



CCSAC NEWSLETTER

CENTRETOWN CHURCHES SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

September 2026

Executive:

Chair: Kristine Burr
Vice-Chair: Emmy Verdun
Secretaries: Elizabeth Demaray & Mary Mussell
Treasurer: Emmy Verdun
Communications & Newsletter Editors: Mary Mussell & Lorna Kingston
Facebook Coordinator: Anisha Eipe

Member Churches:

Blessed Sacrament
Canadian Martyrs
Centretown United
Christ Church Cathedral
Church of the Ascension
Dominion-Chalmers United
Eglise unie St-Marc
First Baptist
Fourth Avenue Baptist
Glebe-St. James United
Knox Presbyterian
Ottawa Quaker Meeting
St. Andrew's Presbyterian
St. Barnabas Anglican
St. Giles Presbyterian
St. John the Evangelist Anglican
St. Matthew's Anglican
St. Patrick's Basilica
St. Peter's Lutheran
St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican
St. Theresa's Roman Catholic
Southminster United
Trinity Anglican

Our Mission:

To unite Christians of all denominations through joint participation in social projects and prayer.

Get in Touch!

We would love to hear from you!
507 Bank St.
Ottawa, Ont. K2P 1Z5
613-232-3059

Contact@centretownchurches.org
www.centretownchurches.org

Sharing Outdoor Space With Community

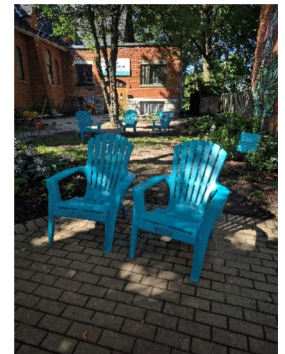
CCSAC churches located in Centretown and Glebe neighbourhoods are known for their comfy benches and chairs that provide a quiet spot for people to sit and rest or visit with each other. Some, such as Knox Presbyterian, Trinity Anglican and Fourth Avenue Baptist, also have beautiful gardens and courtyards.



Knox Presbyterian



Trinity Anglican



Fourth Avenue Baptist

The courtyard of lush gardens and shady trees at Fourth Avenue Baptist in the Glebe is a perfect respite that creates a gathering space within the neighbourhood. Their courtyard area was enhanced further when the local Business Improvement Area (BIA) restored the gardens on the North side of the church. The gardens underwent a thorough rehabilitation, including soil amendments. Native species were planted to create a more sustainable, healthy garden. The courtyard is well used. The church hosts an annual barbeque during the Great Glebe Garage Sale. Last summer the BIA launched a six-week music series in this space that attracted a crowd of music lovers.

Summer Health and Hygiene Project

This summer we were pleased to deliver a donation of water bottles, socks and underwear to Restoring Hope, a youth shelter located in First Baptist Church (info@restoringhope.ca) and a supply of underwear and socks to Ottawa Inncity Ministries (OIM) (www.innecityministries.ca).



Elizabeth Demaray, Margo Williams, and Jason Pino

Your Centretown Churches Social Action Committee keeps busy working and advocating on behalf of our neighbours. Follow our activities on www.centretownchurches.org and Facebook.

Spotlight On: St. Patrick's Basilica

By: Father Stephen Amesse

The middle of the nineteenth century saw the population of Ireland almost halved by famine, political oppression and migration. Hundreds of thousands of Irish men, women and children sought refuge in the "New World," many settling in Canada as they sought to rebuild their shattered lives. In 1855 Bishop Joseph-Eugene-Bruno Guigues established the parish of Saint Andrew, located on Sparks Street. In 1864, the parish purchased a lot between Nepean and Gloucester streets and the name of the parish was eventually changed to Saint Patrick, just before Confederation. On October 6, 1872, the cornerstone of the new church was blessed by Bishop Guigues, assisted by a close friend of one of the parish priests, none other than Sir John A. Macdonald. So, while the parish is over 170 years old, the current church building is 20 years younger.

At one time surrounding the church were two Catholic schools (one for girls and one for boys); a residence for the elderly (the forerunner of Saint Patrick's Home on Riverside Drive); an orphanage and a convent (for the nuns who taught school) and a rectory and office space for clergy and staff (still in use on Nepean Street).

Over the past century and three-quarters, there have been thousands of baptisms and hundreds of weddings and funerals celebrated at Saint Patrick. More than one hundred and fifty thousand people attend Masses and services here each year, and we attract visitors from around the world. It has been called the "spiritual hub" of the Archdiocese and in recognition of its importance to the English-speaking Catholic population Pope John Paul II raised the church to the status of Basilica on March 17, 1995.



Saint Patrick can both be a very busy place (offering three daily Masses and six on the weekend), but is also a place for quiet reflection during the day. Many parishioners come from outside the central core of Ottawa, including commuters who work downtown. Recently we received this email:

St. Patrick's Church is a place where I feel God's presence so deeply. The atmosphere is filled with peace, and every time I pray there, I am reminded of His love and grace. It is a daily source of inspiration, and every visit fills me with deep calm and trust in God!

Also, am so thankful and blessed that, in the midst of the busy day and all the work, I can step into this church and completely disconnect from the outside world. The moment I enter, I leave everything behind and connect with God. It's a powerful, peaceful pause in the middle of my day.

Saint Patrick can and must be a place of prayer, but we also are called to assist those who are less fortunate. As a partner with the Centretown Churches Social Action Committee, we have placed a priority in providing non-perishable food and financial assistance to the Centretown Churches Food Centre. In addition, we have an active Saint Vincent de Paul Society whose volunteers provide not only food vouchers but visits to those who need temporary assistance with food and clothing. The Society also regularly provides sandwiches to a local shelter and this Christmas assisted a number of families in our schools who required a little extra help with gifts and groceries.

In his recent visit to Spain, Pope Leo called on Spanish Catholics to move beyond a comfortable private faith. This challenges all of us to ensure that our faith is something we live, in what we say and do. Through prayer, sacraments and outreach, Saint Patrick Parish has been making a difference in our community for almost two centuries. God willing, this will continue for many years to come!

Add to Your Calendar...

Walkathon for the Centretown Community Food Centre – **October 4, 2026**

Since 1978, CCSAC's main project has been the Centretown Community Food Centre located at 370 Catherine Street.