

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

The pandemic hasn't halted the good work of the Church. The Stewardship and Development Office asked for examples, and parishes provided a wealth of them. A few are here, and more are to come! [See the previous flier at hamiltondiocese.com/news.](http://hamiltondiocese.com/news)



DIocese of HAMILTON

CAMBRIDGE PARISHIONERS INSPIRE WITH ACTS OF NEIGHBOURLY CARE

In response to a request for the “good news” at his parish, Fr. Peter Tuyen Nguyen, pastor of St. Clement in Cambridge, offered a beautiful account:

The pandemic has helped parishioners appreciate life. To quote one parishioner:

“If there is one thing that this virus has done is open my eyes to all that I have taken for granted. My generation has not had too much to worry about – we have always had a job to go to, food on the table ... really a pretty good life. Today I wish for the things that I took for granted just a few months ago. I wish I could see my children and grandchildren and be able to give them a big hug. I miss having family around my dining table sharing the food we are so blessed to have. Each day all we can do is pray for God and the Virgin Mary to help us through this nightmare and continue to pray for mankind. Perhaps this virus is taking the whole world to its knees and has each of us with eyes more open and hearts wanting change. When this is behind us, I hope it leaves us better people than we are today.”

The people of St. Clement have stayed true to their small-town roots, living their faith with neighbourly acts of care:

- Volunteers whose shared ministries created “bubbles” at the beginning of the outbreak bring Holy Communion to friends within that bubble.
- Our volunteer screening coordinator contacted every parish minister to update her records. Doing so led to many friendly visits on the phone.
- Our music director, missing the emails of an elderly friend, telephoned the parish; learning the man was hospitalized, she reached out to his family. She also created a virtual safety net for all involved in music ministry: Videos, humour and personal messages buoy their faith and mental health.
- A parishioner created a Facebook group for artists of every kind. Everything from sidewalk art to baking and crafts to carpentry work is shared. Stories are read by the author, music is practised and praised, handmade afghans are displayed, and patterns are shared. It is a place of joy!

Someone once said that life is a tapestry, its beauty known only to the Divine Weaver. But perhaps ... in these challenging times, where the Good News is shared through acts of care ... glimpses of that beauty are ours as well.

ST. AGNES, WATERLOO

The parish celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ordination of its pastor, Fr. Aleks Mazur. It was done COVID-style, with more than 80 cars driving past the church to wish Father well on his big day. The day also included a number of surprise guests tuned in to say hello at Sunday's celebratory virtual Mass.



BLESSED SACRAMENT, HAMILTON

St. Margaret Mary Knights of Columbus Council 9553 held a liquor and beer bottle drive at the Blessed Sacrament Church parking lot in June, raising \$2,300 for the Neighbour to Neighbour food bank. More than a dozen Knights were on hand each day accepting bottles from donors. Social distancing was maintained as donors opened their trunks and the Knights removed the bottles. The drive was so successful that it required two brewery trucks to remove all the donated bottles and cases.

