

GRATITUDE NEWS



Marian Days

Submitted by: *Angie Hunt*

On the first Saturday of each month, beginning in June and ending in October, we celebrate Marian Days here at the Basilica as the Diocesan Marian Shrine. The format for each of the Marian Days begins with Holy Hour and Confessions at 9:00 am, followed by Benediction at 10:15 am, then Mass at 10:30 am, and finally a Rosary Procession, and refreshments in the Parish Hall.. Each Marian Day, we were honoured to have guest Presiders: In June, *Bishop Lobsinger*; July, *Bishop Ustrzycki*; August, *Bishop Bergie*; September, *Frank Cardinal Leo*; and in October, with our retiring *Bishop Douglas Crosby*.



In October, the Annual Regina Caeli Tea followed the Rosary Procession, and this sold-out event was a great success!

Pilgrimage to Spain and France

Submitted by: *Angie Hunt*

Father Ian Duffy led a pilgrimage of 25 people attending from our Parish as well as from Parishes throughout the Diocese, to Spain and France from June 3-13, 2025. The purpose of this journey was to nourish the faith of the participants and immerse them in a deep spiritual, cultural and historical heritage of some of France and Spain's most iconic sites.



One of the highlights, was a celebration of Mass for Pentecost at Our Lady of Lourdes in France with 30,000 people in attendance celebrated by Cardinal Wölki from Germany with Father Ian Duffy concelebrating. At Lourdes, a candle was lit for the parishioners of the Basilica.



Another highlight was in Spain at Our Lady of Montserrat on the mountain and evening vespers followed by a performance of the Boys Choir from the Abbey of Montserrat. We venerated the statue of the Black Madonna with Child and Gold Orb.

While touring Paris, we visited the tomb of St. Vincent de Paul, where his incorrupt body can be seen as well as the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Labore, the saint who received the Miraculous Medal from our Lady. We also visited the Miraculous Medal Shrine. In Nevers, France we visited the church where the incorrupt body of St. Bernadette lies in a glass coffin, and celebrated Mass in the room, (now chapel), where St. Bernadette died. We also visited Notre Dame in Paris, where the large gold disc conceals the crown of thorns of our Lord Jesus.



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The Pilgrimage was an incredible experience for all who attended, and another Pilgrimage is being planned for November 2026 to Italy. Watch the bulletin for more details in the coming months.

Wine Tasting Event

Submitted by: *Laurie Vescio*

On Friday, November 7th, the Stewardship Committee hosted a Wine Tasting Event in our Parish Hall. With just over 75 people attending, it was a great opportunity to enjoy wine, food and socializing. There were eight different wines selected from eight different wineries within the Niagara Region for people to choose from, and the food offered was carefully selected to pair with the offered wines. For a ticket price of \$25 per person, participants could choose five wine samples and enjoy an extensive selection of charcuterie and finger foods, as well as socializing.

A huge thanks to the organizing team who helped to make this event such a great success – *Angie Hunt, Patrick MacCarthy, Mark Sammut and Laurie Vescio*. Special thanks to our Wine Server volunteers – *Rebecca Schnurr and Tyler Lipke*. We also want to thank our *Bishop Macdonell student volunteers* who assisted throughout the evening with food setup, raffle ticket sales and cleanup.

Based on the success of the evening, we are looking forward to planning our next event, where we will feature wines from a different region.



Knights of Columbus Update

Submitted by: *Brandon Cox*



Photo, left - Guelph Knights of Columbus mustered in the Sleeman Centre arena, prepared to present wreaths for Council 1507, St Joseph's council, and our 4th degree assembly.



Photo, left - Chief Warrant Officer Ryan Kenny of 11 Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery presented the Basilica's wreath at the City of Guelph Remembrance Day Ceremony. CWO Kenny, Mrs. Kenny, and their seven children regularly attend 9am Mass here at the Basilica, and their children often help with collection, and volunteer at parish events.



Photo, left – Members of the Knights of Columbus preparing for the Pancake Breakfast on October 26.

Grade 7 Confirmation - St. Ignatius Catholic School

Submitted by: *Sue Majer*

Our grade 7 students celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation in November. In preparation for this important event in their faith lives, students participated in a retreat, reflecting on who Jesus is, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and their call to witness. Students also had a chance to learn more about our beautiful church through guided tours of the Basilica by Father Ian and Father Paul and then had the opportunity to spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. (see photos, below, right). Congratulations to our grade 7 students. Please keep them in your prayers as we ask that God's Holy Spirit strengthens their faith and guides them.



Living Rosary at St. Ignatius Catholic School

Written by: *Violet & William, Grade 7 Students, St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School*

On October 7th, the grade 7 classes at St. Ignatius prepared and facilitated the Living Rosary for the entire school community to experience. (see photos, right)

Every student in grade 7 shared a prayer. They either prayed the Hail Mary, Our Father or Glory Be. Some students also read a Luminous Mystery, which is an event that happens that cannot be explained. All the students sat down in a circle with an unlit candle in front of them. After each student said their prayer, they then lit the candle that was in front of them. In the end, this created a beautiful, life-size rosary. We thought this was a fun religious activity that all the students could do to get closer to God. We were very happy to get the opportunity to pray the Living Rosary as a school community!

Visit to the Basilica – Sacred Heart School, Rockwood

By: *Georgine Willemsma*

On Wednesday, June 4th, the grade 3 and 4 classes from Sacred Heart School visited the Basilica of Our Lady. The children began the field trip with a tour of the Crypt, which is the lower part of the church. Upstairs, they took part in Adoration, Benediction, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Ustrzycki, the main celebrant, welcomed the children at the beginning of Mass. In his homily, he taught the children about Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, who received many visits from Jesus, and explained the message that this saint received about the Sacred Heart.



Just before the consecration took place, Bishop Ustrzycki invited the children to come forward so that they could better understand what was happening on the altar. He also took a few minutes to explain part of the Eucharistic prayer to the children. After Mass, the children joined Bishop Ustrzycki on the steps for a final blessing.

Following lunch and fellowship in the lower part of the church, the children took part in an informative tour. They learned about the history of the previous churches that preceded the Basilica, and they recognized many Bible stories in the Basilica's stained-glass windows and other religious imagery. Some of the children left flowers at the Regina Caeli Shrine. Others lit candles for their loved ones and left sundry gifts for the homeless at the St. Vincent de Paul corner. We would like to thank Bishop Ustrzycki for the warm welcome and our tour guides, Mrs. Agnese Nagy and Mrs. Wendy Obbema, for a very pleasant afternoon. The children each received a "Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 2025" passport and left the Basilica encouraged to visit five more churches in the Hamilton diocese in order to fill their passport.

Children's Liturgy

Submitted by: *Mary Muller*

All children aged 4 - 10 are welcome to join our Children's Liturgy program every Sunday at either the 9 or 11am Masses.

During the Liturgy Program, we cover the same readings that are heard during the Mass, using the Children's Lectionary and have lots of interactive discussion to help them understand. They leave with a children's bulletin to be shared with family members at home. More adult and teen volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

All Saints' Day Party

Submitted by: *Elise Reidy*

The All Saints' Day Party that the Basilica hosted was a success again this year!

On Saturday, November 1st, families from parishes around the deanery joined in an afternoon of fun, filled with saint-themed activities like colouring, races and bowling. At each activity, the children learned about several relevant saints and had a blast interacting with the volunteers. Many of the children and volunteers came dressed as saints. We hope that the activities have inspired these young participants to strive for Sainthood themselves!



Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Submitted by: *Greta DeLonghi*

The annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols was an ecumenical event this year, with choir members from the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate teaming up with those from St. George's Anglican Church in Guelph, under the direction of Jeff Enns. There was a full house at St. George's for the Sunday afternoon event on November 30th. The singers from the Basilica were in their blue robes and the St. George's in white. Father Ian Duffy was among the readers.



Canada Learning Bond

Submitted by: *Betty Rowsell*

Interested in starting an Educational Fund for your children to support post-secondary opportunities? If your answer is "yes", and your net income is \$55,867.00 or less, and you have children born since 2004, you can qualify for free government money to set up a fund for your child(ren). For more details, please email: socialjusticeclbguelph@gmail.com or leave your contact information with the Parish Office and a volunteer from St. Vincent de Paul Particular Council Social Justice Committee will contact you to explain the details and assist you with your application. We look forward to helping many precious children with access to post-secondary education.

CWL Update

Submitted by: *Mary Muller*

Catholic Women's League Evening of Spirituality:

On Oct. 14 it was the Basilica CWL's turn to host the Civic Evening of Spirituality, where our sister leagues are invited from all over Guelph. Monsignor Noon presided at mass, followed by a delicious catered dinner by Valeriot Market, attended by 90 people. Our guest speaker was Deacon Richard Olsen, a former educator and chaplain, who showed slides and spoke about the importance of listening to God and to each other. It was a wonderful and inspiring evening, enjoyed by all!



Welcome Father Paul!

On Sunday, September 28th, we formally welcomed Father Paul Niesiobedzki as our Associate Pastor at a Coffee Sunday held in our Parish Hall after both Sunday Masses. Father Paul was assigned to the Basilica at the end of June. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet him and enjoy some treats after Mass. A very warm welcome to Father Paul!



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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Dec. 17** – Advent Evening of Reflection
- **Jan. 4** – Coffee Sunday
- **Jan. 4** - Basilica Tours
- **Feb. 1** – Basilica Tours
- **Feb. 15** – Knights Breakfast
- **Mar. 1** – Basilica Tours
- **Mar. 15** – St. Patrick Heritage Coffee Sunday
- **Mar. 22** – Family Bowling Day
- **Apr. 22** – Volunteer Appreciation Night
- **May 3** – Basilica Tours
- **June 6** – Marian Day
- **June 7** – Basilica Tours

For more information and details about upcoming events in our Parish, visit our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com.

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 on the Parish's Email List?

To receive the weekly Parish Bulletin and other news about events once a week directly in your inbox, visit our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com and on the bottom of the homepage, enter your email to "Join our Mailing List".

Catholic Women's League Christmas Bazaar:

Saturday, November 15th was a busy, bustling day in our church hall as we held the best attended, most successful bazaar ever! Thanks to all of our kitchen crew who made the chili con carne, served donuts and coffee, and to all the ladies who manned the various tables. Thanks also to all the vendors and to all of you who donated delicious baked goods and wonderful items to sell at our miscellaneous, penny raffle and silent auction tables. We know we can always count on you! In the new year, we will start planning for our Spring Market, which will likely take place in April or May. Stay tuned for another great event!

17th Annual Parish Picnic

Submitted by: *Mark Sammut*

On Sunday, September 7th, we celebrated our 17th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day at St. Michael School. We were happy to see just over 200 parishioners in attendance! The celebrations started at 1pm with Mass, normally outdoors, but we moved inside the gym to avoid the heavy wind. The weather cleared and Mass was followed by an afternoon of fun and activities for everyone which included children's games, facepainting, raffles, and the annual euchre tournament! A delicious BBQ dinner was prepared and served, led by members of the Knights of Columbus, followed by the raffle draws. A very special thanks to all the volunteers, groups, business sponsors and supporters. It's because of all this support, that we were able to donate over \$1,150 to the Church Building Fund - all while keeping our cost for the BBQ dinner at only \$5.00 per person!! Thanks to everyone for making this year's Picnic such a great success! We hope to see you at next year's Picnic -- please mark Sunday, September 13, 2026 on your calendars!

The Picnic Committee will be looking to revamp our plans and add some exciting new ideas; while also maintaining the successful model we have enjoyed for so many years!

