged was unjustly ripped away from me.

This moment marked the start of a profound 40-year journey distanced from God, a period often described by Evangelicals as backsliding. The emotional pain I experienced was so intense that it shattered my trust in Jesus' presence and guidance in my life. Throughout the final two years of high school, I sought solace at the bottom of a bottle, and this pattern continued during my three years in college and the initial five years of my military service. The turning point came when my mother succumbed to cirrhosis, a devastating consequence of her own battle with excessive alcohol consumption. Despite this heartbreaking loss, I found myself unable to break the cycle and continued to drown my sorrows in drink.

For a long time, I lived in a state of deep mistrust, convinced that I was unlovable—not just by others, but even by God Himself. It felt as though an invisible barrier separated me from the warmth of connection and faith. Yet, as time went on, a remarkable transformation began to take place within me. It's fascinating how, at the lowest points in our lives, God often places remarkable individuals in our path, guiding us back to His embrace. One such person entered my life, embodying patience and an unwavering faith that was infectious. Through his gentle encouragement and heartfelt prayers, he gradually led me to rediscover a relationship with Christ, rekindling a sense of hope and love I thought I had lost forever.

The love of God filled me so completely that I no longer felt the need to drink. The feeling of loneliness began to fade away. I started to experience a deep and mature closeness to God, one that resonated within my soul. During this time of spiritual conversion, my dad was diagnosed with cancer and passed away two months later. It was after many conversations about God with my dad and sisters that I began to realize God had never left me; I had simply chosen to keep God at a distance. I truly believed that the faith I had professed many years ago in my youth still resided within me: that Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven, sitting at the right hand of God.

As I stood on the cusp of a new chapter in my spiritual journey, I felt an undeniable pull toward the Catholic Church—an urge that both intrigued and baffled me. For most of my life, I had been convinced that the Roman Catholic Church was steeped in darkness, and the idea of embracing it seemed incompatible with my beliefs. Yet, I had made a solemn promise to God to follow His lead, wherever it might take me.

When my wife and I returned to Orleans, we found ourselves at a crossroads, pondering which parish would be our spiritual home. Since my wife was a member of Divine Infant Parish, we decided to visit it first. As I stepped through the wooden doors of the church, a wave of warmth enveloped me, and in that stillness, I distinctly heard Jesus's gentle voice resonate within me: "Welcome home."

In that moment, something profound shifted within my heart. I had not yet taken the step to become a Catholic, but the invitation felt unmistakably personal and compelling. Inspired by this divine encounter, I reached out to Deacon Jeff and enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. As the weeks unfolded, I found myself discovering not just the teachings of the church but also a profound calling to serve God within His community.

I have finally discovered the solace I had long yearned for, a peace that has eluded me for much of my life. Responding to the gentle yet persistent call of Jesus, I have embraced my vocation as a Deacon at Divine Parish. Each day, I find myself engaged in heartfelt conversations with Jesus, treating Him as my closest friend and confidant. My love for Him and the transformative message of His Good News fills my days with purpose: the profound truth that He sacrificed His life for our sins, creating a sacred bridge that connects us to God through His death and triumphant resurrection.

Because of a humble carpenter from Galilee, whose selfless act of love reverberates through time, we have the remarkable gift of eternal connection with God. Just as the Angel reassured the Blessed Virgin Mary with the words, "Do not be afraid," I encourage you to take that leap of faith and surrender your life to Jesus. He awaits with open arms, ready to guide you on a journey toward fulfillment and joy.



Legion of Mary Ottawa

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



Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium, (Legion of Mary)
Divine Infant Parish Orleans, ON *Lorna Baier*

PLANTING SEEDS

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” Psalm 127:3

As a community of faith, how do we take these beautiful innocent souls that have been placed under our care and prepare them for a lifelong journey of personal growth, learning and development? In what ways can we cultivate, direct and instill in their youthful minds the significance of honouring God through prayer? How can they weave it into the fabric of their daily existence as effortlessly as breathing? Teaching children how to pray the Rosary, as the Legion of Mary discovered, can be one of the most influential and long-lasting things you do for them all year.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Children are blessings to families. As part of the Jubilee 2025 initiative, the Legion of Mary of the Divine Infant Parish, under the banner of Our Lady of the Rosary praesidium introduced children preparing for First Communion to making a Rosary in a meaningful way to deepen their understanding of the sacrament and the Catholic faith; of utmost importance was not the stringing of beads but its significance.

The term comes from the Latin word **rosarium** or rose garden. The Legion of Mary’s Patron Saint, Saint Louis de Montfort wrote in his book, *The Secret of the Rosary*, “**The word Rosary means “Crown of Roses”, that is to say that every time people say the Rosary devoutly, they place a crown of...roses upon the heads of Jesus and Mary. Being heavenly flowers these roses will never fade or lose their exquisite beauty.**” As the Catholic author Regis J. Flaherty puts it; a Rosary is basically “a bouquet of prayers offered to God.”

The Rosary helps children learn important prayers, highlights Scripture stories, and keeps their hands occupied when sitting together in a circle. Children’s prayer is often seen as particularly powerful in the Christian tradition because of their **innocence** and **purity of heart**. In the Bible, Jesus himself invites his disciples to look to children as an example of faith: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven”. Matthew 18:3

What is a Rosary, and why should we pray it? How and where did it originate? How did it evolve from the ancient practice of counting rocks as psalms were recited to the beautifully strung beads as we know today? Why and when were the psalms replaced by “Our Father and Hail Mary’s”, and can we find those prayers in the Bible? Who do we call upon when praying the Rosary? Why is it important to pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus? These are just a few of the questions we discussed during our presentation. Our Catholic prayer tradition is rich and diverse and includes praying the Rosary. We can pray the Rosary on our own, or with our Catholic school friends and family, or in church-based youth prayer groups.

How did we do it? The Rosary can be a very long and tedious exercise in the hands of an 8-year-old. How could we present it as a gift and not a burden?



We decided to teach it in a manner most appealing to children, in bits and pieces and with great appeal to their imaginations. We handed each child a Rosary with four decades completed and in place. They had to do the final decade on their own with some guidance. To engage the children further, colouring pages with line art were supplied. This craft project was intended for the kids to take home or to occupy themselves while each child finished their own rosary at their own pace.

Rosary beads, we explained, are used to help Catholics count their prayers. Catholics often pray the rosary to make a request to God, some to thank God for blessings received or for requesting a special favour, for example if someone is sick to help them recover.



Our legionaries also wanted to draw the children's attention to the ways the 'fruits' of the Rosary can help them in facing everyday life. Each mystery of the Rosary has a certain fruit associated with it. For example, the fruit of the Fourth Sorrowful Mystery, 'The Carrying of the Cross', is patience.

These fruits enhance our character and are just some of 'the gifts that are available to us from God.' You can't go to the supermarket and buy courage or persistence or patience or perseverance, or faith or hope or love. You can't buy those things. But, with the Rosary, you are given these wonderful gifts.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "[prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God](#)" (CCC 2590). But how we pray matters just as much as what we pray. You can pray out loud, or in the quiet of your mind.

The success of our initiative was made possible by the joint efforts of the legionaries under the leadership of our President, Sr. Mildred Walker, and Nathalie Desjardins, our Divine Infant Parish, Sacramental Coordinator. The presentation was spearheaded by Sr. Lorna and Sr. Magda who prepared all the printed materials and visual aids such as video clips from the popular TV shows LIKE "Trad Kids TV, All About the Rosary for Kids". The work-in-progress rosaries were prepared by Srs. Stella, Norma, Perpetua, Frances, Magda and Lorna. They are our dedicated legionaries who graciously gave up their time for this wonderful cause. [Photo credits: Sr. Sunita]. It should be noted that our efforts would not be complete without the guidance and support of our sisters from the neighbouring Miraculous Medal praesidium, headed by Sr. Cathy, who not only painstakingly showed us how to string the beads and tie the knots but also assisted the kids in finishing their Rosaries during the presentation.

The question and answer session revealed that the children grasped the significance, beauty and richness of the Rosary through the drawing of grace from God and our Blessed Mother Mary. The most notable gift they received that day was not just the Rosary, but the knowledge gained from learning more about Mary, Jesus' mother and how we can all relate to her as our Loving Mother in heaven to whom we can turn for assistance. We taught them to imagine Mary whispering their concerns in Jesus' ear and to think of her as their other mother, a heavenly Mother – a mother who loves them as much as their own mothers do but who has far more power to make their dreams come true.



Below are a sample of testimonials received from a cross-section of participants and observers.

"My students really enjoyed learning about the Rosary and helping to make their own to take home. Kids are very visual and this gave them the opportunity to create a tangible symbol of our faith." - Nathalie Desjardins, Divine Infant Sacramental Coordinator

"I pray the Rosary with my grandma. Now I can use one I made myself." - R.C. Grade 2

"I wanted to put more beads on. Can we make another one?" - Q.B. Grade 2

"The video helped me learn about the Rosary. I liked it a lot. I like videos instead of books." - Anonymous. Grade

"They really liked the video. It was a great, kid-friendly way to teach them about the Rosary. It was the perfect way to summarize everything they had learned. I look forward to working with the Legion of Mary on this initiative again in the future." - Nathalie Desjardins, Divine Infant Sacramental Coordinator

"My son Robert was so happy to have the opportunity to make his very own Rosary during one of his First Holy Communion preparation classes. A member of Our Legion of Mary helped the small children put beads on a string to make their Rosary personal. Robert then ran up to Fr. Tavis immediately after Mass to get his brand new Rosary blessed by one of our priests (another little girl did the same). Robert was so excited to start praying that night, I couldn't drive home fast enough. A special thanks to Our Legion of Mary members for their enthusiasm and dedication to the Rosary". Martine Barney, Parent

Legion of Mary Ottawa

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



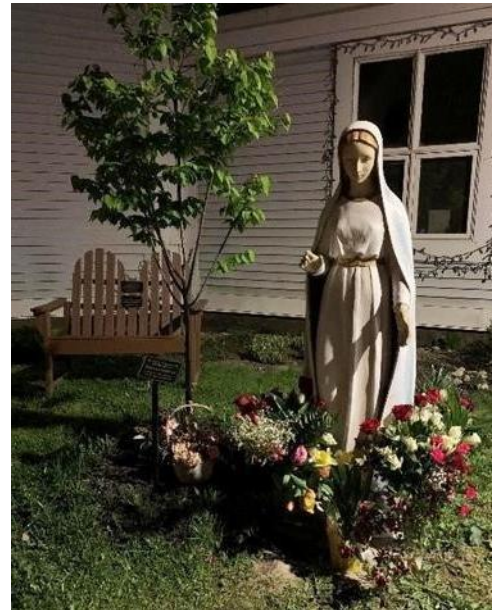
A Family-friendly Candlelight Rosary Gathering

A Prayer for World Peace (*Lorna Baier*)

More than a century after Our Lady asked three Portuguese shepherd children to “pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world,” several of our Parish’s faithful gathered outside the Divine Infant Church on May 13th, in front of the statue of Our Lady, to live out her message.

According to the story told by Sister Lucia’s memoirs, the three children saw the Virgin Mary appear six times during 1917, as they pastured sheep in a hollow on the family’s farm. “We beheld a Lady all dressed in white. She was more brilliant than the sun,” the nun wrote. The vision promised to perform a miracle for ‘all to see and believe’. She urged the children to make sacrifices for God and told Jacinta and Francisco they would soon leave for Heaven, and Lucia would stay on earth for longer.

On October 13th, 1917, much like at the time of the first apparition on May 13th, 1917, there was an undeniable sacred frisson as Mediterranean winds caressed the trees, and invisible feet flattened the grass. A crowd of approximately 70,000 joined the children and reported seeing the sun, harmless to the naked eye, spin on its axis and zigzag across the sky. The children saw Our Lady of the Rosary dressed in white, floating a few feet above the ground one last time, asking for “a lot of prayer”.



At 9pm on May 13th, 2025, led by Divine Infant’s Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium, Legion of Mary, more than 60 parishioners assembled around the softly illuminated statue of the Virgin Mary. Standing together with a lit candle in one hand and a rose in the other, we recited the Holy Rosary to honour of the Mother of God and to seek her intercession. Held after sundown the candles created an intimacy that today’s electric-driven lighting cannot replicate the gathering of people, young and old, saying the Rosary, was very moving. Here were people who say God matters. God is present. God is still with us.

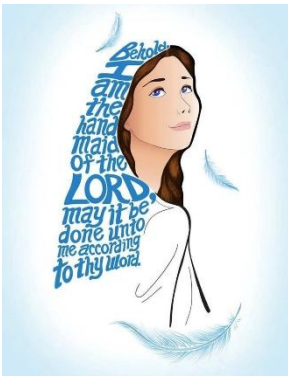
As we advanced through the beads of the Rosary, each recitation of a Hail Mary offered a devotee the opportunity to personally lay a rose at the foot of the statue of our Blessed Mother. In the quiet of their hearts, they sought her protection, requested her assistance, or asked for her intercession. St. Louis Marie de Montfort, the Patron Saint of the Legion of Mary, in his work ‘The Secret of the Rosary’, highlighted the symbolic significance of the rose as a homage to both Jesus and Mary. He also noted that the Rosary is a “priceless treasure inspired by God; attached to it is grace in this life and glory in the next. The saints have said it faithfully, and the Popes have endorsed it.” Each rose offered represents a prayer spoken...collectively forming and creating a visual embodiment of the Living Rosary.



“We want to pray for peace around the world, we want to pray for safety during this Jubilee Year of Hope. Of course, everyone comes here with a different motivation. But the most important thing is to create something beautiful, a large prayer gathering, intense and passionate that reflects the devotion to Our Lady of Fatima,” said Fr. Waldemar, Pastor, Divine Infant, standing with a flock of over 60 parishioners.

Reflections inspired by our late Father, Pope Francis, preceded the recitation of each Sorrowful Mystery of the Holy Rosary led by the Legion of Mary; the ministry that is also tasked with the recitation of the Rosary at 8.30am every Thursday before Mass. The Rosary always invites our fingers, our lips, and our heart in one vast symphony of prayer. We concluded the evening singing the **Ave Maria**.

“Prayer is the bond which thus unite all hearts and voices, making them as one. Our strength lies in united prayer; this alone would render us invincible. - Legio Mariae handbook by the Servant of God Frank Duff, who founded the Legion of Mary in 1921.



As a model disciple of Christ, who said “**yes**” to God’s will all throughout her life — from the time when Gabriel first appeared to her all the way to the Cross — Mary is the ideal person to be interceding for us through the many trials and struggles we face in our lives. We ask her to pray for us, so that we may follow God faithfully like she did. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “She prays for us as she prayed for herself: ‘**let it be done to me according to your word.**’ by entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: ‘**Thy will be done**’” (no. 2677).

From May through to October this year, the Divine Infant Parish, Orleans, is inviting Catholics across Ottawa and beyond to gather in honour of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13th of every month to bear witness to the beauty and richness of their devotion in song and prayer. The schedule is as follows:



June 13, Friday, at 9 PM for the Sorrowful mysteries

July 13, Sunday, at 9 PM for the Glorious mysteries

August 13, Wednesday, at 9 PM for the Glorious mysteries

September 13, Saturday, at 9 PM for the Joyful mysteries

October 13, Monday, at 9 PM for the Joyful mysteries

Each month’s meditations will be led by a priest and/ or deacon who will also offer a final blessing. All are warmly invited to gather in front of the Madonna statue by 8.45 PM to honor our Blessed Mother with a candlelight Rosary organized by our Legion of Mary.

In case of bad weather, our gathering will move indoors within the church. Informational leaflets featuring the evening’s details and song lyrics will be distributed for convenience; notifications will be announced on our parish website. Please note that:



At the end of every decade, a brief rendition of Ave Maria will be sung.



Attendees are encouraged to bring their own candles, rosary and a fresh flower, ideally a rose, to present to the Blessed Mother.



To minimize mosquito bites while standing outdoors, prioritize protective clothing, and, if necessary, use effective repellent.

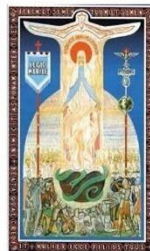
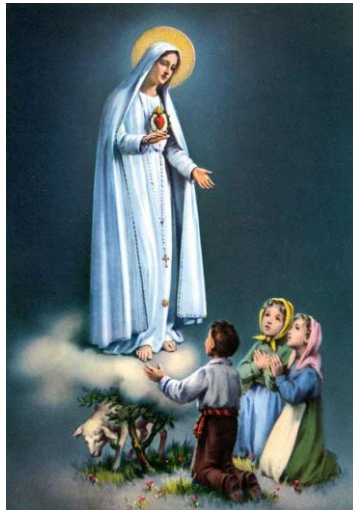
As we approach the conclusion of this Jubilee 2025 initiative, the Legion of Mary intends to honour our final candlelight Rosary on October 13th with a modest celebration to express gratitude to all who continue to pray alongside us. Furthermore, we also look forward to your attendance at the inauguration of our Blessed Mother’s Shrine, anticipated to be finished before the arrival of winter - a project undertaken by the Legion of Mary. More information will become available in due course.

Divine Infant’s *Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium*, Legion of Mary, expresses its genuine appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your dedication in sharing your valuable evening with us to contribute to the success of this inaugural candlelight Rosary event, which we hope will be a regular feature of our parish. As one participant fondly expressed, "I

experienced a profound sense of peace following my recitation of the Rosary with the gathering outdoors."

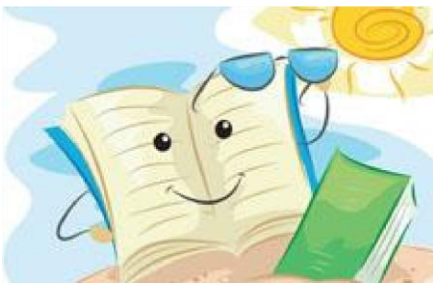
"The prayers of the Saints are the prayers of servants, but the prayers of Mary are prayers of a mother; they are regarded in a certain manner as commands by her son, who loves her so tenderly." Saint Alphonsus

Let us unite in prayer for world peace.



SPIRITUAL SUMMER READING

Welcome to your physical and virtual parish library corner! Situated adjacent to the vestry in the hallway, multiple cabinets and open shelves are filled with numerous items to borrow, keep or share. You will find material perfect for all ages and the entire family. Discover a vast collection of Catholic faith-filled historical resources at your fingertips, dedicated to preserving and sharing the comfort and joy found within their pages. Are you interested in exploring sources that can enhance your evangelization, ministries, projects, add to your spiritual summer reading list, daily devotionals, the Holy Family and life of Christ, learn about the fascinating lives of holy men and women, while also sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for new subjects to deepen your faith, contemplating messages and scriptural passages? You will find them here.



New religious books are added weekly to expand and refine your spiritual reading with a wealth of respected authors and insightful choices. Well-stocked with an extensive selection of timeless new and used Catholic books and resources, complemented by a diverse collection of themed movies, documentary, sacred music DVDs and CDs, you are encouraged to enjoy and to keep circulating them with your family, friends, associates, support groups, co-workers etc.

It's a free-lending library, with items being signed out for a period of three weeks and returned to the designated labelled white bin under the desk upon completion.

Additionally, the shelves located beside the water dispenser offer a growing selection available for self-service, requiring no sign-out or return procedures. Pick up and go with your copy of a biography, Catholic saint's diaries, prayerbooks and leaflets, guardians and servants, Holy family, inspiring stories and testimonials, grief and healing in addition to other specific topics and so much more.

Donations are gratefully accepted for the items marked in the sale section, just choose your preferred books and kindly deposit your contribution in the jar provided.

Those who wish to volunteer are welcome to offer assistance following each weekend mass. For information, contact Nina Regimbald at ninaregimbald@rogers.com or email dilibraryservices@gmail.com.

You may also visit our online Library Catalogue (over 1500+ titles) on the Parish website: <http://divineinfant.on.ca/library.html>



Divine Mercy Cenacle

LIVING DIVINE MERCY AS A PILGRIM OF HOPE

The 2025 Jubilee Year, inaugurated by the late Pope Francis, has been a time for our Cenacle to focus on the virtue of hope, particularly in the context of the Divine Mercy. It opened officially on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2024, with the Rite of Opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. The Jubilee Year will continue under Pope Leo XIV and will conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica on January 6, 2026, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion and Celebration



The foremost celebration which our Divine Mercy Cenacle organizes each year, takes place in the afternoon of Divine Mercy Sunday (the Second Sunday of Easter). This is a special Devotion to help all participants take advantage of the extraordinary graces Our Lord has promised on that specific day when **"the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened"** (St. Faustina Diary 699). Remarkably, Our Lord promised through St. Faustina that those who receive the Holy Eucharist on that day and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, either on or near that day, will not only be forgiven their sins but all punishment due to those sins will be erased, making the graces received comparable to a second Baptism!

Indulgence and Mercy: Indulgence, Pope Francis wrote, is "a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms 'mercy' and indulgence' were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds" ([Spes non confundit](#), 23).

This year three priests, Fr. Waldemar. Fr. Michael and Fr. Daryl Kennedy were available to hear confessions beginning at 1:30 pm., and so many, including many young adults, took advantage of the Sacrament, that confessions lasted until just before the Sunday evening Mass at 5:00pm.



The Devotion itself began at 2:30pm with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Praise and Worship music, the chanting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and other prayers led by Deacon Gerry Panes, and Deacon Phil Richards. In this Jubilee Year with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”, we were blessed in that our Knights of Columbus had access to the Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Our Cenacle collaborated with the Knights by including this Icon in the solemn Procession with the Blessed Sacrament. The Divine Mercy Image and relics, carried by Cenacle members, were also part of the Solemn Procession. A Solemn Procession of this kind fosters a more profound Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as the monstrance approaches each pew, as well as a deeper Veneration of the sacred images and relics. We also merged the Sacred Heart and Divine Mercy Devotions by adding the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the prayers led by our deacons. During the Procession the choir, led by Cindy Kearns-O'Hara, Lorna Baier, Angela Crawley and Tom Lindsey sang a stirring Eucharistic hymn (“Hail Our Saviour’s Glorious Body”) which was accompanied by the continuous ringing of the bells by Deacon Phil. This enhanced the reverential ambience

of the celebration, all in thanksgiving to God for His unfathomable Mercy.

See more pictures of this year’s celebration thanks to Pierre Poirier at:

https://www.divineinfant.on.ca/photoalbum_2025_divinemercysunday.html

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

This Jubilee year, our Cenacle lead the Way of the Cross based on St. Faustina’s Diary on Good Friday morning. Good Friday is also the day on which we began a novena of prayers in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, so we felt doubly blessed. Many came to pray this beautiful devotion with us in an atmosphere of reverence, reflection and repentance. We concluded the Stations with the prayer for the first day of the novena and with the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Beatitudes project

The Beatitudes are declarations of God’s grace. In the Beatitudes, Jesus promises us the Kingdom of God, comfort, mercy, and abundant life. He promises Himself. Our Cenacle was privileged to participate in the CWL’s Jubilee Year of Hope Beatitudes Initiative by reflecting on the Fifth Beatitude **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy”**. We set aside a regular Monday meeting to ponder, collaborate and discuss what it means to be merciful and to consider practical ways to live as disciples of mercy in our everyday lives. Some of the fruits of those discussions were shared with the parish this Easter Season. The Fifth Beatitude led by the Divine Mercy Cenacle was launched on May 11th on the Parish website and in takeaway flyers; highlights of the beatitude will continue weekly for seven weeks on overhead slides before Sunday Mass. The theme and call to action for each week is, additionally, featured in the Parish’s weekly bulletin.



In Good Company: the Divine Mercy Cenacle

What is the Divine Mercy Cenacle?

It is a small Faith Community which meets weekly for song, prayer, and a study session integrating the Diary of St. Faustina (“Divine Mercy in My Soul”) along with Sacred Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The mystical revelations given to St. Faustina are a rich source for spiritual growth and provide a deep understanding of God’s greatest attribute, His Infinite Mercy, of which we are all in great need. As well, we come to understand more deeply the crucial importance of trusting in Jesus in all aspects of our lives.

(Click [HERE](#) for source of this image)

Three Reasons to Join the Divine Mercy Cenacle

1. **The Practice of Community.** Much of our spiritual formation occurs within community. We learn how to be people of love in community. We practice the ways of Jesus in community. We grow into who God created us to be in community. Small groups arise out of the communion of both the parish and the universal Church. While congregational worship is crucial, small groups extend the church experience beyond the traditional Sunday service. Here we can break away from the larger congregation to form bonds on a more personal level. This space becomes a sanctuary where genuine connections flourish, providing a safe environment for members to share their joys, struggles, and questions related to their faith.

In times of celebrations or challenge, our small cenacle groups are pillars of support. Members lift each other up in prayer, which creates a sense of unity and solidarity. This collective strength becomes a source of comfort and encouragement and emphasizes the communal nature of the Catholic Church.

2. **Get Inspired.** Here's a "why" to get you out of the door on Mondays: faith is about both learning and yearning. Our faith experience is never a one-time event. Faith is more like falling in love than it is like finding an immediate solution to a complicated question. It is ongoing and ever-deepening. The best moments are flush with giddy, euphoric excitement: when you are astounded by the great blessing of Jesus' love and unfathomable mercy and overcome by the desire to do the things that will delight Him. It was for St. Paul; it was for St. Faustina. It is the same for all of us who choose God.
3. **Our Last Hope – Divine Mercy.** **"Divine Mercy is mankind's last hope of salvation."** (see Diary, 998) Those were the words spoken by Jesus to a humble nun in a Polish convent in the 1930's. We now know her as St. Maria Faustina Kowalska. And that message resounds today, perhaps, even more clearly than it did nearly a century ago. As Dr. Michael Barber reaffirms, salvation is not self-help. It is not something that we can earn on our own power. It is not something that we can just figure out on our own. It is not about becoming a better you. **Our salvation flows from God's initiative of love for us** (CCC#620) It is important that we spread the message of Divine Mercy to the whole world. And the best place to start is in our own communities. As Jesus reminds us, **"What is impossible with men is possible with God"**. (Lk 18:27) God makes the impossible possible with His assistance.

Two Cenacles Available

There are now two weekly Divine Mercy Cenacle gatherings on Mondays to choose from: the traditional **Evening Cenacle** following the 7pm Mass, or a new **Daytime Cenacle** between 1 and 3 pm either in the Parish Hall or Memorial Room within the main Church. The Daytime Cenacle was established to accommodate those who find it difficult to travel during the night hours. Both Cenacles follow the same schedule, and we are blessed to have Deacon Phil available at the Daytime Cenacle, and Deacon Gerry at the Evening gathering to provide spiritual guidance.

We follow a specific Formation Manual with the sessions often including Praise and Worship music and stimulating discussions, where members express how the study material applies to concrete situations of their lives. This is an important aspect, since it enables the participants to learn from each other in their mutual quest to grow in faith, which helps us get closer to Jesus.

Each session concludes with the communal recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy which is prayed for the intentions submitted in a prayer box. At the end of each session, a Cenacle Challenge is issued by either Deacon Gerry Panes or Deacon Phil Richards, the purpose of which is to help members retain and apply some aspects of the study material during the following week

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

All are welcome to come to try out one of the sessions. For further info, send an email to David Langedock (Daytime Cenacle), or Stan Siok (Evening Cenacle) at divineinfantcenacle@gmail.com.



PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

THE “NO-CONTACT” WORLD AROUND US

The rise of “no-contact” delivery for services, products, and activities has been noticeable, especially since the COVID-19 lockdown. Services like health-care appointments and education programs accessed online. Products like fast food, medication, groceries, and other online purchases delivered straight to our door. Businesses joining the online platform for interviews, meetings, and for training. Even social activities can occur online, without any of us necessarily being physically present to the other.

For better or worse, this is the world we now live in.

PASTORAL CARE - A PERSONAL APPROACH FOR THOSE NO LONGER ABLE TO ATTEND MASS

In contrast to this “no-contact” model, Pastoral Care volunteers personally visit those who are homebound and no longer able to attend Mass. We visit parishioners who face illness, struggles, weakness, loneliness, fear, especially when they journey to the end of their earthly life.

We offer a physical presence to home-bound parishioners from one of our 2-person teams. A personal approach, since Jesus is our model for this ministry. Jesus taught in the Good Samaritan example to show compassion, mercy, to not abandon those in need, and to not be indifferent to their suffering. He urges, “Go and do likewise”. (See Luke ch. 10 vs 25-37)

We carry the True Presence in the Eucharist. When volunteers carry the Most Holy Communion to parishioners, they bring “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ which is truly, really and substantially contained” CCC 1374. Volunteers are the hands and feet that lovingly carry Jesus to others. They offer fellowship, prayers and love which flow from His heart.

And those who receive Holy Communion receive “the living bread come down from heaven”. Jesus assures us that “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood shall live forever”, and that he “abides in me, and I in him” (Jn 6: 51, 56). They receive the Author of Life.

The Catechism explains that Holy Communion increases union with Christ, preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace we received at Baptism. It also states that the Most Blessed Sacrament cleanses us from past sins and preserves us from future sins (CCC# 1391-1392). This is such a source of mercy, grace, and strength!

This ministry offers something missing in this new “no contact” model - an encounter with a loving human presence to journey with, and of the greatest importance, the loving, life-giving Divine presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

BEING PILGRIMS OF HOPE THROUGH THE PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

In this Jubilee year of “Pilgrims of Hope”, the Pastoral Care Ministry is inspired by Pope Francis' teaching to “fan the flame of hope and help everyone gain new strength.” We are hosting two Catholic faith formation programs for Divine Infant parishioners.

1. Thursday, June 19 at 7 p.m.

Study: “This is My Body”: THE EUCHARIST

- A 2-hr study to deepen our understanding, appreciation and experience of the Most Holy Eucharist

2. In the Fall of this year (precise date to follow)

Study: “I’M DYING TO KNOW...”

- What happens when we die?
- Is there life after death?
- What choices do we have at end-of-life?

A 2-hr study that aims to broaden our understanding of this topic, expand on Catholic teaching, and strengthen our hope.

COME JOIN OUR FAITH-FORMATIONS AND CONSIDER SERVING in this ministry which carries our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist to fellow parishioners who cannot physically be part of this Catholic community. Contact the ministry leaders at di.pastoralcare@gmail.com to ask about joining this impactful ministry. It is a ministry of hope, joy and blessings for all involved.

SPECIAL PARISH EVENT IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR
"This is My Body": The Eucharist


An enriching study to deepen our understanding, appreciation, and experience of the Most Holy Eucharist, exploring:

- Biblical events
- Teachings from the Catechism
- Wisdom from Saints
- Insights from Catholic scholars

2-hr faith-formation program for adults
Hosted by DI Pastoral Care Ministry

Open to all parishioners
desiring to strengthen their faith and communion with Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist

COME DEEPEN YOUR FAITH!



Sign-up in advance on the parish website
*No onsite registration possible
 Limited places so please register early
 Refreshments will be available*

When? Thursday, June 19 from 7 pm to 9:15 pm
Where? Divine Infant Catholic Church - Parish Hall
Presenter: Michèle Clermont, Pastoral Care Ministry
Special guest presenter: Father Waldemar



I'M DYING TO KNOW...

- What happens when we die?
- Is there life after death?
- What choices do we have at end-of-life?

Join us for a 2-hr faith-formation for adults
 To broaden our understanding of this topic, expand on Catholic teaching, and strengthen our hope.

Sign-up on our parish website
Places are limited so please register early
Hosted by the Pastoral Care Ministry

Coming this Fall
 Divine Infant Catholic Church, Parish Hall
Must register in advance
No onsite registration





THE DIVINE INFANT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE 2025 SPRING TEA

by Linda Epton, Lead of the Spring Tea Committee and DI, CWL Treasurer

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) hosted their 2nd Spring Tea since Covid on Saturday June 7th. The 2025 Spring Tea was a blessed gathering of the Divine Infant Parish community organized by the CWL and guided by the Spring Tea Committee. The funds raised are to assist in the building of a covering for the Madonna statue gifted by the former Madonna Nursing Home. The goal is to have a nice area for prayer. The theme of this year's event was the "Canadian Pilgrims of Hope", celebrating the Saints who brought hope and the Catholic faith while founding and developing our now great country. The CWL sold tickets in May and was almost sold out a week before the event. The Friday night before the Spring Tea, Fiona, our Junior Youth Group facilitator and a few members of her group, helped to finish setting up the tables with table clothes, runners and dishware.



By 12:30pm on June 7th with the hall full of guests, it was time to have a special afternoon with tea, iced tea and beautiful tiered trays full of sandwiches, sweets and fruit. In addition, there was a "guess the amount of chocolate eggs in the jar", a basket raffle, and the popular 50/50 draw. With the generous donation from parishioners, we also had two door prizes. Some of the winners were Louise Brazeau, Joan Harding, Linda Nixon, Diane Gauthier and Paula Monroy. How great it was to raise money for a worthy cause and have fun at the same time.

Like any church community event, the success is due to many. Thank you, Divine Infant parishioners who supported the 2025 CWL Spring Tea by showing up in great numbers. It was nice to see that many of them were from different Divine Infant ministries like the Legion of Mary, the Bereavement Ministry and Pastoral Care. To paraphrase Father Waldemar, after he said grace, "it is nice to have this joyful occasion to add to the vibrancy of the Parish". Father, thank you for being present at the Spring Tea and opening the event.



Paula Monroy won all the chocolate; her family was happy to claim the prize.

The children were involved in choosing the next winners.



Throughout the event there was a markable presence of volunteers starting with the beautiful music played by the most talented Rosanne DeLuca. We were also graced with the helpfulness of approximately ten St. Matthew High School students who greeted and served those in attendance. Thank you to their teacher Anna Stachulak for assisting in the organizing volunteer students. It was so nice to have their assistance for 2nd year in a row.

Above: Fr. Waldemar Podlasz SDS says grace.

Right: Linda Epton providing instruction to the St. Matthew HS volunteers.



Rosanne De Luca at the piano.



Fr. Michael El-Nachef and Fr. Tavis Goski with CWL Co-Presidents, Margaret Chan-Heuthorst, & Cindy Kearns-O'Hara.

Finally, this event could not have happened without the initiative of the many CWL Members, the Executive and the Spring Tea Committee. Not only did many ladies bring in baked goods but also donated many hours before the event to prepare the iced tea, the sandwiches, and fruit skewers. They also spent many hours before and after washing the delicate teacups and serving trays. The CWL ladies always continue to be present to serve their community. It warms the heart of many. Please continue what you are doing.

A special shout out goes out to Linda Romagnino, Cynthia Kearns- O'Hara and Linda Epton members of the Spring Tea Committee for all the effort in planning this year's Spring Tea. Also, big thank you to Nancy Grimshaw for finding the pictures of our Canadian Saints and putting together their biographies in point form, and for putting together the related colouring pages for the children in attendance. Not forgotten are the Knights of Columbus who volunteered their time at the end of the event to take down the tables and assist with cleaning up.

Overall, the 2025 Spring Tea was a huge success. Not only because it raised approximately \$1000 dollars for the selected cause but also because it brought the Divine Infant Community together for an enjoyable afternoon and saw so many volunteers work together as true examples of Pilgrims of Hope.





KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7873

As Grand Knight of Divine Infant KofC Council 7378, I can't help but be totally overwhelmed by the support from our parishioners over the past six years. Reflecting on our journey, I am filled with awe at what we have accomplished together. Our council continues to host many successful events, both religious and social, strengthening our community bonds. Our membership continues to flourish, a testament to our collective dedication and hard work. However, we have also bid a final farewell to several long-time senior members who served the council with distinction. Their contributions will always be remembered and honored, may they each rest in peace.

Over the past year, the Knights of Columbus have remained steadfast in their mission to serve Divine Infant Parish and support our broader community through charitable action and financial generosity.

Thank you to all members and parishioners for your unwavering dedication, support, and commitment to our mission. It is a privilege to lead such a remarkable group of individuals supporting our parish and community through our KofC principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Below is a summary of our key initiatives and accomplishments:

1. Pasta Dinner Fundraiser – Support for Youville Centre

In a heartfelt show of support for the Youville Centre, which provides essential services to young mothers and their children, the Knights hosted a Pasta Dinner that brought our parish and community together for an evening of fellowship and giving. The event raised an impressive \$4,625, all of which was donated directly to the Centre to support their ongoing programs and resources.

2. Bottle and Can Drive – Donation to Miriam Centre

Our ongoing environmental and charitable initiative — the bottle and can (ongoing collection)—, as well as many other financial donations continue to thrive thanks to the dedicated support of parishioners. This year, the proceeds were used to make a \$3,000 plus donation to the Miriam Centre, a vital resource in Orleans offering support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. The funds will aid in providing material, emotional, and spiritual assistance to those in need.

3. Student Support through the HOST Program & Bursaries

Recognizing the importance of supporting our youth, we donated \$1,000 to the HOST program, which offers financial assistance to students facing hardships.

In addition, we also provided two bursaries of \$500 each to our local Catholic high schools, affirming our commitment to education and student success.

4. Coats for Kids Initiative

One of the most impactful and logistically challenging initiatives this year was Coats for Kids. After conducting a discreet inquiry with local schools to identify children in need, and determine specific sizes and gender requirements, we purchased and personally delivered 48 brand-new winter coats to the schools and homes. This effort not only ensured children were kept warm during the winter months but also preserved their dignity through confidential handling and direct delivery.

In addition to the above major activities, below is an extensive list of our other ongoing ventures and activities.

- Hosted a 3 Day Pilgrimage of Hope to Martyrs Shrine and Ste Marie among the Huron's also visiting the Polish town of Wilno as part of our Jubilee Year 2025 and 125 year Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus in Ontario
- Arranged and hosted the Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon, which we reverently displayed on the Altar for several weeks for veneration by parishioners.
- Weekly Grocery Card sales in the church foyer, provide funds to support our Parish and Charities
- Adoration vigils
- On two separate occasions we arranged to have Saint Vincent de Paul trucks dropped off in our parking lot, for our SVP Bundle Sunday, collecting good used clothing and household items for distribution by SVP for the benefit of the Orleans community
- November memorial Rosary at St Joseph Cemetery

- Deceased Members Mass, to honour past Knights
- Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Silver Rose Rosary
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Monthly hot cooked breakfasts
- Christmas with Santa Breakfast, every year this grows bigger and bigger in 2024 (120 children's gifts) 300+ breakfasts served
- Lenten Pancake Supper together with CWL
- Hosted K of C Exemplification ceremony for 1st 2nd and 3rd Degrees
- Hosting the Annual BBQ Breakfast which is always very positively received
- Ongoing "Chow with our Chaplain" monthly get together
- Collected donations towards supplying food for distribution to Divine Infant Families in Need
- Food for Families e.g. Shepherds of Good Hope, Orleans/Cumberland Resource Centre
- Catholic Christian Outreach and NET Ministries

Conclusion

Through these initiatives, the Knights of Columbus have continued to uphold the values of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity — not just in words but in concrete actions. Each dollar raised and every hour volunteered reflects our enduring commitment to faith in action.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parish community for their unwavering support and look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

We cordially invite and encourage all male parishioners to join our council, lending your talents and time to help these very significant causes.

I personally want to thank each and every member of our council for the terrific support they have given me during the last six years, I look forward to working with the incoming Grand Knight and council in the new Columbian Year 25/26.

Paul Bourke, Grand Knight 2019-2025



A PILGRIMAGE IN SPRING IN A YEAR OF HOPE

On April 27th, Divine Mercy Sunday, Paul Bourke, Grand Knight, Council 7873 Knights of Columbus, Divine Infant Parish, took possession of a sanctified Divine Image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus bearing the Apostolic Blessing of the late Pope Francis. Two Knights carried the Icon during a solemn afternoon procession in concert

with the Divine Mercy Cenacle Ministry and placed it in front of the Sanctuary.



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon Program was launched by the Knights of Columbus in January and coincides with the 350th anniversary of the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Catholic nun who gave the Church the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart and the First Friday devotions. It was prominently displayed for veneration for three weeks at the side of our altar in Orleans. So, how do we parishioners make sure our faith is on fire? That we are 'all-in' for Jesus? Jesus makes this promise to anyone who turns to His Heart: **"Tepid souls shall become fervent"**.

The Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

To celebrate the establishment of the first Knights of Columbus Council in Ontario and the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, Pat and Paul Bourke with the full support of Fr. Waldemar Podlasz, SDS, Pastor & Knight, Divine Infant Parish Orleans, handcrafted a pilgrimage to the Holy Canadian Martyrs Shrine & Ste Marie Among the Hurons in May via Our Lady of Częstochowa Church, Wilno. In an era of self-help books and mindfulness seminars, who better than a pastor to know that undertaking a journey to a sacred place can genuinely enhance wellbeing and ignite a tepid, lukewarm faith into a more passionate and zealous one. This faith-in-action idea is rooted in the belief that engaging with sacred sites and traditions can deepen spiritual connection and inspire a greater commitment to religious practice.



Intrinsic to pilgrimages during a Jubilee Year is the ability to gain a Plenary Indulgence in any of the special Jubilee churches listed by the Apostolic penitentiary in Rome. A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove temporal punishment due to sin. Its root is in the Latin *indulgentia*, which means a show of kindness, as well as *indulgere*, which means to forgive.

The Shrine to the Martyrs in Midland is a site where pilgrims can obtain a plenary indulgence this Jubilee Year. It is a national holy and historic space honouring the lives of the Canadian Martyrs. The Shrine celebrates a nearly 400-year-old story of love, faith, and discovery that inspired and influenced the formation of Canada as we know it today. <https://martyrs-shrine.com/>



Pilgrimages have been a staple of Christian life since the earliest centuries of the Church. In a world so connected by air travel, when we are able to be on the other side of the world in less than a day, it's easy to forget the meaning of a real pilgrimage and its spiritual nature - and how difficult it once was for people to make one. Psalm 84 states **"Blessed the man who finds refuge in you, in their hearts are pilgrim roads"**. This suggests that a pilgrimage is primarily a journey of the heart that seeks to draw nearer to God by traveling to places where God is - or was - present in a special way. (*Ignatius Catholic Study Bible*)

Deeply woven into a pilgrimage is the notion that sacred objects can be used to communicate God's power. Catholics call objects such as these 'relics', and people go on pilgrimage all over the world seeking healing because of this belief that God can use even ordinary objects to display his power.

For example, when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, he took the bones of Joseph with him, so revered were they by the people (Exodus 13:19). In 2 Kings 13:20–21, a group of Israelites were burying a man when they noticed that Moabite raiders were approaching. Instead of burying him properly, they threw him into the tomb of the prophet Elisha. 'The man had no sooner touched the bones of Elisha,' the text tells us, 'than he came to life and stood up on his own feet' (v. 21). Even in the New Testament, we read in the Acts of the Apostles that 'God did not inconsiderable works of power at Paul's hands so that *handkerchiefs or aprons which had touched his skin* were taken to the sick, and they were cured of their illnesses, and the evil spirits came out of them' (Acts 19:11–12, *emphasis added*).

The two churches we visited this May in Ontario contained relics of the saints associated with the Shrine. Note that *first class relics* are fragments from the human remains of the saint. A *second class relic* is a fragment of something that belonged to the saint during their life on earth, eg. a piece of one of their garments. When pilgrims visit the Shrines, they are encouraged to pray before the relic, honour the memory of the saint and celebrate the extent to which they lived a life that signposted the love of Jesus.

FIRST STOP: Our Lady of Częstochowa Church WILNO, ONTARIO

Wilno and neighboring Barry's Bay are located in the unspoiled region of Renfrew County, Ontario. The first settlers of these lands were Kashubians in 1858, who received land grants along the so-called Opeongo Road. Far from civilization, surrounded only by forests, this distinct ethnic group primarily from the northern area of Poland, along the coastline of the Baltic Sea, created a community that not only survived, but thanks to which the first Polish parish community in Canada was established in 1875.

The current church, St. Mary's, dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Poland (Our Lady of Częstochowa) is a beautiful brick church, built on a high slope from which you can see the panorama of Canadian Kaszuby. The construction of this church



began in 1936. Historically, Wilno was built by two Slavic groups from Europe. The Kashubs arrived in Canada in 1858 from their Kashubian homeland of Kashubia which at the time of immigration was under Prussian/German rule. The Polish arrived in Canada in the early 1860's from their Polish homeland of Poland. Most of the Polish people who came to Wilno in the 1860's came from the Galician area of Poland which was under Austrian rule. <https://www.stmaryswilno.com/history.html>



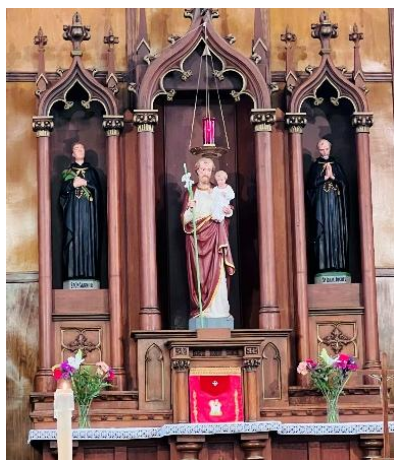
The church holds relics of St. Faustina and St. Pope John Paul II. It also contains an icon of the Black Madonna; the original painting and icon can be found in the chapel of the Virgin Mary in the fortified Baroque Pauline monastery of Jasna Góra, in Częstochowa, Poland, that has been venerated by Christians for some 600 years. *The Black Madonna* is credited with numerous miracles.

To this day, for Our Lady of seemingly limitless patience, no human drama is too insignificant, too tawdry, too wretched or alien. Her maternal consolations rest on her acceptance, her love, her understanding.



THE CANADIAN MARTYRS' SHRINE & THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH

In the midst of the heart of Georgian Bay sits the Martyrs' Shrine. <https://martyrs-shrine.com/visit-us/> The Church of St. Joseph, the unique religious and cultural centre piece of this site, embodies a fusion of European and Indigenous design. This is evident in its interior, where elements like the ceiling shaped like an inverted canoe and the use of wood to resemble a longhouse, symbolize the encounter between early Jesuit missionaries and the Wendat (Huron) people.



The church houses relics of the Canadian Martyrs, specifically the skull of St. Jean de Brébeuf and the bones of St. Charles Garnier and St. Gabriel Lalemant. The Shrine's story, spanning nearly 400 years, involves the early Jesuit missionaries and the Wendat people, including their conversion and later martyrdom.





St. Jean de Brébeuf, born in Normandy, France, in 1593 had a striking gift for languages, much like our current Pope Leo XIV, a facility would ultimately assist him in working with a people with whom he shared little in common, save their common humanity. He entered the Jesuit novitiate in Rouen in 1621. In 1624, the Franciscans, who had operated the "missions" to the Huron peoples in New France since 1615, appealed to other French religious orders to send assistance. Among the first to sail was Jean de Brébeuf, now a tall, robust man of 32. To enter into their world Jean resolved to do everything according to their customs, no matter how strenuous, eating their food, sleeping as they did, working as hard as they did. In addition, Brébeuf wrote a Huron grammar and translated a catechism in the local language.

On March 16, 1649, the Iroquois, sworn enemy of the Hurons, attacked the village and took the Hurons, who were mainly Christians, along with Jean and another Jesuit, Gabriel Lalement, prisoner. He knew that the possibility of martyrdom was imminent. Jean de Brébeuf's torture was among the cruellest any Jesuit has had to endure. At his death his heart was eaten as a way for the Iroquois, who were stunned by his courage, to share in his bravery. Eight other Jesuits were martyred around this same time,

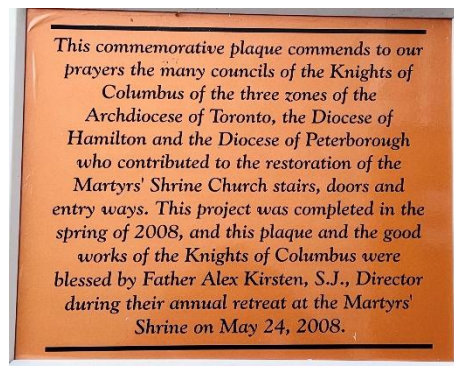
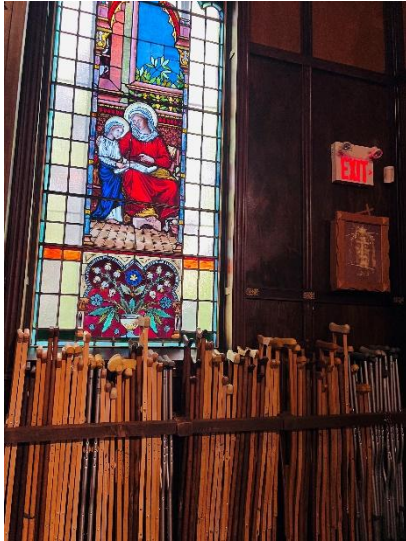


The martyrs gloried in the cross of Christ even managing to rejoice that they had been given some share of Christ's sufferings. In the same vein, we must acknowledge that being called to belong completely to Christ as a bride to her bridegroom comes wrapped in vulnerability, and that as humans we must strive to serve God better always and no matter what. This pilgrimage gave us hope and a vision of the experience of an eternal order - the sequentially of life, death and after death, when we hope to ultimately enter into a full spiritual union with God - even as it allowed for an inner journey toward communion with our past. It was a crystallization of the Poet Laureate Joseph Brodsky's words that "if there is any substitute for love, it's memory."

In a 2010 speech at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the termination point of one the world's most famous pilgrimage routes, Pope Benedict XVI said, 'To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where He has revealed himself, where His grace has shone with particular splendor and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.'

In other words, and as Fr. Waldemar pointed out, a pilgrimage is an inherently spiritual journey. To go on pilgrimage is to go somewhere with the intent of encountering God in some way, especially at those places most associated with God's presence and activity.





A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS (FROM ORLEANS TO MIDLAND) - DAY 1 *(Sunita Gomes)*

Laigan, was born in Ottawa. Her parents named her Laigan meaning 'Beautiful Moon', a Toisanese name reflecting their Taishan, Guangdong heritage. Her grandfather moved from China to Canada a century ago as the country faced the triple threat of Japanese invasion, Communist uprising and warlord insurrections. Her father followed and returned to China once only to marry his bride whom he brought to Ottawa in the 1950s. A quiet Buddhist family, Elaine (her Canadian name) and her younger sister were raised by their parents in the St. Laurent area, where they owned and ran a restaurant. Her sister converted to Catholicism at the age of 28. Elaine followed soon after.

Ernie and Gail Smith have been farmers all their lives. His parents had a dairy operation in the Ottawa valley. The Smiths kept a handful of horses to help with chores, which proved to be a draw for their children and friends. Soon a petting zoo came about and then a ranch whose horses were also used in a number of productions - from Disney's *The Liberators* (which Ernie also rode in) to music videos for Canadian country music artist Kira Isabella and re-enactments of world war battles. The family's waking hours had been devoted to running the business: caring for the animals, maintenance of the property, taking visitors out on horseback and all the other minute details involved in operating a ranch. Till it got too much and they decided to sell it to their daughter and her husband. <https://www.insideottawavalley.com/news/pinto-valley-ranch-the-end-of-an-era>

Unlike Elaine, who is a parishioner at Divine Infant, Orleans, Ernie and Gail Smith found out about our curated, parish-led Knights of Columbus local pilgrimage to the Martyrs' Shrine in May via a flyer on the Ottawa-Cornwall archdiocese website.

On a cool, sunny day, a total of 38 pilgrims came aboard the climate-controlled bus that commenced its journey at Divine Infant Church in Orleans at 8.45am on May 20th, with a couple of stops in Ottawa and then Arnprior, to pick up fellow travelers who had signed up in advance for this structured and facilitated pilgrimage. We were of different ages, with different backgrounds and different ethnicities and different prayer intentions - but we were all in it together. It seems our hearts were set on the same pursuit: a deeply active process of knowing God and living in alignment with His will.



We were here to take a 500 km journey to Midland, ON winding through the Madawaska Valley via **Wilno**, a small village on Highway 60 between Eganville and Barry's Bay. Our first stop: Wilno. Enroute: a rosary prayed together, conversations, silence.

It would hardly be an exaggeration to say that the Polish-built St. Mary's Catholic Church 'Our Lady of Częstochowa', dominates Wilno's rural now-you-see-it-now-you-don't skyline.

Adverse social conditions and political unrest in their partitioned homeland had encouraged this group of Polish immigrants to leave for Canada in 1858.

They cleared the land and rapidly established a thriving agricultural community. They were farmers, hardworking men, who embraced pessimism only when discussing poor weather and the crops. They mostly demonstrated resilience; their faith, centered around Catholicism, was a vital source of strength and community, helping them navigate the challenges of a new life.



In an age of increasing complexity, more and more of us seem to be drawn to the simplicity of the past, and Wilno, nestled between rolling hills in the Madawaska Valley with its imposing church, beautiful icons and rich views of stunning vistas from the Shrine hill did not disappoint.

It might not be as well-known as its European cousins, but a pilgrimage in Ontario can offer everything the continental ones provide; spectacular scenery, camaraderie, history, solitude, prayer, and, most of all, God's grace and infinite mercy.



Anna worked in a kibbutz in Israel in 1984. She returned to Jerusalem and spent a further three years there. Of French Canadian heritage, she was born Catholic, but in subsequent years moved away from the Church and embraced Protestantism. She has since come full circle. She is married to a Polish Canadian and has four children and five grandchildren. She lives in Gatineau and was pleased to meet us.



PILGRIM'S FARE



Time was when religious travelers had light footprints. The hero of “Way of a Pilgrim”, a 19th century Russian spiritual classic, asked only for dry bread and seasonal farm work as he roamed about the Tsar’s realms, dreaming of the day when he would embark for Jerusalem. Now around a hundred million people a year across different religions make a pilgrimage to different destinations replete with different cuisines.

Wilno’s Polish history would be incomplete without its cuisine. Food is the center of Polish culture, traditions carried over from Polish immigrants to America. Pork is the national meat of Poland and sausages are incredibly popular. At a similar latitude to Nova Scotia, the climate of Poland is fairly cold and the growing season is very short meaning they had to make the food last throughout the year, so root vegetables like parsnips and potatoes were also popular and butter was in everything. Pierogies, debatably one of the most known traditional Polish foods is a sort of Polish dumpling. Fillings could be anything, but are most commonly sauerkraut, mushrooms, cheese or potato. The Wilno Tavern did not leave us hungry.



Council 7873 Knights of Columbus, Divine Infant Parish, Orleans, and its superhuman and outstanding pilgrimage coordinator, Pat Bourke, wife of the Grand Knight Paul, ensured that lunchtime reservations were made well in advance for 38 hungry pilgrims enroute to the Martyrs Shrine, Midland.

Travel is an inescapable part of being human. To be alive is to move. The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, summed this up as panta rhei - everything flows. “No man ever steps into the same river twice, for it is not the same river, and he is not the same man.” We are not the same at eighteen as at forty or seventy.

Our lives are a collage of formative journeys through schools and marriages, places of work, homes and hospitals. Our families, our friend groups, our finances, our health, our congregations ebb and flow. As does our faith formation and our zest for pilgrimages. In a culture that sees affluence and status as the highest goal, what does it look like to see greatness through the eyes of Jesus? In their 1978 book, “Image

and Pilgrimage in Christian Culture,” the British American anthropologists Victor and Edith Turner imagine pilgrimage as two roads, one inbound and one outbound - one sacred, the other profane. Some come in thanksgiving or as part of their grieving process. Others take on this spiritual journey as a form of petitionary prayer, intentionally praying for God’s grace to transform their lives or the life of loved ones. We are a pilgrim people: so, the Second Vatican Council proclaims at least a dozen times in its documents. We are a pilgrim people, meant for Heaven but with a long road that reveals our hearts, our distractions, and our temptations. On this side of Heaven, we are given a glimpse of our heavenly home in many ways, including on a pilgrimage.

THE SUN SETS ON DAY ONE

We arrived at our hotel in Midland just past 6pm and it was still bright outside. Our Pastor, Fr. Waldemar, encouraged us to visit the Martyrs Shrine right away and explore the church and stunning grounds at the Shrine. I visit with my roommate and another pilgrim and find others from our tour group already there. It is peaceful. Looking out towards the scenic Georgian Bay my mind wanders to the early Jesuits traversing the waterways, working tirelessly to bring the Catholic faith to the new world, separated by language, landscape, cultural myths, and ritual practices. Some neighboring groups, such as the Hurons who the Jesuits worked closely with, and the Iroquois, were entrenched in rivalry. Like Jesus, whose teaching prioritizes the vulnerable and marginalized and whose words and actions were humble and sacrificial, I learn more about the shocking, inhumane torture the Jesuit martyrs endured. They were ritually tortured and killed on various dates.



The basement of St Joseph’s Church at the Martyrs’ Shrine houses the St. Ignace Chapel. We reached there in time for silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel with an exposition of the holy eucharist.

While pilgrimages offer profound spiritual experiences, my interest in pilgrimages has often been passive bordering on anxious when I think of large crowds, increased risks of disease, the potential for stampedes or other crowd related

incidents, and stress from the physical demands of

negotiating large numbers of pilgrims. That said, it has never been difficult for me to sense the spiritual weight of these holy places and the weight of feeling the pilgrims carried with them, believing wholeheartedly and seeking unabashedly as they do.



Much like Rosa and Edwin, a joyful young couple originally from the Dominican Republic. They moved to Orleans 14 years ago with their three children, now teenagers. I see them often at Mass, devout, passionate Catholics with an aura of unsullied purity. They demonstrate a blend of deep faith and family, of belonging and belief, with prayer and togetherness forming the core of their shared family experience. Rosa and Edwin tell me they are already planning their next pilgrimage.

Sometimes it seems to me that we live in times of insidious decay, exacerbated injustices and bitter political messaging. We hunger, or whine, for more - a leaner body, a loftier career, more money, guaranteed benefits, a flawless relationship. The outcome of exalting “more” is a constant, gnawing sense of lack. The pilgrims I encountered on Day One are different and have something in common: spirituality, family, faith and community are valued

more than individual achievement. Life isn’t framed as a quest for worldly success, but as an experience of humility over hubris. Disappointments are absorbed into the ebb and flow of daily life. In other words, they are already blessed. Tomorrow is another day.

A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS (FROM ORLEANS TO MIDLAND) – DAY 2 *(Sunita Gomes)*

In India, where I grew up, and where the sacred topography of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh and Jewish holy sites sews the land together, the Hindi word for traveller, *yatri*, is the same as the word for pilgrim. As in medieval Europe, pilgrimage, not tourism, is often the primary motivation to travel.

Irrespective of one's religious persuasion, it is impossible to grow up in India and not know about the Jesuits. The churches of Goa and its environs were designed, built and decorated by Brother Francis Aranha, a Portuguese Jesuit, and by John Storey, the English painter who arrived at Goa in 1583 with Ralph Fitch. Jesuits were engaged in pressing secular problems. They administered a Roman Catholic medical network; they ran schools and universities through India. They became Indian citizens. To this day, pilgrims across faiths venerate St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary in Goa, western India, defying the tropical sun, to pay homage to the relics of the saint credited with evangelization across Asia.

India is only 2% Christian, so although a proportion of places is reserved for Catholics, most of the students within the Jesuit educational system were and are Hindus and Muslims.



It's **Day Two** of our pilgrimage, the only full day we have without travel. Our first stop today is at a recreated 17th century Jesuit service mission, **Sainte-Marie among the Hurons** in what is now Ontario, Canada, that played a significant role in early Canadian history. Established in 1639 and abandoned in 1649, the village served as the headquarters for the French Jesuit mission to the Huron-Wendat people. For the French, "Huron" was a term of derision for unkempt, unruly peasants. Nonetheless, the French were impressed by what they perceived as the strength, stature and bountiful crops of the Huron-Wendat. The French called the territory Huronia whereas the Huron-Wendat called it Wendake, or "a land apart". It lays south of Georgian Bay and east to Lake Simcoe. <https://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/local-history-genealogy/2020/01/sainte-marie-among-the-hurons-selections-from-the-jesuit-relations-and-allied-documents.html>



The reconstructed settlement offered us a highly immersive historical experience, vividly portraying life during this time. Inside the mission compound, tourists met indigenous interpreters dressed in period costume as well as interpreters dressed as Jesuits, lay brothers, and *donnés*. We conversed with the blacksmith as he shaped an axe head, one of the French products the Wendats, who had no knowledge of metal work prior to the arrival of the Europeans, cherished the most. In the Wendat longhouse which could accommodate 45 people, we just missed seeing a First Nations woman dressed in a combination of French and Amerindian clothes.

In 1639, a dozen Frenchmen erected the first dwelling in the rudimentary "*en piliers*" or post style. Over the following decade, Sainte-Marie became a virtual small village comprising 22 buildings, including a blacksmith's shop, two churches, a refectory, a hospital, several workshops, cultivated fields, and a stable.



A part of the mission was reserved for the indigenous converts, who had their own chapel, with only a dirt floor, in order to allow the *okis*, or spirits of the earth, to circulate freely, in accordance with Wendat beliefs. The personnel of the mission reached a peak of 18 missionary priests, who were supported in their efforts by many lay people, lay brothers, *donnés* (a term derived from the French verb *donner*, to give, to designate this group of men that offer their services for free to the Jesuits), and even a few soldiers to ensure their protection. In fact, in 1648, there were a total of 66 Frenchmen at Sainte-Marie. In the context of the New France of this period, this was quite a significant number.

The presence of the Europeans however, exacerbated the traditional rivalries between the Wendat and the Iroquois that lived further south, leading to a devastating war that the Iroquois won. In March 1649, several hundred Iroquois destroyed the Wendat villages of Saint-Louis and Saint-Ignace, located just to the east of Sainte-Marie. The Jesuit missionaries **Gabriel Lalemant** and **Jean de Brébeuf** were captured, tortured, and then killed. The desperate situation in which the French found themselves forced them to make a painful decision. Father Paul Ragueneau, the third and last superior of the Sainte-Marie mission, set fire to the mission in June 1649. The Jesuits and some 300 Christian Wendat eventually journeyed back to Québec in 1650, where a new community was established outside the city.



For more than two centuries, the ruins of Sainte-Marie remained buried in the earth.

In the centre of the village, near the south court, lies the original Church of St. Joseph. In the back of the Church lies the grave of martyred Saints Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalemant.

The Forgotten Martyr. Meet **Joseph Chiwatenhwa**, one of the First Indigenous Catholics in Canada. When Jesuits first established their missions in Canada during the early 1600s, they were helped in Huronia by a number of first believers. Among them was “The Forgotten Martyr” Joseph Chiwatenhwa.

“The Jesuit Relations” chronicles recounts his life, a true testament to the Faith: <https://ucatholic.com/blog/meet-martyr-joseph-chiwatenhwa-one-of-the-first-indigenous-catholics-in-canada/>

Chiwatenhwa had been deeply touched by the Christian teachings of the Jesuit missionaries in 1636, when he first met them, despite the fact that other members of his Huron tribe blamed these missionaries for the epidemics that had broken out in Huron lands. He himself became ill. After his convalescence, he was baptized on August 16, 1637, by Father Jean de Brébeuf and named Joseph. His wife, Aonette, was baptized on March 19, 1638; her first name was Marie. Their marriage was blessed on the same day; it was the first Catholic marriage in Huronia. Joseph became the first lay administrator of the Catholic Church in Canada in 1639. He helped the Jesuits translate hymns and prayers from French into Huron. He was impressed by the teachings of St. Ignatius and the Spiritual Exercises. He was the first Huron to follow the Exercises of St. Ignatius in eight days.

This good Christian often went to the help of the Fathers, and one day he decided to enlarge his hut so that a chapel decent enough for his God could find room there.

On August 2, 1640, he was tomahawk martyred by two Hurons who hated him, because he was so devoted to the Jesuit Fathers. Shortly after the death of this Huron saint, Saint Jean de Brébeuf had a vision of him in his heavenly glory: “I saw a pavilion or a dome come down from heaven and rest on the tomb of our Joseph Chiwatenhwa”.



After his death, his family continued working with the Jesuits to spread the Faith, and more members of the Huron nation were baptized into the Church. Saint Gabriel Lalemant considered Chiwatenhwa an excellent catechist, calling him the “apostle” to the Huron people.

NEXT UP: MASS AT ST. JOSEPH’S CHURCH, MARTYRS SHRINE



The 20th century Trappist and spiritual writer Thomas Merton once wrote “the geographical pilgrimage is the symbolic acting out of an inner journey. One can have one without the other. It is best to have both.” Which is exactly what we proceeded to do after a fulfilling, enjoyable and insightful morning with vibrant and fascinating experiences at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons with its rich mix of history, culture, and natural beauty. The site is located directly across the road from the Martyrs Shrine in Midland, Ontario.

We also had three generations of women from the same family in Orleans, Louise, Christelle and Dahlia, on this pilgrimage with us, symbolic perhaps of the continuity of faith, tradition, and family bonds and the sharing of wisdom and stories.

St. Joseph’s Church at the Martyrs Shrine features a unique architectural style that blends European and Indigenous elements. Outside you have the European Gothic stonework with the structure’s floorplan in the shape of a cross. The inside design complements a long house and the rooftop slopes like an inverted bark canoe. While traveling by canoe during a rainstorm, one might huddle briefly under an inverted canoe for comfort. The gift of cover and shelter from storms within the Shrine is *long-term*. Statues depicting Martyrs and Saints adorn the inside of the church as well as the vast grounds. All of us were captivated by the canes and crutches displayed under a stained glass window and hung on the wall, a powerful testament to the miracles attributed to the martyrs; a visual representation of reported healings.



Mass was celebrated by Fr. Waldemar assisted by Deacon Eugene Perabo. The Missal readings and prayers during Mass specifically honored the lives and sacrifices of the Canadian Martyrs. We were offered blessings with the martyrs’ relics after Mass; they were vivid reminders of the heroic virtue that God worked in and through their lives.



IN CONCLUSION...

While there are no Oscars or Nobel prizes awarded for organizing pilgrimages, the event's importance and the impact it had on each of us must be acknowledged. The first time I met Pat (and Paul) was on a pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Cape Shrine in Quebec; the second largest Marian Shrine in North America. I had just moved to Orleans. Pat and Paul are what you might call *mensh* : people of honor and integrity, people you can always count on. They combine a remarkable warmheartedness with a degree of compassion. I, for one, am grateful to count them as friends. And I know the Knights of Columbus feel exactly the same.





Rogues Gallery
top Left to right
St. Mary's Wilno Pilgrims
Ste Marie among Hurons
Martyrs Shrine Group
Sacred Heart Icon at
Divine Infant
KofC Bundle Sunday
Honour Guard re: Icon
Children's Christmas
Breakfast



MOM'S MORNING OUT



Mom's Morning Out is a weekly gathering for moms with pre-school aged kids to pray, share, and draw closer to Jesus. We are able to share in the uniqueness of our relationship with God as mothers. We strive to hear His word in Scripture and through reflection over coffee all in the midst of our children playing. It's a relaxed atmosphere yet we take the time to deepen our faith and encourage one another in ways to personally respond to Jesus each week.

From June to August, we will be meeting more casually at a variety of parks every Tuesday from 10am-12pm. Find our Facebook page "Divine Infant Friends - Mom's Morning Out" to find our park hop schedule for summer 2025. In September, we will restart our weekly gatherings in the parish hall.

There are always new moms joining us from within the parish and around the city. For any women interested in joining us, come check it out! Or if you want to connect with someone first, feel free to contact Michelle at Michelle.gallagher0409@gmail.com.



BEREAVMENT MINISTRY

The Teddy Bear

Teddy bears are a source of comfort even from early childhood, they were hugged, or thrown to release emotion. Marj and Darwin shared that the Bereavement bears now have become travelling companions sitting in the place of honour where a loved one sat. Fallon told us that during her recuperating period in hospital her bear was right beside her. Most concurred that their bears provide comfort keeping them close in sight such as on a bookcase, etc., Margaret commented, "I am here holding my warm and soft teddy bear and wrapped in my shawl, a gift I will treasure always". Intimacy and comfort go hand along with peace and joy.

Intimacy in the Circle

Cheryl declared "Dad is with me", as she tenderly pointed to her cremation urn necklace that contained some of his ashes. The signature of hearts represents love between father and daughter. The one heart the expansion of their love. She was not only looking better but feeling better. Her comrades on this journey recognized the change. Many of them recognized the change in themselves including Darrell, Darwin, Marj, Susan etc. Yes, they looked and felt better. Everyone recognized it.

The Circle

Darrell spoke of the security he felt in our seating circle. It reminded him of his own indigenous traditions, renewed practice. Darrell joined us to understand and help his wife whose sister died. It was a comfortable setting during a hard experience. Others in the group agreed. It was a safe place nourished by respect. Trust and friendships developed. Darrell described the experience thus:



"We, as survivors, are tasked with honouring the individual Spirit of our departed loved ones as well as our ancestors and, giving hope to those around us.....We have met in this circle and have shared stories of those dear to us.....You have left us with the notion that each day.....in this imperfect world we strive to give gratitude and not lose our sense of awe and wonder....."

The Congregation

We sit in the pews beside someone for years, never knowing their name. Then one day, we no longer see them. Announcements and prayers from the pulpit are not helpful, if we only relate by facial recognition. Dolores Cyr of the Pastoral Care Ministry suggested that we needed a book including the photos of those who died. This project is in the making. Those whose celebration of life service held here at Divine Infant will be included. Those whose service held elsewhere will need to provide us with details for everyone to be included.

Thank you, Dolores, for the great suggestion!



Bereavement Garden & Memorial Stones



The opening of the Memorial Garden will have passed by the time the Messenger goes to press. The celebration includes a beautiful mass with an encouraging homily from Father Waldemar. He has told us that "our loved ones have arrived; we are still on the journey". Another very comforting message was when he said, "the bridge between Heaven and earth has started by our prayers for them, and their prayers for us". Stones are blessed. The garden is blessed. Those grieving bring photos, notes and put them in the Picture Perfect Memories Box. We eat cake beautifully decorated by Marie Noiles, a parishioner and cake decorator at Sobeys, as well as other goodies during the reception listening to Roseanne playing background music.



The messages on the decorated stones in the Bereavement Memorial Garden give us a glimpse of the affection and the relationship between our dear departed and the grieving person, as well as a sense of the actual person. Shown below are a few examples.

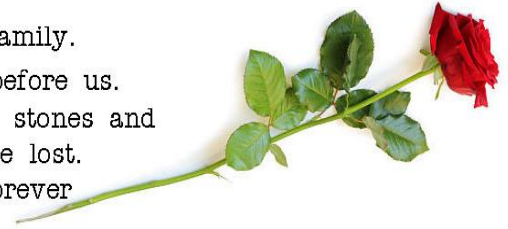
Why stones. When visiting the grave site, Jewish people leave stones at the grave site. So, did Jesus. The early Christians did as well and used to mark certain events. Stones are very symbolic with many references in scripture.

The stones in our garden are meaningful to all the parishioners who participate honouring a loved one(s). They cherish these stones that represent memories, loss and hope; characteristics of Pilgrims of Hope. Thank you all who have and continue to participate. It is a time to recall and share happy memories.



Remembering with a Stone

We stride arm in arm until we reach the resting place of our family.
Each of us bow our heads and pray for those that have gone before us.
Then my Aunt places roses on the tomb; my mother takes four stones and
places them on the tomb. One stone for each loved one we have lost.
She turns and says to me flowers wither and die, stones last forever



LETTERS TO MY SISTER IN HEAVEN - A TESTIMONY

These are excerpts from Marj Paul's journal. She also posts them on Facebook hoping her experience helps others navigate their GRIEF JOURNEY.

Last night I was at a group grieving session, we have been part of since February. We met weekly for two hours, a monthly break, then back together last night.



Things I learned which I hope can help anyone going through this and those who want to support friends going through grief. Grief never leaves us when we lose someone very close to us. And that does not mean we are stuck in the stages of grief; it is just there. I would never have thought of joining a grief group, but I knew I needed help. I was spiraling down, and nobody seemed to really understand this. Very common.

Sometimes I just need my own space and that meant I wasn't as social as I had been. Sometimes people don't understand that, and it can be hurtful when we, those grieving, do not socialize. One person in last night's group shared her experience with a longtime friend who really wasn't there for her. This friend didn't respect her feelings when she didn't want to socialize. Most times for her it was just wrong timing. We have all felt this at times.

Finding the right words to say to a friend or someone who has experienced loss can be difficult. At times it is just the presence of someone with you that is important. Let the grieving person heal. I think in some ways Darrell benefited more than me through the experience. It acknowledges we will all experience death throughout our life and at our age we have experienced many. At our age we try to acknowledge what we have and know eventually we will experience our own loss. Live life to the fullest as much as you can. Be kind and understanding as everyone has their own story.

I hope those who read this, that you get some comfort when experiencing grief. There is no time limit to healing. I miss my sister and even though it is now 9 months it is still hard to accept that she is not here.

The moderators giving the course and course participants can make a difference. Ours were outstanding. You didn't have to share or talk if you were not ready. There was a lot of that for the first three sessions. Emotions are very raw. Then and now. Halfway through the course more people were opening up about their feelings and friendships happened. We have attended weekly get togethers for breakfast or coffee and will continue to do so. We have found common bonds, share common day events and laughter within the group. We know we will experience our own loss. Live life to the fullest.

A Little Levity Goes A Long Way

Laughing is not a cure all, but it sure helps us to cope, even those grieving. Sometimes it's a life situation. An incident through the day. A story in the room wrought from frustration as well as a good old-fashioned joke. Ron Delaney came most weeks with a joke to share. A good laugh was had by all. Below is a sample.

Beethoven

A man whose wife had recently passed away, was visiting her gravesite in an old graveyard one evening. He thought he was all alone but heard some music playing that sounded familiar. Looking around he could see nothing and couldn't determine where it was coming from.

Off in the distance a stranger appeared. He approached the stranger and asked him if he could hear the music. Why yes, I can, where is it coming from? I don't know but I think it is a familiar piece I have heard before. Why yes, the stranger said, I believe it is a piece from that great composer Beethoven. Now I recognize it, it is from his seventh symphony. Still confused, they left but came back the next day. Sure, enough they heard the same kind of music but could not determine where it was coming from.

They did however decide it was again a Beethoven symphony; this time it was his fifth symphony. They left deciding to return the following day and get to the bottom of this.

Returning this time in the afternoon they heard the music again. Seeing a cemetery worker nearby they asked him to come over where they were standing. He also heard the music and was told about their experience from the previous days and said yes that sounded like Beethoven's third symphony. The two men asked what he thought was going on?

His reply: I guess Beethoven is "decomposing".



St. Francis of Assisi School By: Jennifer Conway

As the 2024–2025 school year draws to a close, staff and students at St. Francis of Assisi are reflecting on a year filled with learning, adventure, and a shared commitment to this year's theme: **"We Are Called to Open Doors."**

This inspiring message guided students, staff, and families throughout the year, encouraging everyone to recognize and celebrate the unique gifts of others while fostering inclusivity, compassion, and community. From classroom collaborations to heartfelt outreach, the year has been rich with opportunities to make meaningful connections.

One of the most memorable times this year was **Education Week**, where the spirit of "opening doors" was brought to life in a series of creative and impactful activities.



Opening Doors to Classmates, Friends and Staff

The week kicked off with a thoughtful Buddy Card activity, where students teamed up with their school buddies to create kindness cards. These cards were later shared with students at St. Peter's and residents of a local retirement home, Veni Portobello Retirement Community, spreading messages of thanks, encouragement and joy. The school also came together to watch *Inside Out*, followed by reflective discussions and activities focused on emotions and mental wellness.





We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Linda Immetsberger, Developmental Specialist, on receiving the Director of Education Commendation Award. This well-deserved recognition was presented to her during Education Week in celebration of her outstanding contributions to student development and support.



We also proudly congratulate Cinda, a Grade 6 student, on receiving the Celebrating Excellence Award. This honor recognizes her exceptional achievements and commitment to excellence in her learning journey.



Opening Doors to Families

Students proudly welcomed their families into the school during Open House, showcasing their classrooms, projects, and learning spaces. The event buzzed with excitement as parents explored the Book Fair, browsed student-created exhibits at the Eco Fair, and watched a vibrant performance by the Dance Team.

Opening Doors to Our Faith Community

Faith remained at the heart of Education Week. Students gathered to pray the Rosary, focusing on the Joyful Mysteries, and took time for spiritual reflection. A highlight of the week was the visit from Father Michael, who celebrated Easter Mass with the school community, offering a meaningful reminder of faith and togetherness.





Fr. Michael El-Nachef at our school

Opening Doors to Our Neighbours



In the spirit of giving back, students participated in Jump Rope for Heart, raising funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Meanwhile, the entrepreneurial minds in Grade 3 launched their initiative, Hands of Hope, selling handmade products at Broadhead Brewery. Their efforts raised money in support of CHEO, reinforcing the power of youth-led action and community support.



We were pleased to welcome Cailyn, who shared an Indigenous story with us and contributed a meaningful piece of art to our space. She painted the fifth pillar in our rotunda, which is now dedicated to Sedna, the guardian of the sea animals, based on the story she shared. This beautiful addition deepens our connection to Indigenous knowledge and storytelling.

Congratulations to our students who celebrated their first Eucharist on May 18th. As always, we appreciate the support of Divine Infant in our faith journey. They also hosted our grade 6 students for a retreat along with the students of St. Clare.

As June arrives, students and staff look ahead to the final weeks of the school year with hearts full of gratitude and a continued commitment to open doors—whether in the classroom, at home, or within the broader community.

The 2024–2025 school year may be wrapping up, but the lessons of empathy, inclusion, and kindness will carry on long after the final bell rings.



Our Lady of Wisdom School (OLW)

God's Ways In And Around OLW - A Crossing Guard's Observations

Often it is said that “God’s ways are not our ways”. I can attest otherwise that indeed I observe and experience God’s ways from the students, parents and staff of Our Lady of Wisdom (OLW) school as well as the local residents in the neighbourhood.

Practicing **THOUGHTFULNESS** is evident. **CARING** is evident. What the world needs now - more of Our Lady of Wisdom’s **KINDNESS** reflecting God’s own ways, Jesus’ example like I have experienced - part of the Catholic School’s mandate.

Sharing the Bounty

Let me introduce you to Anthony and Scotty, each thoughtful and caring like the rose and bottle of honey they kindly shared with me and others, shown in the photograph on the right.



When the roses are blooming Anthony comes holding a few roses on very short stems. Not just once but regularly sharing the gift of beauty brightening our day. There is one for me and a couple more to give to others in the school, probably the teachers. When I am absent, my replacement, Kim will send me a photo with a message, “I got one too”. These roses come from Mom and Anthony’s Garden where they both till the soil, water etc., adding beauty and comfort for themselves and to the community.

Receiving these roses is often a sign that a favour from God has been granted to me. I pray the St. Therese Rose Novena. In her writings she promises to send a rose as a sign of God’s favour. Yes, many times, God has used Anthony to provide the rose of which I am grateful. Just leave it to God to use a child to share His goodness, His favour. Think of Fatima, Lourdes, etc., and Anthony.

Scotty gave me a large jar of honey from Dad’s “cupboard of plenty”. Such a wide jar for a small hand to hold. Tasty on toast, soothing to those winter coughs that plague me. Scottie’s gift is as comforting as a cup of hot chocolate on a winter’s day. It’s experiencing God’s goodness, caring taught at home and school.

Speaking of hot chocolate, in my first year, a great big voice shouted from his stopped car “you, come here”, as I approached, he handed me a cup of hot chocolate. This kindness continued while his children attended OLV. Many others have well provided for me. Hot chocolate in winter and water bottles from the neighbours along Marcoux. On snowy days, as I approach my car, I have been instructed “just get in the car, we’ll clean the snow off”. (Photo of Mike, his wife brings me water.). For many years, an elderly couple came by with a Tim’s card to “warm” me up in winter, and “quench my thirst” on warm days. That’s the Marcoux/St. George/OLW community.

Uplift One Another



One fall morning, family love was clearly displayed by Rylan, when he ran ahead of his brother, Kiptyn, breathless, he told me, “it’s my brother’s birthday” while looking back to see if Kiptyn was catching up. He wanted me to acknowledge his brother’s birthday. I was grateful for the opportunity to do so. As Kiptyn approached the intersection, we sang “Happy Birthday”. Not to leave anyone out, days later we repeated the happy birthday cheer for their cousins Trent and Trina again at the request of Rylan who was as delighted as his brother and cousins. So was I! Such generosity and I had a privileged small part. Indeed, uplift one another. Celebrate each other.

Another trio of brothers: Eli, Wyatt, Sam and Dad. A big snowstorm provided the backdrop to highlight a tender moment between big brother Sam and Wyatt. The snow covered sidewalks were quite high. Many walked on the roads others climbed that mountain of a snowbank. Sam and Wyatt included. Maneuvering in the snow was hard, keeping balance difficult especially for the younger crowd. Whenever Wyatt was about to fall back, Sam stopped the fall ever so gently. I don’t think Wyatt realized what was going on. He did slip back once. It was such a lovely caring moment, and I was a witness. I felt so guilty that their parents didn’t enjoy that moment. I did share the story with dad.

Now, Wyatt is the older brother walking, chatting, following the rules of the road!

Wyatt is a recipient of the Esso medal, like others at OLV but never said a word, just humble playing hard, for the team. Ely, like his brothers, so shy at first, now as engaging as his brothers. Sam attends St. Pete’s continues to be a friendly, polite young man. A positive example to his brothers and the community. Others who went on to high school come back to visit, sometimes behind the wheel, (in grandad’s car) or the voice at the Macdonald’s drive through! Others tell me stories of the prom, college life and graduation!

Faith Of Our Father

Registering a child at OLV is choosing a faith experience. Home and school guidance reinforcing the faith. Living the faith. Two dads wearing the faith message quite literally! Photo above of Chander, Anavja and Shantu, Dad affirming faith. As well, two photos of Steven Nicole and Frederick, another Dad affirming trust in God.





We can all reflect God's way. His presence is in and around OLW. Where there is love, there is God; shown by thoughtfulness, kindness honouring those around us. Every day I experience and observe a lot of love, born by good examples and taught by parents, teachers, children and neighbours. Those included in this article represent many others. Three cheers for the OLW. community.



DIVINE INFANT SCHOOL

Principal's Message

We respectfully acknowledge that Divine Infant school is located on traditional Algonquin, Anishinabek territory.

We acknowledge the Algonquin people's long-standing relationship with this land, which remains unceded. We also pay respect to all Indigenous people, including the Metis and Inuit from all regions across Canada that call Ottawa home

Hello Tiger Cub Families,

This is the time of year where we are fully into planning for September 2025. If you know that you will not be attending our school in the fall for certain, please let us know in writing asap. No time is ever too early or too late to communicate this information to us. In addition, if you know of any neighbours looking to register their child to our school please direct them to register asap via OCSB Register Now

This month is PRIDE month, and we continue to celebrate diversity and acceptance. Every person has the right to be honoured and accepted for who they are and what they represent. At Divine Infant we don't judge, shame or discriminate against anyone. Everyone has a right to feel respect and belongs in our school community. We are all part of this human

race, and everyone deserves to feel love and kindness. We continue to drive this message during the school day and trust that acceptance and dignity of persons is the same message our children receive at home.

As we look into June and the summer months, we have moved to 'Ordinary Time' in our Liturgical calendar. This is a time of precious growth and change. We are called to make our world a better place. May we all experience renewal of body, mind and spirit as we continue into June and the summer months and remember to focus on the things that bring us joy!

Please bookmark our school website to view the calendar specifically to ensure you don't miss up and coming public events. The calendar is updated frequently and always includes events that parents are welcome to attend along with special themed days etc.

I continue to be amazed by the support and devotion from our community of educators, students and parents and for this I am grateful! While I am on to a new adventure as the principal at St. Kateri Tekakwitha, please know that I am leaving with a heavy heart and will be forever grateful for the kindness and trust I have received from this community.

Tania L. Gamache (Mrs. G)

Staff Goodbye's

A heartfelt goodbye & congratulations to Mrs. Boeckler (beloved teacher) & Mrs. McGowan (cherished EA) who are both retiring at the end of June. Their commitment, dedication and work ethic will continue to supersede them for years to come! Their compassion and kindness has touched many students, staff and our parent community greatly! We wish you both the best, Mrs. M and Mrs. Boeckler.

Each new school year brings on changes for various reasons. On behalf of Divine Infant school, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the following staff for their dedication and contributions they have made during their time with us.

- Ms. Bourgeois will be joining the Chapel Hill community
- Mme Kyra, Ms. Amanda, Ms. Lisa, Ms. Normoyle, Ms. Roxanne, Ms. Pham, Ms. Bailey, and Mr. Jung contract ending & new location still to be determined
- Mrs. Heather contract ending & finalizing her EA qualifications
- Mrs. Andrea contract ending & pursuing her teaching degree

We wish them all the best. Their commitment and dedication to our school will continue to be felt by all those who knew them and students who had them as their educators. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for their dedication and the contributions they have made during their time with us.

Message from your Parent Council Co-chairs

As we close out another year, the School Council would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all those that participated in our fundraisers (cycle 1 & 2 of pizza and Purdy's) and events (movie night & year end BBQ). A big thank you to all those that volunteered, we could not host events without you!

It's been an exciting year! From officially opening the outdoor learning space and adding items to the yards, fulfilling a staff wish list of educational items for the classrooms and learning commons and purchasing the grade 4 bibles, primary agendas and contributing to the grade 6 graduation. We already have plans in the works for next year.

Have a wonderful summer and we will see everyone in the fall.
Andrea Mackasey & Valerie Cahn

Parent Council - Message of APPRECIATION

With the year almost coming to an end, on behalf of the DIV community, we would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to all the members of this year's Catholic School Parent Council. This dedicated team of people have volunteered their time and support throughout this school year in many silent ways. Their commitment to our students and school is simply outstanding. A very special thanks to our co-chairs Andrea Mackesay & Valerie Cahn for being so easy to work with and giving that little bit of extra time above and beyond! Special shout out to Jeremy Rude for all the behind the scenes accounting he took care of for the parent council over this school year. With each new year, we invite and encourage parents to get involved with the Parent Council. As always, we look forward to getting to know ALL of our parents!

Jump Rope for Heart

Shout out to Ms. Lisa Crack and her team for organizing a wonderful and impactful outdoor event for our students. Our school collected just over \$500 for heart and stroke research.

Sophie d'Orléans - Recording Opportunity

We were grateful to have Sophie d'Orléans pick our school for a recording opportunity with our students! Thanks to those parents for signing permission and special shout out to Mme Gariépy-Ikeson, Mme Vesely & Mme Lemieux for making this special connection with a local Canadian French singer songwriter. We look forward to seeing the video in the fall.

**St. Matthew Catholic High School Update**

By James DeGurse (Chaplaincy Leader)

In recent months at St. Matthew Catholic High School, our community has had many opportunities to grow in faith. I'll highlight just a few:

Our theme during the season of Lent was Opening the Holy Door, connected to our Board's Spiritual Theme, We Are Called to Open Doors, and the Jubilee Year. Our Lenten theme used the Holy Door, which is opened by the Pope for the Jubilee Year, as a way of reflecting on our own spiritual journey. The Holy Door is a symbol of salvation - to pass through the Holy Door is to find eternal life in Christ. We reflected on this theme during our daily prayer, as well as through student art projects, our Ash Wednesday service, and our Holy Thursday Service.

During Catholic Education Week, Fr. Waldemar celebrated Mass for all students from grades 7-11. In his homily, Fr. Waldemar helped us reflect on what it means to be Pilgrims of Hope, the theme for the Jubilee Year and Catholic Education Week. We also had a beautiful Grad Mass and Retreat for our graduating students, ending their St. Matthew journey on a fun and faith-filled note.

A new initiative began this past semester in which students from two Religion classes donated some of their class time to service at Divine Infant Church. Students helped Parish caretaker Jeff Johnson with upkeep of the church and hands-on projects. In line with our spiritual theme of Opening Doors, this gave students the opportunity to open doors and to be of service to the wider community.

Another recent highlight has been taking Religion classes on mini pilgrimages. A celebration of our Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope theme Jubilee Pilgrims of Hope theme, these pilgrimages begin in our school's chapel and end at Divine Infant Church, with stops for creative reflection along the way. To give just one example: One recent mini pilgrimage was

connected to the Religion class's unit on forgiveness. Along the way, students were invited to connect with the theme of forgiveness through visual art and skits. When we arrived at the church, I showed the students the cornerstone blessed by St. John Paul II, and told the students the amazing story of how the Pope forgave the man who shot him. Students were invited to consider the radical forgiveness to which we're called as followers of Jesus.

It has been a blessing opening doors to God and our neighbour throughout the 2024-2025 school year. We are looking forward to celebrating our faith next year through our new spiritual theme, We Are Called to Build Bridges.

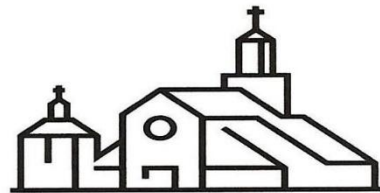
God bless,
James DeGurse
Chaplaincy Leader



Divine Infant Church Schedules

Regular Mass Times:

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



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

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

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

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

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

"No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass.

*The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright;
sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtue and merit increases;
and the devil's schemes are frustrated." ~ St. Lawrence Justinian*

Planning for the future

Take the first step today and receive a
FREE Planning Kit.

613-837-2370 | kellyorleansfh.ca



Maison Funéraire Kelly
Funeral Home - Orléans
by Arbor Memorial

Arbor Memorial Inc.

CIMON

REAL ESTATE TEAM

Better Real Estate Decisions Everyday



Mark & Josh Cimon

REALTORS®

info@cimonrealestate.com

613.818.0863

RE/MAX
HALLMARK REALTY GROUP



**OTTAWA
PHYSIOTHERAPY &
SPORT CLINICS**

ORLEANS

8 - 1420 Youville Drive, Orleans ON

613.830.3466

Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 8 pm, Sat. 8 am - 1 pm

WWW.OPTSC.COM

GARAGE FLOOR SPECIALIST

- New Concrete Floor With Mesh
- Concrete Floor Resurfacing
- Concrete Repairs Of All Kinds
- Painting Garage Floor with 2-Part Epoxy



Don Sincennes 613-294-9933



**GREENSCAPE
SOLUTIONS**

LAWN CARE & PROPERTY SERVICES
Orleans - Family Owned

Snow Removal & Property Services

613.824.9449

www.greenscapesolutions.ca

Liturgica
inc.

*Religious
Supplies
& Gifts*

Shop online: www.liturgica.ca **613-745-1537**

Showroom: 2310 St-Laurent, Unit 209

Locally & Family Owned - Entreprise familiale et locale

HERITAGE
FUNERAL COMPLEX - COMPLEXE FUNÉRAIRE INC.

1250 ch. Trim Rd., Ottawa (Orléans), www.heritagefh.ca

(613) 830-2305

Inspiring Dreams Since 1980



GREG & STEVE

HAMRE
REAL ESTATE TEAM

RE/MAX

www.WeKnowOttawa.com **(613) 841-2111**



Symphony Senior Living
ORLÉANS

Jodi Davidson, CEO

6419 Lumberman Way, Orléans, ON K1C 6E8

(613) 697-8640

crcorleans@SymphonySeniorLiving.com

~ Serving Seniors & Their Loved Ones ~

Bruyère Village apartments for people
60+ on the banks of the Ottawa River.
Book a tour at 613-683-2508
889 Hiawatha Park Rd, Orléans



bruyere.org/village

Bruyère

INTERLOCK

INSTALLATION,
CLEANING & REPAIR
SPECIALISTS

DON SINCENNES 613-294-9933

CANWAY PAVING AND CONTRACTING INC.



- * Complete Asphalt Works
- Complete Paving / Resurfacing
- Patching Pothole / Catch basins / Manholes
- Pressurized sealing
- Hot rubberized crack filling
- * Interlock, Landscaping & Concrete Works

T: (613) 521-1343 / F: (613) 521-2830

W: canwaypaving.ca / E: canwaypaving@bellnet.ca

Free Estimates & Written Guarantee

Gabriel Kidanemariam

Don Sincennes **Parging**
FOUNDATION PARGING
SPECIALISTS

DON SINCENNES
OWNER

613-294-9933
FREE ESTIMATES



**Renovations
Landscape & Cleaning**
Commercial & Residential

Nathan Walker

Owner

1-613-415-3570

contact@walkerpropertyservice.ca

www.walkerpropertyservice.ca

**Support your parish & promote your business with an
advertisement on this page.**

Contact the parish office:

di_office@rogers.com

613-824-6822 ext 221.