

The Community of St Ignatius

On-line Parish Bulletin for 2020-12-25 & 27 Christmas Day & Holy Family Sunday (Year B)

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CANTICLE OF SIMEON



*And suddenly... there was a multitude of heavenly host,
praising God and saying, 'Glory to God
in the highest... and on earth peace....' (Luke 2)*

READINGS: Christmas Day (B)
1 st Reading: Isaiah 62: 11-12
2 nd Reading: Titus 3: 4-7
Gospel: Luke 2: 15-20

READINGS: Holy Family Sunday (B)
1 st Reading: Genesis 15: 1-6, 17.3b-5, 15-16; 21: 1-7
2 nd Reading: Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Live-Streamed Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve 24 December: 5pm & 11pm (Carols live-streamed at 4:30 & 10:30pm)
Christmas Day, December 25: 11am

Public attendance at all Masses is suspended during the Covid-19 Code Red period. Sunday and daily Masses continue to be streamed live from St Ignatius daily at 11am at: <http://stignatiusmass.from-ca.com>

NEW: The Archbishop has extended through **1 March 2021** the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass in person. Private Masses continue to be celebrated daily without a congregation. Parishioners' intentions are honoured at each Mass.

NEW: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not available until Wednesday 6 January, and then by appointment only on Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays.

As the physical church building is temporarily closed to the public by order of the Archbishop, in line with provincial government health restrictions, private prayer in the church is no longer possible. Family prayer at home is recommended. The following websites, among many others, have prayer suggestions you may find helpful:

- <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/prayers-for-healing>
- <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/>
- <https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/a-prayer-for-healing-and-hope/>

Mass Intentions for the Week of December 28th – January 2nd (will be honoured during live-streamed Masses)				
Mon	Dec	28 th	11:00am	+Tom Kinahan
Tues		29 th	11:00am	+Roberto Carcamo
Wed		30 th	11:00am	+Lorne Torack
Thu		31 st	11:00am	Thanksgiving: Elefante Family
Fri	Jan	1 st	11:00am	Pro Populo
Sat		2 nd	11:00am	Spec Int: M.S.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pastor, priests, and lay staff wish all our parishioners a happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas, with the hope that the New Life we now celebrate will bring many blessings throughout the New Year to your family, to our nation, and to the world.

Parish 2021 Offertory envelopes will be provided only upon request this year. You can request them by calling the Parish Office, 204-474-2351, or by emailing office@stignatius.ca. The preferred alternative is now PAC; (see “[Switching](#)” below).

Chili cooks needed for the Immaculate Conception Drop-In Centre, Sunday 3 January. We need 30 four-litre pails of chili to be made at home for guests at the Centre. The empty pails are available from Nancy, 204-799-0276 – not from the parish office. To arrange pickup of pails and to drop off your cooked chili, call Nancy. Many thanks for your kindness and generosity toward our city’s most vulnerable citizens.

St Ignatius Knights’ PAC Challenge deadline extended to 31 December. The Knights of Columbus challenge all St Ignatius parishioners to sign up for pre-authorized contributions (PACs). The Knights will match, dollar-for-dollar, the first two months of every new PAC and every increase over existing contributions from July 1 through December 31, 2020 up to a total of \$10,000! Now is the time to start or increase your PAC to help the Parish collect an extra benefit! To sign up, email the Parish office (office@stignatius.ca), leave a phone message at 204-474-2351, or visit the Parish website (www.stignatius.ca)

The Parish’s Virtual Christmas Dinner was a huge success. Thank you to the over 130 people who helped out, participated, or donated! Through your generosity, we provided over 20 hamper meals for those in need and raised an additional \$1,600 for Knights’ Charities. Fr Joe made a special appearance and shared a video Christmas greeting.

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Fr. Alfred Delp, a German Jesuit who joined the anti-Nazi Resistance, was arrested and executed for his activities in 1945. The following excerpts – quoted by William Doyno, Jr in the conservative on-line Journal *First Things* – are taken from a compilation of his writings published by Ignatius Press: [*Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings – 1941-1944*](#) . (emphasis added)

Christmas has always been subject to many misunderstandings. Superficialities, taking refuge in familiarity, idyllic playing around with Nativity scenes, and so forth, have displaced our view from the tremendous event this holy day represents.... **One must take care to celebrate Christmas with a great realism.... One should bear in mind that we are celebrating the feast of God becoming man....** That is how man must understand it. It is the incomprehensible fact of God entering into history; that He stepped into our law, into our space, into our existence – and not only *like* one of us, but *as* one of us. That is the thrill and the incomprehensibility of this event.

History now becomes the Son's mode of existence; historical destiny becomes His destiny. **He is to be encountered on our streets. In the darkest cellars and the loneliest prisons of life, we will meet Him.** And that is already the first blessing and consecration of the burden: that He is to be met under its weight....

We have become accustomed to the idea that what God asks of us, the great basic teachings of our lives, and the great responses required by God are somehow accessories – as if we can take them or leave them – as if they are just trinkets for those who choose to accept them. We have very often forgotten that the God of freedom – the God of grace and divine humanity – is a God who challenges us. **God wants to be taken seriously, wants to be all, not just an accessory.** He does not just leave it to chance whether we say Yes or No. A time comes where our refusal is refusing the fulfillment of our lives, because we have not taken God into account and have not dealt with the Lord God in discernment....

[Once we become true disciples of Christ, we proclaim him, no matter how bleak the situation around us: We bear witness to the Light.]...Therefore, **deep down, we are the people who are comforted; and we are the last refuge for the homeless people who do not know anything about the Lord anymore.... May we impart the goodness. May we attend to humanity again,** and witness to the Lordship of God again, and know of His grace and mercy.... May we go away from Christmas Eve with the consolation that we mean so much to God that no external distress can rob us of this ultimate consolation. Our hearts must become strong, to make the divine heartbeat into the law of life again....

We should not avoid the burdens God gives us. They lead us into the blessing of God. To those who remain faithful to the ascetic and hard life, the interior springs of reality will be unsealed, and the world is not silent as we might have thought. The silver threads of God's mysteries within everything that is real begin sparkling and singing. The burden is blessed, because it has been recognized and carried as a burden from God.

God becomes man. Man does not become God. The human order remains and continues to be our duty, but it is consecrated. And man has become something more, something mightier. Let us trust life because this night must lead to light. Let us trust life because we do not have to live it alone. God lives it with us.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2020 Sharing God's Gifts Archdiocesan Collection (SGG): Our assessment for 2020 has been reduced from \$64,220 to \$48,152, of which we still owe \$6,827. Please make cheques payable to the Parish, earmarked "Sharing God's Gifts" – and print your name and envelope number clearly on the Sharing God's Gifts envelope. Thank you for your generosity to our Archdiocese.

St Ignatius Statement for the period December 8th to December 20th: To our combined regular Sunday collections you gave \$29,713 in support of our Parish, including school and church expenses. To SGG you gave \$5,275. To the Christmas collection, you gave \$44,850, and to Halfway House you gave \$100. Thank you for your generosity! (NB: For now, tallies are made every two weeks.)

During the pandemic, despite reduced office hours and restricted Mass attendance, the Parish still provides the Sacraments and other urgent services for those in need. While we recognize that some parishioners will be in financial difficulty because of the crisis, we ask you, **if you are able, to please continue donating** by:

- **dropping off your envelope in the new mailbox outside the Admin Office door;**
- **mailing in your weekly donation**, including your SGG contribution, to 255 Stafford Street, Winnipeg, MB R3M 2X2;
- **donating to us through PayPal** at <https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr...>; or
- **switching to Pre-Authorized Payments (PAC)** for your contributions to the church: an easy way to donate. To start a new PAC or increase an existing one, please fill out a form available from the Office or on line.

OUR FACILITIES

<p>ST IGNATIUS PARISH 255 Stafford Street Winnipeg, MB R3M 2X2 www.stignatius.ca</p>
<p>Served by: Pastor: Frank Obrigewitsch, SJ Assoc Pastor: Con Mulvihill, SJ and John Perry, SJ</p>
<p>Office: CLOSED during current emergency Admin Asst: Indira Rampersad, 204-474-2351 office@stignatius.ca</p>
<p>Controller: Jan Hasiuk controller@stignatius.ca</p>
<p>ST IGNATIUS SCHOOL <i>Nursery-Grade 8: full curriculum in a Catholic environment for children of registered parishioners.</i> Principal: Jeannine Pistawka Admin Asst: Michele Lampertz 204-475-1386 www.stignatius.mb.ca</p>
<p>Adult Education Centre & Lending Library: 204-453-9243 Co-ordinator: Fr Con adult.education@stignatius.ca</p>
<p>Buildings & Grounds Maintenance Manager: Chris Janes, maintenance@stignatius.ca</p>

SACRAMENTS, FORMATION, & ACTIVITIES

<p>BAPTISM OF CHILDREN For the preparation program, phone four months before child's birth</p>
<p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:55am-12 Noon This year: First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation only</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION For Grades 8-12: Enquire at Parish Office in September</p>
<p>CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA): Enquire at the Adult Education Centre if interested in joining the Catholic Church.</p>
<p>SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE Arrange 12 months in advance.</p>
<p>SICK CALLS: Request through the Office. Someone will gladly visit the sick.</p>
<p>HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY: call Office, 204-474-2351</p>
<p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS normally meet 1st Monday each month at 7:30pm – meetings temporarily suspended.</p>

THE CANTICLE OF SIMEON

Now, Master, you let your servant
go in peace.

You have fulfilled your promise.

My own eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all peoples:
a light to bring the Gentiles from darkness;
the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 1:46-55

