



Holy Rosary Parish Community

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A Message from our Pastor, Msgr. Martin Valley

December 4th, 2020

Dear friends,

It is so hard to believe that nearly six months have passed since the “COVID Newsletter” which was produced under the auspices of our Parish Pastoral Advisory Council. At that time, we were busily preparing all the necessary protocols for re-opening the church after a distressing three months of being unable to receive worshippers through our doors (including at Holy Week and Easter).

Now that we have been open for close to six months, we have gotten used to the limited capacity, mask-wearing, social distancing, altered procedures, and constant disinfecting of the premises. Though the threats associated with the virus’s “second wave” are real and troubling, we are (as of this writing) carrying on and moving forward, careful to maintain government and diocese protocols and keep our parishioners safe. I want to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to the smooth running of things. Folks have pulled together as a true community, despite all the hardships, restrictions, and setbacks along the way. This is the Holy Rosary spirit and tradition, and I am very proud to be part of it, now for more than 4½ years.

The Pastoral Advisory Council has still not yet met again since February, but has now co-ordinated once more a Newsletter, to bring everyone up to speed on the many activities which have continued without interruption over the summer and autumn of this unique year. We hope that you will find it interesting and inviting. Be sure to contact the parish office if you have any questions, or if there is anything about which you like to know more.

I first want to draw attention to the fact that most or all of you are reading this right now by having logged on to the parish website, <https://holyrosaryburlington.com>. Our website has this year become a major vehicle of communication for us. Since we still are not permitted to hand out bulletins in hard copy, we post the bulletin online every week here on the website, and have done so since late September. At this time we are still posting the Scripture Readings and homily for every weekend. This is recorded at the Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass, and available on the website by Sunday at 9:00 A.M. We make all kinds of other parish and community announcements available on the website as well, some of them quite prominently on the sliding panel. Please be sure to regularly check out the website for updated news and information. Very sincere thanks goes to Vic Lefebvre, who tirelessly maintains the website.

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On the weekend of August 15th – 16th, our parish rejoiced in a rare but wonderful event. Our very own parishioner, Paul Edmondstone, was ordained to the priesthood for service in the Diocese of Hamilton, and celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving. Father Paul and his family have been active parishioners at Holy Rosary since 1993, when Paul was still a baby. After years as a devoted altar server and helper to his Pastors, Paul entered the priestly formation program in 2011. He experienced quite a journey over the ensuing years, some of which he chronicles in a wonderful Vocations interview conducted only a few weeks ago, also available on our website. He interned at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in Waterdown, served as a deacon at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton (where he was ordained both deacon and priest), and is now the Associate Pastor of Saint Matthew Parish in Oakville.



While the summer celebrations had to be considerably scaled down, they were joyful all notwithstanding. It was particularly touching that, two days after his First Mass, Father Paul presided at his grandmother's funeral at our very same Holy Rosary altar. She had died in late March, during the lockdown, and the funeral was held back until Father Paul could conduct it as a priest. He also preached, magnificently, at the late-October funeral (also held right here) of his former Pastor, Father Frank Trzupsek, whom he had served so faithfully. We all wish Father Paul many blessed years of service as a good priest.



Late summer brought another big transition to our community. Our beloved and devoted Secretary/Bookkeeper, Christine Gibbons, retired after 22 years of tireless service to the parish. Having worked for five Pastors, there was probably no aspect of parish life Chris had not touched and graced. We shall always be grateful to Chris for being available, supportive, and professional in her work, which she regarded as a true ministry. A little outdoor reception was held in September after Sunday Mass, giving parishioners an opportunity to express their thanks. Chris and her husband Denis continue to remain devoted parishioners and lectors, and Chris has been a wealth of advice and ongoing assistance to her successor.

We welcome, as our new Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, Mrs. Divine Dimaranan, who began to serve Holy Rosary right at summer's end. Divine is a native of the Philippines. She has considerable professional background in Accounting. Divine brings a cheerful eagerness to her new position here, and looks forward to getting to know everyone, as she becomes steadily more familiar with our community. She is also a whiz at making magic on our new outdoor digital sign! Divine and her husband have two teenage sons, and live on Hamilton Mountain, where they belong to Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. Welcome, Divine!



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I would like at this time to express my great gratitude for so many who have offered their congratulations, best wishes, and prayers, on the occasion of my being named by the Holy Father as a Monsignor. I received word of this in mid-November. The formal designation is “Chaplain of His Holiness”. The title of Monsignor is familiar to Holy Rosary Parish, as I am now the third consecutive Pastor to be a Monsignor. While it will not make a significant difference to my ministry or involvements in the parish or at the Diocesan level, it is a sign of regard which I appreciate very much, and humbly accept. I thank Pope Francis, and I thank Bishop Crosby. The ceremony of institution will be a closed-invitation event at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021. At that time, 14 other persons, all laypeople, will receive assorted Papal Honours, to celebrate dedicated service to the Church in our Diocese. Please continue to pray for me, and for all of us!

Finally, I ask you to carefully note the Advent/Christmas Schedule for Confessions and Masses, which is now in the process of being made available by mail, electronically, and otherwise. If you never get one or see one, be sure to contact the parish office. Like pretty much everything else this year, things are going to be a little different; but we intend to make as beautiful a Christmas for our people as we possibly can. Let us just pray that we can go ahead with our Schedule! Stay tuned for announcements about any needed adjustments as the next weeks go forward. We all wish for you a peaceful Christmas, allowing the Christ Child to rest within your heart, and you within his.

May Holy Rosary Parish continue to flourish in its mission “to live and proclaim Christ Jesus.....to be a vital witness of care and hope wherever the Lord needs us.” (Parish Mission Statement)

Monsignor Martin Vallely



A Report on Parish Activities Mary Edmondstone, Pastoral Minister



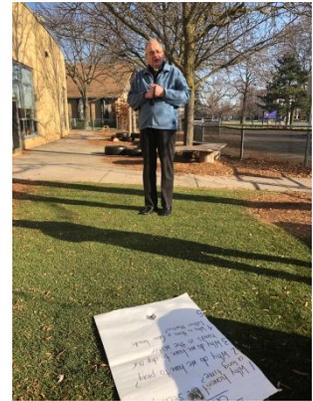
It's hard to believe that the Church has been re-opened for 6 months! We wouldn't be able to gather safely for Sunday Masses without the dedication and commitment of our Custodian David and our crew of volunteer cleaners. Using cloths, disinfectant spray and a fogger, David and our teams of cleaners ensure that all areas of the church are sanitized at all times. We can't thank you enough!

David using our fogger



We were very eager to welcome back the staff and students of Holy Rosary school after months of away, even if we had to find creative ways of meeting. With no visitors allowed in the school and with students not able to gather in the church, we found a common meeting space: The backyard of the rectory! We have welcomed classes for prayer services and for meditation. It has been a joy to see students, to pray with them and to come together as a community.

Father Martin participated in a virtual Remembrance Day Liturgy that was shown in all classes at the school. He also walked with students and teachers in the Peace March against bullying. Later that week, he visited the kindergarten class in their outdoor yard to talk about the Church and to pray together.



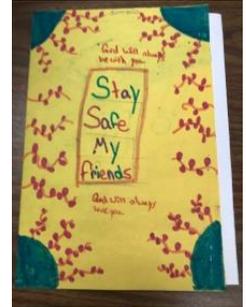
In October, we were able to celebrate First Communion with our grade 3 students who had missed their First Communion Day because of the lockdown. We normally prepare children for First Communion with a retreat and a rehearsal at the church. With the warm weather, we were able to have a mini-retreat with the children in the backyard with an opportunity to practice receiving Communion. While we couldn't have the children come to the church for a rehearsal, we created a video explaining the changes in the church since March, and a review of how to receive

Communion – including remembering to undo one side of the face mask! We celebrated 3 First Communion Masses with 14 children and families at each. While it was not the traditional class First Communion Mass, each celebration was joyful and memorable.

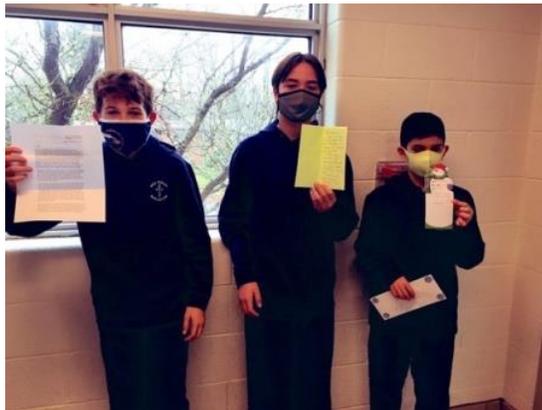
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October was also the month that our 3 candidates for RCIA, and team members, began to meet. RCIA is the process for adults to prepare to become Catholics, looking to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism as needed, Confirmation, and the Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Eight individuals have quickly become a warm and supportive group with thoughtful conversations, sharing of faith and warm laughter. We ask to please keep our candidates in your prayers.

In November, we began an initiative with the school, inviting classes to create cards, letters, pictures and even crafts to be given to parishioners living in retirement homes, long-term care homes, or who are isolating at home. To date, we have sent 140 messages of love and support from 7 classes. Their kindness and thoughtfulness has been very much appreciated.



We have received phone calls, emails and even letters thanking the children for brightening their day:

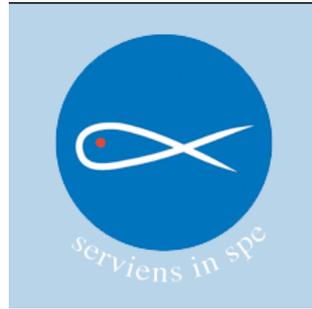


Grade 7 students showing their thank-you letters from residents of La Salle Park Retirement Home.

We celebrated the annual Mass with Anointing of the Sick in October, and in November our Memorial Mass to commemorate and pray for all who have had funerals in the parish this past year. Both were well attended.

And now we turn our thoughts to Advent and Christmas. While Christmas will be different this year, we hope to keep some of our parish traditions alive. It has been a cherished tradition to have the Gospel dramatized by our school children at our First Mass on Christmas Eve. While we can't have a live dramatization this year, we are preparing to show a taped dramatization at both the 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Masses. Thank you in advance to Bonnie Sparks, Patrick O'Hara and Wrenen D'Cunha.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Holy Rosary Conference



Our mission: “To live the Gospel message by serving the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.”

In 2020: Throughout the pandemic, your St. Vincent de Paul has still been in business. Although we are doing things a little differently these days, we continue to meet and serve the poor in our area.

This is a real challenge at times, and can be rather discouraging, when progress seems so slow.

But there have been positives:

With the help of you, our parishioners – your St. Vincent de Paul volunteers:

- made over 130 visits to people who called for help
- gave out food vouchers to Fortinos and No Frills
- brought over 160 bags of groceries from our try on their visits
- helped students apply for \$2,000 Ozanam grant for post-secondary education
- collected & distributed backpacks to school-aged children in September
- provided Christmas gift cards to families and individuals***.

Then there were the “special cases”, where we

- *helped with 3 utility bills*
- *gave 7 refurbished laptops to high-school students*
 - *paid for basic dental work (cleaning)*
 - *bought winter boots for a grade school child*
 - *made 3 payments for rent that was in arrears*

One person we visited is a single mother with two children refugees from a dangerous situation in northern Africa. We first met her in 2011, and have helped her in many ways since. Rarely has she had occasion to smile but has always been very grateful for our help. She is working, and her children have grown up healthy. The older boy received the St. Vincent de Paul Ozanam grant of \$2,000 for his post-secondary education, and now has a job. She has just informed us that, after waiting many years, she is about to take ownership of an affordable townhouse through “Habitat for Humanity”. We have never seen her so happy.

Deo Gratias

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Young Vincentians

Now, about our Young Vincentians: Although they have not been able to meet during the pandemic, they keep in touch and are brainstorming ways in which they can continue to be a caring presence in the parish and larger community, while growing their faith.

None of this could be done without your financial support and prayerful encouragement. Thank you so much and may God bless our parish community.

***A further note from our President:

On this first Sunday of Advent, as we begin to prepare for the Coming of Christ, I kept thinking of the families that our SVDP serves, and tries to help in their planning for Christmas.

Upon reflection, and without going into detail, I think that we do a pretty good job of making Christmas a festive occasion for them, by providing gifts for children, gift cards for teenagers, and financial help to parents.

What bothers me is that many, if not most, of these families have little time to reflect on the real, or rather the spiritual meaning of Christmas.

So on behalf of the volunteers, I ask for your prayers, that with guidance from the Holy Spirit, we not lose sight of what the birth of Jesus means for us, and that we are able to communicate – through example – the true meaning of this festive occasion to the families whom we are fortunate to serve.

Paul Wendling
President

November 29, 2020



Update from your Finance Council

This has been a very difficult year for everyone, and certainly the parishes were no exception. Here at Holy Rosary, even though regular Sunday Mass has been resumed since mid-June, attendance is still hovering at about 50 – 60% of what it normally would be at this time of year, on account of capacity restrictions and people's understandable hesitations.

Yet, in the last several months, Holy Rosary Parish has continued to hold its own financially, due to parishioners' ongoing generosity. It is still the case that numerous parishioners hand-deliver or mail their offering envelopes. Others are using electronic means like the Canada Helps link on the parish website. And participation in the Pre-Authorized Debit program has jumped by 25% over the past year. There have also been some extraordinary special donations made.

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The Finance Council meeting held October 1, 2020 was Council's first in-person meeting since February, 2020. It was concluded at that time that total income and regular expenses were reasonable, given the circumstances.

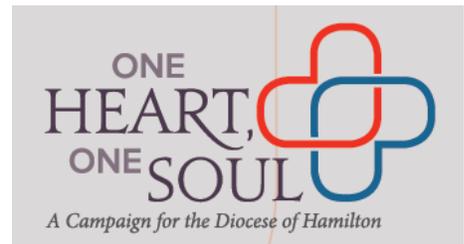
Monsignor Martin has continued to provide the Finance Council with monthly mini-updates, supported with well-documented explanations. As we come to the final month of the fiscal year, we observe that COVID-19 has had an effect on the parish's 2020 income to the tune of -9%, an average of \$ 540/week. Building Fund contributions are likewise down this year, by some 20 – 25%. Operational expenditures have been kept in check, and on par with 2019. We remain grateful for the cushion of funds on deposit at the Chancery, and so far we have not had to draw on it at all.

Fiscal responsibility, always very important to us, is being maintained. Be assured that the bells will be rung if there is any cause for grave concern. We look forward to presenting you with a hopeful and positive year-end report in two or three months' time.

Thank you for your continued generous support of your parish community and its mission.

Lou Poloniato,
For the Finance Council

One Heart, One Soul Diocesan Capital Campaign Update



Our parish's participation in the Diocesan Capital Campaign, one year ago at this time, was a tremendous blessing. Total pledges surpassed a half million dollars, which was 17% above the assigned target goal. Taking into account the required portioning out to shared Diocesan ministry projects, this would ultimately yield more than \$ 385,000 to the parish for our own projects.

According to the most recent figures we received in late September, more than 40% of the pledged total had by that point been actually paid through to the Capital Campaign Office. This meant that we now had more than \$ 160,000 available directly to us. In September, we took \$ 50,000, and it has been expended as follows:

1. New Outdoor Digital Sign (\$ 29,000): Everyone can see this marvelous and colourful new addition to our grounds, on which we can advertise not only our welcome and Mass times, but upcoming events and other news. It takes only a few clicks in the Rectory Office to put up a new "posting"!
2. Sanctuary floor refinishing, and new hand railings on either side, for easier accessibility (\$ 7,000): This project, especially the railings, fulfills a long-standing request from various ministers of the altar, who need the security provided. We are so pleased with these railings, which, according to one observer, "look like they have always been there". This project included a refinishing of the dance floor in the Parish Centre.



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3. Rectory Office floor replaced (\$ 7,000): This desperately needed project has given us a durable vinyl flooring, very attractive for visitors to the Office. The Knights of Columbus generously painted the Office walls, as well.....and they were very helpful in the other projects, too!
4. Emergency Medical/Dental need for our refugee family (\$ 3,500): Though the formal responsibility of the parish for sponsorship of the family has ended, it was decided to assist in this need, as a charitable outreach to them.
5. Towards our permanent Livestreaming Capability (\$ 5,000): As is reported elsewhere in the Newsletter, this is a work in progress, which has had certain COVID-19-related supplier setbacks. Our revised direction in this should prove workable fairly soon. Thanks to our Patrick O'Hara!



As we look to the future, we expect in 2021 to withdraw some more funds from our war-chest account at the Chancery Office, given that we still have well over \$ 110,000 available to us for the asking.

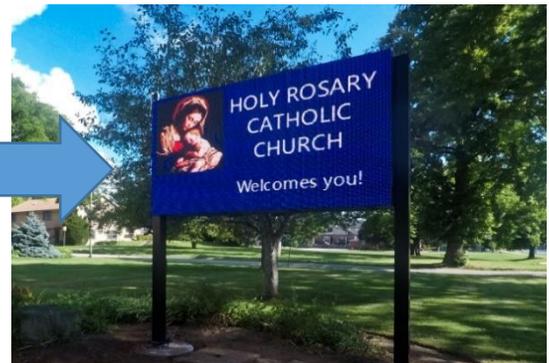
Among other things, we will need to:

- a) finish the Livestreaming project;
- b) purchase additional AV and other equipment for a more contemporary capability for faith formation and communication activities;
- c) get actively started on the wish list for enhancing and upgrading aspects of the Parish Centre and its kitchen; and,
- d) make sure the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is kept afloat if a cash crunch arises.

All of these are projects envisioned by the original advertised Campaign plan. And, when the current situation eases, we must move on the promised, still “on-hold”, hiring of a Youth/Family Minister for the parish.

Thank you again for your great generosity, and your enthusiastic sharing in the dream!

Monsignor Martin



HOLY ROSARY

Live Stream

Over the last two years and particularly during the pandemic, the popularity of video and audio podcasts has increased exponentially 12 to 25 fold, servicing our parish community and contributing to a greater awareness and appreciation for our website. In today's digital age, video delivered in real time sparks social media engagement. This opens the door to promoting outreach while fostering real life relationships that strengthen our parish community. Over the past few months we have been researching and acquiring the right equipment that will facilitate user friendly operations while ensuring a quality live media experience. We are on the path to launching Holy Rosary Live Stream early in the new year.



Holy Rosary Catholic Women's League



It has been a difficult autumn for the Catholic Women's League membership, with Covid-19 restrictions meaning that we could not host any general meetings or plan any events. Early in November, we mourned, with her family, the death of a much-loved and long-term member of our Council: Mrs. Yolanda Fleming. For more than seventy years, Yolanda was one of the pillars of our Council. Her devotion and commitment to Holy Rosary Parish and to the Catholic Women's League, was an inspiration to us all.

We all missed our annual Bell Bazaar, which was not only our main fundraiser, but was a very popular community event. However, as we enter joyfully into Advent and Christmas, there has been light in the darkness! With a desire to serve our parish and community, a group of pie-making volunteers has taken on the task of mixing, rolling and filling delicious pastries and casseroles for sale. Advertised through the Parish bulletin, our Council communications network and word-of-mouth, our sale has been very successful, garnering a profit of approximately \$2,500, which will support our parish and neighbourhood. Donations are going to Holy Rosary Parish, to the Compassion Society, to Partnership West, Carpenter Hospice, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you to all who purchased pies! And a further note: some of these delicious items have been set aside to be given to parishioners who may have difficulty getting out and around.

With the restrictions that have been put in place to promote a safe environment for us all, we realize that this leaves many without regular or personal contact with family and friends. In an effort to share the joy and peace of this season, we have planned a mailing of Christmas greetings to each of our Council sisters. May the love of our Saviour and His Beloved Mother envelop each and all of you in warmth and comfort.



Notice to all Holy Rosary Parishioners

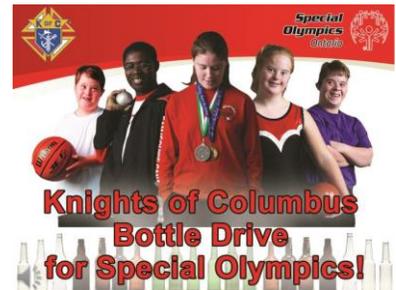
We have been notified that East Plains United Church, partnering this year with Wellington Square Community Meal Program, will once more be organizing their annual Christmas dinner. And as Holy Rosary Parish has again been asked to donate 250 cookie trays, please consider contributing some of your Christmas baking to this worthy cause! Cookies can be dropped off at the Parish Centre kitchen to be stored in our freezers. Information will be given, closer to Christmas, on how assembly of the trays will work this year. Please contact Barb at 905-335-3914 for details. Let's keep this tradition alive!



Knights of Columbus Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Council 15920

Most of our normal charitable activities have been curtailed since the Covid-19 pandemic struck. We have not been able to do the barbecues, breakfasts, school events and some others that we always enjoy; but that has not stopped our determined Knights from continuing to help --- but in a safe way.

We found a safe but creative way to continue our Special Olympics bottle drives and the result was our largest collection amount ever. We were able to generate over \$5,400, which we donated to that great cause. Thanks to Aeneas Mac Isaac and his trailer and many of our other Brother Knights, we were able to make some returns safely and efficiently directly to The Beer Store distribution centre in Stoney Creek, as well as to the usual local stores. Several people should be recognized for their support--including one of our own parishioners, Connie Battaglia, who donated a large quantity of bottles; and also one of the Special Olympics athletes, Sarah Hannon, who almost single-handedly raised almost 25% of the total 30,000+ bottles and cans. The Knights also want to express our sincere gratitude to the many members of our parish community who continue to support our bottle drives and other fundraisers.



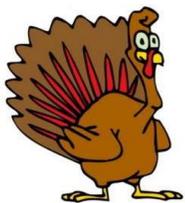
The Knights helped with the installation of the beautiful new digital sign at the front of the church. Brothers Blair Breckenridge, Sam Cervoni and Ken Fleming organized the preparation of the site, including permits, electrical connections and old sign removal. This was a major job but one that the entire parish and community can be proud of. While the installation of the sign was happening, the Knights, led by Jim Hession, Vincent Iantomasi and Steve Marsh, repainted the white cross at the front of the church. During a September storm a tree branch on the west side of the church broke off almost hitting one of the stained-glass windows; Blair Breckenridge and Sam Cervoni removed the hanging branch so it would not fall on the church---and converted it into firewood!



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Jim Hession, David Lord and Sheldon McCormack painted the walls in the rectory office, to enhance the new floor. Other activities our Knights were involved in over the past few months included: refinishing the altar floor and installing railings; replacing the flags at the front of the church; organizing the replacement of the floor in the rectory office; and maintaining the parish website, through the dedicated efforts of Vic Lefebvre.



The major fundraiser for the Knights (and the Men's Club, before the Knights Council was formed) was the annual Turkey Roll. This year it appeared that the 54 years of continuity of the event might be in jeopardy, but our Knights were determined to make it happen somehow. It was decided that we would try to do a virtual Turkey Roll --- but we had no road map to follow.

A team of Knights, including Ken Fleming, Jim Hession, Willie Joki, Vic Lefebvre, Steve Marsh and Danny Morosin, came up with a plan to make it happen. Although the virtual event will not be webcast until Friday, December 11, the actual event was recorded on Saturday, November 28. Ticket sales exceeded all of our expectations, and we were able to sell 2400 tickets for 20 Rolls with over \$7,000 of net proceeds. There are 60 prizes to be awarded, including turkeys, hams, spirits and flowers. There will also be 5 door prizes awarded.



The virtual event could not have happened without the masterful help from parishioner Patrick O'Hara and his assistant Wren D Cunha. Patrick has a significant background in the TV media production world. Thank you, Patrick, for your amazing contribution.

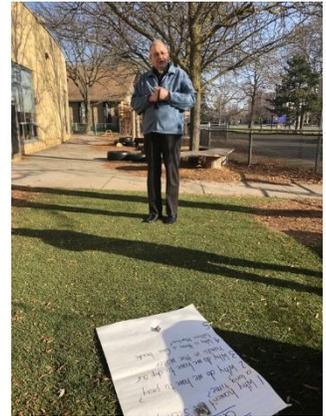
The Knights also want to thank the ladies of the parish who helped out with the Turkey Roll, including: Mary Edmondstone, Yolanda Fitzpatrick, Anne Joki, Rose Marsh, Carol Morosin, Bev Taylor and Sherry Wendling.



Children's Ministry – a Reflection from Bonnie Sparks



It was wonderful to be involved in both the retreats and the First Communion celebrations for our grade three classes. We had great sessions in Monsignor Martin's back garden. The students and their families were extremely happy that the children could finally receive their First Communion. Everything ran smoothly over the three days of celebration. Mrs. LoPresti and other school staff members were able to join in this special event.



It has been an interesting time as our groups help to clean our church after the various weekend Masses. I personally have enjoyed the distanced camaraderie as we disinfect.

We have missed the weekly Children's Liturgy sessions. Hopefully in the New Year we can do more to involve the children, probably virtually.

Our Christmas Eve Pageant is in the works. It is an exciting challenge for Mary Edmondstone, myself and Patrick, our awesome filmmaker. We are working with five separated cohorts of children plus a narrator and musical accompaniment to practice and then film our annual Christmas Pageant. The plan is to play the video at the two early Christmas Eve Masses. It is truly a labour of love for me.

Mary Edmondstone and I will be facilitating a virtual Advent Retreat for our young children. Prayer, song, reflection and crafts will be involved.

Here's to our Cantors!

On November 14-15, we heard the powerful gospel of the talents. Msgr. Vallely, in his insightful reflection, encouraged each of us to follow God's call to make use of the gifts that he has graciously given us. I happened to be at all three masses that weekend. As I listened, my mind kept turning towards our cantors.



Our cantors exemplify the message of the talents--each cantor is different; all are willing to make the most of the talents that they have been given, to the best of their abilities. I work individually with several cantors each week, and I am always inspired: each one has different gifts; each one is special; each one gives their best; and beyond that, they all help one another! Everyone trusts that the Master will graciously receive their offerings. I feel privileged to work with these wonderful people, and together to share our devotion through music.

Thanks to all; blessings to all!

William Renwick
Director of Holy Rosary Parish Music Ministry

Adult Spiritual Growth Activities

At the beginning of the pandemic lockdown in mid-March, we experienced the feeling of being in exile, like the Israelites, unable even to journey physically together as a community in the strength of communal celebration of Word and Eucharist.

Now over a year later since its discovery, COVID-19 continues to grow like a forest fire, catching all creatures globally in many aspects of life. Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Fratelli tutti* (Oct 3 2020) could not have come any more timely. And we worry about what lies ahead. I am reminded of the lines from Isaiah 55:8-9. Our limited collective human mind is here to observe the wisdom of our God whose love is steadfast.

How to journey with our invisible but very real Jesus Christ through this storm? To me, he seems to be sleeping at times. How to remain connected with our Brother and secure in His deep peace through the Paraclete?

There are currently two groups, presently meeting regularly on Zoom, which may help nurture our faith and keep our focus:

Quest is a group that gathers weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, for about an hour and a quarter, to review and share insights on the Scriptural readings for the upcoming Sunday. It encourages us to till our spiritual soil in preparation to receive the seed sown. Acting on the written text of Scripture is a lifelong challenge. All are welcome! Contact the rectory office.



Communal Spiritual Growth is the catch-all name for the other group. Sometime in the Spring of 2019 the desire to cultivate spiritual growth for the many compassionate active good Samaritans in our parish was germinated. These meetings now take place monthly, from 7 – 9 pm, typically on the third Monday.



Each meeting begins with the sharing of where God has touched us in our daily life and sometimes asking ourselves the deeper question 'why'. The narrative experience is not always fuzzy and warm – just like the shalom from our resurrected Christ. This calls for active self-noticing, very much after the McMaster Adult Learning Model. ***Look at our fingers***, they are all different in length and bend in slightly different directions in order to work better together – the ingenious design of our Creator. Imagine how rich it is to help each other find God this way!

A variety of topics are covered, often inspired or requested by participants. Presenters are usually outside speakers with great experience in their field. The first topic was by Joan Halifax, on Compassion – an intentional voluntary act of putting oneself empathetically through the suffering of the other person. Then we touched on how to combat Compassion Fatigue through Scripture readings, presented by our own Julie Ruston. From there we seek the strength to prevent getting frustrated like Martha (Luke 10:38-42).

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We viewed the videos explaining the different stages of Mass by Bishop Robert Barron – culminating in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of our Christian life. We looked at the life, struggles and growth of Dr. Balfour Mount, the founder of the Canadian Palliative Care Movement. Good palliative care supports the mental, psychological and spiritual life of both patients and their family. This is what will primarily guard against patients requesting medical assistance in dying. There is a distinct difference between palliative care and hospice care, even though in both cases the person affected may be dying.

During the next block of many meetings we ambitiously tackled the ‘rules for discernment of spirits’ promoted by St. Ignatius of Loyola: Ignatian Gospel Contemplation; Examen (Examination of Consciousness); Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer. Topics are taught on video by many excellent teachers, ranging from James Martin, S.J., to Thomas Keating, O.C.S.O., to Richard Rohr, a Franciscan, who summarizes many aspects of how to find our true self--touching on what is Unceasing Prayer as advocated by St. Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Some may not be aware that you already possess this skill. Observe some old couples: they are fully aware of the presence of each other without much conversation. In love, one glance, a small gesture, they understand each other. Or you may have the rare treasure of an understanding friend who does not need to dialogue with you extensively, but just to be there with you.

As we look to 2021, our Zoom meetings will touch on how to pray the Rosary (facilitated by Paul Wendling), how to meditate on the Stations, how to pray the Psalms, Eastern Meditation, some similarity between interpersonal communication and praying. Barring technical issues, we may consider Contemplative Meditation (facilitated by Anne Gallagher). Remember – it is our desire to grow closer to God that matters. All are welcome! Contact the rectory office.

Vicky Chen

Ministry to the *Sick & Shut-in*

Mary Edmondstone and I have been phoning many of them to see how they are doing and if they need anything. They all seem to appreciate the phone call and contact with the parish.

Mary is also visiting a few of them, which is much appreciated. We will continue doing this as long as is necessary.

Pam Cupido





It is with great pleasure that we are letting you know that CATCH18 (“Communities Aligning to Create Habitats---2018 and beyond”) has now been awarded an official Home Sponsor position at the Crew-Goetz Habitat for Humanity Development in Burlington.

We began our journey in 2018 to help raise funds for this great project. Our objective was to come together as a Holy Rosary Church community, and reach outside our walls to extend our efforts into the local community. We are so blessed to have a Parish like Holy Rosary, which truly stepped up to help us accomplish our goals.

There were many Parishioners who donated varying amounts of money to the cause; and those who did what they could do to help, whether that was financial or time and effort. The Post Signing at the Church, for example, was a great success, and we are truly thankful to all those who donated.

The CWL and the Knights of Columbus likewise played a significant role in raising funds and helping in several areas. We truly have wonderful group of people in these organizations who are constantly giving of their time and energy to make lives better for others.

At the same time, we reached out into the community and we were supported so wonderfully. Anthony Cordeiro, then the Principal of Notre Dame Secondary School, made it a school priority to participate and their contribution made a significant difference. The Post-Signing event in the Gymnasium was a great success and truly garnered participation from all the students. At Holy Rosary Elementary School, Grade 8 teacher Marianne MacDonald worked with all the Grade 8’s to help the fundraising efforts, by growing Flowers provided by Notre Dame, specifically Allan Nason the Horticulture Teacher and his students. The CWL and Holy Rosary School we able to sell these flowers to parents and others.

Two contributors which CATCH18 want to especially thank for their extra effort are Melvin Ilagan, who engaged his company ON Semiconductor to make a great contribution, and Hilda Cirotto and Jeannie Woodcroft for obtaining a special donation from the Retired Teachers Organization (RTO). They all went above and beyond to make this happen.

It is also especially important to highlight all the efforts made by John Gerard, the CEO of Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga and his entire team did to help facilitate all the projects---from attending the events, to making presentations, to helping coordinate all the materials needed to run a project. They truly are dedicated to their cause.

There is no better year than 2020 to accentuate the need for families to have a home to live and pray in. The Crew-Goetz project is truly making a difference to 18 families and we are proud to say that CATCH18 was instrumental in assisting to make this happen.

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Pope Francis urges all Catholics to take risks to help make a difference in helping those in need. Our endeavour to sponsor one of the 18 homes was truly a challenge, and sometimes seemed like an insurmountable one. BUT, our community stepped up to the task, and we met our goal! We should all be so grateful for taking the risk, putting our efforts into full gear, and accomplishing our set goal.

As the Team Leader for the CATCH18 project I want to thank, from the bottom of my heart, all the Parishioners of Holy Rosary, and Father Martin, for their unwavering support.

Len Walker,
CATCH18 Team Leader,
Lecturer
Knights of Columbus Council 15920



Holy Rosary Parish Autumn 2020



Building in Burlington,
Halton Hills, Milton,
Oakville & Mississauga

We build strength, stability and independence.

November 24, 2020

To our great partners at CATCH18,

As we enter our second wave of this pandemic, I think we can all agree that 2020 has been a year we will never forget. Now more than ever we are grateful to have the chance to celebrate something extraordinary with you and finish 2020 with a triumph.

We are pleased to announce that, with great determination, your contributions, and the support of the community, we were able to complete our 18 townhomes, part of the Crew-Goetz Landing project in Burlington this Fall.

We started on this journey in 2018 and are so appreciative of the collaborative efforts your organization have had to raise funds for this build project. Catch18 is an incredible and unique group who united multiple organizations together towards raising funds for the building of a Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga home in our community.

Together with the efforts of The Knights of Columbus, Holy Rosary and St. Gabriel's Church, The Retired Teachers of Ontario District 15, the Catholic Women's League, ON Semiconductor and the incredible students both at Notre Dame Secondary and Holy Rosary Catholic School - this united team raised over \$35,000 over two years towards the CATCH18 goal of \$50,000. This is an example of how a community came together to help make a difference in their neighbourhood.

As 2020 closes, we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate your contribution to this build. In addition, it is my pleasure to award your group, CATCH18, the title of official Home Sponsor of one of the townhomes on our Crew-Goetz Landing Build. Your contribution will leave a lasting legacy and this home will have a permanent plaque recognizing your contribution.

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While typically we are able to celebrate this moment with all of our 18 home sponsors in person on the home build site, due to these extraordinary times, we will not be able to host the traditional in-person gathering. Additionally, for the first time in our history, we have had to move many of our families into their new homes ahead of our official dedication ceremony. We had initially planned for them to receive their homes in the spring of 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic derailed our ability to deliver on the original move-in dates. This delay meant that our families had to wait much longer than they normally would to occupy their forever homes.

As an alternative, we have decided to innovate with a "virtual dedication ceremony." We have settled on the date of Dec 11, 2020. We have invited CATCH18 to share a video message for this virtual ceremony and are excited to share this event with you. Details of the event will be shared later this week from our partnerships team.

It's during times like these that we are so grateful to do the work we do, in partnership with people like you.

On behalf of all our Crew-Goetz Landing families, it is with my deepest gratitude that I thank you.

Sincerely,



John Gerrard, CEO

Habitat for Humanity Halton-Mississauga

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