

GRATITUDE NEWS

Resurrection Window

By: Agnese Nagy

The ten large windows of the nave illustrate significant moments in the life of Christ and His mother, Mary.

The series of five windows on the south side of the Nave deal with the early life of Jesus. They illustrate the intimate association between the Christ Child and His Mother, Mary. Their "stories" begin at the back of the church and move towards the front. The series of five windows on the north side begin at the front of the church and move towards the back. Four of the windows focus on Jesus as He went about His public ministry. The last window on the North side is dedicated to Mary and depicts the Assumption of Mary and her Coronation as Queen of Heaven.

As we celebrate Easter, let us focus on the fourth window - *The Resurrection*.



In his Gospel, Mark writes, "But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" (Mark 16:4-7)

How beautifully this is portrayed in the window. On the far right, we can see the women at the opening of the tomb. The stone no longer blocks the entrance. The transcendent Christ is featured in the center of the window. We can clearly see all the marks of His crucifixion. "He is not here." But, where is Christ looking? At His mother?! Mary is shown rising from her chair, reaching out lovingly to her son. This is an unusual representation of Easter morning! Have you ever read mention of this encounter in the Scriptures? This window definitely departs from Scripture but in the view of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, "no one could doubt that the most natural thing in the world for Jesus to do would be to visit His mother before anyone else".

Oh, to have eavesdropped on that meeting, "I am here, Mom. I am risen. Everything is going to be okay." "You are here, Son!"

We can share Mary's joy at seeing her son because Jesus is here for each of us. He is alive in our world. We celebrate Easter, the Resurrection of Mary's son!

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Parish Connections with our Schools

By: Cathy Doucette

At the heart of Catholic Education is the integral relationship between home, school and parish. This partnership forms a community where students have an opportunity to discern and navigate the ever-changing world around them, while responding to new challenges and opportunities with hope and love.

The connection between Wellington Catholic District School Board and the Basilica of Our Lady is a special relationship that is rooted in faith. Each day teachers and school staff make every effort to provide an inclusive community that inspires life-long learning and service to others. Teachers in the Wellington Catholic District School Board are called to bear witness to the presence of Jesus in the lives of all students. The Basilica of Our Lady continually supports and nurtures the faith development of students and teachers. The presence of the Basilica's Ministry and the sharing of the Good News of the Gospels encourage school communities to engage more fully in the life of the parish.

Monsignor Noon is a regular visitor in many Wellington Catholic schools; "he interacts with staff and students and he is truly a servant leader." Principal Angerilli is thankful for the support that St. John Bosco Catholic Secondary School receives from the parish, she shared that "...it is not uncommon for Agnese Nagy, Stewardship Volunteer, to arrive at the school early on a Monday morning with food donations from various events held at the Basilica over the weekend. The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League are like family and they support the students and initiatives in our school".

Students from the Wellington Catholic District Board and from the community prepare and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation. Many parishes in the community of Guelph and Wellington are an important part of the faith formation of young people. They provide a solid foundation that gives students the opportunity to develop values founded on Catholic social teachings and opportunities to demonstrate more confidence and a positive sense of self and well-being of others.

There are many examples of parish members sharing their time and talents and working together with members of the community. Classes of students from Wellington Catholic District School Board, the Upper Grand District School Board and the University of Guelph, can be spotted taking guided tours of the Basilica, attending retreats, masses and even having lunch prepared by members of the parish. These encounters with parish clergy and members are grounding for students; they provide occasions for joy and help to promote balance in their lives – in a world that is both challenging and filled with opportunities.

Donut Sunday/Ministry Fair

On January 13, it was Donut Sunday after the 9 and 11 am masses, but on this particular Sunday, it was also the Annual Ministry Fair and an opportunity to wish Father Christopher Tracey a fond farewell.

Pictured top right— parishioners speaking with members of various parish ministries.

Pictured bottom right—Father Christopher Tracey with members of our parish.



In Case of Emergency...

By: Paul and Kelly Raftis

Did you know that we have two defibrillators, a first-aid kit and a wheelchair in the Basilica?

In any situation where people are gathered, it is important to be prepared for an emergency. Here in our church community, our ushers are the "eyes and ears" at mass, carefully watching over the congregation to stay aware of any potential situations.

In the event that someone needs help, or there is a disruption that needs to be dealt with, others naturally step in to assist. If you are one of those "helpers", you are already an informal member of our Emergency Preparedness Team at our parish! The team is made up of both trained (nurses, paramedics, police, fire, lifeguard) and untrained parishioners, who are willing to step in and help where they can (for example: calling 9-1-1, waiting at door for help to arrive, grabbing the parish wheelchair or defibrillator).

Blessed are we to have such a caring community! We invite all parishioners (trained or not) to join our team, or simply join our mailing list to receive information on how you can help if needed in an emergency situation.



Please email Paul Raftis at kraftis72@gmail.com for more information. Thank you!

Baptism Ministry

By: Deanna Stanley

Baptism is the source of a new life in Christ which begins a grace-filled and loving life-long journey. The entire church community has a responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the graces given at Baptism.

Here at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, the Baptism Ministry represents our church community offering support and assistance to the parents. Three Baptism teams alternate under the guidance of the ministry coordinator. Each month a team meets with the parents, providing an introduction to the Baptism ceremony including viewing a video, and discussing various aspects of the sacrament. On the day of Baptism, the team assists Monsignor Noon or Deacon Tami, while guiding families through the ceremony. Each Baptism calls on our entire faith community to grow and renew their own commitment to our Christian faith.

At this time, Our Lady Immaculate Parish extends a sincere "thank you" to Barbara Sockett, who has been coordinator of the Baptism Ministry for many years. Barbara has been generous with her time, talents and commitment.



Pictured above: Deacon Tami and the Ackerman family

Mary—Model of Discipleship, Presented by Anne Jamieson

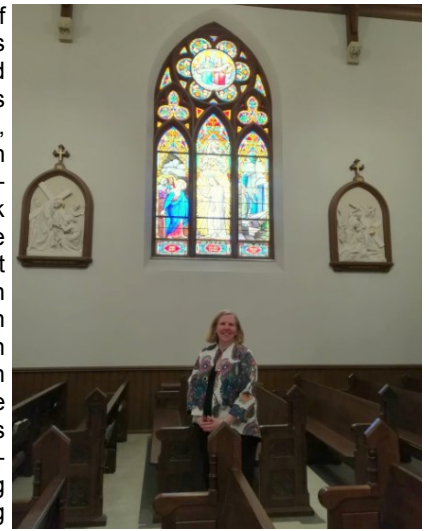
By: Angie Hunt

On Sunday, March 10th, our parish hosted a presentation by Anne Jamieson from the Chancery office of the Diocese of Hamilton. The theme was **Mary -- Model of Discipleship**. Anne used the beautiful stained glass windows in our Basilica to reference our Blessed Mother as the first disciple and a model for modern day discipleship.

Here are a few highlights from Anne's presentation:

- Lent is a time to bring things low into our roots and to concentrate, as paralleled with tapping trees for sap to make maple syrup. The quality of what is produced depends on how concentrated the sap is in the roots. The higher the concentration, the sweeter the product.
- Mary has a totality response beginning with the Annunciation by saying "Yes" to the Lord and continues to say yes all her life, contributing to the complete and total picture of her discipleship.
- We march forward in our faith journey up the center aisle with the images of Jesus and his mother, our mother, Mary.
- The moment Jesus is born, he carries an element of his mortality with him always - even the way artists depict Jesus at his birth as being wrapped, foreshadows his death and being wrapped in the tomb.
- Mary is a real person. She laughed, cried, rejoiced, worried, celebrated, and grieved just like we do.
- The artists of the windows intended for us to understand something in each scene, each work of art. What did this artist want us to know and what did this artist want us to understand in the art of our stained glass windows. When looking at each window, we have to ask ourselves, "What do I see?" What stands out?
- The four themes that Anne Jamieson explored were: (1) Mary as a real person; (2) Image of openness and readiness; (3) Image of what it is to trust; (4) Mary shows us what it is to be a giver and receiver of the good news.
- God has a mission for us to show his son Jesus to the world.
- First four windows on the south side show Mary as a real person depicting her in her family of origin. Joseph was selected to be her spouse, she had her own family with Joseph and Jesus, she lived in Nazareth, her son Jesus was referred to as the carpenter's son, and finding Jesus in the temple. Her response when she sees him is "How could you have done this to us?" She is a person and responds to life like we would.
- The windows behind the altar depict Mary as open and ready. In the Annunciation, Mary is often seen kneeling and in prayer. It shows us to get down into The Word, to get down into our humility, to get down into our humanity. Her hands are often depicted as being open and ready to receive. Images of Mary are usually holding Jesus as if she is presenting Jesus to us. She doesn't hold him and turn him into herself but instead faces him out to the world.
- The remainder of the windows on the south side also show Mary as a young mother who is ready and open. At the Nativity, she welcomes the shepherds and the Magi. Both she and her son are facing the visitors. In the Presentation at the temple, where she went after 40 days for purification, again she is holding Jesus and the prophets Simeon and Anna both encounter her and Jesus, and she is told that "a sword will pierce your heart" and yet she still holds her infant son in a way to show him to us and to the world.

Mary is a woman of trust. She trusts in God's plan for her, for Jesus, and for the world. She shows us that despite our doubts, we can still trust God. In Psalm 23, we are not promised that we will not walk through the valley of the shadow of death but that God is walking it with us. We are never alone. In the windows on the north side, we see Mary's faith and trust in God's plan. We see her looking up at Jesus in the Crucifixion while others in the scene are looking down. We see her holding the body of her dead son after he is lowered from the Cross and she is looking out at us looking at her.



- Mary is the giver and receiver of Christ, the good news. Mary is focused on Jesus, and Jesus is focused on us. Jesus is the center of the story. In the crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven, she is looking up in gratitude and open in her stance. In the death of Jesus, she is looking out at us and she is trusting God for what is to come. In the north side windows to the right of the altar, Mary lets Jesus go to begin his public ministry as seen in the window with Jesus and the twelve apostles, the wedding at Cana where Mary speaks for the last time in the new testament when she says, "Do whatever he asks of you" and Mary is saying the same thing to us today, "Do whatever he asks of you". In the apparitions, Mary appears to Bernadette and shows us that even today, Mary continues to care for us, to warn us, to intercede for us.
- Mary is the Mother of the Church. We are to pray for the repentance of sinners, we receive miraculous cures even today.
- Mary is the image of discipleship. She is real, God is real, the words are true, God's promises are true. In the Magnificat, Mary says "Let it be done to me according to His will." Her song is our song too, "The Mighty One has done great things for me." God's promises are ancient and ever new. Mary encourages us.

Let Mary's Magnificat be our song of praise to God:

*My soul magnifies the Lord
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;
For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent away empty.
He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy
Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity
forever.*

9th Annual Golf Tournament

By: Steve Nagy

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, got it wrong when he wrote, "In the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." No, Alfred, in the spring, a person's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of golf.



Announcing the 9th Annual Parish Golf Tournament to be held at Victoria Park Valley Golf Course on Sunday, June 2. As always, the prizes will be amazing, the golf will be fun, and the day will be enjoyable for all. If you would like to make a donation for a prize (i.e. new items only), please contact the parish office.

So, be on the lookout for announcements in the bulletin and at Mass for prices and ticket information. Is there a better way to spend a day with friends and family than on the freshly mown grass of a golf course in the sunshine (well, mostly sunshine)?

A Few Highlights from the CWL St. Patrick's Day Tea



Annual Pasta Supper

It was another successful Annual Pasta Supper, held on Sunday, February 10th in the Parish Hall.

This annual sell-out event, catered by Nick Finoro and his family, never disappoints! The meal includes pasta with meatballs, sausage, salad, dinner rolls, dessert and coffee/tea.

Great food, great company, great evening!



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Gratitude News is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee, and published three times a year to keep Parishioners informed and connected.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Volunteer Appreciation**—April 30
- ◆ **Cupcake Sunday**—May 26
- ◆ **9th Annual Golf Tournament**—June 2
- ◆ **Donut Sunday**—June 9
- ◆ **Knights BBQ & CWL Bake Sale** - July 7
- ◆ **13th Annual Parish Picnic**—September 8
- ◆ **Multicultural Food Fiesta**—September 22

For more details about upcoming events, visit the Events section of our website at www.basilicaofourlady.com