

GRATITUDE NEWS



Society of St. Vincent de Paul – *The Season of Giving Year-round* By: Cathie Evans

The Basilica's St. Vincent De Paul Conference has been very busy responding to recent situations where vulnerable members of our community have been either suddenly left homeless, or are in transition from living rough to securing a place of their own.

Through the kind generosity of parishioners, we've been able to respond to the needs of our neighbours by providing certain basic essentials to help them adjust to temporary shelters, or to help them become more self-sufficient in their own space. We've provided residents of Grace Gardens Supportive Housing with a number of basic essentials for their bathroom medicine cabinets as well as basic cooking essentials such as pots, pans, cooking utensils, and cutlery. We helped stock their pantry shelves so that Grace Gardens staff could prepare coffee, tea and baked goods when the residents attend special gatherings.

Two newly-developed 'family-friendly' shelters housing 65+ people (families with small children) were also provided with cooking essentials to outfit shared common kitchens, as well as six sets of bunk bed frames to help maximize sleeping arrangements.

We are thankful first and foremost for Divine Providence. We are then grateful for the generous support from Basilica parishioners, as well as that from St. John, Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph churches in Guelph and from St. Joseph in Fergus. It was a coordinated effort that resulted in a very positive outcome.

If you would like to support the ongoing needs of our community through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you can make a donation using the link on our Basilica website - "Donate to St. Vincent de Paul". All gifts of support are very greatly appreciated.



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Knights of Columbus - Parish Activities Update

By: **Craig Chamberlain, Don Locke, Alex Petric**

Knights of Columbus Council 1507 has had an active Summer and Fall! The Knights partnered with the CWL in hosting two very strongly attended, "freewill offering" Summertime Sunday barbecues after the 11:00 a.m. Masses. It was wonderful working with the CWL!

Knights assisted at the Parish's Marian Shrine Days throughout the Summer and into September by carrying the statue of Our Lady during the Rosary Processions. Thank you also to the extra helpers in this devotion!

In September, Knights also helped with the Basilica's annual Parish Picnic by barbecuing a delicious meal. As well, Council 1507 has again been blessed to work with the Onward Willow Neighbourhood Group through the Knights' "Coats for Kids" program to deliver winter coats to newcomers and families in need.

On October 7th, the Knights helped with a parish dinner at Holy Rosary Parish, celebrating the completion of renovations to the Parish Hall at Holy Rosary. Council 1507 includes a "Round Table" at Holy Rosary Parish.

On October 22nd, the Knights hosted Parish Breakfasts after the Sunday Masses which again filled the Basilica's Hall. We give thanks for the strong parish participation in our breakfasts and barbecues, which we offer for freewill offerings.

In remembrance of our military servicemen and servicewomen, the Council was honoured to present a wreath at Guelph's Remembrance Day Service.

The Council was also honoured to help organize the Roast & Toast Gala with Cardinal Collins on November 23rd. The organizing team for this Guelph Knights Charity Trust effort is very grateful to all who supported and participated in an evening of joyful celebration of Cardinal Collins. In addition to the fellowship of the evening, the Trust raised approximately \$10,000 for charities chosen by the Trust and by Cardinal Collins.

As Christmas approaches, Council 1507 has been busy with its annual sales of Christmas cakes, cookies, and honey, and we now have "Keep Christ in Christmas" lawn signs and magnets too! The Knights are grateful for parishioners' support, which helps meet ongoing needs in the broader community.

Looking to get involved? If you are a Catholic man over the age of 18, we invite you to consider becoming a Knight and joining us in serving the Parish and community. Learn more at <https://www.kofc1507.org>. Grand Knight Craig Chamberlain can be contacted by email at gk1507@ontariokofc.ca.



Photo above and right: Cardinal Collins at Roast & Toast Gala



Photos above, below and right: Knights Breakfast



Photo above: Knights' Annual sale of Christmas Cakes, cookies and honey



Photo left: Remembrance Day Presentation

Regina Caeli Tea

By: Agnese Nagy

Our last Marian Day observance on Saturday, October 7th culminated with the Regina Caeli Tea.

A “High Tea” experience of sandwiches and sweets was enjoyed by almost 200 pilgrims. Special thanks to the Parish Team who worked tirelessly to prepare for this wonderful event in honour of our Blessed Mother.

Save the date for next year’s Regina Caeli Tea: Saturday, October 5!



15th Annual Parish Picnic

By: Mark Sammut

On Sunday, September 10th, we celebrated our 15th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day. After having our Picnic at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre for many wonderful years, this year we moved the event to St. Michael Catholic School, one of the feeder schools into our Parish. The weather was excellent, and we were happy to see nearly 275 attendees!

The picnic is always a very multi-generational event, and it was so nice to see so many children in attendance. The celebrations started at 1pm with an open-air Mass, followed by an afternoon of fun and activities for everyone which included: games, face painting, raffles, and a fun euchre tournament. Several parishioners shared their wonderful musical talents during and following the Mass! A delicious BBQ dinner was served, followed by the raffle draws.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the day was the CWL children’s bicycle raffle. Each year the children participate in games and other activities – and after completing each activity, they are given a prize ballot. This year, the winner of the bicycle was a young girl who, along with her family, had immigrated to Canada from South America just a few weeks prior to the Picnic. She was so excited to win the bicycle, and it was a great way to welcome her and her entire family to our Parish.

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 \$1,700 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 years Picnic -- please mark Sunday, September 8, 2024 on your calendars!



Annual Pasta Dinner

By: **Angie Hunt**

On November 12th, just over 100 parishioners enjoyed a Pasta Dinner in the Monsignor Noon Parish Hall.

The dinner was catered by Victoria East Golf Course. The menu included Pasta, sausages, grilled peppers and onions, buns, salad, dessert, and coffee/tea. Red/white wine was available for purchase. Our annual dinner is made possible through the many volunteers, including our Newman Center university group. Many thanks to all who made the evening such a wonderful success.



Catholic Women's League Update

By: **Mary Muller**

Pilgrim's Meal – August 6, 2023 - Besides having provided supper twice a month for dozens of needy families at Stepping Stone during this past year, on the second evening of the annual eight day walk from Guelph to the Martyrs Shrine in Midland, we served the meal for 60 pilgrims.

Agnese and Steve Nagy and Padraig O'Cleirigh (Barbara O'Cleirigh taking photo shown below) helped serve the dinner for the pilgrims walking to the Martyrs Shrine in Midland. One of the pilgrimage organizers, Tracy Bolzon, is in the background.

On November 14th, Special Guest Speaker Fr. Bill Foote drew a considerable audience at our general meeting. He spoke on his journey from being an Anglican Minister to becoming a Roman Catholic priest. Father's candid, wise and very interesting story was much appreciated. We learned a lot about what it means to be Catholic and how important it is to defend our faith.

All the hard work from many volunteers paid off with an outstanding Christmas Bazaar this year, held on November 25th! There were twenty vendor tables with unique crafts, jewelry, Christmas items and Catherine Collins' wonderful paintings. The CWL bake table had record sales, thanks to all the ladies who donated delicious baked goods. A lot of beautiful items were sold at the Silent Auction table and a new hit was the chili con carne enjoyed by many.



Photo above left, Pilgrim's Meal, August 6, 2023; photo above middle, Fr. Bill Foote; photo above right, Christmas Greens at Christmas Bazaar, Marlene Mason and Joan Smith.

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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:

- **January 7** – Ministry Fair/Basilica Food & Friends Sunday (after both Sunday Masses)
- **January 7** – Basilica Tours
- **February 4** – Basilica Tours
- **February 11** – Knights Breakfast (after both Sunday Masses)
- **March 3** – Basilica Tours
- **March 17** – St. Patrick Heritage Tea
- **March 30** – Easter Vigil Reception
- **April 7** – Basilica Food & Friends Sunday (after both Sunday Masses)
- **April 7** – Basilica Tours
- **May 5** – Basilica Tours
- **May 26** – May Crowning at 11 am Mass
- **May 26** – Knights Breakfast (after both Sunday Masses)

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:

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**.