

GRATITUDE NEWS



Solemn Crowning of Our Lady

By: Father Ian Duffy

On Saturday, October 1st, our parish was honoured in a very historic manner, as the image of Our Lady, which has sat atop the High Altar for over a century, was solemnly crowned.

After Bishop Crosby declared the Basilica of Our Lady to be the Diocesan Shrine of Our Blessed Lady on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2019, he petitioned the Holy Father in Rome to grant us the honour of having a crowned image of Our Lady in the Basilica. Thanks be to God, the Holy Father granted this honour, and with the gracious assistance of His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Roche, a beautiful crown was sent from Rome to honour Our Blessed Mother, and this Basilica. The crown, made by Savi Brothers in Rome, is gold-plated, and adorned with pearls and aquamarines.



At a very well-attended ceremony on our final Marian Day of 2022, the following proclamation from the Holy Father was read to the gathered congregation from across the Diocese:

To The Chancery at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

At the request of the Most Excellent Lord David Douglas Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton, in a letter dated 12 November in the Year of Our Lord 2019, by virtue of the particular faculties assigned to this congregation by the Supreme Pontiff Francis, we gladly grant, in the name and by the authority of the Supreme Pontiff himself, that the gracious image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is venerated in the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, may be crowned by a precious diadem, assuming no objections whatever to the contrary.

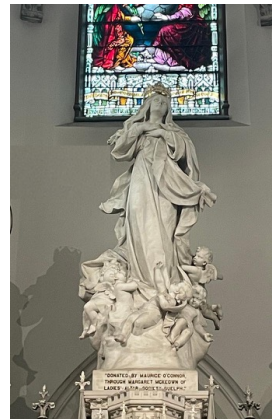
From the offices of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, on the 8th day of December in the Year of Our Lord 2019, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Robert Cardinal Sarah, Prefect and Archbishop Arthur Roche, Secretary

Bishop Crosby responded to the proclamation with the following words:

My brothers and sisters, through the gracious permission of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we have come to crown this image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This ceremony reminds us that the greatest in the kingdom are those who serve with love. Our Lord himself came to serve and not to be served, and Our Lady was the humble servant of the Lord when she was on earth. Now, in the glory of heaven, she is still the God-bearer who cares about our salvation; and is for us the minister of holiness and the Queen of love

After Bishop Crosby blessed the Crown, it was taken in solemn procession through the Basilica, before Deacon Quinto took it by lift to the top of the High Altar, and laid the Crown on the head of Our Lady as the Choir sang a beautiful setting of Mary's great hymn of praise, [The Magnificat](#).

We thank God, Pope Francis, and Bishop Crosby, for this wonderful honour, and we look forward to many more years of honouring Our Lady here in our Basilica, the Diocesan Marian Shrine.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Solemn Crowning of Our Lady
- The Queen's Tea
- St. Vincent de Paul – Making a Difference to People in Need
- 14th Annual Parish Picnic
- Young Adult Book Study Group
- Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- Parish Golf Tournament
- Knights of Columbus Participation in Marian Days
- Upcoming Events

The Queen's Tea

By: *Agnese Nagy*



Following the beautiful celebration of the Solemn Crowning of Our Lady Immaculate, many gathered in the Parish Hall for **The Queen's Tea**.

Over 180 parishioners and guests sat down to an afternoon treat of tea (and coffee), sandwiches, scones and desserts. The tables were arranged and decorated to provide a "High Tea" experience for all who attended. Sincere appreciation is owed to the Parish Team who planned and worked for days to provide the best experience possible, and sincere thanks to all who attended. We hope to make this a yearly culminating event to our Marian Day observances. So, mark your calendars and save the date (first Saturday of October) for next year!

14th Annual Parish Picnic

Article By: Mark Sammut

Pictures by: Greta DeLonghi

On Sunday, September 11th, after a two-year hiatus due to the Pandemic, we celebrated our 14th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day at the St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre.

The weather was excellent and we were happy to see nearly 300 attendees! The picnic was very much a multi-generational event, and it was so nice to see so many children in attendance. The day started at 1pm with an open-air Mass with the celebrant being Monsignor Dennis Noon, followed by an afternoon of fun and activities for everyone which included: great music from The Music Makers, children's games, face painting, raffles, and a fun euchre tournament. Several parishioners shared their wonderful musical talents! A delicious BBQ dinner was served, followed by the raffle draws.

A very special thanks to all the volunteers, groups, business sponsors and supporters. It is with all of this support, that we were able to donate over \$1,200 to the Church Building Fund - all while keeping our ticket cost for the day at only \$5.00 per person!!

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this year's Picnic such a great success! We hope to see you at next year's Picnic -- **please mark Sunday, September 10, 2023 on your calendars!**



Young Adult Book Study Group

By: *Hanna Caruso*

In April of this year, a young adult book study group began meeting in the Newstead Room of the Basilica every other Wednesday evening. The group was formed to provide an opportunity for fellowship with other young Catholics in the area. It has been a great chance for young people in the parish to get to know each other and have lively, deep conversations about their Catholic faith. At each meeting, the group enjoys a potluck dinner and social time to catch up with each other and get to know newcomers, followed by a discussion of a particular book, essay, or encyclical.



Over the course of the meetings so far, twenty-five young people have attended at one time or another, from the Basilica and other nearby parishes. The group includes several newlyweds and engaged couples, and also single young people. The group has also gathered for social events and to attend Compline in the Crypt. It has been impressive that, despite the busy lives that people lead, so many have made time to attend the group on a regular basis, and have shared how much they enjoy it.

This year, the reading selections have included 'The Four Loves' by C.S. Lewis, books from the Narnia series, excerpts from G.K. Chesterton and Flannery O'Connor, and encyclicals (Rerum Novarum and Humanae Vitae). It has been a unique chance to talk with people in the same stage of life, who are facing similar challenges, and together to dive deep into Catholic ideas about family, work, relationships, and the great gifts of the Church.

The group really looks forward to the potluck and social time, just as much as the book discussions themselves. It has been a great way to welcome newcomers to the parish and those who have been attending Mass but have had trouble meeting people. Anyone who comes to the potluck and discussion is an instant friend, and is made to feel welcome! Any young adults who are interested in attending are invited to email hannaruthcaruso@gmail.com for details.



St. Vincent de Paul Society – Making a Difference to People in Need

By: Cathie Evans

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers are involved in many initiatives throughout the year to support those in need in our community, and we are grateful to receive support from the Basilica of Our Lady Parishioners to support the various initiatives.

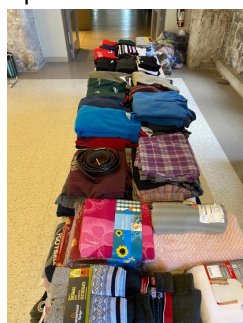
How do we support those in our Community?

Through our Vinnie's Table, we offer breakfast every weekend throughout the year to the homeless. Vinnie's Table delivers homemade sandwiches, fresh fruit, bottled water, and juice to those staying in the city's emergency shelter - the Stepping Stone. From May until Thanksgiving weekend, however, Vinnie's Table is situated on the loggia where the small statue of Our Lady is (off the stairs on Norfolk St), and from there we offer breakfast to anyone in need or living on the street.



In mid-August, we prepared 45 summer care packages that consisted of certain essential items to help those living on the streets. The care packages contained 21 items including; new t-shirt, new socks, hygiene products (soap, wipes, deodorant, toothpaste/ toothbrush, comb/brush, bandages, sunscreen, face/ hand cream) small flashlight, nail clippers, rain poncho, some snacks, a pen/marker, a small notepad or book, etc. The packages were delivered to the Guelph Community Health Centre, Stonehenge Therapeutic Centre, and the Stepping Stone Shelter.

In August, we had a clothing drive in preparation for the cooler weather. We invited the other St Vincent DePaul Conferences in the City to bring in clothing that would be appropriate to anyone spending night(s) at the Stepping Stone emergency shelter. The response from the other churches was outstanding.



During the Thanksgiving Weekend, we did a Warm Socks Drive in response to a request from the Stepping Stone shelter. Again, a tremendous response from our generous parishioners.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Basilica of Our Lady Conference – works year-round to help feed, clothe, and console those less fortunate. With your financial support, this is what our volunteers have provided over the past two years:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2022 (up to end October)</u>
Visits – 313 (333 adults and 125 children)	Visits – 190 (231 adults and 87 children)
Food Vouchers – 220	Food Vouchers – 125
Store Vouchers – 130	Store Vouchers - 150

We live in a country where a winter coat is not a luxury and where people in need may have to choose between food and warmth. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to consider your own good fortune and how this good fortune allows you to assist people in need. With a donation of money, clothing, household goods, or time, you can help us make a difference in our community.

Financial donations can be made directly to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul from the Basilica Website or a donation can be placed in the weekly collection.

Donations of clothing, furniture and other household items can be brought directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Store located at 74 Elizabeth Street.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Basilica Conference at 519-731-2563.

Knights of Columbus Parish Breakfasts

By: **Craig Chamberlain**

Our Council of Knights of Columbus hosted two pancake breakfast Sundays in 2022 - June 26th and October 30th, following the Masses. Thank you to all of the Knights who assisted in these efforts!

Our June parish breakfast Sunday was our first since pre-pandemic days, and it was remarkable how well things clicked in making it all happen after the time away from hosting them!

There is special love among our Knights for hosting these breakfasts and it is rewarding seeing the joy our Knights have in serving the food. It can be tricky knowing how much food to prepare for them!

We are grateful to all who join us for breakfast, and the words of thanks we receive is a blessing. Also, for the free-will donations we receive at the breakfasts, we will make careful, faith-filled use of your generosity.

Parish Golf Tournament – Back on the Course

By: **Stephen Nagy**

After a three-year hiatus, due to the “Disease-That-Shall-Not-Be-Named”, the 11th Annual Parish Golf Tournament resumed on June 5, 2022 with 30 golfers braving the links at Victoria Park Valley.

The day was sunny, the golf was fun, and the meal, as always, was excellent. Thanks to those who helped with the organization and running of the tournament and, of course, to Victoria Park Valley. We hope to see more of you next year, so keep the date Sunday, June 4, 2023 open for next year’s tournament.



Knights of Columbus – Participation in Marian Days

By: **Craig Chamberlain**

We had the honour of assisting with the procession of the statue of Our Lady Immaculate during this year’s five Marian Days, which was also supported with the help of Knights from other Councils and men who attended the Mass, who Our Lady sends to help!

Following our first Marian Day procession in June, some visitors to the Basilica returned to look at the carrier that one of our Knights constructed for the statue, towards also making one for their home parish - the Knight was present to give them tips!

It was a blessing to be able to serve our Basilica’s community and our Diocesan family through the processions, loving our Lord and Our Lady, in the sunshine and in this devotion.



BASILICA OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

28 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON N1H 4H8
519.824.3951
www.basilicaofourlady.com

Gratitude News is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee of our Parish, and is intended to keep Parishioners informed and connected.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Nov 29-Dec 8** – Parish Novena
- **Dec 7 & 14** – Advent Book Study, Bishop Barron’s Eucharist, 7 p.m.
- **Dec 11** – Food and Friendship Sunday after 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses
- **Jan 15, 2023** – Ministry Fair/Food and Friendship Sunday

For more information and details about upcoming events in our Parish, visit our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com. To receive the weekly bulletin, news and events in your inbox each week, go to our website and at the bottom of the homepage enter your email to “Join our Mailing List”.

Did you know...

You can follow the Basilica through social media on Instagram and Facebook:



Instagram: @shrinebool (Basilica Shrine Guelph)



Facebook: @shrinebool (Basilica— Shrine of Our Lady Immaculate)

Facebook: @boolchoir (Music at the Basilica of Our Lady)

Are you new to our Parish?

Welcome to the Parish Family of Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate! Please take a moment to register as a parishioner by completing the Parish Registration form located on our website: www.basilicaofourlady.com. Click on **Resources**, then **Forms**, then select **Parish Registration**.