

# GRATITUDE NEWS



## Volunteer Appreciation Night

By: Angie Hunt

On April 10th, our parish hosted a Volunteer Appreciation night in gratitude for our parishioners who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure in service to God and our parish family.

The keynote speaker was Francis Doyle of the Hamilton Diocese, who spoke about the early church and referenced our current efforts in being responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. He spoke about the Holy Spirit empowering the early church and the apostles and disciples of Jesus and how the people responded in unity, in generosity, in community, and in love. He spoke about the Church today and how the Holy Spirit continues to move God's people to do the same.

Following Francis Doyle's address, our volunteers enjoyed an evening of wonderful display of charcuterie boards, wine and cheese, and desserts. May God continue to bless our volunteers, who serve Him and our parish community. Many thanks to our Bishop MacDonell High School students, who volunteered to help at the event. "Many hands make light work."

***"Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."***



## May Crowning and Celebrating Bishop Ustrzycki's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

By: Agnese Nagy

On the evening of May 31<sup>st</sup>, the feast of the Visitation, parishioners gathered for Mass and to crown Mary, our Mother.

At the conclusion of Father Ian's homily, William and Elizabeth Grey (brother and sister) crowned the statue of Mary, usually found in the Sacristy. After the children and the crown received a blessing from Bishop Ustrzycki, Elizabeth, in her First Communion dress, proceeded to place the crown on the statue. It proved to be quite a reach for her and she was grateful for a boost from Father Ian.

*And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."*

Following the Mass, everyone in attendance proceeded down to the Parish Hall to celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of priestly ordination of our beloved Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki. The Bishop was applauded and toasted (with mock champagne) and everyone enjoyed a lovely reception of refreshments, cake and cookies.

We love you, Bishop Ustrzycki!

And Mary said:  
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."



Artist: Elizabeth Grey  
Basilica Of Our Lady - May Crowning - May 31, 2024  
Feast of the Visitation



### IN THIS ISSUE

- Volunteer Appreciation Night
- Young Adults Group – The Frassati's Carabiners
- May Crowning
- Celebrating Bishop Ustrzycki's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession
- Society of St. Vincent DePaul
- CWL Spring Market and Guest Speaker Dr. Josie Lombardi
- St. Patrick Heritage Tea
- Celebrating Father Ian's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Annual Golf Tournament
- Visiting Choir
- Upcoming Events



**Young Adults Group – The Frassati’s Carabiners**

**By: Aedan Reidy**

Our deanery family recently welcomed a new young adults’ group, hosted at the Basilica. The group’s first event was a movie night (see photo top right), held on March 23; forty young adults in their twenties and thirties attended, and a grand time was had by all!

The second event was a bingo night, that took place on April 27, with many new faces in attendance. That evening, the group name was announced: **Frassati’s Carabiners!**

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is commonly invoked as patron of Catholic young adults. Known as “The Man of the Beatitudes”, Pier Giorgio died in 1925 at the age of 24; an avid outdoorsman and mountaineer, he achieved great heights of personal holiness and service in his short life.

A carabiner is a self-locking metal clasp, often used in climbing. Strong and durable, they connect and anchor ropes. Like mountain climbing, the Christian life requires strength and perseverance, and our faith community helps connect and anchor us in the truth of our Faith.

Animated by the spirit of Blessed Pier Giorgio, the Carabiners’ aim is to foster a community that helps our deanery’s young adults aspire to the heights together!

Stay tuned for upcoming events announced in the bulletin over the coming months.



Photos below: April 27<sup>th</sup> Bingo Night



**Knights of Columbus Breakfast**

**By: Craig Chamberlain**

Members of the Knights are hard at work preparing and serving breakfast for our Parishioners after Sunday morning masses on May 26<sup>th</sup>, Mark your calendar and plan to attend the next Knights Breakfast will be held on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>



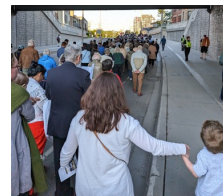
**Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession**

**By: Don Locke**

**Pictures by: Christine Schnurr**

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, in honour of the feast of Corpus Christi, 500 people – including parishioners from the Basilica and surrounding parishes - participated in a Eucharistic Procession. The evening started with a Mass at the Basilica, followed by the Eucharistic procession from the Basilica to Sacred Heart Church for Benediction. A reception followed.

It was an amazing event, and a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for organizing the Procession, as well as the CWL for organizing the reception.





## St. Patrick Heritage Tea

By: **Agnese Nagy**

The 2024 celebration of Catholic Hill Heritage with our St. Patrick's Day Tea was truly **serendipitous!** (The dictionary definition of **ser-en-dip-i-ty** is the occurrence and development of events in a happy or beneficial way.). How special this year to be able to host our Tea on the actual feast day of St. Patrick!



Our parish connection to St. Patrick goes back to the humble church structure built in 1833 on Catholic Hill by Irish immigrants and named for the patron saint of Ireland.

Over 100 patrons enjoyed a High Tea experience in our Parish Hall with great food, great company and exceptional service.

***"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand."***

Save the date - March 16, 2025 - for next year's event. You are all invited!



## CWL Spring Market and Guest Speaker, Dr. Josie Lombardi

By: **Bernadette Best**

On May 4, 2024, all the hard work from many volunteers paid off with a very successful Spring Market. We had raffles, draws and 20 vendors with crafts, greeting cards, jewelry, candles, religious items, household and outdoor items and Catharine Collins' beautiful paintings. There were also a lot of beautiful items sold at the silent auction table. Thank you to all the members and parishioners who donated baked goods for our bake table.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus who barbecued delicious hamburgers and sausages from Wally Parr. A great time was had by all!

On May 14, 2024, the CWL invited guest speaker Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Pastoral and Systematic Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary, to speak to our members and parishioners about the Power of Prayer. She provided spiritual insight of the Lord's Prayer and showed us how it can be a powerful spiritual guide for daily living. For more information about Dr. Josie Lombardi, visit her website at <https://josephinelombardi.com>.

## Basilica Tours – Interior

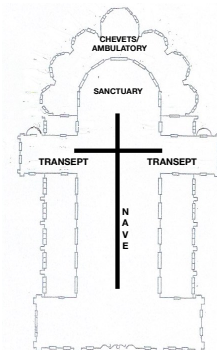
By: **Agnese Nagy**

Have you ever noticed the schematic drawing on the wall next to the main double doors at the back entrance of the church? It is on the right side of the double doors as you exit. This drawing is significant as it marks the main exits of the church in case of emergency but you probably didn't realize that more importantly it indicates that, as a congregation, **we assemble in the shape of Christ crucified.**

Why? Because, our church is **Cruciform** (*shape of a cross*) in design.

The main body of the church is called the **Nave** and forms the vertical or support part of the cross, while the horizontal rectangle cutting across the nave at the front of the church is called the **Transept** and forms the T part of the cross.

On the other side of the transept and separated by the Communion Rail is the **Sanctuary**, the most important and holiest part of the church. It contains the **Altar** where the Eucharist is consecrated.



Behind the **Sanctuary (altar area)** is an aisle called the **Ambulatory**. The ambulatory accesses seven radiating **Chapels or Chevets**. These include (running clockwise from the elevator): **Storage Cabinetry, the Pieta chapel, Our Lady of Perpetual Help chapel, Our Lady's chapel (Sacristy), Canadian Martyrs chapel, St. Patrick Chapel, and finally more Storage Cabinetry.** Each of these niche chapels/chevets is enhanced by beautiful stained-glass windows of saints. From a bird's-eye view, these radiating chapels/chevets remind us of the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head completing the imagery of Christ crucified.

There is so much to discover about our beautiful Basilica. Tours are conducted on the first Sunday of each month from 1-3 pm. Plan to take a tour to learn more!



Photos above: Members of the Knights working the BBQ at the Spring Market; Photo right: Dr. Josie Lombardi



## Society of St. Vincent dePaul Update

By: *Cathie Evans*

We are happy to report that the Basilica's St Vincent DePaul Conference has been kept busy the last several months. Through the generosity and support of our parishioners and benefactors, we've been able to continue to regularly feed the homeless in our community through Vinnie's Table, as well as provide food, clothing and household items to 137 needy people living within the boundaries of our church area.

During Lent, we initiated a project called **Walk In My Shoes**. A collection of gently-worn sneakers to be distributed to a number of local social service outlets to help those in need. By Easter Monday, we had collected in excess of 175 pairs of sneakers and shoes, and they continue to trickle in almost every week.

During Holy Week, we were able to fulfill our commitment to help the Royal City Mission during their most recent financial setbacks by delivering 55 kg of poultry to their kitchen.

In keeping with a St Vincent DePaul National initiative to assist those in need living in Arctic Canada, our Conference was able to provide a donation to **The North of 60 Project** which supports over 19 communities in the Far North. Our offering is intended for a small community called Kugaaruk in Nunavut. Please have a look where it's located on a map of Canada! Only through your goodness are we able to reach out to our fellow Canadians so far away!!!

Last but not least, we were made aware of a campaign to renovate the Marian Residence and Retirement Home. A retirement home founded and operated by our own Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate. Our small donation to their "Renewed by Love" Fundraising Campaign will ensure that the residence has comfortable chairs and sofas in their newly redecorated Sacred Heart Room.

We are thankful and grateful to Almighty God for His many gifts to us, and through that abundance the generosity of the hearts and hands of our parish family.

## Celebrating Father Ian Duffy's 30th Year Anniversary of Priestly Ordination - May 7, 2024



## Annual Golf Tournament

By: *Steve Nagy*

The parish held its 13th annual golf tournament on Sunday, June 2nd at Victoria Park Valley Golf Course. We had 38 players for golf and meal, and 6 for the meal only.

Although it was a wet day, we never let the elements dampen our spirits. We all had wet socks and perhaps wet pant legs, but the excellent meal provided by the club served to warm everyone up.

Michael Vuk won the closest to the pin prize - a shot 4ft.7in. from the pin that would have made Rory McIlroy proud! Helen Wojicki won the closest to the line prize with a very accurate drive less than a foot from the line - a shot Brooke Henderson would envy. Thanks go out to the Victoria Park Valley Golf Course and its always smiling staff, the Parish Golf Committee (Al and Mary Magyar, Mark Sammut and Steve Nagy) and you, the parishioners, who came through in the end to make the day successful and enjoyable.

## Visiting Choir

By: *Angie Hunt*

Basilica organist, Joe Carere, initiated visiting choirs in the Fall of 2023. On Saturday, May 25, 2024, we were honoured to have the choir from St. Clement's Parish in Cambridge, under the direction of Marilyn Franks, sing at the 5:15 p.m. Mass at the Basilica. To hear the choir during that mass, visit our webpage and click on "Attend Mass Virtually", and select **Trinity Sunday** from the YouTube Channel.



## BASILICA OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

28 Norfolk Street

Guelph, ON N1H 4H8

519.824.3951

[www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://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 22** – Young Adults Game Night
- **July 6** – Marian Day
- **Aug. 3** – Marian Day
- **Aug. 11** – KOC/CWL BBQ
- **Aug. 17** – Young Adults Midland Pilgrimage
- **Sept. 7** – Marian Day
- **Sept. 8** – Annual Parish Picnic
- **Oct. 5** – Marian Day and Regina Caeli Tea
- **Oct. 6** – GSO Fall Concert
- **Oct. 27** – Knights of Columbus Breakfast after Sunday Masses
- **Nov. 11** – Parish Wreath at City Service
- **Nov. 16** – CWL Christmas Bazaar
- **Nov. 24** – Parish Fall Dinner
- **Dec. 15** – Bambinelli / Food & Friends Sunday

For more information and details about upcoming events in our Parish, visit our website at [www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://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:



**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](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com), Click on **Resources**, then **Forms**, then select **Parish Registration**.

