



# NEWS & VIEWS

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## FROM THE PASTOR

WOW! I'M HOME! I recently drove downtown to familiarize myself with the new Cleveland, noticing the places of interest that have been renovated and newly constructed since my days growing up. As I walked down beautiful Euclid Avenue, just outside Terminal Tower, I saw a T-shirt that read I ❤️ CLE. I smiled and thought to myself, indeed I do love Cleveland, and it is good to be home. Heading north, I watched the rolling waves on Lake Erie, standing atop the Convention Center, and took notice of FirstEnergy Stadium and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I let my mind drift. I thought of that T-shirt and I knew I'd have to design my own. However, my T-shirt wouldn't say, I ❤️ CLE; it would read: I ❤️ Gesù!

I have been here only a month, but as many of you heard in my welcome back to church video, I have immediately fallen in love with Gesù and am learning daily, to fall more deeply in love with all that is Gesù. I arrived during the final week of school classes and was happy to meet many of the students, hand out diplomas, thank our teachers and

staff, and congratulate Lucy Iemmolo for her many years of superb service to Catholic education.

I have been fortunate to meet numerous parish groups: the Finance Council, the Parish Council, CLC group, scholarship boards and many others. I have had the privilege of greeting and shaking hands with so many parishioners after Mass. I have heard and cherished the stories of families who have been parishioners for years, and spoken to families who are newer to the parish than I am! My thoughts keep returning to that T-shirt, I ❤️ Gesù! I am SO excited to be here and look forward to all that the future holds for the beautiful community that is Gesù. Of course, the T-shirt is also a reminder of what we are all called to do: fall more deeply in love with Gesù = Jesus.

It seems to me that this is a very special time in our world, country, city and Church. It is a time to renew and restart. We have been sheltered in place and distanced from each

other and the Church, navigating with fear and uncertainty through the pandemic. We have watched, witnessed and experienced unrest due to the brokenness of significant parts of our society. A growing call for awareness of the sins of racism, the fragility and preservation of all human life, the disparity of those who have and those who have not, along with other social injustices, are begging for our attention.

We are now entering into a time when we can re-enter the closets of our hearts and search for that T-shirt, the one that reads: I ❤️ Gesù. In digging out that T-shirt (which signifies coming back to church and school; getting involved in commissions, activities and organizations; and stepping outside our homes and entering the arena of public life and worship), we proudly share with the world that indeed we have something special here at Gesù. We ARE something special here at Gesù. By acknowledging our love for our community, we acknowledge the fact that we are truly Gesù, the Body of Christ! We are called as Christ's Body to proudly

## YOUNG HERO RECEIVES GIRL SCOUT MEDAL OF HONOR

By Brittany Lynch



Ellie Costanzo (center) with parents, Tony and Heather Costanzo, and siblings, AJ and Claire.

During a family trip to Chautauqua Lake last August, Elizabeth (Ellie) Costanzo was enjoying an evening of fishing when she found herself in a precarious and unexpected situation. Ellie, a Gesu Catholic School rising 4th grader, along with her two siblings, Claire (rising 6th grader) and AJ (rising 1st grader), were on their grandparents' dock when brothers Lyle and Paul arrived at their uncle's neighboring lake house and came over to watch them fish. Ellie's grandfather was in a nearby boat, 20 feet away on a lift.

Suddenly, AJ had a bite on the line! The fish swam underneath the dock. In an effort

to keep his eye on the catch, three-year-old Lyle leaned over and accidentally fell into the lake. While Claire took control of the two younger boys, keeping them calm and making sure they did not jump into the water after him, Ellie quickly realized that Lyle was in need of help and that her grandfather would not be able to reach him fast enough. Lyle, who had fallen quite a distance from the ladder, was unable to reach safety or to keep his head above water.

Ellie frequently swam in this part of the lake and knew that she could stand in this depth. After Lyle submerged for a third time, she leapt into action!

Ellie jumped into the lake and swam to Lyle. Though the water was higher than usual, coming up to the top of Ellie's shoulders, she managed to hold him with his arms extended above his head so that he could cough out the water he had swallowed. She swam his 35 pound, 40-inch body to the nearest ladder, and the others helped pull him to safety. Though quite shaken, Lyle fortunately did not sustain any injuries.

Ellie, who was only nine at the time of the incident, recalls that the event took place so quickly that she barely had time to think. It was her quick reaction that saved Lyle's life that day, and also earned her the prestigious Girl Scout Medal of Honor. After hearing about Ellie's act of heroism, Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio awarded Ellie a Medal of Honor, which is given to a Girl Scout who has shown presence of mind (a clear and calm head) and true Girl Scout spirit in an emergency. The honor has been given to only 11 girls in Northern Ohio in the organization's 109-year history. Ellie received the award at a ceremony this spring at Church of the Gesu in front of her proud parents, Tony and Heather Costanzo (Gesu Class of '94), teachers, classmates and troopmates. Ellie, whose bravery inspires us all, proves that even the youngest among us are capable of being heroes and helping those in need.



Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio CEO Jane Christyson awards Ellie the Girl Scout Medal of Honor.

### *From the Pastor, Continued from cover*

wear this T-shirt, reminding us to live, breathe, eat and pray as the presence of Christ to our world, which is so desperately needed.

I pray that in our time together, we may strive to be worthy of wearing that T-shirt. May we grow in our communal love for Jesus, the one for whom our Church is named, by shining as a bright light in University Heights, Cleveland, the USA and beyond, and may we try to the best of our abilities to live the life that Gesù calls us to live for others!

This year, we celebrate the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, for whom getting struck in the leg by a

cannon ball changed the course of his life forever. Could we also experience a "cannonball moment," which will take us in a new direction, with no turning back? Let us enter this celebratory period with hope; let us live it with faith; and let us accomplish it in love. Let us dig deep into the closets of our hearts and put on our T-shirts!

I ♥ Gesù!

God bless

Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ

Pastor



## IGNATIAN YEAR ENCOURAGES FOCUS ON OUR “CANNONBALL” MOMENTS

By Fr. Gregory Hyde, SJ

The Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa, announced last July 31st on the Feast Day of St. Ignatius that beginning on May 20, 2021, a year-long celebration would begin honoring the 500th anniversary of the event which would lead to the religious conversion of St. Ignatius of Loyola. On May 20th in the year 1521, Ignatius suffered serious injury to his legs from a cannonball while defending a Spanish fortress against a French attack. While recuperating from his injuries, he experienced a profound conversion of heart, beginning a spiritual journey in which he tried to follow Christ more closely. He began to see the world and all things new with the eyes of Christ, which ultimately led him to found the Society of Jesus, (the Jesuits). Ignatius’ “cannonball moment” had a spiritual impact with tremendous consequences, not only for Ignatius himself, but for all after him who have discovered help for their own faith journey in Ignatian spirituality, and also for the Church as a whole.

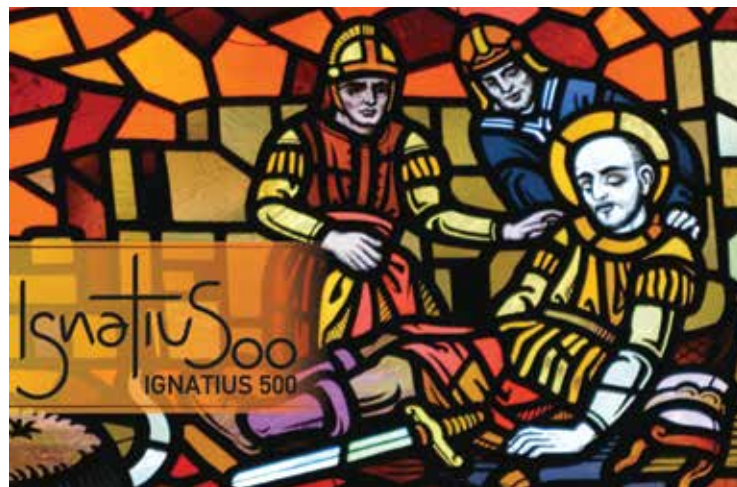
A Jubilee year such as this one invites us to rediscover the life of St. Ignatius. It also invites us to consider the “cannonball moments” of our own lives. What Ignatius experienced 500 years ago is not so entirely different from what can happen to an individual in our own time who, at a particular moment on life’s journey, experiences a desire to change his or her life fundamentally and start over, or discovers a new dream or hope to find a way of seeing things new in Christ.

Fr. General expresses his hope that the celebration of this anniversary will help each of us toward a deeper conversion of heart ourselves, “provid[ing] all of us with

an opportunity to know, to love, and to follow the Lord of all things.” The theme of the Ignatian Year is “To see all things new in Christ.” In the talk announcing the Ignatian year he addressed all those who are part of the wider Ignatian community with the following words:

“At this moment, I am especially addressing our companions in the mission: the lay people, religious and those who, from other beliefs or human convictions, participate in the same struggle. We hope, during the Ignatian year, to share more deeply with you the foundational experience by which the apostolic body of the Society participates in the mission of reconciling all things in Christ. Many of you feel a deep commitment to this inspiration, to the charism that gives life to the Society of Jesus. I thank the Lord for that grace and I thank each of you for your enthusiasm and closeness. We want to take advantage of the Ignatian year to accompany more closely the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in each one of you so that you can feel that call more deeply.”

The Midwest Province of the Society of Jesus, as well as our own parish, is preparing some activities to mark this special year. Please keep your eyes and ears open to find out about these coming events. You may also be interested to know that the Pope has also offered a plenary indulgence to all those visiting Jesuit churches and places of prayer during the Ignatian Year and



completing the necessary requirements for the indulgence (celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the Pope).

At this difficult moment in our history, we hope that this Ignatian year will help us all to make the necessary changes to improve ourselves and our world. We realize that “Yes, change is possible. Yes, our hearts can be softened. Yes, our world can find new ways forward.” We place our hands in the hands of Jesus, our brother and friend, and we go forth into an uncertain but hopeful future, confident that He is with us and that His spirit is guiding us.

Listed are websites that will help you enter into the Ignatian Year more deeply:

**The Official Site for the Ignatian Year**  
[ignatius500.global](http://ignatius500.global)

**The American Jesuit site for the Ignatian Year**  
[www.jesuits.org/spirituality/ignatian-year](http://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/ignatian-year)

**A helpful video introducing the Jubilee year**  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIBrd\\_5GLgE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIBrd_5GLgE)

**An article by the Secretariat for Social Justice and Ecology**  
[www.jesuits.global/2021/05/28/seemingly-small-things-matter/](http://www.jesuits.global/2021/05/28/seemingly-small-things-matter/)



## ANGEL'S WORLD REVOLVES AROUND GESU

By John Betchkal



*Angel Krsacok (in back) with her husband Mike and their two boys, Aidan and Christian.*

Life has always been lively – and loaded with twists and turns – for Angel Krsacok. By her own admission, “I had a rough, rocky childhood.”

Angel was born at Metro Hospital. Home for her and two younger sisters was in Ohio City on the West Side. She attended Hicks Montessori, Kentucky School, was bussed to Martin Luther King Junior High, and then went to East High School. Violence was part of the environment at East High then, so she transferred to and graduated from Health Careers, a Cleveland magnet school.

She enrolled at Cuyahoga Community College to study dental technology. She then transferred to Remington College where she graduated with a certificate and license in phlebotomy.

During those sometimes difficult times, Angel had uplifting constant support from her loving grandparents. “My grandfather was a Baptist minister. My grandparents lived on Sophia, near East 93rd and Woodland. Their home was my weekend refuge.”

The “twists and turns” in her life accelerated when she met her now husband, Mike, whom she lovingly describes as a “Slovak manly man.” Following a year of dating, and recognizing that Angel was not Catholic, they got married at a destination ceremony on a beach in the Bahamas.

Angel converted to Catholicism in 2010.

“Mike and I had two sons, and I wanted to be fully spiritually united with my family. Mike’s mom encouraged me to become Catholic, and when I did, his dad was through the moon! I was receiving the Eucharist at Gesu and I was in a parish where I felt comfortable. Gesu is the reason for everything. I mean it when I say that.”

Angel and Mike wanted the Krsacok boys, Aidan and Christian, to attend Gesu School. Aidan, whose loving nickname is Monster, was on the waiting list for kindergarten. Christian, whose nickname is Huggs, was enrolled in preschool. “When Monster got accepted at Gesu, it felt like he got into Harvard,” fondly recalls Angel.

Aidan and Christian are now young men. Aidan joins the United States Navy on September 13, fulfilling a dream he has had since 5th Grade. A recent St. Ignatius High School graduate, his goal is to be a Navy Seal. Everyone in the Krsacok family believes he will achieve it. Christian is a rising Senior at St. Ignatius.

Angel’s life these days is both hectic

and happy. She maintains a torrid pace in handling her diversified duties. It’s a pleasure for her to continue doing make-up for wedding parties, she is the proud “Chairman and CEO” of the family’s trucking business (which she personally named Ethics Trucking), and she’s also a newly minted Howard Hanna realtor working in a red-hot marketplace.

Keeping in mind her love for Gesu, she also serves as a Eucharistic Minister. “Fr. (Lorn) Snow encouraged me to train for being a Eucharistic minister. I felt honored to be called to do that.” She also is chair of the Gesu Outreach Commission, wanting to continue to give back to the parish that is so special to her and her family.

Speaking of special, in 2019 Angel’s backyard garden won the “Best Kept Secret” Award in the City of University Heights Beautiful Homes competition. “I love my garden. I love gardening and I love to be in my garden any time of the day. I love sharing time there with our rescue dog, Veronica. It’s quiet and peaceful, especially in the late evening. It’s a great spot to reflect on my life...and my love for Gesu. I mean it!”



*Angel tending to her award winning garden.*



## FAITH FORMATION IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

By Marcia Leous

Many people have embraced the recent loosening of pandemic restrictions with open arms, while others have reacted with caution. Regardless, it is difficult to forget the trials and tribulations of the past 15 months of leaving behind our ordinary ways of life. Recently, I attended a meeting which began with a version of the Examen, a favorite prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola that invites one to “examine” his/her day for signs of God’s presence. The prayer leader asked us to thank God for being with us throughout the year. She then encouraged us to ponder how the pandemic was a grace-filled time for us. In other words, how and where did we experience God’s love and mercy amid the surrounding darkness and uncertainty? It did not take me long to formulate a response in terms of my role as Co-Director of Faith Formation at Church of the Gesu.

My family would be the first to point out how slow I had been to embrace modern communication technology. The pandemic forced the issue, as it was either sink or swim; in other words, I had better learn how to master Zoom or cancel my programs. The Zoom platform was not the only program modification I made, but undoubtedly and surprisingly the most successful, thanks be to God and human innovation. Three programs for which I was directly responsible will serve as examples of how the parish was able to continue its mission in a time of pandemic – First Reconciliation/First Communion, Ignatian Prayer and Faith Sharing, and the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

Sacramental preparation for the 2020-21 First Reconciliation/First Communion program consisted of one parent meeting and one at-home family session/retreat for each of these sacraments. I normally ask parents to help prepare their children to celebrate the sacraments and provide appropriate resources for use at home. Gesu School and PSR teachers likewise spend a fair amount of time teaching their students about Reconciliation and Eucharist. However, since the PSR children did not meet in person during the pandemic, I asked

their parents to work at home with them using materials. Parents commented on the value of this experience in terms of their own increased understanding of the sacraments, the additional one-on-one time with their children and time spent praying together as a family.

The at-home “retreat” experiences included many of the activities we normally do together at Gesu, but families could choose their own timeframe during the scheduled retreat weekends. One new activity for the First Communion retreat involved baking bread, blessing it and sharing it with family members. A parent commented on this experience: “I wanted to thank you for putting together the first communion retreat activities. We used the Quick Buttermilk Bread recipe that you gave and our son made it and shared it with our whole family. It was such a nice experience.”

All children eventually had the opportunity to celebrate their First Reconciliation, with First Communion celebrations beginning shortly afterwards during the Easter season, (only six months after the previous year’s class had completed these celebrations, which were delayed on account of the pandemic). It was truly a joy to interact with parents and to share their First Communicants face to face and their appreciation for this experience of Jesus in the Eucharist. The time of preparation that preceded was palpable.

Both Ignatian Prayer and Faith Sharing and the RCIA sessions primarily relied on Zoom to remain connected during the pandemic in the absence of in-person meetings. The former is a monthly gathering of 12-15 adults who pray by reflecting on the upcoming Sunday Mass readings in the context of their day-to-day lives. Mostly seniors, these individuals truly value the opportunity to regularly connect with and support one another. One woman commented on her experience: “I look forward to the communal experience of faith sharing each month. Recently, meditating on Sunday’s gospel about when Jesus was asleep in the boat and the apostles were afraid of the raging sea,



*First Communicant making bread at home during the First Communion retreat last April.*

Jesus’ words: ‘be still’ stood out to me. In this pandemic with all its stresses, those words brought a sense of calm to my life. I prayed for the grace simply to live one day at a time. Listening to the members of the group share their reflections, I am comforted by the awareness that we are all enfolded in the loving presence of the Holy Spirit.”

The Zoom platform allows for “breakout rooms” and the facilitator can divide up the participants into small discussion groups and “send” them to their respective rooms for a specified amount of time. All return to the main “room” for large group discussion and close with a version of the Examen prayer. This group is still “zooming!”

Finally, the RCIA is the process whereby those interested in becoming Catholics can explore Catholicism and its teachings and celebrations with a view towards joining the Church. Five individuals were formally initiated into the Church and our parish community during the Easter Vigil this past April. This group met weekly via Zoom with the five-member team since the middle of September 2020 and participated in a Sunday morning Zoom scripture reflection from December through March.

Sponsors were assigned partway through the experience and the entire 2020-21 RCIA community of 15 people continued to meet week after week, growing in knowledge and love for Jesus and one another. One parishioner who sponsored her father reflected on their experience in the following comments: “My dad and I enjoyed the small group setting. We felt comfortable sharing our experiences and beliefs with the other

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## OUTREACH - WELCOMING, VOLUNTEERING & SPORTS

By Amy Zucca



*YA You CAN Ministry members making sandwiches for St. Pat's Hunger Center.*

Gesu's YA You CAN Ministry is a program developed to meet a unique need in our Catholic Church. Various programs exist to further faith formation in adults, teens, engaged couples and 50+ parishioners in most parishes; however, few programs exist to further the spiritual life of young adults with special needs after they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

YA You CAN Ministry was created and implemented by Coordinator Deborah Bruening during the pandemic. The use of Zoom allowed individuals to connect as a faith community, delving into the theme of "Friendship with Jesus." Zoom teachings, craft materials, saint prayer cards, family-based service projects and follow-up emails with adult coloring and videos served to enforce

each month's lesson. Participants experienced individual growth, community connections and a means to allow the domestic church (the family) to pray and learn about Jesus.

What was necessarily missed last year is being experienced this summer: coming together! The pictures say it all: service, sports and meals can now be shared as a faith community. Jodi Salata, Gesu parishioner, offered the YA You CAN Ministry members an opportunity to make sandwiches for St. Pat's Hunger Center, a Gesu tradition for over 30 years. These young men were more than willing to help those who are hungry; they have an intrinsic spirit of service that just needed to be tapped! They also wanted to welcome Fr. Laniauskas. This young adult ministry for individuals models our walk in the Christian faith: to love God and love our neighbor.

YA You CAN Ministry is looking forward to continuing the desire to serve in other ways at Gesu. Young adults who are interested in participating in this ministry are welcome to contact Deborah Bruening at [dbruening@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:dbruening@churchofthegesu.org).



### *Faith Formation in the time of Pandemic, Continued from page 5*

participants. We enjoyed learning about the foundation of the Catholic faith through the scriptures. The openness of our group made the RCIA experience memorable."

Talk about grace-filled experiences! In retrospect, I never anticipated that we would be able to keep the momentum going through this long and sometimes scary COVID stretch. It is hard to believe that the level of intimacy we achieved through Zoom was even possible! The entire experience taught me the importance of flexibility and adaptation in meeting the spiritual needs of our parishioners and

the value of technology for communication purposes. Further, the pandemic time of confinement and semi-isolation reminded me that the Holy Spirit cannot be limited to a particular time or space. The Gospel of Matthew ends with Jesus commissioning his disciples. They see him, but some of them doubt. Then Jesus approaches and says to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20, NAB).

## SAVE THE DATE 15TH ANNUAL SERVICE DAY

What better way to commemorate 95 years of service than a weekend spent serving our community and celebrating all the work Gesu parishioners have done together!

We plan to kick off with a Breakfast and Commissioning Prayer before we commence with our **15th Annual Service Day on Saturday, December 4.**

There will also be a Volunteer Information/Appreciation Fair after all weekend Masses (with doughnuts!) at which our Service Committee members will show what they do, what they need, how to volunteer and who to contact.

Let's keep Outreach going strong all year and have some "cannonball" moments!

## LITTLE ROCK, BIG IMPACT: SCRIPTURE STUDY AT CHURCH OF THE GESU

By Christie Okocha

My adult Bible study journey began in the spring of 2010, when I started spending a lot of time in personal study of the Bible. I simply started reading Genesis, then Exodus, Leviticus...the more I read, the more I wanted to read. This desire to read was gradually complemented by my desire to share my thoughts and reflections. I thought that there must be others who are reading and are eager to share. How can something so good be kept private?

So began my search for a Catholic Bible study group. As I sought unsuccessfully to find a group study in my area, friends and acquaintances began encouraging me to start one. On June 15, 2012, the first group gathered in my living room with Bibles and notebooks for our first Bible study session.

What book should we read first? Simple. Start from the first Book of the New Testament. We soon learned, however, that the Gospel of Matthew is not that simple. The footnotes took us to various parts of the Old Testament, and we spent as much time, reading various parts of the Old Testament to get a fuller understanding. We realized the truth of St. Augustine's wisdom: "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is revealed in the New." When we finally finished Matthew, the group unanimously decided to go back to the Old Testament, the beginning – Genesis.

Soon the group grew larger than my living room could accommodate. It became necessary to move, and Fr. Lorn Snow, SJ, then pastor of Church of the Gesu, graciously allowed the group to continue its study at the church. Upon recommendations of Fr. Snow and Fr. Philip Bernier of Holy Spirit Catholic Church, we started using Little Rock Scripture study materials, which made studying the Bible simpler and more manageable. A few chapters of Scripture

are assigned each week. Members read and reflect and meet each week to share their reflections. Before the weekly meeting, each member has to devote time for personal study.

That time for daily personal study is the first important step to better understanding the Bible. Perhaps it is also the most difficult step in the process making time to read-but the solution is easy: get up, take and read. Once you start reading, you become aware of your hunger for the Word. Members have commented that they will continue the study because they realize "there is so much to learn."

The second step is to develop a habit of using all the tools at one's disposal (footnotes, Bible dictionary, commentary) to boost one's understanding of selected Scripture. It is important to remember that one is in conversation with saints and biblical scholars who have studied and written about the Bible for centuries.

The third and fourth steps require reflections on application and implementation: what does the Scripture passage mean to me, and what am I going to do about it? Although the Scripture passage was written centuries ago and addressed to a different audience in a different culture, it is still relevant to the modern reader; it transcends time and space. Journaling is an effective means of capturing reflections and thoughts to share with the group at the weekly meeting, which is an indispensable component of the study. An overwhelming number of members affirm that the weekly sharing is the most valuable part of the study. Through discussions, one learns other ways of application. These Saturday discussions inevitably heighten one's celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays and guide one throughout the week.

Another essential facet of the weekly sharing is the love, respect and trust that the members build and develop. They are dedicated to the study and to helping each member grow. They are welcoming, open-minded, attentive and supportive. We always begin and end our study with conversational prayer, integrating Psalms of praise. Members take prayer requests seriously and lift each other and family members in prayer.

Members go out of their way to welcome new members, so no one feels out of place. There is an awareness that no matter how long one studies the Bible, it is never old, and meanings are not finite. New members bring fresh perspectives, and older members illuminate current discussions with experience with other texts. And there are always new books or genres to explore. It is a continuous journey – a marathon, not a dash.

Perseverance in the Word is so crucial in our world today. It is a buttress against the current turbulence of relativism so that one is not swept away by the fad of the day, but rather is transformed by the renewal of our minds. Scripture says, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your minds that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rm 12:2).

Everyone is welcome! Catholics, non-Catholics, people of other faiths. Come as you are on Saturdays with your Bible, a notebook and an open mind. This will be an action for which you will be thankful to God.

*\*All biblical quotes are from the The New American Bible, Revised Edition.*



## A HEARTFELT FAREWELL



*Ms. Lucy Iemmolo officially passes on the reins of principal to Mrs. Kazel at the Class of 2021 8th Grade Missioning Mass.*

You may have heard the phrase, “It takes a village to raise a child.” If you are a parent, you know the truth to this statement, and if you are a student who has had Lucy Iemmolo as a part of your village, you have been truly blessed.

Ms. Iemmolo started her career in education as a teacher at St. Mary’s in Colinwood in 1978. Shortly after, she took a position as a junior high teacher at St. Margaret Mary. Her next position as a teacher was at St. Gregory the Great in South Euclid. It was there that Monsignor William Novicki saw leadership in Ms. Iemmolo and encouraged her to be an administrator. She earned her Administration Degree from Ursuline College and became the principal of St. Gregory the Great, where she remained for many

years, guiding students and helping families. She also served as an administrator at North Royalton Middle School, but God called her back to Catholic education. In 2014 she became principal of Gesu.

While other Catholic schools may have struggled to stay afloat, Ms. Iemmolo has helped Gesu flourish through earning a STEM designation, building a STREAM center, remodeling multiple parts of the school, and bringing the most current best practices to our teachers.

Over the years Ms. Iemmolo has mentored and encouraged young individuals to become teachers and administrators. She has a knack for entering a room where a difficult conversation may be occurring and smoothing the waters. As a student, one never left her office without a kiss...a chocolate one...and even possibly heard her sing some show tunes. As a teacher, one never left her office without Ms. Iemmolo, planting a big idea.

One thing is for sure: She saw ALL of us as Children of God! No matter if a student was to see her for earning a gold card or was in her office for misbehavior for the fifth time that week, she would greet the student by saying “Child of God.” What a beautiful name to be called, a reminder that we are loved beyond all measure and there is nothing we could do or say to change the fact that God had made us, will forgive us and will love us.

Ms. Iemmolo, Child of God, we thank you for your years of missioning to others and we wish you an abundant amount of relaxation and enjoyment in your retirement. You have earned it!

### GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S NEW PRINCIPAL

We are pleased to announce that Regan Kazel has been selected as Principal of Gesu Catholic School for the coming 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Kazel is well known to our school community as she began teaching at Gesu in 2010 as the gifted and enrichment teacher and served in a leadership role as our Assistant Principal since 2018. She has shared her time and energy as moderator to many clubs and organizations at Gesu too!



Mrs. Kazel’s undergraduate degree is in Journalism from The Ohio State University. She earned a Master’s Degree in Education

from Ursuline College, a Master’s Degree in Education with Reading Specialization from Kent State University, and a Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Notre Dame College.

We extend to Mrs. Kazel our sincere congratulations, and we look forward to her continuing to grow the strong foundation of Catholic education that is a trademark of our parish.

### GESU CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Katelyn Seliskar is a vibrant educator who joins the Gesu Community as the Assistant Principal from Archbishop Hoban High School. At Hoban, she served as



the Associate Principal of Academics and was responsible for faculty professional development, instructional coaching and experiential learning programming.

Prior to her time at Hoban, Miss Seliskar taught seventh and eighth grade science at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills and at Saint Bernard Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. As science department chair at Saint Bernard, Miss Seliskar helped restructure the science curriculum for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade to be authentic and inquiry-based. She also served on a state-wide committee to rewrite science learning standards for the state of Tennessee. Miss Seliskar is currently engaging in lifelong learning and is in the process of earning her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University of Chicago.



## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO GESU



*Miss Mary Carol Jones and her family at her retirement celebration on May 28.*

Gesu Catholic School has been Mary Carol Jones' second home for over 50 years! She was first introduced to Gesu as a student back in the 1960's and then returned to her alma mater in 1976 as a teacher. For over 40 years, Miss Jones has dedicated her time, energy and passion for Catholic education for Gesu students, families and parishioners!

After teaching third, fifth and seventh grades, she became the Assistant Principal in 1997. She enjoyed her time as Assistant Principal; every day was different, and her interaction with students and teachers was rewarding. She has many fond memories of her time at Gesu, especially the student music programs, Hikes for Hunger, student volunteer opportunities, the Aladdin Drama Club production, and moderating the Stock Market, Chess and Sewing

Clubs! Another special trait of Miss Jones is her memory! She often shared alumni news with the community and was always willing to provide school tours to alums who were back on campus or celebrating a reunion!

There is no question, we will all miss Miss Jones, but we hope to see her around campus. Maybe we will find her in the gardens, at Mass or at the Gesu retired teachers' luncheons! Wherever our paths cross with Miss Jones, we know it will be a warm connection with a dear person who has touched so many lives. We are forever grateful for her.

The Gesu Community recognized Miss Jones' retirement on Friday, May 28, at the traditional Missioning Mass and praised all the positive attributes that she possesses. At the Mass, it was announced that her family members want to honor her love and devotion to Gesu Catholic School, so they have established an endowed scholarship. The "Mary Carol Jones Scholarship" is just one way to pay tribute to a wonderful, selfless woman who has given her time, energy and guidance to so many students and families in the Gesu Community for over forty plus years.

If you are interested in supporting the scholarship, please contact Mary Kate Farrar at [mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org).



### ALUMNI NEWS

Members of the Class of 1976 returned to Gesu on Saturday, June 12, for a tour of the school, Mass and a reception. The alums met with Fr. Laniauskas and also honored the deceased members of their class.

## SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

### STUDENT AWARDS

**Winner of the Knights of Columbus  
Robert J. Blazunas Essay Contest:**  
Lucas Salata



**Fr. Murphy  
Scholar Athlete  
Award:**  
Tori Brown and  
Charlie Young



**Fr. Boggins  
Sportsmanship  
Award:**  
Mi-Na Diggs and  
Augie Rosalina



**Thomas Koch  
Outstanding  
Athlete Award:**  
Lucas Salata and  
Mary Kate Klug

Mr. and Mrs. Hyland present the **Rebecca  
Hyland Award** to Leo Bucco and  
Genevieve Botos.



### FACULTY FAREWELL

The Gesu Community said goodbye to dedicated faculty and staff members at the end of the 2020-21 school year. We are grateful for the work they have shared with our students, contributing to the strong legacy and traditions of Gesu Catholic School. They are: Mrs. Sandie Benedict, Mrs. Colleen Clemens, Mr. Brad Davidson, Mrs. Deanna Grecko, Ms. Lucy Iemmolo, Miss Mary Carol Jones, Mrs. Jenny Lambert, and Mrs. Paula Lang.

### TOP HONORS:

Congratulations to Gesu Catholic School for being recognized in Northeast Ohio's Top workplaces 2021 according to the Cleveland Plain Dealer on Sunday, June 27, 2021.

### GRADUATION

On June 2nd we wished our 73 eighth graders well as they embark on new adventures in high school. Our students will be venturing off to 14 different high schools, both in the Cleveland area and in other states! As they continue their education, the faculty, staff and fellow students wish them success in all that they choose to explore, and remind them that they always have a place to call home here at Gesu! !



### ATHLETICS

Our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls soccer team (pictured above) won the 15th CYO soccer championship in Gesu's history.

Our 8th grade girls track team won the 5<sup>th</sup> CYO track championship in school history.

Our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys lacrosse team players (pictured below) won their first CYO championship in school history.



### GESU ALUMNI UPDATE - NEWS & VIEWS Summer 2021

*Note: Photos are welcomed. Thank you.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include maiden name, if applicable.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

News you'd like to share with classmates in a future issue of *Gesu News & Views*: \_\_\_\_\_



## GESU WELCOMES NEW PARISHIONERS

Even during a Pandemic, Gesu Parish continues to grow.

Gesu has registered over 130 families since January 2020, and the number continues to grow!

Welcome to...

John & Megan Aldrup-MacDonald  
 Rebekah Altonen  
 Grete Anderson  
 Timothy & Christina Anderson  
 Amanda Junkin & Anthony Battista  
 Casey & Bianca Beach  
 Edward & Whitney Beatty  
 Matthew & Kelly Becker  
 Anthony Mancuso & Hannah Bedinghaus  
 Matthew & Jennifer Beesley  
 Caroline Bland  
 Allison Booms  
 Nicholas & Maria Bourque  
 Maureen Brennan  
 Brian & Michele Byrne  
 Geriann Cahill  
 Patrick & Caitlin Callam  
 Cicely Campbell  
 Joseph & Marie Capichioni  
 Brian & Melissa Carney  
 Kevin & Jessica Carney  
 Graham & Katherine Chapman  
 James & Linda Chiancone  
 John Cirillo  
 Thomas & Sarah Ciuni  
 Eugene & Briana Claridge  
 Anthony & Elizabeth Constantine  
 John & Rosemary Coyne  
 Megan Farrell & Dennis Creegan  
 Wesley & Kathleen Crowley  
 Sean & Keri Cupp  
 Patrick & Elizabeth De Nitto  
 Daniel & Jessica Debick  
 Nathan & Maureen Delaney  
 Julie DePaul  
 Michael & Renee deWindt  
 Marc Kellner & Amy DiFranco  
 Tom & Maureen Donlon  
 Pleurat & Renee Dreshaj  
 Kevin & Amanda Esterburg  
 Thomas & Rose Fagan

Paul & Rose Marie Fantelli  
 Melissa Federman  
 Patricia Ann Rosso & Michael Ferguson  
 Erik & Christina Fink  
 Eric & Jessica French  
 Harrison & Margaret Ghouche  
 Aniceta Giedraitis  
 Colin & Elizabeth Gillespie  
 Stephen & Christine Gorczyca  
 Gregory & Kimberly Guice  
 Marissa Haas  
 Margaret Hamilton  
 Richard & Erin Hoehn  
 Wesley & Klaire Hofstetter  
 Stephen & Diane Holler  
 Alan & Michelle Jannings  
 Brett Johnson  
 Cyril & Meghan KanagaRaj  
 Lee & Taylor Katzenstein  
 Scott & Maureen Kelly  
 James & Samantha King  
 Paul & Milica Kuester  
 Marius & Egle Laniauskas  
 Robert Harms & Caitlin Lobuglio  
 Rawad & Carole Macaron  
 Sara Maher  
 Frank & Mary Lou Manfroni  
 Daniel Clifford & Lauren Mangan  
 Marissa Mayer  
 Daniel & Allyson McClain  
 Alastair & Vicki McDonald  
 Stephen & Andrea McFarlane  
 Michael McKenna  
 Jennifer Mendelson  
 Jason & Melinda Meyers  
 Leonard & Kerry Mora  
 Matt & Claire Murphy  
 Michael & Michele Nikithser  
 Jonathan & Tori Nook  
 Stephen Hildebrandt & Molly Nook  
 Timothy & Katharine Novak  
 Kevin & Elizabeth O'Connor  
 Kenneth Gavrity & Megan O'Donnell  
 Pauline Orel  
 James & Leigh Perkins  
 Frank & Barb Pines  
 Ricky Deakins & Maria Podolan  
 Keith & Roslane Post

Michael & Catherine Pressimone  
 Mary Quandt  
 John & Sarah Quilter  
 Andrew Pasquale & Keira Ramos  
 Jane Rapp  
 Matthew Rechner  
 Eric & Jasmine Reed  
 Kenneth Golovan & Julianne Reed  
 Daniel & Kelly Reisinger  
 Nicholas & Cristina Rennillo  
 William & Barbara Ringle  
 Brendan Ryan  
 Alex & Karla Salahshour  
 Peggy Santarelli  
 Joseph & Amanda Sass  
 Charles & Caroline Schulte  
 Steven & Julia Shefcheck  
 Jessica Silber  
 Rosanna Slocum  
 Allison Snyder  
 Amanda Stefanski  
 Evan Stefanski  
 Gavin & Laura Stefanski  
 Catherine Stenta  
 Walter Stepanenko  
 Israel Concepcion & Lauri Strimkovsky  
 Christine Sullivan  
 William Doyle & Kaity Swanekamp  
 Jonathan & Rachel Taliercio  
 Sam Thomas  
 Brad & Susanna Thompson  
 Denise Tinfina  
 Jenna & Ashley Tomaro  
 Charles Macias & Rodney Trimble  
 Matteo & Christine Trucco  
 Andrew Turner  
 Andrew & Christina Van Sickler  
 Nathan & Erica Venesky  
 Thomas & Sarah Visconsi  
 Paul Volpe, III  
 Patrick & Kathleen Washington  
 Matt & Lindsay Wilson  
 Henry & Colleen Wright  
 Carlos & Raquel Zalla





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## MISSION STATEMENT

*GESU PARISH, a Catholic community in the Jesuit tradition, is committed to:  
Eucharistic living, Lifelong learning, Generous serving "all for the greater glory of God."*



### PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

Rev. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence  
Rev. Dr. James O'Donnell, Deacon  
Sr. Kathleen Flannery, OSU, Parish Life Director & Liturgist  
Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults  
Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music Ministry  
Therese Blumenthal, Director of Finance & Operations

Mary Kate Farrar, Development & Communications Director  
Brittany Lynch, Communications Coordinator  
Amy Zucca, Outreach Coordinator  
Regan Kazel, Principal  
Katelyn Seliskar, Assistant Principal  
Debbie Lautenbach, Preschool Director  
Matthew Culkar, Athletic Director  
Michael Martinek, Technology Director

### VOLUNTEER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Gesu Communication Committee

*Design by BlueWater Creative. Printing courtesy of LPi. Mailing by Magic Marketing and Graphics, Inc.*  
All efforts have been made to provide accurate information. Please contact us for corrections.