



St. Ignatius Parish, Winnipeg

November 4, 2021

Happy All Saints Day to everyone! Where has the summer gone? Where has most of the fall gone? Here we are into November already!

OUR SCHOOL: Thanks to Chris Janes and our maintenance crew in our Church and School, and to Principal Pistawka and staff, all was ready for the September opening of School. It began with almost all students personally attending. Our enrollment numbers are up from last year. We are at 258 which includes 18 nursery and 24 Kindergarten children. All the faculty and students are glad to be back! At last we are caught up with very important April and May events delayed by COVID. After waiting for a few months, our school children have celebrated their First Communion and First Reconciliation.

COVID: With the new protocols promulgated in the first week of October the sad news was that after October 12th attendance at baptisms, marriages, and funerals was reduced again to 25 persons! The good news? On October 25 that was changed so that 150 persons are now able to attend baptisms, marriages, and funerals! The old and new protocols do not affect the number we can welcome to regular Masses Wednesday through Sunday. We are limited to 33 % capacity of the Church. We maintain 150 persons limit, which I consider a safe number; it is well within the Provincial directive. Our Archbishop also has wisely announced that there is to be no requirement for people to present vaccination cards coming into Church services– it is a matter of conscience.

AN ISLAND: In the second week of October our Church/School was an island surrounded by construction. Besides the work taking place on the sewer line on Jessie Street just south of the Church, our hundred year old sewer line from the school to Jessie Street main sewer collapsed. Consequently Jessie and the corners of Jessie/Harrow street corner and Jessie/Corydon were closed . Traffic on Stafford was also narrowed to two lanes in front of the Church! It appears that normality may resume shortly, though the school sewer line repair was costly, yet efficiently repaired by October 20th (to the tune of \$32,000.00).

MINISTRIES: We can be ever thankful that many parish ministries continue thanks to generous volunteers. The Spiritual Exercises team has been working hard– 25 individuals participated in preparation 'look - see' sessions in May. Ten have been accepted into the program in October. RCIA is set to begin. Mothers Prayer group has also been meeting regularly albeit virtually. Sunday School for preparation for the three sacraments, Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation is underway. Communion ministers have begun their important service to shut ins also this month. The PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) has been digesting the Archdiocesan Synod directives and cogitating how to introduce synodal practice into our parish. The Council has also begun to examine the new guidelines/norms for PPC groups in parishes just issued by the Archdiocese . Also on its radar is updating the media communications of St Ignatius with Facebook and Instagram. A Succession Team spear headed by Trustee Stephen Ward is working hard since early summer responding to the impending retirement of our controller, Jan Hasiuk. Thanks to David Androvic and all his technicians for their dedication and devotion to keep our Masses streamed, and for beginning to use the screens again in the Church for parish participation at Mass. And thanks to Chas Van Dyke and his cantors, (and the choir who provide us with some beautiful virtual hymns) and to Dale Rogalsky and Lester Espiritu for the constant inspirational liturgical music!

KNIGHTS: Our Knights have been so generous in providing the screening and sanitization at the Church door for Sunday Masses. A special thanks for their initiative to fundraise \$15,000.00 to enhance our security both inside and outside the Church. That goal has been achieved. Thanks to generous benefactors. The challenge has been for the contracted company to acquire the hardware to install it.

GOOD WORKS: You may have noticed the new sign identifying our Church at the north east corner of the property. Thanks to Chris Janes for this beautiful creation. Work continues on the two new Reconciliation rooms at the back of the church. They are now enclosed with the dry walling. Connor Magee did major work on the north side of the sacristy/ed centre foundations. (The old windows below grade there are now sealed and gravel filled to prevent water leaking into the basement of the church.) The old lilac stump by the rectory parking entrance has been removed. Top soil has been added to more of the foundations to keep water flowing away from the buildings. Good works!

AGM (Annual General Meeting): Keep attentive to your email in the next couple weeks for an invitation to a Zoom AGM. Last year we did not even have a virtual meeting, but we posted the AGM reports on the parish web site. This year we plan to try a zoom on November 25th. Because of the anticipated numbers we will only be able to respond to 'written' questions in the chat section of zoom that evening. More information later!

BLESS YOU: Thank you for your constant support for our parish and school communities. We are continuing to manage to keep to our major purpose, the praise and worship of our loving God! And we are slowly introducing our ministries again. One anxiety I keep on handing to God is a financial one. Generally, Covid and the sewer cost mentioned above have set us back somewhat, and so, for example, at the end of October our obligations to Sharing God's Gifts is still at \$39,000.00. In past years, at this time we already had nearly fulfilled our commitment. But I do pray that somehow 'God will provide'. We are very blessed at St Ignatius to be strong in Faith and Prayer.

Blessings on all of you.



R. Frank Obrigewitsch, S.J.

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P.S. Here is a Remembrance day You Tube: The Last Post

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ctrQ8Mw9kg>