

GRATITUDE NEWS



Celebrating Monsignor Noon's 50th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Submitted by: Laurie Vescio

On Sunday, April 6th, 2025, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Priestly Ordination for our retired Pastor, Monsignor Dennis Noon, who returned to the Basilica to celebrate both Sunday morning masses, followed by a reception in the Monsignor Noon Parish Hall. Members of Monsignor's family attended the mass and reception, as did many parishioners – both past and present. A wonderful display of photos, artifacts, and vestments were showcased at the reception as part of this celebration, as was a guestbook for all to convey their wishes to Monsignor on this special occasion.

During his Homily, Monsignor shared that he and his five siblings appreciated growing up in a faith-filled Catholic home where they witnessed their parents' active involvement in the church. His parents were supportive of his vocation, as were his teachers from school, and the doctors and nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, where he worked as an OR Technician, prior to becoming a priest.

Monsignor recalled that 50 years ago, Bishop Ustrzycki (then Monsignor Ustrzycki) was the Rector at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton, and was the MC for his ordination. He said that he kept him calm and directed throughout the ceremony, and also said how much he enjoyed living with him at the Basilica and appreciated his advice and kindness to him as well as to his sister Kathy.

His first assignment following his ordination was at Sacred Heart Parish in Walkerton, then St. Andrew's in Oakville, Holy Rosary in Burlington and back to St. Andrews in Oakville. In 1985, he was appointed Pastor of St. Anthony Daniel Parish in Scotland, Ontario, then at St. John's in Burlington, and then at St. Joseph's in Guelph, and finally at the Basilica of Our Lady for 16 years. He was named a Monsignor on November 21, 2017 by Pope Francis, and retired in June, 2019.

In addition to his spiritual leadership at the parishes he served at, Monsignor was also very actively involved in other areas. He taught at Sacred Heart High School in Walkerton, Assumption High school in Burlington, and at St. Ignatius of Loyola in Oakville. He also served as a Trustee on the WCDSB for 16 years. Over the years, he has also served on various diocesan committees. His first experience with church renovations was at St. John's in Burlington, then at St. Joseph's in Guelph, and then the restoration project here at the Basilica. The success of the restoration here was largely due to the way Monsignor led the project by engaging parish ministries, committees, and other interested parishioners along the way – gaining overwhelming support and buy-in for the final plans.

Monsignor summarized in his homily - *"I've thoroughly enjoyed every one of my assignments mostly due to the response of the people. I've witnessed a great respect for the priesthood and a deep love for their church. When one is first ordained, one thinks they know everything, but in my 50 years, I learned so much more from my parishioners and one of the many things I'm grateful to them for was their prayers and their deep love and commitment to their parish. We priests come and go, but the people stay, committed to their parish community, and so I learned so much from listening to people and their concerns. Celebrating the sacraments at marriages, baptisms, confessions, anointing of the sick, and funerals were truly awe-inspiring events that have left a profound impression on me. A vocation to the priesthood is a calling in one's heart and I wish more young men would be open to answering this call, because it really is a wonderful gift to receive. There are challenging days, but I never regretted answering the call. I'm grateful to Bishops Reding, Tonnos, and Crosby; to my birth family, my brother priests, and to so many people who have touched my life over the past 50 years. I hope you will continue to pray for me, as I will for you."*

An anniversary card with a prayer for vocations was distributed to all parishioners, which he hoped that we would all pray. On behalf of all of us at the Basilica, we congratulate Monsignor for 50 years of devotion to his vocation and thank him for all the lives he has touched in such an impactful way.



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Family Day Bowling and Dinner Event

Submitted by: Laurie Vescio

On Sunday, March 30th, the Stewardship Committee hosted our first Family Day Bowling and Dinner Event where just over 100 people attended. Originally scheduled for Family Day Weekend, the event was rescheduled due to a severe snowstorm, but it turned out to be a great event!

The afternoon started with two hours of bowling at Splitsville Guelph, followed by refreshments, games, and a casual dinner at the Monsignor Noon Parish Hall. Our aim with this event was to make it an affordable, fun, family event suitable for all ages. We charged only \$25 a person (maximum of \$100 per family) for bowling, shoe rentals and a dinner.

The day was a great success, and fun was had by all. Huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with bowling check-in, food preparation, decorating, games, donation of door prizes and clean-up! In particular, a special thanks to our organizing team members – Patrick MacCarthy, Morgan MacCarthy, Agnese Nagy and Laurie Vescio. We're already looking forward to making this an annual family event!



Preparing for First Holy Communion

Submitted by: Suzanna Majer

During April, the grade two students from our three parish elementary schools had the opportunity to come to the Basilica for their First Communion Retreats. They spent time in a guided tour of the Basilica with Father Ian. The grade twos got to see the newly relocated stained-glass Baptism of Our Lord by the baptismal font, lit up. They also spent some time learning about transubstantiation and the Real Presence of our Lord, Jesus in the Eucharist, and reflected on how they are "Made For Mission", empowered to be witnesses to our faith, using the graces bestowed every time we receive the Eucharist at mass.

Best wishes to all of our First Communicants. We pray that the life-giving bread of the Eucharist may feed their souls and nourish their spirits.



Easter Vigil

Submitted by: Wendy Walsh

The Roman Missal quotes St. Augustine in referring to the Easter Vigil as, "The Mother of All Holy Vigils". In this beautiful and profound liturgy, we are reminded of our salvation history, and exhorted to celebrate with great solemnity, Christ's triumph over sin and death. The resurrection of Christ brings us great joy, and new hope.

That joy and hope were on full display when, during a liturgy rich with symbolism, the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate welcomed 20 new Catholics at the Easter Vigil. Fifteen were baptized, publicly professing for the first time their faith in Christ. An additional five of our brothers and sisters, previously baptized in other Christian denominations, professed the fullness of the Catholic faith, and received the sacrament of Confirmation. The Easter season has seen even more new Catholics added to our number. Many of our new Catholics have expressed their awe and a deep experience of gratitude at receiving the Eucharist for the first time.

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who played a role in making our Easter celebrations so beautiful!

Stained-Glass Window: Jesus being Baptised

Submitted by: Agnese Nagy

The beautiful stained-glass window that now graces our Baptistry (see photo below with First Communicants) was recently moved from its previous location in the North Tower washroom. What many don't know is that the North Tower was the original location of the Baptistry when the church was built. In early Christianity, Baptistries were often separate buildings from churches due to the practice of full immersion and the belief that Baptism was a necessary step before entering the consecrated space of the church. Later, Baptistries were integrated into church buildings but often placed near the doorway entrances. This is true of the original Baptistry at our church. The Baptismal Font was located in the North Tower surrounded by four beautiful stained-glass windows reflecting the theme of Baptism. The first window shows Jesus welcoming the little children. The next window shows Jesus knocking at the door, waiting for an invitation to let Him in. The third window shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the fourth window shows Jesus being baptised by John the Baptist.

Since the 2014 restoration and the need to create a new entrance to the Choir Loft, these windows have become less noticeable with the fourth window, unfortunately, ending up in the washroom space.

Following the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II), there were often changes to Baptistry locations to ensure better visibility and involvement of the congregation. Our current Baptistry location reflects this change, being at the front of the church to the right of the Sanctuary. Now, a much more fitting location for the beautiful window of Jesus with John, the Baptist!

Father Moices Caballero Ordination

Submitted by: Agnese Nagy

Moices Caballero was ordained on Saturday, May 3, 2025 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton. He celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 4th at the Basilica Of Our Lady. The day was filled with happiness and joy. Father Moices' new vestments showcased an original design of a Colombian Orchid and the Canadian Maple Leaf to honour both his Colombian heritage and his future in Canada.

Father Moices celebrated in the Parish Hall on Sunday following his Mass with family and friends.

The following prayer was written by Father Moices:

"God needs a heart fully surrendered to Him. He is preparing you and wants you to do something great with your life. He wants to take His time, so that when you reach that special moment your life will have a PURPOSE."



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School

Submitted by: Suzanna Majer

In the spirit of the Eucharistic Revival, and carrying forward from the Basilica's 40 hours of devotion, Father Ian led the St. Ignatius junior and intermediate students in Eucharistic Adoration. Students from grades 4-8 were introduced to this wonderful practice, each class having the opportunity to spend some time reflecting and praying before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

As Pope Francis said, "We must rediscover the sense of adoration in silence. It is a form of prayer that we have lost." We hope to provide this experience of encounter with our Lord in all of our parish schools in the future.



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 have assisted thirteen children so far, and look forward to helping many more precious children with access to post-secondary education.

Landscaping Our Lady's Gardens

Submitted by: Agnese Nagy

*"O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May,
O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May."*

Meet the outstanding City of Guelph landscape crew responsible for Our Lady's gardens at the foot of Catholic Hill stairs leading to Macdonell Street.

We recently hosted a THANK-YOU lunch for them in our Parish Hall in appreciation of their creativity and physical labour. These gardens have truly "blossomed" under their care. If you see them working or watering, give them a honk and a wave to credit them for a job well-done!



Catholic Women's League Update

Submitted by: Mary Muller

During the 5:15 mass on March 15, 2025, there was an Installation Ceremony for our new CWL Executive after elections were held in February. With almost 100 members, our parish has a very active council, regularly preparing and serving funeral lunches, helping the Knights with their breakfasts and BBQs, and hosting informative and interesting speakers at our monthly meetings every second Tuesday at 7pm.

Our Spring Market will be on June 14 and our popular Christmas Bazaar will be November 15. Come and join us for our potluck supper on Wednesday, June 18 if you would like to learn more. You are most welcome!



Children's Liturgy

Submitted by: Mary Muller

Children's Liturgy has been up and running again since Dec. 2023. Wonderful volunteers lead the children every week during the 9am and 11am masses on Sundays. The Children's Lectionary is used to read and discuss the same liturgical readings in a creative way, easy for them to understand. All children ages 4 - 10 are welcome, as are teen helpers and any adults who would like to join our ministry team.



Celebrating Bishop's Ustrzycki's Birthday

Submitted by: Mary Muller

On the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2025, our parish was very happy to celebrate Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki's 93rd birthday after evening mass. It was also the same day that the CWL had invited our clergy to a lunch at the Mandarin Restaurant to show our appreciation for their ongoing ministry to all of us.



We are so grateful for our wonderful clergy team!

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Submitted by: Mark Sammut

On April 30th, during Volunteer Appreciation week, the Stewardship Committee hosted an event in the Basilica Hall to honour and thank volunteers who contribute their time and talents to our parish. We enjoyed an evening social, together with delicious food and beverages.



Catholic stewardship is a way of life, based on the belief that all gifts, including time, talent, and treasure, are from God and should be used to serve Him and others. It is about recognizing God's ownership of everything and being accountable as stewards, managing His gifts responsibly and with gratitude. On behalf of our Parish Stewardship Committee, it is important that we thank and recognize our dedicated volunteers who empower and invigorate every Basilica ministry at all levels, helping us fulfill our mission and seek the well-being of our wonderful parish family and beyond. To all our volunteers, thank you for being a living witness to Christ's love — generously giving your time, talents, and energy to support our vibrant parish! Your contributions are so necessary and appreciated!

Knights of Columbus Update

Submitted by: Alex Petric

The past few months have been busy for Knights of Columbus Council 1507. The Knights welcomed Jakki Jeffs from the Guelph and Area Right-to-Life Association at their January meeting where Br. Fred Hawkins presented a pro-life statue to the Right-to-Life Association (see photo below). Fred has also been instrumental in fundraising to update a memorial stone for Tammy Penner, whose body was discovered in 2005 on Highway 7 between Guelph and Rockwood.

Mark your calendars for the second annual Eucharistic Procession on June 22nd, Corpus Christi Sunday, which the Knights are helping to organize. All parishioners are welcome to join in this public witness of our faith.

Interested in giving back to the parish and growing in your faith? We encourage Catholic men over the age of 18 to consider joining the Knights to serve the Parish and community. Learn more at kofc1507.org, or contact Grand Knight Craig Chamberlain at gk1507@ontariokofc.ca.



The Council hosted breakfasts in March and May at the Basilica, and they thank the Catholic Women's League for their vital help at those events. Council 1507 also supported a First Communion Breakfast at Holy Rosary Parish in May. Additionally, the Knights held their second annual Spring Mass and hike at Ignatius Jesuit Centre; they thank Fr. Dirk Dunfee, SJ for celebrating Mass for them (see photo bottom right).

Council 1507 is working to free up space in its former office in the Basilica Crypt. The walls of the office will be removed and the space will be returned to the Basilica for other uses.



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 you informed and connected, and to celebrate our active and vibrant Parish Community.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **June 14** – CWL Spring Market
- **June 15** – Farewell to Fathers Moices and John
- **June 22** – Feast of Corpus Christi, Knights of Columbus Procession
- **July 5** – Marian Day
- **July 6** – Basilica Tours
- **Aug. 2** – Marian Day
- **Aug. 3** – Basilica Tours
- **Aug. 10** – Knights and CWL BBQ
- **Sept. 6** – Marian Day
- **Sept. 7** – Annual Parish Picnic
- **Sept. 28** – Food Fiesta
- **Oct. 4** – Marian Day and Regina Caeli Tea
- **Oct. 5** – Basilica Tours
- **Oct. 26** – Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- **Nov. 2** – All Saints Party
- **Nov. 2** – Basilica Tours
- **Nov. 7** – Wine Tasting Event
- **Nov. 11** – Remembrance Day Wreath at Cenotaph
- **Nov. 15** – CWL Christmas Bazaar
- **Dec. 7** – Basilica Tours
- **Dec. 8** – Feast of Immaculate Conception – Pilgrimage Mass with Bishop Crosby
- **Dec. 14** – Bambinelli / Coffee Sunday

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".