

Youth Ministry

across the *Diocese of Hamilton*



DIocese of HAMILTON

Let's Celebrate!

The local celebration for World Youth Day falls on the Feast of Christ the King. In our Diocese we are very grateful to have many active youth ministry programs. We thank our **pastors, parish ministers and volunteers** for continuing to mentor and accompany the youth of our diocese. Over the next few pages, take a look and see what some of our youth ministry groups are up to and to celebrate their young people. The theme for this World Youth Day is **"Rejoicing in Hope"** Romans 12:12. Let us rejoice in hope as we celebrate the many good things that our **youth ministries are accomplishing in their communities.**



World Youth Day, Portugal



This summer, a delegation of 39 individuals from the Diocese embarked on WYD, Portugal. Over the course of the week, the young people were able to grow in their faith, and meditate on the theme "Mary arose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39).

To see highlights of their experience, visit <https://wyd.hamiltondiocese.com/> or follow @officeofyouthministry on Instagram to relive the memories.

Holy Family Parish in Hanover hosts "**The Mustard Seeds**", a youth group that started in 1997 and has been meeting continuously since. Teens from Hanover and the surrounding area, from a variety of faiths, practices and backgrounds, gather bi-weekly for worship, preaching, prayer and fun, and take part in a variety of conferences and service projects throughout the year as well. After moving online for a bit during the COVID years, the group emerged stronger than ever thanks to an amazing group of **dedicated adult leaders and a supportive Parish family**.



Holy Family, Hanover



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Mini Emmaus Waterloo Deanery



On June 17th, 2023, the **Congregation of the Resurrection's Vocation Ministry Office** hosted a day of faith & fun for Altar Servers from parishes across the Waterloo Deanery, called Mini Emmaus. It was an afternoon of faith formation and fun, with an interactive dramatization of the Road to Emmaus story, games, prizes, praise & worship music, and of course - ice cream. Special thanks to Holy Family Croatian Catholic Church for providing the location, the Knights of Columbus for providing the food, and our many the high school and university students who helped, as well as parents and volunteers from the parish.

We are looking forward to making next year's event even bigger and better, on **June 1st, 2024**.



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Hamilton Mission Youth

Hamilton Mission Youth is an apostolate of Regnum Christi and the Legionaries of Christ. Inspired by the international Mission Youth organization, it was started in Hamilton two years ago. We focus on bringing youth together to serve the homeless, reach out to those in need, and volunteer wherever there is need. All of this is a joyful experience when done together with friends and a true Christian spirit of joy, love, and acceptance. More experienced youth get to lead those who are new as team leaders and help their peers have the best experience.

We focus especially on **encountering the other person in a deep way, listening with the heart, and treating with dignity and love**, like Mary as she visited her cousin Elizabeth. Hamilton Mission Youth has already done outreach in Hamilton, Oakville, Kitchener, Cambridge, and as far as Montreal.

You can get more information about our upcoming missions at hamiltonmissionyouth.com or [@hamiltonmissionyouth](https://www.instagram.com/hamiltonmissionyouth) on Instagram.



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Bishop Macdonell CHS, Guelph



The Chaplaincy at **Bishop Macdonell CHS** has been very vibrant this past year as we worked with students to make everyone feel that they are included and can take the lead to build a better world for tomorrow. We had retreats out at the St Brigid Villa on the Ignatius property at the north end of Guelph, where our Grade 9 students worked on team building and their call to be active disciples in the modern world. The Grade 10 students volunteered at a local food bank to restock shelves and make hot meals for delivery. Our Grade 11 students continued to examine different faith traditions and had the opportunity to tour many temples and a mosque. The grade twelve students were welcomed to St. Jerome's campus and offered a fantastic retreat and hospitality by the campus ministry as they looked to continue their faith in the next stage of their journey.

Throughout the year we celebrated monthly Masses in our chapel and reestablished a ministry of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for our students. Adoration is offered 4 times throughout the year. The community of Bishop Mac is **very active in supporting the efforts of the community to support the marginalized in Guelph.**



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Our Lady of the Assumption's **Challenge & Conquest** youth ministry was started earlier this year with the desire to get young people more involved in the faith community. With its youth-led nature, the goal is to inspire them to grow in authentic faith and friendship with Christ and other Catholic youth. The program centres on gospel reflections, studying the Faith and the saints, team-building, community service projects, and encourages participation in the sacraments, such as at Mass and Adoration. Through these activities, a vibrant community of youth is formed, ready to listen to His voice and bring the Faith to life in various ways.

The group was **inspired by the work** done by the Sisters of the Poor of Jesus Christ in Hamilton, and worked to raise money to support their ministry through selling baked goods and sacrifice beads. Through the project, the youth showed great initiative, bringing more baked goods than we were able to fit on the table, as well as other homemade crafts to sell. It was held alongside a garage sale run by the Sisters and money was successfully raised to feed the poor and homeless in downtown Hamilton. This project was finished in only eight weeks since the group was started, speaking to the passion held by the group for serving those in need. Like Mary, **when we heard of those in need, we gave up our time and energy to help to the best of our ability.**



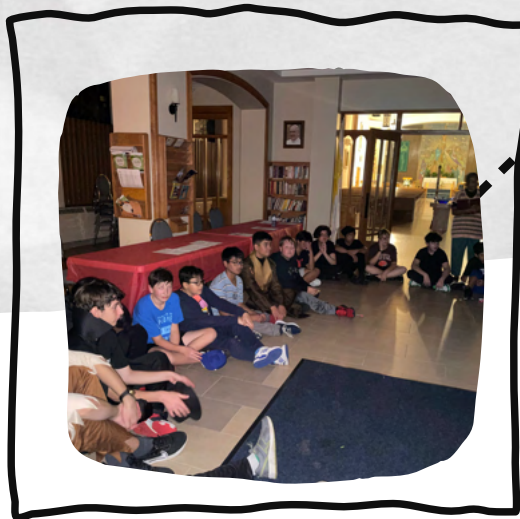
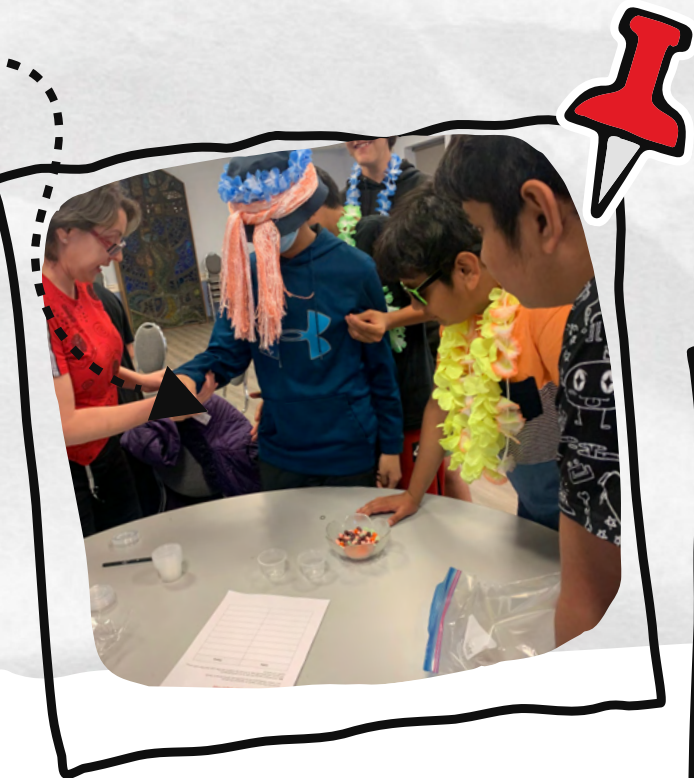
Our Lady of Assumption, Stoney Creek



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Most Blessed Sacrament, Hamilton



Most Blessed Sacrament Parish strives to take an intergenerational approach to our Youth Ministry Program. Our monthly Youth Group Nights for our middle-school age youth have been focusing on **"Shining Your Light"**; a time for understanding the call to be yourself as well as games and competitions.

In addition to our monthly Youth Group Events, we have been focusing family by holding bi-monthly Family Events; where all ages come together in community to celebrate. Our annual Breakfast with Santa and our Pumpkin Carving Afternoon are an opportunity to bring people into the parish.

We are also grateful for the Legion of Mary and the CWL for co-sponsoring and facilitating Sacramental Preparation retreats, school visits, prayer opportunities for our schools and so much more.



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St. Raphael, Burlington



Teenage Group

The Teenage group meets on First Saturdays of the Month with the Prayer and Faith formation activities. They lead many Marian Feast Celebrations: Rosary Profession, Pilgrimage to Martyrs Shrine, Midland, and in the Service of Acolyte during the Sunday Celebration. With the help of CWL they participated in the "Into Life Series", "Youth Movie Nights" and helped out in the "Bible Summer Camp." This year they organized a major fundraiser for Chalice, raising \$9800.00 to provide support to a school for girls in Kenya.

Holy Cross Young Adults

We began the Holy Cross Young Adults group to help the continued faith formation and care for the Young Adults, - both married and single. We are now 34 members who meet regularly on 3rd Saturdays of the Month. We begin with the Holy Mass, continued with youth led adoration and faith formation sessions, along with the social activities. We **support young people - immigrant students and workers, who come to our parish recently**, encouraging them to participate in the life of the church. They discuss many important issues affecting young people with expression of the faith, relationship with family, work struggles, personal identity and discernment of the call of God. We have planned "All Saints Day Mass for Families and Children" and Plugged in - 2023" youth concert with Mass, Adoration and Faith Sharing.



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St. Francis Xavier, Stoney Creek



SHIPWRECKED Bible Camp

Bible Camp is one of the biggest events of our youth ministry year, and this past summer we had a blast being "Shipwrecked" together and reflecting on Jesus as our great rescuer! Our participants met each day to pray together, explore stories from the Bible, play games, make crafts, try science experiments, and take on team challenges. We were **very blessed to have a dedicated group of student and adult volunteers, without whom camp would not be possible**, and to have lots of our former campers completing a leader-in-training program to help them prepare to be leaders next summer!

Youth Choir

Our youth choir is now in its 10th year and sings at our parish's Saturday evening Mass. We love connecting with God through the beauty of music and hearing the congregation praising Him along with us. We have lots of favourite hymns from the Glory & Praise and Catholic Book of Worship hymnals, and we also enjoy contemporary Christian songs!



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Youth ministry programming at **St. Ambrose Church** is in full-swing! At the heart of this important ministry is helping young people to grow in relationship with Jesus, **helping them to discover their God-given gifts and talents**, exploring how to use those gifts and talents to serve, and growing in friendship with others!

St Ambrose Church has two youth groups. One for students in grades 6-8 and the other for students in grades 9-12. We are learning and growing in community through prayer, talks with priests and religious sisters, small group discussion, community-building activities, and field trips. Youth ministry is truly about faith, friendship, and fun!



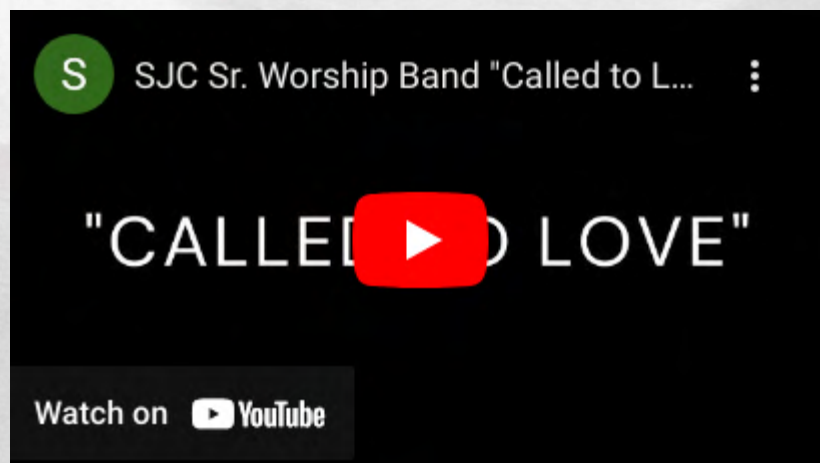
*St. Ambrose,
Cambridge*



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St. John's College, CHS Brantford



The **Junior Worship Band at St. John's College** in Brantford wrote and recorded an original song for the OCSTA song contest. In addition The **Senior Worship Band** also wrote and recorded their original song that they have submitted for the OCSTA song contest. They invite you to watch the videos above.



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Holy Rosary, Burlington



"Holy Rosary Parish Youth Group and Young Adults in Burlington, are now back after a good summer and some recharging. They are full of new ideas and projects for this 2023/2024 school year.

Our Youth Group is now working and planning a family Christmas Evening for December, where we will watch a Christmas movie and make Christmas crafts, this invitation will go for kids from JK to gr.5 and their parents to participate as well. Also the "ticket" for this evening will be non-perishable food; our youth group will donate all items to our own St. Vincent de Paul here at Holy Rosary to help families during the Christmas season.

Holy Rosary Young Adults, are now in their second year, and growing too. This year we are planning to start a new tradition and we look forward to invite other young adults to join us. At our last meeting, we discussed that by November 2023, we will have a spiritual gathering one Saturday of the month, where the main goal is to have time for prayer, adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, participation together at the 5 p.m. Mass and then time for a social.

We will continue to build the Youth and Family Ministry here at Holy Rosary Parish in Burlington, one day at the time."



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Assumption College School, Brantford



Assumption College created an encounter initiative called: **Migrant Workers: Fratelli Tutti In Our Midst**. The Brant/Haldimand/Norfolk area employs approximately 5,000 temporary migrant agricultural workers each year from countries such as Guatemala, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Mexico which is the largest group of workers.

The objective of this project is to take an active role in Pope Francis' call to us in his encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti" (All Brothers) to actively **facilitate the sense of belonging to one human family to the hearts and minds of ourselves** and others around us and by understanding their culture, they may be seen as our brothers and sisters. This learning also makes us more accepting world citizens. We had a wonderful day visiting an organic farm, having conversations with the farm owners, migrant farm workers from Mexico, and people in the community who provide support to them. We shared culture by enjoying a delicious traditional Mexican meal together and connected in our Catholic faith and devotion to Mary through the beautiful story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Assumption College was honoured to receive the Michael Carty Award and funding for this initiative from the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario for this project lead by our chaplain Mrs. Debra Sheldrake and the student chaplaincy 180 Team and teacher Mrs. Manuela Torto and the Social Justice class in collaboration with the incredible staff of the Centre For Migrant Workers Solidarity. Our day was documented and a video created to raise awareness among high school students about the vital importance and significant contribution of temporary migrant workers to our agricultural industry and to our every day lives.



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Frassati Leadership Program



The second cohort of the **Frassati Leadership Program** is underway!

The intention of this program is to call forward young Catholic leaders from across the Diocese of Hamilton, to equip them and encourage them to draw closer to Christ and their respective communities. The target age group for this program is individuals in grade ten (ages 15-16). The goal of this program is that young people will join us for **opportunities for formation as Catholic leaders and then go back to their respective communities to turn their learning into practice.**

Throughout the program, participants will focus on their own relationship with Christ and their community, while exploring what it means to be Catholic in today's world. Participants will engage in service opportunities through justice and advocacy work which we hope will inspire further contributions to their own communities and beyond.



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Litany of the Young Saints

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| Blessed Carlo Acutis, devoted to the Eucharist, | pray for us. |
| Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, servant of the poor, | pray for us. |
| Blessed Chiara Badano, joyful in suffering, | pray for us. |
| Blessed Andrew Phu Yen, catechist and evangelizer, | pray for us. |
| Blessed Isidore Bakanja, model of forgiveness, | pray for us. |

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| By your Holy Incarnation, | Lord, we pray. |
| By Your Birth and Baptism, | Lord, we pray. |
| By Your Cross and Passion, | Lord, we pray. |
| By Your Death and Burial, | Lord, we pray. |
| By Your Holy Resurrection, | Lord, we pray. |
| By Your wonderful Ascension, | Lord, we pray. |
| By the coming of the Holy Spirit, | Lord, we pray. |

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| Be merciful to us sinners, | Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. |
| Strengthen and preserve us in your holy service, | Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. |
| Raise our minds to desire the things of heaven, | Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. |
| Give and preserve the fruits of the earth, | Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. |
| Grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed, | Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer. |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lord, have mercy on us. | Lord, graciously hear us. |
| Christ, have mercy on us. | Christ, graciously hear us. |
| Lord, have mercy on us. | Lord, graciously hear us. |

A Prayer for Youth and Young Adults

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe,
to you we turn in humble prayer.
Look with favor upon all young people,
bearers of hope for the Church and the world.

Jesus Christ, companion
of youth and young adults,
bless the paths of discovery and discernment
through times of joy and experiences of hardship,
with the constant love and support of your Church.

Jesus Christ, alive in the hearts
of all your people,
grant that we may
“journey together, young and old...
to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge,
awaken prophesies and enable hope to blossom.” *

Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all humankind,
open our hearts to encounter all young people,
to accompany and be in community together,
and as one Church, embark upon our holy mission.

Jesus Christ, in the company
of the Father and the Holy Spirit,
graciously hear our prayer
and be with us forevermore.
Amen. *

Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, 199