

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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 fliers at hamiltondiocese.com/news](https://hamiltondiocese.com/news).

ST. ANN, ANCASTER

Thanks to the One Heart, One Soul Campaign, St. Ann's has been able to move its Music Ministry into the church loft, paint the church interior, install a tile floor to replace the 37-year-old carpet, install a new sound system in the church and pay down the parish's Diocesan loan by 30%. On top of that, volunteers came together and completely redid the gardens outside the front of the church.

Every day during the shutdown, the mail slot on the office door opened and an envelope dropped through, said Fr. Wayne Lobsinger, pastor. St. Ann's has been able to maintain its collections at about 65% of normal and with the reduction in expenses, the parish is actually growing its bank account.

"I am very pleased with my parish," Fr. Lobsinger said. "We have used this time to do some amazing things."

PIZZA OVEN, HELP FOR HOMELESS GAIN SPOTLIGHT AT ST. MARY'S IN KITCHENER

The pizza oven has arrived at St. Mary's in Kitchener! The downtown parish raised funds, including through the *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign, to renovate its hall to install a commercial kitchen that specializes in pizza.

The parish took some students from St. Mary's High School on a field trip to "Pizza Camp" to test some equipment and learn about how to make dough from scratch. As you can imagine, there was also quite a bit of sampling! The students got to choose which pizza oven the parish would purchase, and it arrived in the midst of the pandemic.



Also during the pandemic, Kitchener's winter overflow shelter extended its services to allow for those who are experiencing homelessness to have a safe place to find shelter and practice physical distancing.

St. Mary's has been donating sandwiches and baked goods every Friday and Sunday to the shelter since November. Since the pandemic, individuals and families – even those from neighbouring parishes – have signed up to take on a night.



CATHEDRAL BASILICA, HAMILTON

"For me, one of the most difficult aspects of the COVID 'pause' was celebrating Mass in an empty Cathedral Basilica. Thankfully, we were able to arrange – through the kindness of Cable 14 (Hamilton) – the televising of Sunday Mass with Bishop Crosby each week in the Cathedral Basilica. CHCH TV repeated the broadcast each week. Mass with Bishop Crosby reached several thousand homes in Hamilton, and with the repeat on CHCH, viewers from across Canada were able to tune in. Our thanks to Cable 14 and CHCH for this broadcast, which was a comfort to many Catholics. Now that we are slowly reopening, it is a great joy to welcome back the faithful and to celebrate with the sacred assembly."

– Fr. David Wynen