



St. Ignatius Parish, Winnipeg

January 6, 2022

**Happy New Year!
Happy Epiphany!**

Here it is already a week into 2022! And last year seems so far away!



AGM (Annual General Meeting): Just six weeks ago, we had our first virtual AGM on November 25. Thanks to all who were able to attend virtually. Thanks to our school principal, Jeannine Pistakwa, who beautifully formatted the reports posted on our website. Please read them. Thanks to all those who prepared them so well.

THANKS: There are so many to thank for offering their gifts and talents to assist our worship at our parish this Advent and Christmas: To Fathers Con, John, and Paul; to Chris Janes and his team for the outdoor crèche, the snow clearing, and so many other things; to Lee Mencik and the lectors/communion ministers, and her church Christmas decorating team!; to our musicians Chas Van Dyke and the team of Cantors, and Dale Rogalsky and her Cantors, Lester & Ronald and trumpeter Matthew; to the Knights of Columbus for their faithfulness in doing the screening (especially at our two Christmas Eve Masses with the Vax cards); to David Androvic and tech assistants; to Indira & Lorenzo and the assistant office staff Joseph and Aliana; to our faithful counters Peter Van de Mosselaer and Louise Conci, and to so many others who helped us to prepare for and celebrate Advent and Christmas.

Thanks also to so many of our parish community for their cards, gifts, and generous donations to the church!

I apologize to the Knights, lectors, and communion ministers left freezing on the church steps on the two Saturdays of Christmas and New Year's. A snafu in communications. The Archdiocese instructed me to cancel those 5 pm Masses. Somehow the cancellations by the Archdiocese didn't translate onto our website or to our generous volunteers. Once again, I apologize and thank you for your generous loyalty.

Thank you to Fr. Paul Robson, S.J. for his presence and assistance in the parish for the Fall months. On Sunday January 2nd he flew to Portland, Oregon to begin his final formal formation in the Society of Jesus, tertianship. Our good wishes and prayers go with him.

Thanks to our Knights for sponsoring the fabulous virtual dinner on December 19th. The food was superlative and the virtual gathering was great fun! Congratulations to them on their second year successful initiative to help bolster the life of our parish.



SPECIAL MENTION: No doubt you noticed our wonderful outdoor crèche again this year. Added to both our indoor and outdoor crèches were large Bethlehem stars above the front door and suspended high in the sanctuary. So blessed are we to have the creativity and enthusiasm of Chris Janes and his team Connor Magee and Abusi Folayan (David). There's been considerable progress on our two new Reconciliation Rooms at the back of the church. Please observe them when you are able to come into the church next. It's great that the back of the church is beginning to look like its more 'normal' state.



COVID: I was glad to have a couple of our Christmas Eve Masses with greater attendance than 25. Permission was given by the two Archdioceses and the Eparchy to have Masses limited to those double vaccinated on Christmas Eve. Thanks to our Knights and our staff we were able to open two of our three Christmas Eve Masses to host more than 25 worshippers.

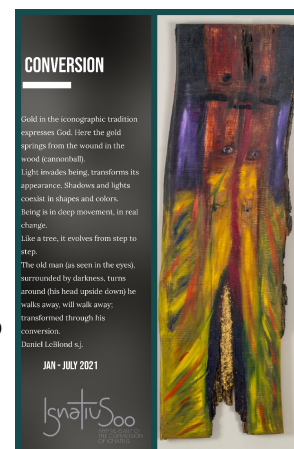
BIG CHANGE: Welcome to Eva Dunlao who has assumed the role of accountant at our parish. She has been working with Jan Hasiuk our retiring Controller since the beginning of December. Thank you to our hard working Trustees and Financial team led by Stephen Ward in their many months of analysis of the church and school needs in regard to maintaining sound and appropriate financial accounting for both. Their work continues.

SECURITY: Thanks to our benefactors and to our Knights for spearheading a campaign to raise monies for security; cameras are now in place and operational at strategic places outside the church as well as inside. Our back door and front entrances are in the process of having security cameras installed also.

FINANCES: I'm not yet able to report on the response to the December 9th special request for Christmas donations from the Parish Finance Committee in lieu of the \$87,000 deficit from last year. Please see Steve Ward's letter on the Parish Website at the bottom of the maroon section which begins "Dear Parishioners of St Ignatius." <https://www.stignatius.ca/>

JESUIT YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS: St Ignatius Parish was honoured to display a painting by Daniel LeBlond, S.J. to mark the 500th year of the event which transformed St Ignatius' life, his cannonball experience which precipitated his conversion. Regina is the next stop in its itinerary. And we are grateful for Jesuit Father Provincial, Erik Oland's visit to St Ignatius and all our Winnipeg Jesuit ministries at the beginning of December.

BLESS YOU: Thank you for your constant support for our parish and school communities especially in these past two stressful years. As we begin 2022 there is so much we do not know and so little we can predict. One thing is sure, our main purpose is to praise and worship our loving God. The challenge is to seek out how to do that best in our changing unusual times. We know that God is present in every person, place, time, and event. And so we keep our hearts open to discover and feel God's touch and our bodies poised to courageously respond. We know how to do that at St Ignatius Parish! Knowing that 'God will provide' we look forward with hope and enthusiasm.



Blessings on all of you.



R. Frank Obrigewitsch, S.J.

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P.S. Listen to some fine voices singing the traditional New Year's song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFcSfqYqHs4>