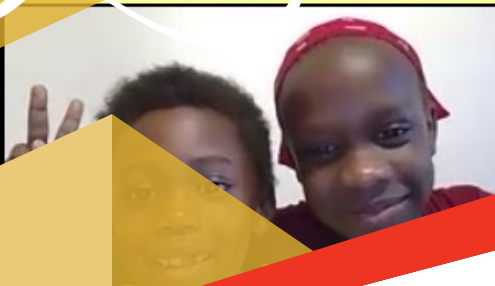


# Blessings

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

## CREATIVE USE OF TECHNOLOGY ENLIVENS CONNECTIONS AT ST. ANNE'S IN KITCHENER

The pandemic and all its limitations haven't kept the Youth Group at St. Anne Parish in Kitchener from finding creative ways to connect socially and stay united in prayer.

From spring to fall, the group has continued to gather online twice weekly for games, activities, reflection and prayer. For the Good Friday Tenebrae service, 34 young people with their families contributed videos, sound recordings and photos. What a moving and prayerful liturgy during an unusual Holy Week!

The group piloted a six-week online Youth Bible Study about discipleship and hopes to do more small groups during the school year. Youths and their families have also filmed and recorded short videos encouraging parishioners to keep safe and stay strong during the challenging times. These young people are leading by example in their courage and creativity and in their use of technology to foster connection while we are apart physically.

Also happening at St. Anne's:

- Unable to continue with weekly visits to AR Goudie Nursing Home, parish ministry volunteers sent messages to the residents they used to pray with in person and invited other parishioners to write greeting cards. The effort took on a life of its own, and all residents and staff – about 80 of each – received beautiful cards with handwritten messages for Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day. With the help of parishioners, the ministry group also sent almost \$1,000 worth of Tim Cards to AR Goudie, enough for all the nursing stations to make many "coffee runs" to Tim Hortons – a little thank you to front-line workers and a message of hope for residents.
- Parishioners have been generous to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which has been mailing vouchers those in need, allowing them to shop for the food that can no longer be delivered.
- Alternating with St. Joseph Parish, St. Anne's has been live-streaming Sunday Mass and offering daily Scripture Reflections through email, texts and Facebook. The parish's faithful Rosary Group, maintaining social distancing, has continued to meet online and now in-person in outdoor spaces, often using the parish prayer garden. The Parish Prayer Network has grown and intensified in its efforts to respond to the spiritual needs of parishioners.

### ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, WATERDOWN

Through Zoom meetings, the St. Thomas Social Outreach Committee has allocated funds from its bottle return program to community organizations in Flamborough. HOPE Centre, Flamborough Food Bank and Migrants Workers of the area received \$200 each to continue their good work. Also, 50 toiletries bags were donated toward the Father's Day Migrant Workers program and an additional \$150 to Flamborough Food Bank and \$100 to HOPE Centre for their school supplies campaign. The parish also maintains a wide selection of gift cards for those who come to the parish in need of assistance.

