

## *St Ignatius Parish May 10, 2022*

Thank you to so many who helped us prepare for Easter through Lent and to poise our parish to celebrate Passion week and Easter! Special thanks to: Lee Mencik for searching out lectors and communion ministers!; Gordana Nikolic and her crew for decorating the Church; those who brought flowers, particularly Pat and Bill Hrynkow; Chris Janes, Connor Magee, and Abusi Folayan (David) for setting up the cross and the font; our music ministry, Chas Van Dyck, the choir members, and Dale Rogalsky and Lester Espiritu; my Jesuit community for providing a “Lent and Me” video for each week of Lent, especially for Oliver Capko, S.J. who did all of the production work for the series; David Androvic and his crew for their faithful service to our church streaming beyond our walls. Thank you to John and Louise Conci who again spearheaded the Development and Peace program at the parish and who organized the beautiful Way of the Cross service on the Friday before Passion Sunday. How wonderful to have properly celebrated together our first Easter celebrations in three years. What a joy to welcome one another and even have a short procession on Palm Sunday! At the Easter Vigil, David Mann was confirmed, and Cassandra Claydon and Robin Onoferson were confirmed and received into Full Communion with the Church. We are very fortunate to have had these three people in the RCIA program this year, and that they have made this commitment with us here at St. Ignatius. A special thanks to Cleda Reeves for her leadership in the RCIA program. The Easter Triduum was well attended: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and even the Holy Saturday Vigil liturgy. Alleluia was certainly the byword on Easter Sunday. With so many worshippers we ran out of tapers for the renewal of baptism promises! Some of our children celebrated their 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliations on April 7 and others on May 5<sup>th</sup>!. It was a joy to have two 1<sup>st</sup> Communion celebrations at the 9:30 Sunday Masses, April 24<sup>th</sup> (despite the rain and snow), and May 1<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to Archbishop Richard’s visit and the Confirmations on May 25<sup>th</sup>.



One might think, during this time as we try to look past the COVID Focus, that things are quiet in our parish. The reality is quite different. Our parish is transitioning in a serious manner. Our trustees and finance team, under the leadership of Stephen Ward, have been enabling some of that to happen. As you already know, Jan Hasuik, our controller, has retired and there are new structures now in place both in our school and in the church to handle our finances suitably. We have been blessed to find Eva Dunlao to do the parish accounting. Thank you, Jan, for continuing to assist this major endeavour. As some of you also probably know, Chris Janes\* is retiring at the end of June. Much thinking has been taking place to draw up an appropriate job description for his successor. A company has been engaged to search for that person. (\*Currently Chris is recovering from surgery on his shoulder. Courageously he continues to serve faithfully with his fine staff. Recently with the flooding of the hall and basement of the church, he took immediate action to get the belly of the church dry and sanitized and set up details for the insurance claim. Unfortunately our hall and basement will only be available again maybe in September! The renovation of our hall seems a regular ten years occurrence!) As you noticed in the recent Bulletins a search is on for someone to assume the responsibility of the Education Centre too. Thank you to Fr. Con for supervising the Ed Centre during this time, especially for shepherding the RCIA program and Spiritual Exercises ministry.

We have been blessed in our Knights of Columbus Council who have been so stalwart and supportive of our worship and our community well being! Not only have they constantly monitored the sanitizing at the Church doors and provided ushering services in the Church, but they have also been available for anything else that was needed, (like Malcolm Bird painting the interiors of the new “Reconciliation Rooms to be” or helping John Logan dig a trench to drain away rain water from the church foundations or Jim Johnson and

coffee and donuts! ) They organized Pancake Sunday just as we were about to begin Lent, a Fish Fry on the Friday before Palm Sunday, and a splendid Easter Reception after the Holy Saturday Vigil. Thanks for their tireless efforts and generous donations of time, money, and energy to our parish community! Thanks for all those who participated in the listening sessions here at St. Ignatius and for those who participated in the Archdiocesan on-line Synod survey. Your taking the time to get involved is so important. Thank you to the PPC (Parish Pastoral Council), so ably chaired by Jennifer Wispinski Bird, for taking up the challenge to organize a Synod response at St Ignatius. Thank you to all who participated. Special thanks to Fr. Con for conducting the Listening Sessions and assuming the arduous task of taking notes and formulating a response for the Archbishop. That response will be made available to parishioners, especially those who came to the sessions. We hope that these kinds of sessions will continue, providing an opportunity to focus more specifically on the needs of our parish.

We are still hampered by the continual presence of COVID in our midst. It is important to keep attentive to a simple means to protect ourselves, and in charity, everyone else, from spreading this wretched entity. That's why we continue to mandate masks at our parish worship and events. (Eventually, I hope, we will be able to dispense with that.) The COVID reality has in effect forced us to rethink the shape of our parish community in the future. Two years have had a lasting effect on what was our normal 'old' patterns and ways. The numbers of volunteers for so many things, whom we took for granted, have dwindled and even disappeared— Mass co-ordinators, lectors, communion ministers, altar servers – to say nothing of some of our outreach ministries – communion and visits for shut ins, prison ministry— etc. But as we move to reestablish our community and ministries, we need to talk and listen carefully to one another. We will have to figure out how best to respond to our current situation! I suspect that will be a main task for us in the coming year.

**Three bits of recent good news:** Fr. Con will be using his teaching talents to teach young Jesuits English in Venezuela during the month of September, 2022. Fr. Joe Newman has agreed to come from Montreal to assist the parish for that month. It will give us all an opportunity to welcome him again and then give him an appropriate farewell! He just evaporated from St Ignatius when the Virus barged into our parish and world. Also, Fr. Peter Monty will come again to assist in the parish during the month of August, enabling me to disappear for my annual retreat and holiday.

**Some more News:** All the Jesuits of Canada will be gathering at the Martyrs Shrine for a Jesuit Province Gathering at the end of July. Some of them will be gathering for three days before that for a Jesuit Province Congregation (Fr. Con included!). Please keep them in your prayers! In consequence, probably there will be no 11 a.m. parish Masses on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (July 28,29,30) but Fr. Provincial has given permission to Fr. Con to be absent from the Gathering to enable the parish to have Sunday observant Masses at the regular times on that weekend (Saturday 5 p.m. and 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. on Sunday).

Peace and prayers,



*R. Frank Albright S.J.*



*St. Ignatius Parish*

**P.S.** This is 'Alleluia' season! Even the silent monks in the video are able to shout it out in their own way!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRhjWdr-LAA>