



St Ignatius Church

255 Stafford Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3M 2X2
T: 204 474-2351 www.stignatius.ca

November 22, 2025

An open letter to all St Ignatius Parishioners from your Parish Finance Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

First off, a note of thanks to you all for your ongoing support of St. Ignatius Parish. You have truly been a blessing with your financial support of last year's Sharing God's Gifts program and our window replacement project. Your generosity is a true sign of faith in response to God's blessings, reflecting good stewardship, gratitude and commitment to our Parish and its missions.

For over 117 years, St. Ignatius has served the needs of its Parishioners. In return, the Parishioners never wavered in their support of the Parish through some challenging times including two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and two global pandemics.

Supporting our Church is the responsibility of each and every one of us. St. Ignatius Parish is our space for faith formation and practice; it facilitates the most significant moments of our lives.

Today, we are once again called upon to step forward and ensure that our Parish can survive and thrive.

The reality is that we are not generating sufficient revenues through collections (the Parish's only consistent source of income). The following summarizes our financial situation.

- The Parish has not had a surplus since the 2018 fiscal year.
- For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 the Parish incurred an operating deficit of \$146,000. This follows operating deficits of \$128,000 and \$248,000 in 2024 and 2023 respectively.
- The Parish currently owes the Archdiocese \$341,000. The Archdiocese has in effect become our lender, financing our accumulated deficits since the Covid years.
- Our core collections (Offertory, Christmas and Easter) for the year ended June 30, 2025 were \$89,000 less than 2019, our last full pre-Covid year.
- Core collections 4 months into the current fiscal year are trending down. To the end of October this year we are \$22,000 (-12.8%) less compared to the same period last year. If this disturbing trend continues, core collections for the current fiscal year will be \$66,000 less than last year, and \$155,000 less than our last full pre-Covid year.

- Our external accountants have included a special note in their report on our financial statements that concludes with the words "...conditions exist that may cast significant doubt on the Parish's ability to continue as a going concern."

We need your help! To put it most simply, we need an increase to the weekly contributions to help us financially recover and continue the mission and ministries of St. Ignatius Parish.

As you consider your own situation and how you can help, we offer the following framework. To eliminate an annual operating deficit of \$150,000 and get us to a sustainable financial position, we need everyone to increase their weekly financial contribution by \$10. Think about it this way; \$10 per week is less than the price of two dark roast lattes at your favorite coffee shop. (And don't forget that your donation will have an after-tax cost to you of less than \$6 per week - your contributions on or prior to December 31st will provide you a tax credit for 2025.)

Here are the convenient ways you can make your donations:

- By cheque in your personal weekly envelopes available at the office.
- By pre-authorized debits to your bank account or credit card; visit the office to set this up or email our Controller at controller@stignatius.ca to increase your amount.
- By credit/debit card at the office after every mass, or phone the office.
- By PayPal.
- Use our recently installed "Tip Tap" machine which allows touchless giving.
- Check out our website. Click on the "Donate" button on our home page banner.

One other thought for you - please ask your friends and family who have not yet returned to church post-Covid to join you for Mass next weekend.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our **Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, December 3rd at 7pm** and we welcome your suggestions about additional ways we could address our financial challenges.

We know that times may be difficult for some. We respectfully ask that you prayerfully reflect on your on-going financial contributions.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support.

St Ignatius Parish Finance Council

PS If you have comments, questions or suggestions, we would love to hear from you. Please direct your emails to operations@stignatius.ca or call or text Bob at (431) 554-1504 during office hours.

PPS A couple of verses for you as you reflect on your response to our request.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your harvest; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

- Proverbs 3:9-10