

# 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! See the previous fliers at [hamiltondiocese.com/news](http://hamiltondiocese.com/news).

### ST. BASIL, BRANTFORD

*A parishioner of St. Basil's called to say that he had numerous health conditions that prevented him from attending Mass once the church reopened. To ease the parish's burden, he donated \$1,000 to be used to buy COVID-19 supplies so healthier parishioners who were able to attend would be protected.*

### ONE HEART, ONE SOUL CAMPAIGN

*Bishop Douglas Crosby welcomed a gathering of pastors to Hamilton in August to discuss the ongoing One Heart, One Soul Campaign.*

*The meeting was for pastors of parishes in the final wave of the campaign, which began in 2018 and has raised \$15.6 million so far.*

*The campaign paused in March because of COVID-19, and a number of parishes that planned to kick off in the spring are preparing for a launch late this month. Others will kick off in October and in early 2021.*

*"The bishop is so grateful for all the work done by the parishes to get the campaign back up and running," said Francis Doyle, director of stewardship and development for the diocese.*

*"We feel blessed to have had the campaign in place and so focused on benefiting the parishes. Their needs are even greater now, but the campaign is a terrific mechanism to help them make up lost ground and to rebuild community spirit at the same time."*

## IN NEW HAMBURG, ADORATION KEPT THE FAITHFUL CLOSE TO THE LORD

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has been a priority of Holy Family Parish in New Hamburg and its pastor, Fr. Stephen Gilbert, throughout the pandemic.

During the shutdown of churches, the parish continued with Adoration Mondays through Saturdays from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. The monstrance was placed in the office window, and parishioners prayed from the parking lot. The hour also was livestreamed on Facebook. One hour with the Lord every day was a beautiful experience for those who participated. The parish continues with Adoration every Thursday evening inside the church.

Other ways that the parish has persevered, much of it through the work of Fr. Stephen and with the help of seminarian Jonathan Reitzel:

- Mass was livestreamed daily on Facebook during the shutdown and continues to be streamed on Sunday mornings.
- During Holy Week, holy water and blessed palms were available for pickup outside the church.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available on request in the parking lot during the closing.
- The Anointing of the Sick was given on request in the nursing home and hospital. Communion was taken to the sick in their home by Fr. Stephen.
- He also phoned every family in the parish, assuring them of his prayers and support.



DIocese of HAMILTON

