



ARCHDIOCESE  
*of*  
KINGSTON

# JOURNEY

COMMUNICATOR FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON

**SYNOD 2021 2023  
TIME OF RENEWAL**

**WILLING HEARTS AND  
MANY HANDS ACHIEVE  
FUNDRAISING GOAL**

**CONCLUDING THE  
YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH**

**CELEBRATING TRUTH AND  
RECONCILIATION DAY**

**AND MORE**

DECEMBER 2021



## Table of Contents

---

Message from Archbishop Michael Mulhall.....	1
Willing Hearts and Many Hands Achieve Fundraising Goal.....	2
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Brockville Shares the Joy of Christmas .....	3
St. Peter's in Chains Parish, Trenton, Prayer and Service Groups Prevail.....	4
Window Project Complete at Holy Rosary Church, Belleville.....	5
St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Deseronto Celebrates 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.....	6
Adult Baptism during Pandemic at St. Paul the Apostle Parish.....	7
St. Mary's Drop-In Centre: A refuge for the homeless and poor.....	8
Concluding the Year of St. Joseph.....	10
Celebrating National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.....	11
The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Patronal Feast Day of the Archdiocese of Kingston.....	12
Welcome to Taylor/ Pastoral Visits.....	13
Pastoral Events.....	14
For the Synodal Church: Communion, Preparation and Mission.....	15
Looking Ahead: Journey Spring Edition 2022.....	16

# A Message from Archbishop Michael Mulhall

---

The pandemic, which first had an impact upon our lives in early 2020, is still with us as we welcome the release of this edition of Journey. The past 16 months have challenged, in so many ways, our society and the parishes of our Archdiocese. Even in the midst of the restrictions placed upon us, I am deeply thankful for the care and perseverance shown by our many faithful parishioners and clergy. When we finally move beyond the pandemic, it will be good for us to reflect upon the ups and downs of these past months, but it may be premature to do so at this stage. This edition of the Journey provides some important accounts of the reality of Covid-19 at the parish level and shows the resourcefulness shown by so many. I pray that these snapshots of parish life during a pandemic will serve a deeper discernment on the essentials about our Catholic life in the months ahead.

As the world continues to struggle with this coronavirus, the Holy Father has asked the Church to strengthen and live its synodal nature in anticipation of a General Synod in Rome during the Fall of 2023. This exercise calls the Church to live more fervently an aspect of our Catholic life. The Church in every age needs to remain faithful to the Gospel handed on by Christ. We are to discern through the gift of the Holy Spirit, how best to find the words that both faithfully preach the Gospel and

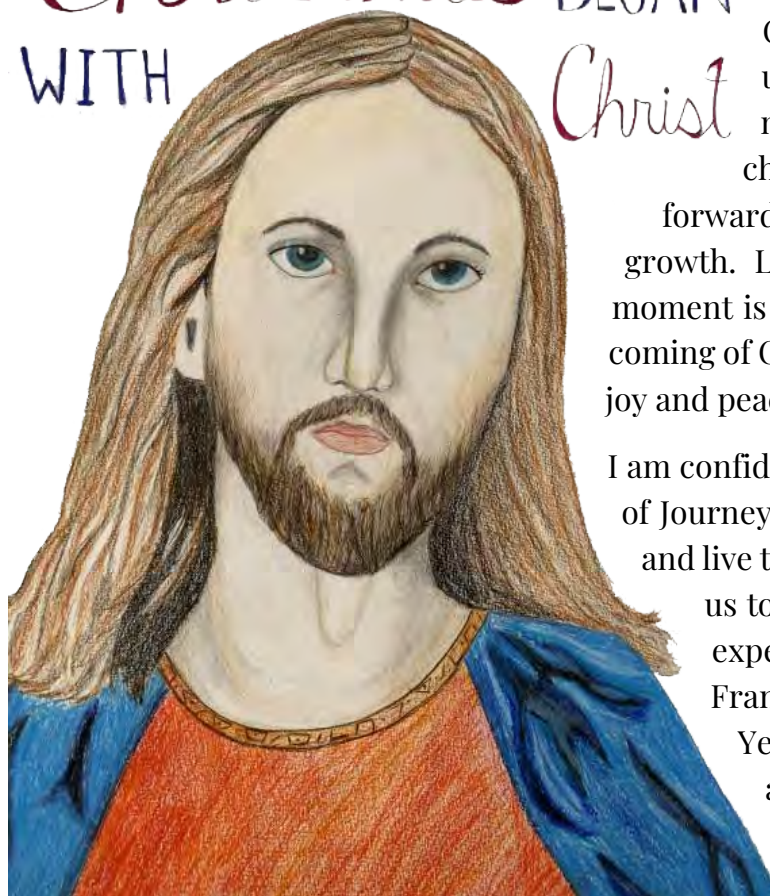
correspond to the changing realities of people's lives. The

Christmas BEGAN  
WITH Christ

community gathered for the Sunday Eucharist listens to the Father's eternal Word and lives the Catholic sacramental life to the full. In building up the bonds of charity with each other, we listen more attentively and in this attentive and charitable listening, the Church discerns the path

forward, allowing fruits to build on fruits in a seamless growth. Living the fulness of our faith in the present moment is our great joy. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Our Lord at Christmas, we are called to share this joy and peace with everyone we encounter.

I am confident that the reflections in this December edition of Journey, will assist each of us to listen to Christ's word and live this synodal life in our Archdiocese. May this help us to play our small but essential part in the synodal experience of the Universal Church that Pope Francis calls our attention to as we enter the New Year. May God Bless you with peace, good health and everlasting joy this Christmas and throughout 2022.



Artwork by Elizabeth Bellavance, Grade 8 student  
at St. Paul Catholic Secondary, Trenton

# Willing Hearts and Many Hands Achieve Fundraising Goal

Nine years ago, in July of 2012, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception parishioner, Dominica Bracciodieta, had a conversation with the newly assigned Rector, Fr Shawn Hughes, about the condition of the carpet in the sanctuary. With many competing needs for maintenance and upgrading in the 164 year old cathedral, there were no funds to replace the carpet much less consider a more permanent improvement in flooring. For Dominica, the solution was simply to begin to raise money for the beautification of the sanctuary floor. Over the past eight years, Dominica, members of the Italian Ladies Association and other volunteers within the parish have hosted Italian dinners, Easter bread sales and fall bake tables with all proceeds going to the fund to replace the flooring in the sanctuary of the Cathedral. Tickets to the first Italian dinner sold for \$25 each. Prices increased incrementally over time with sell out crowds of 240 guests paying \$50 each in 2019 to enjoy the feast. Dozens of volunteers offered their time and gifts to purchase supplies, cook, decorate, serve and clean up for each event. "No one ever said NO to helping - people were amazing" commented Dominica. The last, pre-pandemic dinner event raised \$11,300! When asked, "how do you do it?" Dominica replied, "it's the power of the Lord who gives you strength and courage and health to do it. Without Him, we can do nothing".

This fall, Fr. Shawn informed Dominica that the fundraising goal for a new floor for the sanctuary had been achieved. "You can see through Dominica and so many others in the parish the work of the Holy Spirit", stated Fr. Shawn. The inspiration to begin to raise funds led to a ripple effect of willing hearts and hands to contribute to the same goal including St. Mary's parish Knights of Columbus and private donors. The new floor will be an expression of praise and love of God from countless volunteers and benefactors who rejoice in coming to the Eucharistic banquet at the table of our Lord.



## St. Francis Xavier Parish, Brockville Shares the Joy of Christmas

For 48 years the parish of St. Francis Xavier has hosted an annual community Christmas dinner so that everyone could experience the joy of Christmas Day regardless of their circumstances. Preparations for this community event typically begin in September and have been coordinated by Dana Wren and family for the past 7 years. Numbers of dinner guests fluctuate from 130 to 150 annually and the event is so well supported within the parish community that there are often an equal number of volunteers offering their services. In the past, guests who registered to attend the dinner were transported to and from the venue by Howard Bus Line, free of charge. Caroling, Christmas gifts and dinner music were part of the joyful experience of being together as a community, all provided through the generosity of parishioners.



The pandemic made gathering for Christmas dinner within a community setting impossible last year so the team of volunteers at St. Francis Xavier worked with local health unit authorities to devise a plan to deliver Christmas dinner to the homes of those who registered. Building on their experience last year, the team of volunteers led by Dana and her family are determined to once again, show their love for their neighbours by taking Christmas dinner to their registered guests.

When asked about how she and her family became involved in coordinating the community Christmas dinner, Dana explained: “Our neighbour, who was like a grandmother to our kids, was one of the founding members of this event and when she passed on, our kids asked if we could take this over. For us, each year it renews the true meaning of Christmas”.

Pictured: (Top) St. Francis Xavier dinner guests and volunteers enjoy Christmas Day together in pre-pandemic 2019. (Left) All of the festive trimmings are in place for guests of St. Francis Xavier's Community Christmas dinner, 2019

# St. Peter in Chains Parish, Trenton,

## Prayer and Service Groups Prevail

Pope Francis teaches us, “Praying and working in community keeps the world going. It is a motor. Everything in the Church originates in prayer and everything grows thanks to prayer.” There are many St. Peter in Chains, Trenton, parishioners who’s lives have been touched by the opportunities available to participate in group prayer and service within their parish community. The Followers of Jesus prayer group started in the parish in the 1970s and continues to this day. Over the past 40 years, membership in the group and the program of praise and worship has changed several times. Currently the group meet weekly to prepare together for Sunday Mass using the program, “Celebrating the Word”. A long-time participant of the group, Marlene Murphy, commented, “I’ve learned how to pray. The Mass means so much more to me. My whole world changed and opened up from my experience in the prayer group”. When asked what advice she would give to others, Marlene stated, “People should at least try a prayer group. It has really opened up the Scriptures for us and the sharing which happens is wonderful”.

Communal prayer holds an important place in the many other groups and organizations within the parish all of which celebrate the contributions of each other. The Fr. Justin Hanley Squires Circle #5219, a Catholic leadership service group for male youth aged 10 to 18, has been operating, with some breaks in service, in the parish for 70 years! Prayer anchors their monthly meetings as the youth discern what initiatives they will undertake each year to serve their community. Mike Silva, a volunteer leader and parent supporting the Squire Circle, indicated that not only do group members develop great leadership skills and enjoy opportunities for community and social engagement, but they are also encouraged on their spiritual journey. Mike noted that the pandemic and related restrictions have had a negative impact on opportunities for Squire youth to gather and interact with each other and the community as they would have in the past however the Circle, with 20 members is still viable in Trenton. Pictured below is the Fr. Justin Hanley Squire Circle at their 2019 Christmas celebration.

Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary and Catholic Women’s League groups are all very active within the St. Peter in Chains parish ensuring that any need identified by Fr. Tim Harrison or another member of the parish administrative team can be promptly and joyfully addressed. A strong culture of service to others prevails within the Catholic faith community in Trenton and prayer, as the motor, can be found at the heart of communal life in the parish. “It is just a prayerful atmosphere in this church” commented Fr. Tim, “and always has been”.



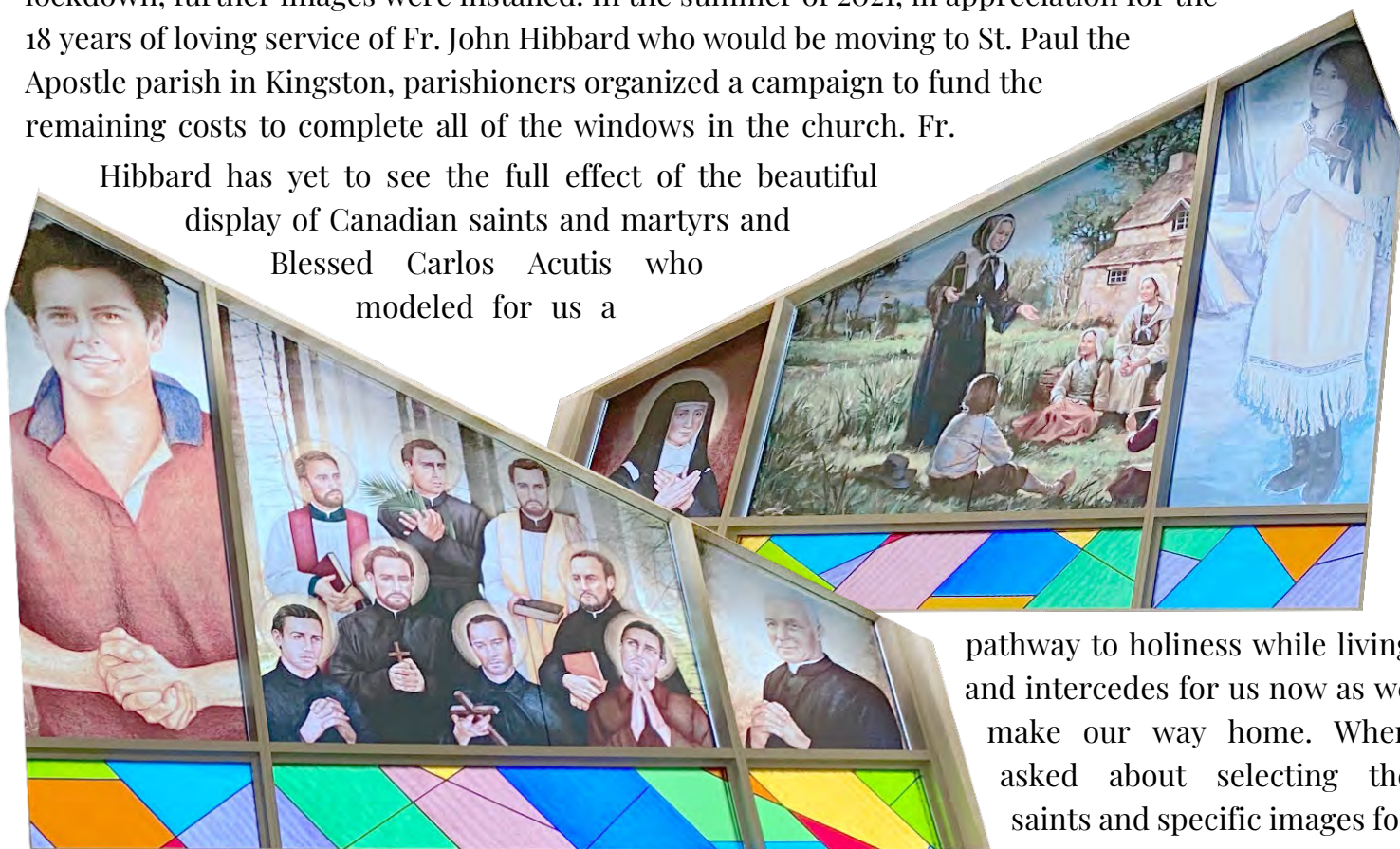


## Window Project Complete at Holy Rosary Church, Belleville

Inspirational images of historic and contemporary Catholic role models shine brightly in the lofted windows of the new Holy Rosary Church in Belleville. The construction of the church was completed in 2009 under the guidance of Fr. John Hibbard. Over the past two years, with the support of many donors and thoughtful planning, a process has been completed to have beautiful, artistic images displayed on the windows of the church. Using innovations in print technology, selected images were produced on special laminates which were designed to adhere to the windows. A matte overlamine was then used to protect the panels from fading.

The first artwork displayed on the windows in the church was a 13-panel rendering of the Last Supper installed in the fall of 2019, prior to the pandemic. As parish life resumed after the initial lockdown, further images were installed. In the summer of 2021, in appreciation for the 18 years of loving service of Fr. John Hibbard who would be moving to St. Paul the Apostle parish in Kingston, parishioners organized a campaign to fund the remaining costs to complete all of the windows in the church. Fr.

Hibbard has yet to see the full effect of the beautiful display of Canadian saints and martyrs and Blessed Carlos Acutis who modeled for us a



pathway to holiness while living and intercedes for us now as we make our way home. When asked about selecting the saints and specific images for

the church, Fr. Hibbard indicated, “I wanted to represent our Canadian history and the religious of our diocese who have contributed so much. Young people also need a model so Blessed Carlos Acutis represents a young, contemporary Catholic who can inspire the young people of today.”

Images displayed on the windows are from left to right on the Tabernacle side: St. Louise de Marillac (Founder of the Sisters of Providence), St. Marguerite Bourgeoys (Founder of Sisters of Notre Dame), St. Katéri Tekakwitha (representing the Indigenous Peoples of this area and land). To the left of the altar is St. Francis of Assisi (Secondary Patron Saint of the parish) to the right of the altar is the Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Heaven (Primary Patron of the parish) Choir side from left to right: Blessed Carlos Acutis, Canadian Martyrs and St. André Bessette. Copyright permissions were granted for the use of all images.



## **St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Deseronto Celebrates 125th Anniversary**

Despite the restrictions on gathering in the pandemic, the parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul in Deseronto proudly celebrated the 125th anniversary of the parish on the weekend of September 25th, 2021. Commemorating their Patron Saint, St. Vincent de Paul, who's Feast Day is September 27th, a tribute to the important events and milestones in the history of the parish was shared at Mass and a display of historic photos was arranged at the back of the church so that parishioners could browse through the photos and maintain social distancing.

A history of the life of the parish, originally documented by Bill Dowling and updated by Teresa Dorey was read by Teresa recounting the generations of families whos' lives were intertwined by their commitment to their faith, to each other and to their community. Recalling some of the hardships endured over the past 125 years, Teresa's concluding comments reminded everyone of their place in living and passing on the faith, “Today we are weathering the Covid pandemic with separated seating, parking lot Masses, and diminished numbers but as we continue to worship our Lord in this beautiful church that was built by our forefathers under such difficult circumstances let us strive to continue their legacy. St Vincent de Paul pray for us.”



# Adult Baptism during Pandemic at St. Paul the Apostle Parish

Rosalie Munoz inquired about membership with the Catholic Church before we knew Covid-19. The parish Initiation team enthusiastically started meeting with her in person, sharing our faith and listening to Rosalie's childhood faith stories from her native country, the Philippines.

Rosalie was very excited about the faith formation process; she has asked many questions and was looking forward to being initiated. When Covid struck, Rosalie was working at a long-term care home in Kingston and for obvious reasons, she has limited her contact with people including with the church community. The Initiation process went online, and week after week Rosalie met with the team via Zoom. She had the support of her Catholic sponsor and a Godparent Mila Garcia and knew the RCIA team was there to answer any questions. When Ontario started to open, and the Health Unit permitted Churches to celebrate rituals in small groups Rosalie told us she was ready. In June of this year, with her mother visiting from the Philippines, and her husband and son beside her, Rosalie was baptized by Fr. Paul Mawala, celebrated her Confirmation, and joined us at the Table of the Lord for the very first time. It was a very happy moment for parishioners of St. Paul's Church who, keeping a social distance, warmly welcomed our new sister into the faith community. God bless You Rosalie.

- The RCIA Team, St. Paul the Apostle



# St. Mary's Drop-In Centre: A refuge for the homeless and poor

By Ann Lyng, Coordinator of Ministries

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me." (Mt 25:40)*

St. Mary's Drop-In Centre initially opened its doors on February 24, 2020. The Drop-In Centre was declared an essential service right from the beginning of the pandemic and continued to remain open during the provincial shutdowns to serve the homeless and poor when other such programs closed. Over the past 19 months we have been able to add wonderful necessary additions for the homeless: a shower and laundry facilities. Our clothing warehouse is open year round and our Winter Coat Drive runs annually from November to January. This past summer, our community garden produced 3500 lbs of vegetables for soup making by our Italian Nonnas. Surplus produce was donated to other local food programs. Through our Guardian Angel Program, people can 'adopt' a homeless person by praying for them, and, due to a recent award from The Davies Charitable Foundation in Kingston, free foot care and haircutting services will soon be added to the constellation of services we provide. God has truly blessed us and continues to do so.

The number of our guests continues to increase. Currently, approximately 50 people attend the Drop-In Centre which is open Monday to Friday from 1 pm to 4 pm. 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. Many of our guests struggle with loneliness, a lack of social hope, mental illness or addictive behavior patterns. "Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor" as St. Teresa of Calcutta put it. "The least of these my brothers and sisters" as Jesus taught. This is the mystery of the poor, that in serving them we are in reality serving Jesus.



Pictured: (Top left and right) Our Italian Nonnas preparing soup with vegetables from our community garden. (Bottom right) St. Mary's Drop-In Centre Gathering Room

We endeavour to meet some of their needs in a practical way by offering nutritious food, clothing, pastoral care and support in a warm, friendly and welcoming environment. During the past year, close to 10,000 meals were served and blankets and sleeping bags were distributed to the homeless. Birthday parties are held for our guests and our summer Tuesday BBQ's have become a favourite. On Christmas Day a full course turkey dinner is served in a festive atmosphere. On a somber note, one of our regular guests, who had attended Mass regularly at the cathedral, 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 Hughes celebrated the funeral Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral. Pallbearers were volunteers at the Centre. The municipality of Kingston provided a plot for internment.

We have been blessed with the inspiring ongoing commitment of our many volunteers, both front line, and those working behind the scene. We also have been blessed with support from various parishes, the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Cathedral Knights of Columbus, Blessed Sacrament CWL, students from Ecole Cathedrale, Mother Teresa School, St. Martha's School, Regiopolis-Notre Dame and Holy Cross, just to name a few, as many generous individual donors. We rely completely on the Providence of God and 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 are issued for all donations over \$20. For information on volunteering or on donating to the Centre contact Ann Lyng, Coordinator of Ministries and Pastoral Caring at St. Mary's Cathedral 613-546-5521 Ext. 5 or [ministries@stmaryscathedral.ca](mailto:ministries@stmaryscathedral.ca). To view our Wish List or to make a financial donation, please see our webpage on the website of St. Mary's Cathedral: <https://stmaryscathedral.ca/>. Together with our guests we are learning about the gospels' preferential option for the poor.



Pictured: (Top to bottom) Prayer for our guests at the end of the day;  
St Mary's Drop-In Centre Clothing Warehouse;  
Father Shawn and our patroness, St Rita of Casia,  
patron saint of difficult cases



## Concluding the Year of St. Joseph: December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

It has been a great blessing for us, as the Church, to have experienced the special intercession of St. Joseph this past year. We have contemplated his wisdom, humility and courage as head of the Holy Family and have found in him a spiritual father who models, for us, love of God, our Lord Jesus Christ and Mary, our Blessed Mother. The Central Deanery celebrated the conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph in a Vespers liturgy on Sunday, November 28th. A reflection on the Year of St. Joseph was presented by Vicar General, Fr. John Brennan.

Fr. Brennan reminded us of the importance of resolving to receive and honour Our Lord and Our Lady into our homes and our hearts as St. Joseph did. As we enter a new liturgical year, Fr. Brennan assured us stating, “the year of St. Joseph soon concludes, however, his love for us, his care, his protection, his guidance, his intercession, his blessing do not conclude.” We thank God for St. Joseph who continues to be a powerful intercessor and guide in our personal lives and in the life of the Church.

We pray:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen

# Celebrating the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

**BY SISTER UNA BYRNE, SP**

On September 30, the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we chose to bring into our liturgical celebration elements of the culture and ritual of our indigenous brothers and sisters as a way of honouring their traditions. It was also a way of showing our sorrow and acknowledgment of the denigration of these traditions by our ancestors and members of our church. We wanted to find healing and reconciliation. We wanted to show our desire to stand with them in their struggles for recognition of the wrongs of the past and the pain that they have suffered. Yet we know that racism and effects of colonialism exist to this day. So, as we acknowledged the traditional homelands on which our chapel stands, we asked God, as the Great Spirit, to allow us to show our indigenous sisters and brothers that we support them in their ongoing struggle for a just and respectful relationship with all the peoples of Canada.

Pictured below: A star blanket with the four sacred plants and the hand drum.



Ann Boniferro, Director of Pastoral Liturgy & Music, plays the traditional hand drum.

Orange adorned the chapel ambo and walls, and many of the Sisters wore orange as a reminder of the suffering and disrespect indigenous children suffered in Residential Schools. In front of the altar, we draped a star blanket that holds deep meaning and traditions linked to indigenous culture, birth, life and death, and symbolizes peace. Placed on the blanket were the four sacred plants – tobacco, sweet grass, cedar and sage.

After the Liturgy of the Word from Isaiah 58:9b-12; Psalm 33 and John 17:20-26, a recording of a drumming song, played by three women from the Four Directions Centre at Queen's University here in Kingston, accompanied our reflection on what we had heard and experienced. We prayed for the dawning of a new day for all indigenous people in the Americas, north and south, as they struggle for justice and equality, and for the healing of the earth itself and all relationships. As we left the chapel, we heard again the drumming song. A fitting ending to a call to deep reflection and transformation.

# The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## Patronal Feast Day of the Archdiocese of Kingston



December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a special day of celebration and joy in the Archdiocese of Kingston. It is the patronal festival of the archdiocese and is an occasion when the faithful can join their archbishop in the celebration of the Holy Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Kingston. Planning for this year's celebration reflected concern for safe worship in light of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, including pre-registration of attendees, mask wearing and social distancing. Archbishop Mulhall praised God for the blessing of being able to gather together despite the challenges we faced. Reflecting on how Our Blessed Mother teaches us, Archbishop Mulhall stated, "She models for us how to listen to the Word. She allows the Word to enter her heart, to win over all in her life, even the plans she had made for herself. We are to listen to God's Word in our lives at this moment. Each of us are called to look into our hearts and ask ourselves, are we hearing God's Word? Have we approached God's Word with the sanctity and reverence necessary to listen and understand?". His Grace asked for the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, conceived without sin, to guide us in this time of listening and prayerful preparation for the coming of Our Lord and for the months to follow as we encounter each other in our parish communities as a synodal Church.



## Welcome Taylor!

The Pastoral Team is pleased to welcome Taylor Lynch as the new Director of Family Ministries and Outreach. Taylor feels tremendously blessed to be afforded the opportunity to walk alongside parishes and their families. She looks forward to developing resources to help build the Domestic Church and supporting families as they come into their own missionary identities, both at home and in their communities. Her work is informed by Pope Francis's call for a culture of encounter, rooted in relationship and dialogue. If there is any way Taylor can support your parish or family, please contact her at (613)548-4461 ext. 113 or [family@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:family@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca).

## Pastoral Visits


The Pastoral Team has been visiting parishes this fall to hear their joys and challenges in ministry. It's been wonderful to share in conversations and learn more about their faith stories and how the parishes have been navigating through the pandemic and meeting the needs of their parishioners and community. The goal of these visits is to better get to know the parish communities we serve and to be able to accompany them as they serve their communities. We look forward to visiting more parishes in the new year.




# Understanding the Mass Even Better

Understanding the Mass Even Better is a bi-weekly program in our archdiocese delivered via Zoom and led by the Archdiocesan Staff about the Mass. The goal is to better understand what Catholics do at Mass and why, what's the meaning of different gestures, prayers, rituals, and actions. These sessions are based on video presentations by Archbishop Paul Andre Durocher, the bishop of Gatineau, and our own Fr. John Hibbard, Pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Kingston.

Since October, we have discussed many introductory topics. We have learned that we don't go to Mass for ourselves only, but for the salvation of the world. The Mass has many correlations with a family meal. At Mass, not only the bread and wine but the participants are transformed into the one Body of Christ and sent on a mission to be the Body of Christ in the world. We invite you to join us, as we resume these sessions in the New Year, on Thursdays at 7:00 pm beginning January 6th, 2021. Please see the Archdiocese of Kingston Website and Calendar of Events for the Zoom Link. Meeting ID: 840 7886 3068; Passcode: 946387



The Archdiocese of Kingston presents:  
**UNDERSTANDING  
THE MASS**




Join us as we explore the Mass on a deeper level with presenters Archbishop Paul Andre Durocher and Fr. John Hibbard. Sessions include video presentations, small group discussions & sharing.

**Thursdays 7:00pm – 8:15pm on Zoom**  
**January 6, January 20, February 3, February 17**

For more information and Zoom link visit:  
[www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/events](http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/events)



Let The Way provide a guide for strengthening your relationship with Jesus.





**THE WAY**  
A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY

The Archdiocese of Kingston Youth Office and ALCDSB present  
A Young Adult Faith Formation Evening Series:

*The Way*

10 virtual sessions, Join in on as many sessions as you'd like!  
Wednesday evening from 7-8 pm once a month  
FREE to participate!



For more info and to sign up please visit  
[www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/young-adult](http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/young-adult)

## Advent Reflections

This Advent, the Archdiocese of Kingston offered weekly virtual reflections on the Sunday Gospel readings. The videos included Advent music, scripture reading and a reflection by people involved in various ministries across the archdiocese:

- Robert Mundle, Palliative Care Chaplain at Providence Care Hospital
  - Ann Lyng, Coordinator of Ministries, St. Mary's Cathedral Drop-In Centre
  - Sr. Mildred Chasbassol, Congregation of Notre Dame who has worked in Indigenous communities and in prison ministry
  - Ana DaCosta, Chaplaincy Leader at St. Paul Secondary School in Trenton.
- If you are interested in listening to these reflections, they are available on our website at [www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/advent](http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/advent)



# For a Synodal Church: Communion, Preparation and Mission

With the opening of the Synod on Synodality by Pope Francis, we have begun a time of renewal for the Catholic Church throughout the world. It is a time of gathering together and listening. All members of the body of Christ, men, women, and children are invited to walk together and discern how the Holy Spirit is calling us to live the Gospel in our present age.

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Kingston are encouraged to enter this synodal process through prayer, listening and dialogue. The fundamental task put before each of us is to re-awaken our desire to listen to God. Reverent listening to God, through His Son, the Incarnate Word, is the first response of our Catholic life and our surest means of growing in grace. There are three phases of engagement planned for the synodal journey in the Archdiocese of Kingston:



**Communion:** Oct. 17, 2021 – Jan. 2, 2022 Prayer; opening our hearts to God by listening to His Word

**Preparation:** Jan. 3, 2022 – Apr. 1, 2022 The people of God engage in respectful, heartfelt listening and dialogue with each other and share their insights through the Archdiocesan synod submission process

**Mission:** Apr. 2, 2022 – June 1, 2022 The voices of the people of God are consolidated into a ten page summary document to be submitted to the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops

The Church is called to a closer communion with Christ through purification and knowledge of the power of His resurrection, the peace and joy of God's grace in this present moment and the sure hope of life everlasting. This Catholic calling never ends. We pray that the Holy Father's invitation for this Synod will renew these critical aspects of the life of the Church here in the Archdiocese of Kingston and in all dioceses throughout the world. We look forward to learning about the fruits of this synodal journey in our parish communities in the months ahead.

# Christmas Grace Before Meals

Heavenly Father, we thank You  
and praise You on this day  
for the gift of Your Son, Our Lord.  
Make our hearts an eternal dwelling place  
for Our Saviour.

Bless this food, all who are gathered here and those  
we hold in our hearts.

Nourish us that we may serve Your holy will and  
make us ever mindful of the hunger of others.

We pray for healing and hope  
for all of Your children throughout the world  
on this blessed Christmas day.

We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen

## Looking Ahead: Journey Spring 2022

We invite parishes across the Archdiocese of Kingston to send in photos and short reflections on their synodal experiences of listening and sharing with each other.

In addition to Synod reflections, updates on events within parishes and spiritually inspired artwork of children and youth can be sent to [Journey@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:Journey@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) by May 6, 2022. Tributes to retiring clergy will also be featured in this edition of Journey.

