

# GRATITUDE NEWS

## The Sun was Shining on our 10th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day

By Mark Sammut

On Sunday, September 11th, we celebrated our 10th Annual Parish Picnic and Family Fun Day at the St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre. The weather was perfect and our attendance figures were outstanding with over 325 attendees! The picnic was very much a 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: great music from *The Music Makers*, children's games, face painting, raffles, bocce and euchre tournaments. 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's because of all this support, that we were able to donate over \$850 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 our best one yet! We hope to see you at next years Picnic -- please mark Sunday, September 10, 2017 on your calendars!



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# Welcome Father James McSharry



*By Ian Macpherson*

You may have noticed a charming old-world lilt in the speech of our newest Associate Pastor: Father James McSharry. That's because Fr. McSharry was originally born in England, grew up in Birmingham, and spent several years working in Ireland before finally moving permanently to Canada. The young James McSharry was asked in 1983 by then-Bishop Paul Reding to consider studying to become a priest for the Diocese of Hamilton. Fr. McSharry was ordained in 1992, having lived in Canada since 1985. Since his ordination, Fr. McSharry has served in many parishes throughout Hamilton Diocese, coming to us from his most recent posting in Owen Sound.

When asked how he likes Guelph and the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Fr. McSharry replied that Guelph suits him well because it is very much like an English city, and that the Basilica is very beautiful and he can understand why so many people come to admire and photograph it.

Fr. McSharry does not have a favourite sacrament or season in the Church year, but says that central to everything for him is Eucharistic adoration. Although he likes to read in his spare time, Fr. McSharry wants all parishioners to know that he is always available to assist with any pastoral needs or situations that may arise. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Fr. McSharry and to welcome him to our parish.

## Cupcake Sunday 2016 ... A Sweet Success!

*By Monique Porcellato*

Our second annual Cupcake Sunday was enjoyed by all on Sunday May 29th. It was an impressive array of colourful icing, sprinkles, and gummies. Many thanks to all the children and their families of our parish for baking such delicious treats. Looking forward to our third annual Cupcake Sunday coming in May 2017!

# Annual Golf Tournament

*By Steve Nagy*

Victoria Park Valley was the venue for our parish golf tournament on June 5. Everyone had fun playing between the rain drops, but after a short rain delay, the skies brightened and we were able to finish the round relatively dry. Good thing too, as the skies opened in a deluge as we had our post-golf dinner.

Our thanks go out to all the people who donated prizes, the staff at Victoria Park Valley, all the participants, and the golf tournament committee - everyone contributed to another successful tournament. We extend an invitation to everyone to next year's tournament, Sunday, June 4, 2017.



# A Presentation by Dr. Josie Lombardi on our Blessed Mother, Mary

*By Angie Hunt*



On Monday, May 9, 2016, the Volunteer Coordinator Committee hosted a seminar for parishioners on our Blessed Mother, Mary. Dr. Josie Lombardi, of St. Augustine's Seminary, gave an insightful and reflective presentation on our Blessed Mother with scriptural references. Dr. Lombardi guided her audience through the familiar mysteries of the rosary as they pertained to Mary's life and connected them to our own human experience of life and in particular our sorrows and our struggles. She stated that Mary had a heroic trust for God's will by her saying, "Yes" to the angel Gabriel and asked the question, "Can we say yes to God's plan for us?" and went on to say that, "God is the God of the impossible" as proven in the Messiah's conception and in the conception of the Herald of the Messiah, St. John the Baptist. God set Mary apart for this special mission. She spoke of our relationship with God stating that God's delays in answering our requests are not necessarily denials and what God desires is our fulfillment and our restoration. God holds up the lowly and humbles the proud. Highlights of the presentation:

- Mary challenges us to think about people who have been hurt by public scandal, slander and gossip
- Mary can relate to people who have been humiliated with great shame by their secret crosses and knows what it feels like to be exposed and shamed
- Jesus' pain in the crucifixion was public and so was Mary's
- God works through sacred friendships. Fear, pride and jealousy can keep us from loving perfectly
- Sacred friendships involve a "knowing" just as a parent knows their child. Knowing when to call, when to help, when to answer and when to remain silent
- Mary experienced Seasons of Plenty: an abundance of spiritual and material gifts and Seasons of Drought: Struggling in life and feeling judged and condemned.
- Only God can fill our voids. God is our first love. Everything else is secondary
- Mary knows what it is like to live with bad news as when the prophet Simeon reveals to Mary, "And a sword will pierce your own heart" at the presentation at the temple.
- Mary can relate to today's refugees and migrants as she experienced change and struggle when the Holy Family became refugees in the flight into Egypt
- Mary relates to us when we worry about our children as seen in the story of finding Jesus in the temple
- Pope John Paul II, referred to Mary as the feminine genius when she prompted Jesus to begin His ministry at the wedding at Cana
- During Jesus' three years of public ministry, Mary suffered with her Son through slander, and like all parents, carrying crosses with our children, seeing their children suffer and knows the pain of watching a child die. Mary's pain is vindicated with the resurrection
- At the end of Mary's life she was assumed to Heaven in body, mind and spirit and God summoned the apostles to her at the end of her life to be with her to comfort and console our Blessed Mother
- Mary is one with us. She intercedes for us and she knows our joys and our sorrows because she experienced them in the seasons of life

The presentation gave the audience a tangible way to pray through Mary by relating her experiences with ours in terms of human suffering.

## Children's Book Review by Cindy Della Croce

### The Secret of Saying Thanks

By Douglas Wood

*We don't give thanks because we're happy. We are happy because we give thanks.*

Want to know a secret? This beautifully illustrated book takes the reader on an illuminating journey through nature, stopping often to marvel and appreciate simple and lovely things along the way. The story exposes still other things we take for granted, like the golden rays of the sun, a sweet flower, a pebble, a pet dog, and shade on a hot day. Sometimes you have to be quiet and still for a moment or you might not hear the secret when a bird sings, or when a family member tells you a story around the dinner table. This book teaches us to really respect and embrace the world around us, and appreciate what is right in front of us every day. It would make a fantastic gift for First Communion or to welcome a new baby. It is a wonderful way to start a discussion in your family about gratitude. It is a 'thanksgiving' treasure.

## Summer BBQ's

By Mark Sammut

Each year, members of our Stewardship Committee assist with the St. John Bosco School Graduation BBQ, and on June 21st, a delicious BBQ was provided to all John Bosco students. We are very proud to support the wonderful staff and students of our neighbouring high school!

On June 26th, the Knights of Columbus sponsored a Parish BBQ lunch after the 11am Mass. It was such a hot day that this outdoor event was moved to the Church Hall. Thanks to our local Knights Council and to our Stewardship Committee volunteers. We won't forget those HOT summer days!!



## Multicultural Food Fiesta Event!

By Channa Wijeweera

On Sunday September 25th, the Stewardship Committee hosted the second Multicultural Food Fiesta after the Sunday Masses in the parish hall. The event was a great success with many people coming out after mass to experience the culinary talents of some of our Parishioners. This unique event showcased a variety of finger foods - both sweet and savory - from various countries and this year's lineup included food items representing Sri Lanka, Italy, Bolivia, Malawi, Ukraine, Wales, India, Netherlands, and Lebanon.

The event was enjoyed by all, and a special thank you to all the parishioners that took the time to share a piece of their own culture with our parish community.

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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—

#### Mark your Calendar!

- ◆ KofC Bishop's Charity Dinner - **October 16<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ Roast Beef Dinner - **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- ◆ Cardinal Collins Gospel of Luke Reflection Series "The Road to Emmaus" - **October 28<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ KofC Speaker Professor Michael W. Higgins, **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- ◆ Donut Sunday - **November 20<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ CWL Christmas Tea & Bazaar - **November 6<sup>th</sup>**
- ◆ KofC Parish Breakfast - **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

