



Reflections of the pastor 2.21.20

And here it is almost spring! Well, not quite. We hope last week was the last blast of Winter.

How can I possibly summarize what is happening in our parish since last October? I remember a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. Many thanks to all who made it so. A special thanks to the benefactor of the camel to our terrific large figures creche.

Some things many parishioners may be unaware of:

A. We have 151 children enrolled in our Sunday School (and thanks to Lucy Vogrig, our Sunday School Principal, and all the volunteers who teach them and their assistants!); **B.** There are 4 enrolled in the RCIA, one preparing for baptism, three for Confirmation; **C.** There are 10 directees in our Spiritual Exercises program; **D.** Three groups meet in our chapel three days of every week after the 11 am Mass– the Monday Prayer Group who pray particularly for the intentions put in the box at the back of the Church– the Tuesday Mothers' prayer group who pray especially for children, families and those who are ill– the Wednesday parishioners who come to Adoration and pray for many!; **E.** The Parish Pastoral Council has begun to digest the Synod proposals. You will hear more about this soon. **F.** On the last two days of 2019, thanks to the organization of Lynne Campbell, our youth co-ordinator, a Bible Camp took place in our hall; for the children in attendance, the 15 youth and volunteers made it much fun. **G.** Thanks to the new leadership of Stan and Miriam Amaladas the first marriage preparation (WED) happened January 10 - 12. Nine couples enjoyed the newly revised WED curriculum. Thanks to all those couples who assisted! The next WED is planned for April 24-26.

Our Knights of Columbus are a treasure in our parish. Not only do their breakfasts encourage fellowship in the parish but they also raise money for needy organizations and people. The sale of Sobeys and Co-op gift cards support our parish works. On their 'work nights' they have painted the floor and walls of the stage area in the hall! Do not miss the coming Fish Fries; the money raised will go to El Sitio this year.

Other projects in the Church:

A. Thanks to David Androvic and Chris Janes new speakers have been installed in the choir loft. Now the choir will actually be able to hear and participate more fully in Liturgies. **B.** Since our sound system is nearing the end of its projected life, David Androvic was able to obtain identical new back up equipment (even though that model is no longer manufactured!) from a vendor in Australia. It found its way from Sydney, Australia, to 255 Stafford, arriving here last week and is ready to be installed when our present equipment 'dies'. **C.** As mentioned last fall the Corydon north door of the Church is installed and working well. It is waiting for the top door wooden decoration and the interior holy water font. **D.** The roof above the sacristy and stairwell has been replaced and so there should be no more water leaking into those areas! We had to wait for enough single digit minus temperatures for the work to be completed. **E.** Another project in that area was to resurface the steps of the north stairwell. As with most restoration plans, surprises happen. Chris Janes discovered that the steps themselves needed to be replaced. You have no doubt witnessed the beautiful work of master carpenter Janes as you came down for coffee and donuts recently. The steps will be resurfaced with new treads very soon. **F.** After two years of disappointments and waiting, our new fans are now installed. Thanks for the patience of everyone last week while the Church was locked and Masses celebrated in the chapel! I hope this equipment will provide us with better air circulation winter and, especially, summer. Deo Gratias.

Good News/Bad News: About a month ago we received a letter from the city. Starting this summer massive repairs will begin on both Corydon Avenue and Stafford Street. Nice new streets will be a good thing. The bad news is that there will be the inconvenience of construction for about three years as this happens!

Mass Times Schedule Review : In the fall after some consultation, we changed the time for the Sunday evening Mass to 8:00 pm. In the next short while a committee will be taking up the responsibility to review our current Mass schedule. It has been five years on the current schedule and time to look again to see whether it meets our needs. Nothing alarming. The committee may simply recommend that no changes need be made.

Lots of Transitions this year!

A. The good news is that Mr. Chris Janes will not retire. But his responsibilities as Buildings & Grounds manager will focus on the Church and the grounds. Our School will hire a person to assume those duties in the school.

B. After serving our community as Co-ordinator of our Adult Education Centre & Lending Library for twenty five years, Valerie Forrest will retire from her position at the end of June this year. A challenge for us and our precious Ed Centre!

C. We are also certainly going to miss Fr. Joe as he heads to Montreal at the beginning of May. Congratulations to him on his appointment as the Canada Jesuits Treasurer. His replacement, if that's even remotely possible, will arrive late July. Adjustments will be necessary to our Mass schedule in the mean time:

– With no Spanish speaking priest available, the final Spanish 3:40 pm Sunday Mass will have to be on April 26th. I am not sure at this point whether the Mass can be resumed in the future.

– We will have to go on an 'early' summer schedule beginning May, dropping the 8:00 am Sunday Mass until the fall in order for the parish to be served by one priest during the transition period.

I should be able to handle the rest of the liturgies. Fr. John Perry has volunteered to celebrate the 11 am Tuesday Mass in May, June, and August to enable me and Fr. Joe's successor to have a day off each week. Fr. Peter Monty generously accepted my invitation to assist us in July.

Difficult transitions for us. Some joy and some sorrow for those going, staying, or changing. Definitely some inconvenience, but in true St. Ignatius fashion we will get through the transitions with lots of good will. Transitions can be difficult but also a time of blessing.

As always, things are always happening at our St Ignatius Community, some a little taxing, but mostly exciting!

Blessings on everyone.



R. Frank Albright S.J.



St. Ignatius Parish