



NEWS & VIEWS

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'I SURE CAN'T WAIT TO GO FISHING WITH YOU!'

By Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ



Wow! It is amazing to think that six months have come and gone and so much has happened during those months. My best processing time comes when I am standing at the banks of a river or floating in a boat and casting a line as I fish. In reflecting on the installation that took place just days ago, I shared within the homily a few thoughts on why I thought a third of Jesus' apostles were fishermen. It took me back to my days fishing with my father and how as a young,

impatient little boy I would throw the line out and reel it right back in, and I would find myself disappointed and frustrated that I did not catch something instantly.

Well, I learned that fishing is all about tossing out the line, stopping, then waiting and trusting, and then finally believing. This process is at the heart of how one fishes. I learned that this reality is not only for fishing but also in life and ultimately in what my hopes are for us as a parish.

I pray that in the days, months and years ahead we may find time to go fishing – yes, literally (calling all fishermen/women) but also spiritually. My hope is that we find time to stop and notice the presence of God amongst us. Our lives move at breakneck speed, so we must occasionally stop. And I pray that this stop may be

at Sunday Mass, a quiet prayer by our Sacred Heart shrine or a greeting in the parking lot.

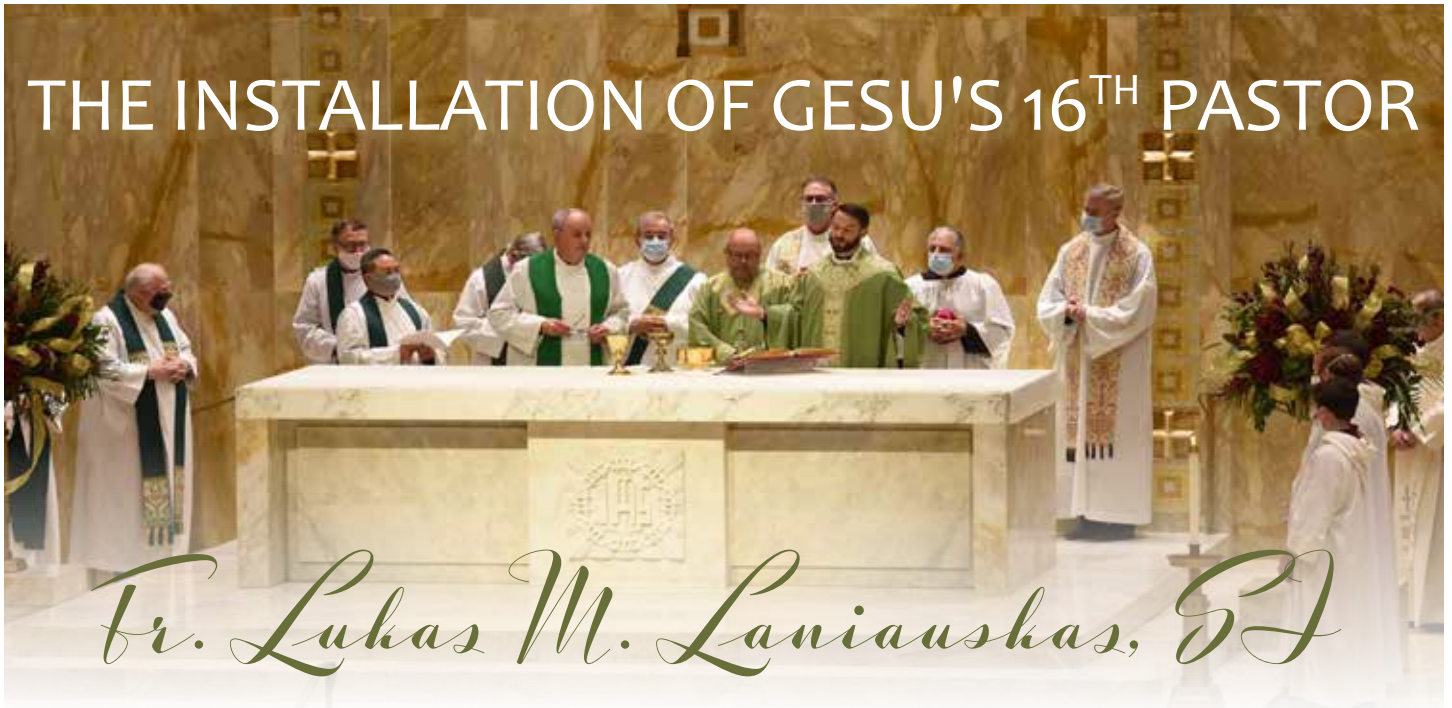
It is then, in stopping, that we must wait in order to hear the word of God and to see God's fingerprints all over. Wait and participate in the many organizations and activities of our parish and school. Wait in order to recognize, see and appreciate those most in need.

Then comes the trust. Trusting is not easy, and it must be earned. I pray that we grow in trust with one another, not only from pastor to people and people to pastor, but also together as a larger community. Trust becomes the bedrock for dialogue, understanding, love and acceptance, all which I hope we will find within our Gesù community.

Lastly, we must believe – believe in the One whom our church is named after; believe that Jesus is the answer. He can heal us, save us, love us and reconcile us to each other and to God. We must believe that good will conquer evil, division will give way to unity, peace will overcome war and hate will be squashed by love. This is the belief that we profess every time we participate in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

So, my prayer is that we find time to go fishing, because fishing shows us and teaches us to stop, wait, trust and believe. This is my hope for the parish and school communities of Gesù. I am grateful for this mission, and I pray to serve you to the best of my abilities. Let's go fishing!

THE INSTALLATION OF GESU'S 16TH PASTOR



Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ

By John Betchkal

“My dear Friends, because I am aware of your pastoral needs and I am confident of Fr. Laniauskas’ qualifications for the office of Pastor, I now commend to you in an official way your new pastor, Fr. Lukas Laniauskas.”

With these words from the Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Edward Malesic, followed by spontaneous, rousing applause from the large congregation, Fr. Laniauskas formally became the 16th pastor in the almost 100-year history of Church of the Gesu.

The congregation came together to affirm what parishioners have clearly recognized in the past six months: Fr. Laniauskas is all in with his commitment to journey with the people of the parish. In his words, “You are the body of Christ – his hands, feet and heart.”



Fr. Laniauskas with parents, Dr. Marius and Mrs. Egle Laniauskas, and his grandmother, Mrs. Aniceta Giedraitis

That “Body of Christ” was evident from the moment the procession of parish leaders entered the church to the sounds of *Anima Christi*, a Jesuit prayer from the Spiritual Exercises, for which Rita Cyvas-Kliorys composed music in honor of Gesu’s new spiritual leader.

That superb music continued as a contingent of 18 priests – many of them Jesuits – from

nearby churches and schools processed into the church, followed by Fr. Laniauskas and Bishop Malesic. The music was provided by Gesu’s Magis Ensemble (choir and musicians), directed by Mark Ehrbar, which made its first performance since the beginning of the pandemic. The selections included *Suscipe, Ad Majorem dei Gloriam* and a Mass Ordinary written for the Ignatian year.

A reference in the Gospel, which was read by Deacon James O’Donnell, to one-third of the apostles being fishermen prompted Fr. Laniauskas to select “fishing” as the theme for his homily. (The essence of that homily is the topic which Fr. Laniauskas writes about on page one of this News & Views.)

Fr. Laniauskas concluded his homily by saying, “I am humbled to be asked to be your pastor, and I sure can’t wait to go fishing with you,” a reference to the fishing analogy used in his homily.

The Mass included a very poignant moment when Bishop Malesic accepted the offertory gifts from Fr. Laniauskas’ parents, Dr. Marius and Mrs. Egle Laniauskas, and his grandmother, Mrs. Aniceta Giedraitis.

Before the final Blessing, Bishop Malesic offered the following thoughts to the people of Gesu: “This is a great parish. I know that. It has a great reputation. There are wonderful things happening here...It appears to be a very healthy parish with a great school. Keep that going!”

To Fr. Laniauskas, Bishop Malesic offered the following advice: “You are the spiritual Father of this parish. Be a good Father to all of us. Never lose sight that you are an *Alter Christus*, another Christ for us...I have a fishing license



that I will never use. But I just gave you a fishing license by installing you as pastor of this parish. Make sure you use it and go fishing with your people!”

The Installation was a moment for reflection on a beautiful past and anticipation of a spiritually rewarding future for Church of the Gesu and its people. Both look great.

To read the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland's coverage of Fr. Laniauskas' Installation, visit: dioceseofcleveland.org/news/2021/11/11/new-gesu-pastor-urges-faithful-to-stop-wait-trust-and-believe.



Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ,
is the 16th Pastor of
Church of the Gesu.
Following is a list of his
predecessors:

Francis J. Rudden, SJ
1926-1928

Arthur Versavel, SJ
1928-1930

John J. O'Brien, SJ
1930-1931

Joseph Millet, SJ
1931-1937

Benedict J. Rodman, SJ
1937-1946

Seth Walker, SJ
1946-1957

Francis T. Dietz, SJ
1957-1964
1967-1976

Joseph P. Boggins, SJ
1964-1966

Joseph A. Muenzer, SJ
1976-1979

Robert J. Lab, SJ
1979-1985

Robert J. McAuley, SJ
1985-1993

John V. White, SJ
1993-2000

James E. Von Tobel, SJ
2000-2006
2015-2016

Lorn J. Snow, SJ
2006-2016

Karl J. Kiser, SJ
2016-2021

IGNATIAN PRAYER

By Father Michael A. Vincent, SJ

In this season of Advent, as we once again prepare for the Second Coming of the Lord, as well as the Church's annual celebration of Christmas –the Lord's First Coming – we might find ourselves eager to discover new ways of praying and connecting with the Lord who is our Redeemer. There is a wonderful new book out by Fr. James Martin, SJ, called *Learning to Pray*. Below, I will discuss one of the methods of prayer described in the book.

People of faith, and even people who live in some doubt and some lack of faith, can still pray. They can pray in ways that might be more helpful in times of questioning, doubt or fear. The kind of Ignatian Prayer that I describe below might be a way to praise, make petitions, or thank God for past favors.

In his *Spiritual Exercises*, a guidebook for those who direct others in retreats, Ignatius suggests a method of prayer that works especially well with the Scriptures, the Gospels in particular. Pick a Gospel passage that especially touches your heart or reminds you of yourself and your own needs and hopes. One example might be the Gospel of the Rich Young Man (Mark 10:17-27). The emotions expressed here, "Jesus looked at him and loved him," and "he went away disappointed, because he had many possessions," might fit a time when you are working to build up your faith or to make God and Jesus more of a priority in your life.

What Ignatius asks the retreatant to do (and this can be a method of prayer for you even outside of a retreat), is to find a quiet place and maybe light a candle as a sign to yourself that this is your special time with Jesus. Then, pray to the Holy Spirit (Who inspired the human authors of the Gospels) to inspire your imagination and your understanding, in order to take from the Gospel passage whatever God intends for you to receive during this time of prayer. Ask God in a very simple way for what you need.

Next, take time to slowly read the passage twice – slowly, and with that prayerful attitude of need, praise, thanks or doubt in mind. Then, perform a "Composition of Place," that is, remind yourself of what you have read. Consider yourself becoming one of the people in the story, perhaps the rich young man, perhaps, or one of

the apostles looking on nearby who hears the entire conversation. Earlier, I suggested that you ask the Holy Spirit to enliven and inspire your imagination. There is a difference between "imaginary" (which means fictional) and "imaginative" (which means putting your imagination to use, probing for truth in ways you might not usually expect). We're talking about "imaginative" in the situation/experience.

If, for example, you place yourself in the role of the rich young man, imagine that instead of going away disappointed, you ask for help from Jesus to change your attitude toward material possessions and

beg that He help you find the strength to make Christ and God your priority. Ask if you can follow Him for a while to see how continued closeness to Him might affect how you form your priorities in life. Invite Him to play a more important role in your life than He has up until now, or ask just that He stay by your side in a time of doubt and fear.

Then, look at your emotions, your thoughts and your feelings. After spending this time with Jesus, trying to answer His challenge in a way more productive than the rich young man in the Gospel does, how do you feel? What are your thoughts? Is there more clarity than before, or more uncertainty or confusion? Where is Jesus, to Whom you opened yourself, taking you?

You have used your imagination (influenced by your real feelings and hopes, as well as by the real words of Jesus in the Gospel) to move forward in faith, hope and love with Christ.

Finally, take a few moments to thank and praise God for the feelings and insights you had during that time. Come back to this Scripture Passage later for additional prayer, especially if it helps you.

Another great scripture passage to use for Advent Prayer is in Luke, Chapter 1, where the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary and asks her to become a part of God's plan by consenting to become the mother of the Messiah (Luke 1:26-38). This year, make prayer a part of your Advent!



2021 Gesu Christmas Angel Tree Project

families received beautifully wrapped gifts or gift cards. The recipients were connected to local organizations and parishes as well as identified Cleveland Heights and University Heights families, and some of our own parishioners experiencing hardship. The organizations and parishes included AIDS Task Force, Hattie Larlham Center, Sagrada Familia, St. Jerome and St. Philomena.

The online format to sign up was so successful that we are using it again this year. There are four ways to help families and individuals with your generous support:

1. Select a family and purchase the gifts on their wish list; wrap and label the gifts; and drop them off in McAuley Hall on December 4.
2. Drop off a donation check made payable to "Church of the Gesu" at the Parish Office. Indicate "Angel Tree Project" in the memo line and someone will shop for you.
3. Volunteer to be a shopper! You will be given a gift list and gift cards to make the purchases.
4. Make a direct financial donation or donation of supplies to a local partner organization: Womankind, Zelig's Home, Hattie Larlham, L'Arche or Christ Child.

Please visit churchofthegesu.org to sign up this year, or look for the Angel Trees in the Church Narthex where you can take a keepsake Gesu Angel Tree Project ornament.

Advent & Christmas MASS SCHEDULE 2021

Thursday, December 16

Communal Reconciliation Service
7:00 pm

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 pm (Church & Bulldog Gym);
6:30 pm (Church); 10:30 pm (Church)

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 am, 11:30 am

Sunday, December 26

Feast of the Holy Family

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am

Monday, December 27 - Friday, December 31

8:30 am

Saturday, January 1

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
(not a holy day of obligation this year)

10:00 am

4:30 pm - Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 2

Feast of the Epiphany

8:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am



BULLDOG BOLT



By Meagan Salata

The Gesu Bulldog Bolt 5K and 1M Fun Run was held on Saturday, October 23, and was a huge success! With 850 registrants and \$35,000 raised for our athletic programs, it was our biggest Bolt ever! Proceeds have gone toward much-needed projects and equipment, including a volleyball net system, scoreboards, signage and banners, protective mats, basketball jerseys and lacrosse gear. The energy, fun and sense of comradery on display in Bolt Village were beyond our expectations! While we certainly utilize the Bolt to raise funds for our athletic programs, our other purpose is to build community amongst families, parishioners and staff, and there is no doubt that was accomplished. Thank you again for your incredible support and participation. We are already looking forward to Bolt 2022!



GESU'S '007' IS DOING WELL

Kathleen and Jim Bond have been parishioners at Gesu for over 30 years. Their sons, Jim and Bob, are graduates of Gesu Catholic School. From coaching girls' basketball to serving on the Finance Council, Kathleen and Jim have been active parishioners. Jim's story below recounts his heroic battle with multiple myeloma, a disease that changed his life. Through the ups and downs over the years, Kathleen and Jim have funneled their knowledge, experience and resiliency to assist others through their own cancer diagnoses. Jim's story is an inspiration to all who know them...

In 1992, I was 43 and happily married with two college-aged sons. Aside from a sore back and ribs, I felt healthy. However, a physical exam led to a diagnosis of last-stage multiple myeloma, a deadly, incurable blood cancer. The doctor said if I did nothing, I had a few months to live; with treatments maybe two to three years.

I had chemotherapy and an autologous stem cell transplant (AST) and went into remission for five years. However, we knew the multiple myeloma would eventually come back, and after it did, I had a second AST and was back in remission. In 2001, I again relapsed, and I had an allogeneic transplant (ALLO) from my sister, but it did not slow down the fast-growing myeloma.

In early 2002, things became serious. I couldn't eat, I ran high fevers, and my kidneys were shutting down. My doctor said I needed hospice. At the Mayo Clinic we heard about a promising clinical trial at other hospitals. I left messages with all of them. My phone rang, and it was a doctor associated with the trial. He asked how soon we could get to Boston and if I was willing to relocate for nine months. The fact that he thought I could live that long was incredible. I packed enough for nine months but noticed Kathleen packed for what looked like a weekend. I had a 104-degree fever and was a little foggy, so I didn't think much more about it. When my sister took us to the airport, she was very emotional. Again, I didn't dwell on it. Later I realized they thought I would not live long.

Our first night there, Kathleen called the Boston doctor because she didn't think I'd make it through the night. He said, "Your husband is the seventh person in our trial. That makes his trial number 007. I think that's good karma for your husband, Mrs. Bond." And it was. Within two weeks of the experimental drug, 99% of my cancer vanished. A few months later, I was in complete remission. It felt like a miracle. The FDA approved the drug, which thousands now use.

Kathleen decided to develop a cycling fundraising event to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society (ACS) Hope Lodges, where patients and care-givers stay free while being treated out of town. I told her it was a great idea with just one problem – we didn't cycle! To her, that was a minor detail. After devoting two years to it, she launched and led the first annual American Cancer Society Pan Ohio Hope Ride (POHR.org), a 328-mile bike ride over four days that benefits ACS Hope Lodge. I bought a bike, trained, and rode the entire POHR for 12 consecutive years!

In 2012, a dangerously low platelet level led to a diagnosis of treatment-related leukemia. I needed another ALLO transplant to



survive, and the UH transplant board had to approve it. I was 64, and with my history, they voted "no" until they learned I'd just finished the 328-mile ACS POHR two months earlier. They took a chance on my physical and mental strength. I had the ALLO transplant and was declared in remission, where I remain.

It's surely difficult to know you have an incurable disease, but you can learn to manage your way through it. I hope we are proof that there are still a lot of memories to be made. We recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary, and it's wonderful to celebrate those happy occasions.

Kathleen and I get the most satisfaction out of helping others, which is why I wrote *The Man in the Arena: Surviving Multiple Myeloma since 1992*. Along with simply recording all the details of my journey so that I would have a written record of everything we'd been through, I hoped the book would help others by encouraging them to never give up. Also, 100 percent of the book's profits go to charities that support multiple myeloma patients. To promote the book, Kathleen and I have talked to dozens of patient support groups and organizations from all over the globe. We always make it clear that everyone's experience is different, but we share our story so they can hear how someone else with the same diagnosis has been able to live a long, full life. The book is available on Amazon, and I'm always willing to be a source of emotional support to anyone with multiple myeloma. Please reach out to me via email at jim.bond48@gmail.com if you would like to connect.

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for these upcoming important dates!

#wegiveCatholic & Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, November 30

Gesu Service Day

Saturday, December 4

Confirmation Spirit Night #1

Sunday, January 23, 2022

Catholic Schools Week

Week of January 30, 2022

Gesu School Mardi Gras Fundraiser

Saturday, February 26, 2022

Visit churchofthegesu.org for event details and our most up-to-date calendar.

CELEBRATING IGNATIUS 500

By Peggy Mascha

The Gesu Catholic School community is thrilled to be celebrating Ignatius 500 along with the Church of the Gesu and other Jesuit apostolates. Within the school walls we are living this theme by focusing on the life and virtues of a different Jesuit saint each month. We strive to imitate the saints by learning about their virtuous lives and putting into practice the words and actions that reflect their spirit.

In September, students reflected upon the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola and responded to his summons to “go forth and set the world on fire!” After celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit, every student received a paper flame on which each wrote one way that he or she would work to bring the love of Jesus to others. These flames decorate the classroom doors and the halls of the school.

Our October Jesuit saints of the month were St. Issac Jogues and Companions. These courageous martyrs ministered to the Huron tribes of Canada and upper New York. At school, our goal is to imitate their acceptance and inclusivity of individuals different from them. Learning opportunities are crafted so that students can

be mindful of creating inclusive spaces for their peers, whether it is outside at recess or inside the classroom.

In November we are reflecting upon the life of St. John Berchmans, who strove to become a saint by doing everyday tasks greatly and always demonstrating kindness, patience and charity in his daily life. Students will have time to reflect on their own calls to be modern-day saints through their imitation of Jesus. This is also a special time to pray for the deceased members of our parish family.

Every school year is a special time for learning and growing, but this school year is especially unique as we reflect on our Jesuit history. This 500 year celebration gives the school the ability to dive deeper into the Catholic faith formation pillar of our mission statement as we support students in being persons for others.

To learn more about Ignatius 500 and St. Ignatius’ “cannon-ball moment,” which led to his spiritual conversion, visit churchofthegesu.org/ignatius-500.



Go forth and set the world on fire

Gesu students celebrated the school's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first of several Masses that were held outdoors before the weather turned from summer to autumn. Each week, Fr. Lukas Laniauskas, SJ, enthusiastically exclaimed, "How awesome is this!"

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS FOR OTHERS

Mary Carol Jones, a long-time and recently retired Gesu assistant principal, still supports the school by volunteering to help students in extracurricular clubs. Here are two of these clubs.

Sew for Others

In the Jesuit tradition of being persons for others, students in grades five through eight have answered the call of service-learning in joining the Sew for Others club. Sew for Others is an after-school extracurricular program that meets once per week on Wednesday afternoons. It is moderated by Mrs. Alice Elliot and supported by Miss Mary Carol Jones. The students work on creating quilted blankets for new mothers in need at Zelig's Home and Womankind.

Mrs. Elliott, an accomplished seamstress and quilter, guides students through the multi-step process of sewing baby quilts for young mothers. With her help and support, even the rookie seamstresses quickly find success and a real sense of pride in their accomplishments. First, club members select fabrics and create their own designs. Pieces are sewn into rows on one of the club's six sewing machines, and then rows are combined and surrounded with large border strips to form the top layer. Students then select fabrics for backing as well as the edging they will use to bind the layers and batting together. Students learn many important skills as they measure, cut, iron, sew, adjust seams and revise their projects. Students will also complete twelve stuffed animals to give to each child along with the quilts. The quilts will be displayed at the Gesu School Open House in January.

Ever since the opening of Gesu's STREAM Center, interest in sewing has increased each year. In addition to the six main machines, students also have an opportunity to learn machine embroidery.



Gardening for Others

Gesu's new Gardening for Others club has been very busy this fall! Students have worked hard to introduce new fall flowers into the school's landscape, and they have planted nearly 100 bulbs around the school to welcome visitors next spring. With the help of Miss Mary Carol Jones and Mrs. Shelly Clary, students have also divided and replanted some of the larger perennials in the beds in front of the school and trimmed back many flowers before winter approaches. Next spring, the ten "green team" members and their moderators will continue to brighten up flower beds all around campus. They hope to spend their winter meetings planting seeds indoors, and they also plan to make botanical signs that will help visitors identify plants in Gesu's gardens.



There is a great deal of hard work needed to brighten the paths around the school, but the club members are up for the challenge! The students' enthusiasm and dedication continue to be rewarded with new confidence in their gardening skills and an increased sense of pride in creating things for the Gesu community to enjoy.

GESU PARISH AND SCHOOL WELCOME NEW STAFF

The Gesu Parish community is pleased to welcome four new team members to the Gesu family! They include Br. Sean Berry, SJ, Colleen Clemens (Development Assistant), Mary O'Neill (Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families) and Tara Tonsetic (Development Coordinator).



Br. Sean Berry, SJ, comes to us from Chicago, where he is originally from and lived until joining the Jesuits eight years ago. He joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) right out of college, having completed his BS in Math from Loyola University Chicago. He completed his novitiate (first two years of Jesuit life) in St. Paul, Minnesota, before studying for an MA in Math at St. Louis University. After that

he worked for three years as a math and theology teacher at University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy in Detroit. He realized that he wanted to spend some time in his Jesuit formation in a parish setting, and so after some mutual discernment, he came to Gesu. He loves distance running (having run marathons for the last six years), reading and cheering for his Chicago sports teams.

Colleen Clemens is from University Heights, where she grew up with her family and attended Gesu with her three older brothers and one younger sister. Prior to working in the Parish Office, Colleen was a fifth grade teacher at Gesu. For 23 years and primarily with Language Arts, she also served on the Building Leadership Team, PTO Board and various school committees. After being in the Gesu classroom (and six additional years prior to that in other schools), she was ready for a change yet wanted to stay connected to Gesu and continue to serve the overall mission. She resides in Bath with her husband, Paul, of 28 years, has three children, loves spending time outdoors, watching movies and enjoying the fall season.



Mary O'Neill is the new Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families. Before joining the Gesu staff, she was Assistant to the Director of Faith Formation and Religious Education at the Church of St. Clare in Lyndhurst. She has taught in a variety of grade levels and had many ministerial roles at Ss. Robert and William Parish in Euclid. Education and faith are both close to her heart. Mary has a Bachelor's

Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education from Gannon University, a Master's Degree in Theology from St. Mary

Seminary and Graduate School of Theology, and she is also a Certified Lay Ecclesial Minister in the Diocese of Cleveland. In her free time, Mary enjoys reading, running, Bible study and spending time with family and friends. Mary feels blessed that the Lord has led her to our vibrant parish and looks forward to serving the Gesu community.



Gesu's new Development Coordinator, Tara Tonsetic, is a native of Girard, Ohio. She has lived in University Heights for the past 10 years. In her 20 years of experience in events, marketing and development, Tara has owned her own business, as well as held various leadership positions working for nonprofits, for-profit companies and small businesses. For the past seven

years she has done freelance work which led her to the open position in the Development and Communications department at Gesu. Tara is married with one son who attends Gesu School. She loves spending time with family and friends, crafting and taking trips to the beach.

Following the 2020-2021 school year and seeing a handful of teachers retire, the Gesu School community has had the privilege of welcoming six new educators across multiple grade levels and disciplines this year. In addition, Mrs. Regan Kazel is the school's new principal, and Ms. Katelyn Seliskar is the new assistant principal.

Mrs. Brittany Fallon teaches second grade and is a recent graduate of Kent State University, where she majored in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Mild to Moderate Special Education. Her favorite subject to teach is mathematics. She grew up attending Catholic school and knew that she wanted to teach in a Catholic school as well. She wanted to be a part of a community that shares the same values and beliefs that makes her feel supported and loved. Her favorite aspect about Gesu is the genuine and welcoming staff.



DID YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM?



You can now find us on Instagram @ChurchofTheGesu to get updates and to stay in the know on all things Gesu Parish. Follow us today!



Mrs. Katy Perse is Gesu's new physical education teacher and joins the community from Ursuline High School in Youngstown. She enjoys working with the faculty and students at Gesu and feels blessed to be a part of the community! Katy loves teaching students how exercise can be used as a healthy way to cope with emotions and stress, as well as a way to increase self-esteem. When she isn't at Gesu,

Katy loves to lead a physically active lifestyle and can be found running, bike riding, stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and skiing!

Mr. Joe Berlin is a first-year teacher in the junior high and no stranger to Jesuit education. He is a graduate of John Carroll University with a degree in Literature. He also enjoys teaching the writing process and his favorite part of teaching is helping students connect writing to their own lives, whether it be through essays or creative writing. His favorite aspect about Gesu is the faith-filled community.



Ms. Melanie Bielecki joins the junior high team as a recent graduate of Notre Dame College with a focus on science education. Her interests are vast, but she really enjoys teaching any hands-on lab activity. What she likes most about Gesu are the students and the focus and commitment the school has to its Catholic, Jesuit identity. Melanie knew she wanted to work in a Catholic institution because of the incredible

faith formation afforded to students.

Mrs. Julie Diggs teaches second grade and joins Gesu from St. Rocco School in Cleveland. She enjoys teaching math, including helping students navigate different ways of problem-solving. Despite teaching in both public and private schools, she always finds herself drawn back to Catholic education due to the sense of comfort and community. Her favorite element about Gesu has been getting to know her students and the warm welcome she has received from the teachers, staff and families of the school community.



Mrs. Therese Prendergast is a veteran educator who joins the second floor, teaching sixth, seventh and eighth grade enriched reading. She is passionate about literature and relishes the Socratic Seminar discussions she has with students about particular characters or conflicts in a story in relation to issues in society today. Her favorite part about Gesu has been her ability to serve as an educator in the community, especially as an alumna, parishioner and mother of four Gesu graduates.

Miss Angela Aquila is a recent graduate of Notre Dame College. Angela has translated her passion for technology and life-long learning into her role as the technology specialist at Gesu Catholic School. She plans on obtaining her masters degree in Library Science with the goal of helping institutions, such as libraries, adapt and integrate new technology.

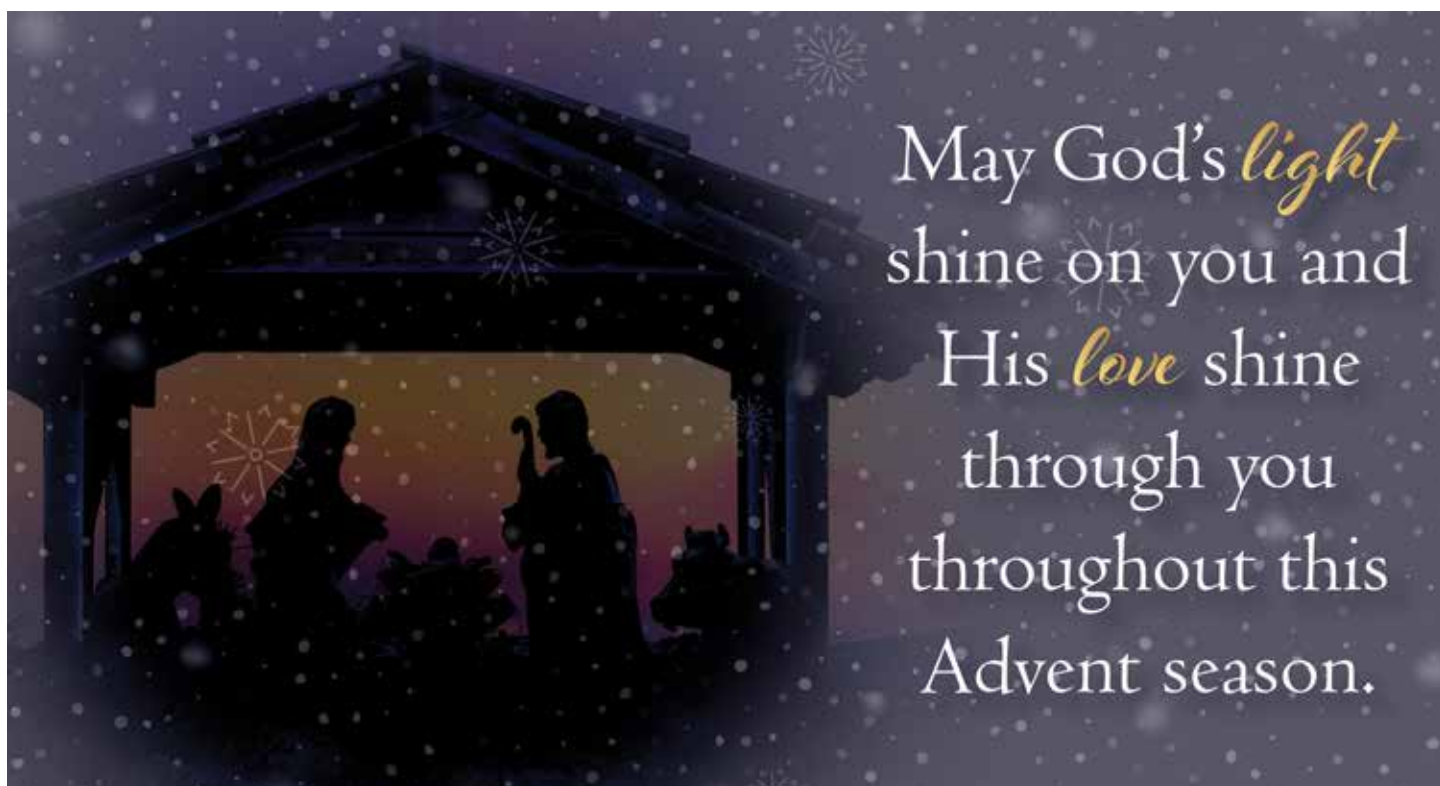


Gesu Catholic School would love your help inspiring our students!

We would like to feature **alumni** working in **STREAM** professions in the halls of the school's **STREAM** Center and the Learning Commons. If you would like to be featured, please fill out the form found at tiny.cc/alumni so that we can share your talents and inspire our students.

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 M. Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor
Rev. Michael Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor
Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence
Br. Sean Barry, SJ, Brother in Residence
Rev. Dr. James O'Donnell, Deacon
Sr. Kathleen Flannery, OSU, Parish Life Director & Liturgist
Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults
Mary O'Neill, Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families
Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music Ministry

Therese Blumenthal, Business Manager
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

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