

St. Mary's Drop-In Centre

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST MARY'S DROP-IN
CENTRE AT 260 BROCK ST, KINGSTON

Our Mission Statement:

St. Mary's Drop-In Centre is a ministry of St. Mary's Cathedral living, in imitation of Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, His commandment that: "I have set you an example that you should also do as I have done to you" (John 13). Recognizing the dignity of each individual, through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (Matthew 25:32 ff), we care for the material, emotional and spiritual needs, of the homeless and those most in need in the city of Kingston.



A Great Summer!

We have had a great Spring and Summer at the Drop-In Centre. We remained open throughout the provincial lockdowns to serve the homeless sector. The number of our guests continue to increase. Towards the end of the month, we see around 50 people per day. Requests for clothing, our shower, and laundry facilities have all gone up during the summer.



Jurek Romaniec and one of our guests painting Easter eggs.



Many of our guests enjoy the famous St. Rita's Cafe patio in the summer!



We are so grateful for our wonderful volunteers.



We have been blessed with abundant donations.



Our BBQ days throughout the summer have become very popular!

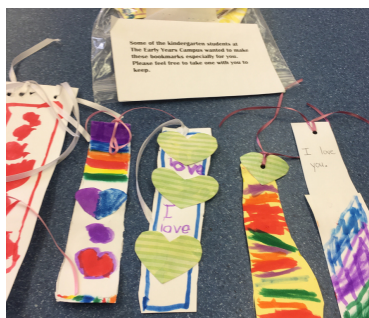
Drop-In Centre Updates:

Since our last newsletter, we have had successful events and made the best of our situation through the pandemic. In March, we celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a special Irish-themed luncheon featuring Irish stew, Colcannon, Irish soda bread, Irish cream brownies, and mint ice cream. The team and guests dressed for the occasion!



As a Catholic group, we had to throw a lively party on the Feast of St. Patrick!

During Lent and Easter, we were also blessed to have numerous donations. The students at Ecole Cathedral collected and donated 1000 items of food products along with a financial donation as part of their Lenten Outreach Project. Kindergarten students made cards for our guests to show they care about them, and students made presentations in class about the mission of the Drop-In Centre.



Lenten Outreach project by Ecole Cathedral.

Throughout the summer, the Community Gardens have been in progress. In addition to our large, 2400 sq. ft. garden, we acquired 2 smaller gardens which are being used to grow low maintenance crops. At least 25 volunteers have been working in our gardens, and our produce yield is over 200 lbs more than this time last year. Surplus produce is donated to one of our partners, Lionhearts.



Even with masks, our volunteers are smiling and always ready to lend a helping hand.

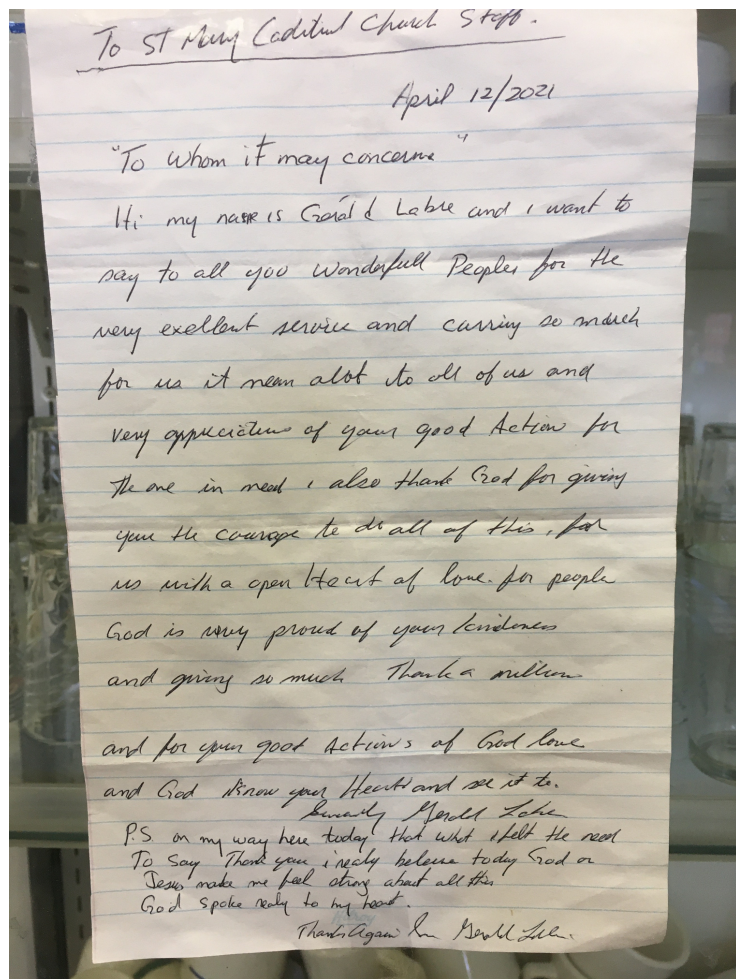
Our guests regard the church as a safe haven and we continually hear that our loving volunteers make all the difference. We strive to see Jesus in all those who come through our doors (Mt 25:40). We are always in need of more volunteers, particularly to staff the shifts at the Drop-In Centre and to provide pastoral care to our guests. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Ann Lyng at ministries.smc.279@gmail.com



Happy Birthday to one of our beloved guests, Gerald!

Testimonials:

Please read through a testimonial given by a guest in April:



'To St Mary Cathedral Church Staff

April 12/2021

"To Whom it may concern"

Hi my name is Gerald Labre and I want to say to all you wonderful people for the very excellent service and caring so much for us it mean a lot to all of us and very appreciative of your good Action for the one in need. also thank God for giving you the courage to do all of this for us with a open Heart of love for people. God is very proud of your kindness and giving so much. Thank a million and for your good Actions of God love and God know your Hearts and see it to.

Sincerely Gerald Labre

P.S. on my way here today that what I felt the need to say Thank you I really believe today God or Jesus made me feel strong about all this

God spoke really to my heart, Thanks Again, Gerald Labre

In Loving Memory of Alex Owachuk:

On a somber note, one of our regular guests, Alex, passed away suddenly. A memorial service was held at the Drop-In Centre with Father Michel Quenneville, a former volunteer at the Drop-In Centre, officiating. Father Shawn celebrated a funeral Mass for Alex in St. Mary's Cathedral on Monday, June 7. Pallbearers were volunteers at the Centre. Interment was at the Glenhaven Memorial Cemetery.

Please pray for the repose of his soul.

*Eternal rest grant unto Alex, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

May he rest in peace.

Amen.



An exciting piece of news recently: one of our clients, who is artistically gifted, is creating table centrepieces to decorate tables in our gathering place!



Easter eggs painted by our guests.



"Cooking with Nonna" remains among our most abundant continuous donations, providing nutritious & delicious meals! In addition, some parishioners have volunteered to come on weekday mornings to process the vegetables and freeze them in preparation for the Nonnas. New freezers are needed to store the produce.



Prayer is always integral to our operations, we pray together after every shift.

How to support us:

To continue providing much-needed services to the poor in Kingston, we need your support:

- ➔ Prayer and fasting for our mission
- ➔ Volunteer your time to help one of our teams:
 - We need your help with staffing shifts, collecting/organizing donations, working at our Community Garden, and fundraising.
 - Go to www.stmarysdropin.ca/volunteer-with-us/
- ➔ We rely completely on the Providence of God. We do not accept funding from the government so that we always keep our Christ-centred mission based on Catholic social teaching. As such, financial support from the local Catholic community is crucial. Income tax receipts will be issued for all donations over \$20. You can support us through (please specify that your donation is intended for the St. Mary's Drop-In Centre):
 - Cheque made out to St. Mary's Cathedral
 - E-transfer to smarys@cogeco.net
 - Online at Canada Helps:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110443RR0033-st-marys-cathedral/>
- ➔ Food and clothing donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 1-4PM at 260 Brock Street:
 - Soup cans, crackers, canned chicken and tuna, pre-sliced cheese and deli meats, white/brown bread
 - Juice boxes and water bottle cases
 - Granola bars, maple cookies/chocolate chip cookies
 - Gently used or new clothing and furniture
 - Please contact Ann Lyng to inquire if we are in need of something you can donate, or for an expanded list of items we need.

If you have more questions or want to know more about how you can be involved, please contact:

Ann Lyng

Coordinator of Ministries at St. Mary's Cathedral

ministries.smc.279@gmail.com

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