

# NEWS & VIEWS

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*Just like our founder, who turned to the Eucharist to find his way, as is symbolized in our new St. Ignatius statue (story on pages 4 & 5), may we as a community feel our spirits revived in finding God in all things!*

## FROM THE PASTOR

The Church this year is calling for a Eucharistic Revival. A revival is an opportunity to have our spirits ignited again and to kindle a fire in our hearts to feel, experience and encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. Here at the Church of the Gesu we are privileged to experience that reality everyday with the small yet mighty daily Mass congregation and with the large, diverse Sunday Mass community.

The words of Vatican II on finding the presence of Jesus in liturgy surely ring true for us here at Gesu! As Vatican II proclaims, Jesus is found in the people, the ministers, the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I believe that to truly understand, appreciate and live the revival, we must lean into these four pillars of Jesus' presence amongst us. This presence is the one steady, the one foundation, the one bedrock we can cling to. In a world that is so unsteady, uncertain, full of questions, and plagued by infighting, war and gossip, the Eucharist is where we can turn for solace, peace and understanding.

This was most certainly true for St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits and our patron saint. It was known that amid his uncertain and tumultuous world when having to make major decisions for

the new religious order he founded, St. Ignatius would go to the Eucharist and there he would find peace, answers and direction.

I must admit the same is true for me at Gesu and in the context of our current world. Decisions need to be made. Violence, hatred and division seem to fill the daily headlines. All sorts of questions and anxieties constantly loom...yet in the people, ministers, Word and Sacrament, Jesus' quiet whisper of "Do not be afraid, I am with you" gives us all that we need.

In the following pages of our *News & Views*, you will find this presence shared through the many people, ministries and sacramental encounters that take place here at Gesu, a true revival!

Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ  
Pastor

## EXPERIENCE AN IGNATIAN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

By Mary O'Neill, Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families

Central to the Catholic faith is the Eucharist, the Real Presence of Jesus. As members of a Jesuit parish, we have our foundations in the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In this year of "An Ignatian Encounter with Christ in the Eucharist," we are exploring the connection between these two central aspects of our parish. Through this exploration, we can deepen our faith and understanding of how we encounter Christ in the Eucharist on a daily basis.

Throughout this year, Gesu is offering many opportunities to encounter Christ through the Ignatian scope and share Christ with others. All are welcomed and encouraged to take advantage and to participate in our various programs.

### *Adoration*

Saturday Afternoon  
3:00 - 4:00 pm  
Marian Chapel

### *Novena of Grace*

March 4 - 12, 2024  
7:00 pm  
Main Church

### *Confession*

Saturday Afternoon  
3:00 - 4:00 pm  
Main Church

### *Bible Studies*

#### **Saturday Bible Study**

12:00 - 2:00 pm  
Sacred Heart Room  
Contact Christine Okocha  
at [ndaoko@msn.com](mailto:ndaoko@msn.com)

#### **Women's Tuesday Bible Study**

8:30 - 9:30 am  
McAuley Hall  
Contact Debbie Bruening  
at [debb Bruening1@gmail.com](mailto:debb Bruening1@gmail.com)

#### **Wednesday Bible Study**

9:15 - 11:00 am  
McAuley Hall  
Contact Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ  
at [mvincentsj@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mvincentsj@churchofthegesu.org)



### *"An Ignatian Encounter in the Eucharist"*

Led by Seminarians from the  
Diocese of Cleveland.  
Monday Evenings  
January 15 - March 18

### *Ignatian Advent Series*

Gather for prayer and reflection  
based on scripture passages and  
meditations taken from the second  
week of the Spiritual Exercises of  
St. Ignatius of Loyola.  
Marcia Leous, facilitator,  
[mleous@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mleous@churchofthegesu.org)

Zoom Options:  
November 29, December 6 & 13  
Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm

In-Person in the Dietz Room:  
November 30, December 7 & 14  
Thursdays at 9:15 - 10:45 am

**For an up-to-date program schedule, visit [churchofthegesu.org](http://churchofthegesu.org).**



## MUSIC TO OUR EARS AND HEARTS

By Mark Ehrbar, Director Music Ministry



One of my greatest joys as a church musician is hearing the sound of the assembly in the pews singing the liturgy. It's a sign and reminder to me that people

have gathered and made a conscious decision to be active in praying the liturgy; a living body in a communal act of worship. It's very different from singing along to popular music in your car or at a participatory concert. Rather, it's a form of prayer that should move our hearts and instill in us the texts of the Mass.

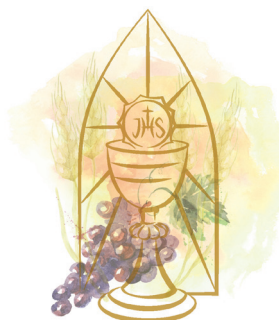
Of the many liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, allowance was given to substitute prayers (often scripture) of some of the sung pieces of the Mass with other hymns or songs that might fit the liturgical celebration, season, or action taking place. Most notable would be at the time of the Entrance and Communion processions. In the years following the Council, popular music started to make its way into the Mass with different interpretations of this instruction. In more recent years, there has been a move to treasure the sacred texts carefully prescribed by the Church for any given Mass and allow the faithful to fully participate. In this Year of the Eucharist, we have an opportunity to commit ourselves to being faithful to the celebration of the Eucharist. In my area, this means employing these texts, whenever possible, to add to the richness of the prayer. This is singing the Liturgy.

Some texts do not change in every Mass. These are referred to as the "Ordinary of the Mass", including but not exclusively, the Glory to God, Holy, Mystery of Faith and Lamb of God. Often times we sing them to music I wrote for Gesu, an idea that was prompted by Fr. Laniauskas in his first weeks at our parish. Conversion stuck with me in writing this music. I imagined a trumpet part that would be transcendent, fill our space and hopefully transport our hearts to a joyous love for God, a love that St. Ignatius was moved toward: for the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful.

I invite you to open your hearts and allow music to not only be something that happens at Mass, but an instrument that raises your prayer and transcends you to the divine. When the trumpets sound at special liturgical feasts, remind your heart to glorify God. When weeks are more ordinary, recognize the beauty of simplicity. It's a sincere privilege for me to foster and implement the sung aspects of our parish worship. Together we can celebrate the Eucharist with our best efforts in song, with sacred sounds, sacred scripture and voices triumphant in our love of God.

## BEYOND THE BREAD

By Fr. Greg Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence



Beginning on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 2022, the American Bishops' Conference initiated a three-year program through which they hope "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." They recognize that the Church finds itself "in an age marked by division and

doubt, [and that] the Holy Spirit is inviting the United States to find unity and renewal through a grassroots National Eucharistic Revival." This occasion offers us the opportunity to grow in a deeper understanding of the Eucharist and its meaning for us, both as individuals and as a Church. The Eucharist has been termed the "source and summit of our faith," and, therefore, this period of Eucharistic Revival is a welcome invitation for us to grow in our understanding of what is most central to us in our lives as Catholics.

The best way to approach the Eucharist, of course, is to see it in the context of the Mass and come to a deeper appreciation of what the Eucharist means through the prayers, gestures, symbolic acts and movements of the liturgy. Central to our faith as Catholics is our belief in the actual presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine that are consecrated in the Eucharistic celebration. But few Catholics realize that Christ is also present in the Word that is proclaimed, the minister who presides, and in the congregation that gathers for the celebration of the Eucharist. While we believe the bread and wine we bring to the altar are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, do we realize that we, too, are radically changed by the worthy reception of the consecrated bread and wine? We are to become what we receive. In offering ourselves and our labors to the Lord represented in the offertory procession of bread and wine, we signify our desire to share in Christ's divinity as He shared in our humanity.

Gesu's mission statement informs us that we commit ourselves to "Eucharistic Living." What does this mean? As we gather around the Table of the Lord and remember Him in the breaking of the bread, we become not simply an aggregate of individuals, but in fact the Church, the People of God. The reason we stand after receiving communion until everyone else has received is to signify that in receiving the Eucharist we have become united not only with the Lord, but with one another as well. The Eucharist is not a private devotion--- it is the means through which we become a Eucharistic community, joined together with each other as we are united as a community with the Lord. We become the local Church, the instrument through which Christ continues to be present in our world. At the end of liturgy we are sent forth to be Christ for a world, broken and suffering, hungering to experience the love of God that we have experienced in the Eucharist and now are meant to share.

## ST. IGNATIUS STATUE GRACES GESU'S CAMPUS



By John Betchkal

Gesu has been blessed with a new addition to the church and parish grounds. Enconced in the center of our beautiful piazza just outside the church doors is a magnificent statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola. It is a special gift from a generous benefactor. This benefactor financed the commissioning of a similar statue for St. Ignatius College Prep in Chicago where Fr. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ, previously worked and currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. When Father received his appointment to be Gesu's pastor, he dreamed of bringing a second statue to Church of the Gesu.

The alike statues were designed by Fr. Laniauskas with the help of an artist in China, based on a special painting Father encountered almost 15 years ago when on an Ignatian pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain. Following are some of his thoughts and feelings about the statue, how his vision came to fruition, and what our statue means for our community.

**Q: Where and when did this specific image of St. Ignatius first strike you?**

A: In 2011, I decided to go on an Ignatian pilgrimage with my Jesuit community. I was still in formation, not yet a priest. It was a thrill to see the historic Ignatian sites with my Jesuit brothers. The tour ended in Madrid at our Jesuit community. In one of the rooms in the community I saw a special painting of St. Ignatius that just spoke to me. It haunted me in a way, yet really moved my heart. I took a picture of that painting that day. The picture now hangs in my office and continues to speak to me daily.

“No matter what is happening in the world, especially today when it is so broken with war, negativity, challenges and people unwilling to engage civilly with each other, we must be very clear on where our standard is pointing and follow it by living, engaging and doing All for the Greater Glory of God.”

**Q: What was so special about this painting to you?**

A: The image in the painting is very important. It illustrates Ignatius as a contemplative man. It captures the rebellious and raucous life that Ignatius left behind while answering the call to do All for the Greater Glory of God. In the image, St. Ignatius's former life is represented by his helmet and sword, which rest at his feet. He put aside his armor, his ego, and his worldly ways to become a man of God. He holds in his hand a standard --a military banner meant to give direction to soldiers--on which is written Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, the motto of The Society of Jesus. This was the motto St. Ignatius hoped to live by and is at the heart of every Jesuit work, including at our own Church of the Gesu. St. Ignatius knew in what direction he was heading, which of course, is the hope for our community.

**Q: How did the painting influence your creating the statue that stands in our piazza today?**

A: In 2020, I was in Dublin, Ireland, in Tertianship, which is our final stage of formation, and I began to dream of a statue that could be used in our schools or any Jesuit apostolate. I am an artist at heart, and I began to design a statue based on the painting I saw in Madrid many years earlier. I was fortunate to connect with several artists in a village in China where people are dedicated to the arts, particularly statuary. They were instrumental in helping me shape this dream of designing a statue. I shared images of St. Ignatius with the artists, including the one of him in the Madrid painting. As we worked together, I changed various elements of the conceptual statue to emphatically highlight Ignatius, who he truly was and how he can inspire us today.





**Q: The heart of St. Ignatius is prominent in the statue. Why so?**

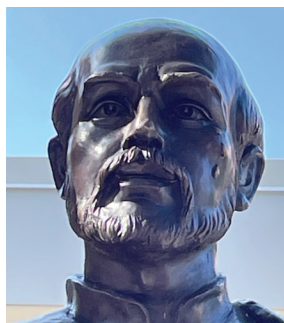
A: St. Ignatius is pointing to and holding his heart in the statue. This is one element that is different from the Madrid painting and one that I intentionally added to my design. In his heart are the three letters, IHS, which are the first three letters in the Greek spelling of Jesus's name and the symbol of the Society of Jesus. St.

Ignatius always had Jesus in his heart. Isn't that the call to all of us – to have Jesus's name inscribed in our hearts?



Also meaningful is that the heart on the statue is on fire. Of course, that fire in St. Ignatius is in lockstep with The Sacred Heart, which is always on fire. Ignatius had fire for the zeal of the mission, for the zeal of changing lives, and for the zeal of saving souls.

**Q: How can we relate to this Ignatius standard in today's very different world?**



A: No matter what is happening in the world, especially today when it is so broken with war, negativity, challenges and people unwilling to engage civilly with each other, we must be very clear on where our standard is pointing and follow it by living, engaging and doing All for the Greater Glory of God.

**Q: In addition to the heart and the standard, what are other significant elements to the statue?**

A: Symbolically, the statue relates to our strategic plan: Gesu at Home and Gesu on Mission. One of St. Ignatius's feet is solidly back and under his cassock, firmly grounded "at home." We shape and form who we are at home with good worship, meaningful liturgy, and excellent school. His other foot is stepping forward, out into the world, representing Gesu "on mission." We are called to not only be at home, but to go out into the world on mission.

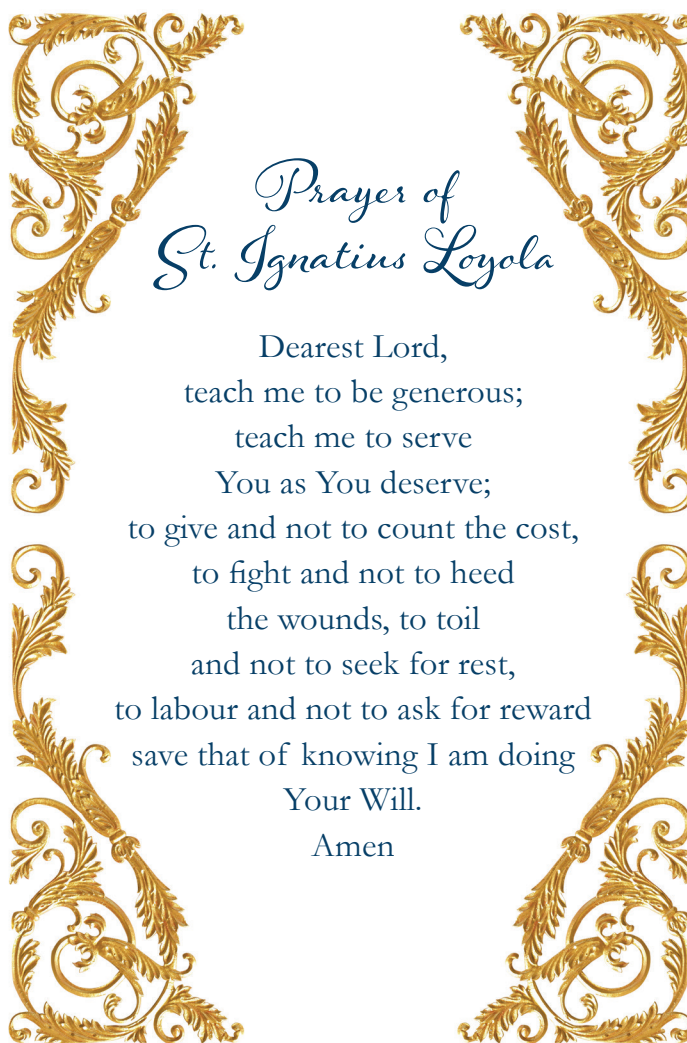
The placement of St. Ignatius on the pedestal is also pertinent. He is stepping out beyond the Church and looking toward our school. He has found his inspiration and grounding in the Church which he so deeply loved, and now strives to share this faith and love for God with the world. He is ready "to set the world on fire."

**Q: Any other inspirations to share about the statue?**

A: The face of St. Ignatius is modeled after his Death Mask, which is preserved in Rome. He is wearing a traditional Jesuit cassock to represent Jesuit attire. His cassock is dramatically designed with flowing folds and is indicative of the Baroque art of St. Ignatius's day. The folds symbolize the intensity of spiritual life. St. Ignatius is also looking to the horizon with tears of joy in his eyes that refer to the gift of tears which he often "received" when he experienced a spiritual grace in prayer or at Mass.

**Q: What is your wish for the Gesu Community as we welcome this statue to our home?**

A: My hope is that the new statue of St. Ignatius will inspire and remind us of what our calling is as a community. That as St. Ignatius stands as a sentinel for many years and generations of Gesu parishioners and students to come, they too may have Jesus inscribed in their hearts, tears of consolation in their eyes, clutching to the banner of doing all for God's greater glory, being firmly rooted at home and on mission, and looking to the future with great hope. I invite all in our community to pause, pray and enjoy this new addition to our Gesu campus!



## GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

By Maria Tayek

In June of this year, Pope Francis expressed his thoughts on the nature of the Eucharist to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) organizing committee. “The Eucharist is what gives us life,” said the Pontiff. “In the Eucharist, Christ himself is truly in our midst to nourish, console and sustain us on our journey.”

At Mass we have an opportunity to receive Christ’s body and blood, our daily bread. But what about those who are unable to attend Mass? There are many Gesu parishioners who, for various reasons, are unable to take part in the Eucharistic celebration in person. To meet the needs of these individuals, Gesu commissions Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to go into the community to bring the Eucharist to them. Michelle Greger, Judy Curran and Joe Raguso are members of the Gesu Eucharistic Visitation Team who have heeded the Pope’s call to “go out and bring Jesus to others.”

Judy is part of three Gesu teams who visit McGregor Home in East Cleveland, a nursing home and assisted living facility. Her interest in going out to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences began when her mother was in a nursing home. “I love the Mass and being close to Jesus. I think others do too. It is a great service to bring prayer and the reception of the Eucharist to others.”

“It’s important that the ill, the hospitalized and homebound feel a part of our parish,” says Michelle, a minister for 13 years. She sees the time she spends with each person receiving Holy Communion as a peaceful, happy time in a day that may be difficult for the person she is visiting.

Fr. Lorne Snow, SJ, a former Gesu pastor, suggested that Joe Raguso become a minister. For years Joe was able to bring the Eucharist daily to his late wife, Anne, who was in long term care at home and in the hospital. Today, Joe visits Gesu parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes. He ministers along with other team members who visit Menorah Park and Montefiore Home. “I saw that bringing the Eucharist to my wife had a very positive affect on her, and I realized how important doing that could be to other homebound or nursing home patients,” he reflects.

While Eucharistic visitation to the homebound is a spiritual time, each minister tries to connect in his/her own way with those receiving Communion. There is a genuine willingness to try to make each person feel a closeness to Christ and to our Gesu community. “Sometimes we talk to the residents we visit about the Mass and the message of the Gospel and homily,” says Judy. “It depends on the demeanor of the resident at the time.”

“I usually am visiting in their homes or nursing home rooms,” says Michelle. “My typical routine is first to set a small table with a white cloth, candle and the pix, which is the special container used to transport the Eucharist.” Next, Michelle uses prayers from *The Catholic Handbook for Visiting the Sick and Homebound*, reads the Gospel and recites the Our Father with the person she is visiting.



*Michelle Greger, Judy Curran, Fr. Laniauskas and Joe Raguso*

She then administers the Eucharist, allows quiet time for prayer, and offers a blessing. Finally, Michelle shares conversation about whatever the person would like to discuss. “This can last from five minutes to over an hour,” she says.

Making regular visits to the homebound has had lasting effects on all three Gesu ministers. For Michelle there have been many special moments. She vividly remembers a woman she visited for four years. She became close with her and her family. So much so that, when the woman passed away, her family asked Michelle to speak at the funeral.

Judy and the whole McGregor team learned so much from Walter and Cheryl, two now deceased McGregor residents, Walter was always praying the rosary and so happy to see Judy. Cheryl, who was blind and bedridden, was always smiling and glad to have Judy visit and pray with her. “They were such an example to us,” says Judy.

Joe’s visits allow him to get to know more Gesu parishioners. “The longer the period that passed - months, years - the closer the connection became. Often to the extent of getting to know extended family members and, in some respects, becoming part of the family,” he explains.

The USCCB also sees the National Eucharistic Revival as a means to strengthen the faith of Catholics in understanding and believing that Christ is actually present in the Eucharist. Members of Gesu’s Eucharistic Visitation team have witnessed first-hand the true belief in the actual presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

“The individuals who are receiving Communion tell me, and show me by their reverence, how much having the Lord present in Communion means to them. Their faith in the Eucharist is not just symbolism, it is a reality of Jesus’ love and presence,” Michelle believes. Each minister has witnessed the benefits that Holy Communion can also bring to family members. “There is a looking forward to the next visit and the next time to receive Holy Communion that keeps spirits up. That speaks to the real presence,” Michelle confirms.

Are you being called to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? If you are interested in this ministry, contact Mary O’Neill at [moneill@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:moneill@churchofthegesu.org) for training session information.



## EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL – WELCOMING CHRIST INTO OUR LIVES

By Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor

When a recent survey revealed that a large percentage of American Catholic respondents either didn't believe in the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist or didn't know much about it, the United States Catholic Conference, an association of American bishops, responded quickly. They decided to put together a campaign that would promote greater awareness of the teachings of our Catholic faith among believers.

They were convinced that Eucharistic Renewal would be accomplished by a new emphasis on Eucharistic Adoration and on Eucharistic Processions. Parishioners were encouraged to spend Holy Hours in prayer before the exposed Eucharist and many of the posters and graphics employed by the bishops included representations of monstrances holding the Eucharist on an altar surrounded by candles.

That certainly is a significant part of "Eucharistic Revival." It is good that people learn to pray before the Eucharistic Jesus and to pour their hearts out in thanksgiving and intercession. However, Church historians have also informed us that Eucharistic Adoration originated in a time when people did not receive Holy Communion very often because they felt truly unworthy to do so. The Church from then on has encouraged believers to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare themselves to receive Holy Communion in a worthy manner.

Another way to conceive of "Eucharistic Revival," especially in our present societal context of gradually recovering from the lockdowns and isolation of the Covid-19 Pandemic, is to consider the Eucharist, the Mass.

Even though it seemed to me that Mass attendance at Christmas and especially this past Easter Sunday had grown greatly, I find myself still missing some very familiar faces. I think that one of the important graces of the Sacrament of the Eucharist is seeing loved ones, friends and neighbors worshiping and taking part in the Eucharist together.



I believe that "Eucharistic Revival" might, in addition to Eucharistic Adoration, have a two-fold goal: 1) Catechesis directed at our people about what the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist means; and 2) Encouraging families and individuals to return to regular Sunday and daily Mass in-person where they can receive the Eucharist.

Some people who have been attending Mass online for years have certainly missed out on actual reception of the Eucharist and bearing Christ within themselves. We, the People of God, as Vatican II named us, are given great strength when we hear the Scriptures proclaimed together and when we experience those we care for moving forward to receive Holy Communion from the ministers of the Eucharist.



Each time we receive the Eucharist, the presider, in proclaiming the words of the Eucharistic Prayer, reminds us of our belief that the bread and the wine have actually become the Body and Blood of the Lord. When we hear the words, "This is my body, which is given for you," we are reminded of the Church's authentic teaching. We take the words of Jesus literally.

In this way, simply by encouraging our people to take part in the Mass – the action that we also call "The Eucharist" – believers are given the opportunity to grow in faith in the Eucharist by the God-given graces received by the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion. And why? Because we Catholics believe that Eucharist gives us nourishment and strength.

This is the kind of "Eucharistic Revival" that I pray will be God's gift to all the people of the Catholic Church. I continue to invite you to return to Mass in person and be prepared to be welcomed back to the Church of the Gesu, our sacred place to encounter God's love, mercy, and nourishment.

Our hope is that, as we worship Christ in the Eucharist, we do so by receiving Him and welcoming Him into our lives in this most Catholic and sacramental way.

# GENEROUS SERVING: GESU'S MISSION IN ACTION



By Kathy Quail

As we think about this year's parish theme of "An Ignatian Encounter with Christ in the Eucharist," we are reminded of the many ways in which we can experience Christ and the love He has for us. One of the most important ways is in receiving the Eucharist, where we are united with Christ and welcome Him into our hearts. He nourishes us spiritually and calls us to share His love with others.

At Gesu, one of the many ways we are committed to sharing this love is through service, specifically in serving those in our Greater Cleveland community who are poor and hungry.

The Gesu Parish Mission Statement reads, "Gesu Parish, a Catholic community, in the Jesuit tradition, is committed to: Eucharistic Living, Lifelong Learning, and Generous Serving, all for the greater glory of God." As a community, we are called to provide physical and spiritual nourishment to our brothers and sisters who are suffering by continuously working to enhance the necessary support services they need to survive and hopefully thrive in the world today. Some of the places where Gesu members are able to embrace and carry out this mission are St. Pat's Hunger Center, West Side Catholic Center and Our Lady of Peace Food Pantry. Gesu Catholic School has also had a long tradition of participating in a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit families in need.







St. Patrick's Church, located in the West Park neighborhood, is one of the oldest parishes in the Cleveland Diocese. Part of its mission is "to worship, work, and rejoice as a community in a spirit that reflects Christ among us." The church functions as a hunger center and has been feeding approximately 130 area families per month for over 30 years. Gesu's involvement at St. Pat's Hunger Center was started in the mid 1980s by a group of parishioners and two junior high teachers, Sr. Kathleen Ryan and Karen Knaus, in conjunction with Fr. Bob Begin. It was a tradition for many years for 8th grade students to join the teachers and parishioners once a month to provide dinners to the less fortunate in the St. Pat's church hall. Several groups in the parish continue to carry on this tradition today. Some parishioners cook and serve a chicken and pasta dinner with salad, fruit, and homemade cookies baked by our young moms at Gesu. Others, with help from members of Gesu's adaptive needs group, make turkey sandwiches once a month for Deacon Bill to distribute to the homeless living under the bridges in the city of Cleveland.

The West Side Catholic Center, located on Lorain Avenue in Ohio City, is a second organization where Gesu parishioners have an opportunity to bring Christ to others. Some of the services available at the center include: providing hot meals, clothing, and household goods; advocacy and family support services; housing resources; and workforce development training. All of these services are free and are provided to those in need regardless of religious affiliation. The mission of the center reads, "Grounded in faith, hope, love and respect for those we serve." Over the past year, Gesu families have supported this mission by volunteering their time once a month to prepare and serve meals for 50-100 underserved members of the community.

A third location where Gesu parishioners serve is Our Lady of Peace (OLP) Catholic Church near Shaker Square. OLP houses a food pantry stocked with various items that are available to residents in the area who are struggling to adequately feed their families. The pantry provides approximately 30-35 bags of food each week. Members of Gesu parish, in conjunction with other generous groups, donate non-perishable food items to baskets located at our church entrances which are later sorted and delivered to the food pantry.

Gesu students also have many opportunities to bring Christ

to others throughout the school year. One such opportunity is the long-standing tradition of the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, coordinated by Miss Clare Hogan and the Gesu Student Council. This drive engages students from preschool through eighth grade in impactful service to the community. Students are encouraged in the month of November to donate a variety of canned goods and nonperishable food items which are sorted and delivered to places like the Thea Bowman Center, St. Catherine's Hunger Center and St. Herman's Hunger Center. Witnessing Middle School students helping three-year-olds and Kindergarten students with bags of donations is impactful. It is truly a whole school effort and provides Gesu students an opportunity to come together as a full community to serve.

Jesus said to the apostles after washing their feet at the Last Supper, "You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13: 13-17) Jesus led a life of service: feeding the poor, curing the sick, and walking among the people. Through our encounter with the Eucharist we are called to do the same. While serving those in need, we follow the example set by Jesus and bring Him to those who need Him most. The poor and underserved that we encounter carry the face of Christ. As we serve them, our own encounter with Christ is strengthened and reaffirmed.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Gesu Catholic School Open House:

Sunday, January 28 - 12:30-2:30 pm

### Gesu Catholic School Mardi Gras Event:

Saturday, February 10 - 7:30 pm

### Annual Pancake Breakfast:

Sunday, February 18, After all Masses

### Parish Mission/Novena of Grace:

March 4-12 - 7:00 pm

### Lenten Fish Fries: Partnering with EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute

Fridays during Lent - Gesu School Cafeteria

For up-to-date event and program information, please check out [churchofthegesu.org](http://churchofthegesu.org).

### Attention Florida Snowbirds:

Fr. Laniauskas invites parishioners and friends to join him on Tuesday, January 30, for 1:30 pm Mass and social at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Naples, FL. For additional information, please contact Mary Kate Farrar at [mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org).

## FINDING A MESSAGE IN ART

By Cate Elersich, Gesu Catholic School 8th Grade Student



Art connects everyone and everything. It doesn't listen to boundaries, or what the media says, which is why it is loved by so many. It is universal. It speaks to everyone in some way or another. It appeals to people of all ages, all races, all religions and all backgrounds. It doesn't discriminate. I have always loved art because when I see it, I don't just see a painting—I see a flurry of ideas and meanings behind the paint strokes and the dramatic yet simple images crafted by one's hand.

I had the great pleasure of visiting the Cleveland Museum of Art this fall with my eighth grade class and participated in a tour of artwork that centered on discrimination and prejudice, themes we are discussing in our language arts and religion classes this year. It was an experience I will cherish forever. I didn't only see the paintings, but instead, I could experience them. It seemed I could feel what the artist was feeling, and could almost read the paintings like a book. Everything clicked in that instant and made sense to me. I realized that artists portray a message through their work in the same way that writers do.

This idea led me to think of God and if God had spoken to these artists in their work. Did He call them to address a problem or express a specific message in their paintings? Did He inspire them to reach out in these creative ways? Art is meant to spread ideas, culture and love to one another which is what God calls each of us to do in our daily lives as Christians. Sometimes that call is obvious, just like simple, realistic paintings. Other times, the call is not clear and can be difficult to understand as with abstract art. We might need to take more time to look and listen before we can truly understand and know what is meant.

Artists paint what they experience with the hope of sharing something special or delivering an important message. Sometimes they say what others cannot, and they hope their work will bring change in the world. This change can be unexpected and scary, but if welcomed and embraced, it can be a strong motivation.

Similarly, we are God's artwork. He speaks through us and sometimes asks us to be the voice for those who cannot speak. He calls us to bring about change and to exemplify His love in the world. We paint our own pictures as well through our words and actions for others to interpret and to follow. Sometimes these are simple and easy to understand, while other times, they are more complicated and require one to look deeper to find the special message and underlying meaning. In either instance, both are equally important.



This trip to the Cleveland Museum of Art is one I will never forget. While it was a joy to simply view the beautiful works of so many talented artists, I appreciated the chance to learn outside the walls of the traditional classroom. I was reminded of the powerful messages in art and the impact it can have on our world today. And, finally, I was inspired to be God's artwork and to portray His message of love to all in my everyday words and actions.

## YOUR TAXES CAN BENEFIT OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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Make a charitable donation to the new **Angel Scholarship Fund** and “**turn tax dollars into tuition**” through an Ohio income tax credit of up to \$750 (\$1,500 if married filing jointly) against your 2023 state tax liability. Donations can be designated to benefit Gesu Catholic School or another school in the Diocese of Cleveland. **The process is simple!**

**For more information or to make a contribution, visit: [catholiccommunity.org/angel](https://catholiccommunity.org/angel)**

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION!



# ALUMNI CORNER

Lots of happy memories and warm laughter echoed through the halls of Judson Park recently when a trio of former students visited their Gesu teachers, Mrs. Mary Jo Rourke and Mrs. Irene Burkart. Patrick Friend, David Brown, and Chris Immormino (Gesu Class of 1986) reminisced with their teachers from long ago about their Gesu education. They shared stories of friendships and lessons learned, realizing that education involves much more than lectures and the formal knowledge acquired from books. It is enhanced through the loving care and wisdom of gifted teachers such as Mrs. Rourke and Mrs. Burkhart who so faithfully dedicated a lifetime to the children of Gesu Parish. How blessed we have been and how grateful we are for their untiring efforts on behalf of Catholic Education!



## CALLING ALL GESU ALUMS!

We want to hear about your gatherings with fellow alums, ways you're impacting the community or a trip down memory lane. Share your stories with us to be featured in a future issue of News & Views!



Graduates with Mrs. Burkhart (top) and Mrs. Rourke (bottom).

## GESU ALUMNI UPDATE - NEWS & VIEWS

*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*: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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.”



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Advent Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 7:  
7:00 pm in the Marian Chapel

### Parish Concert & Blessing of Nativity

Saturday, December 16:  
Following the 4:30 pm Mass in the Church

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23: 4:30 pm  
in the Church  
Sunday, December 24:  
8:00 & 10:00 am in the Church

### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24:  
4:30, 6:30 & 10:30 pm in the Church

### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25:  
10:00 & 11:30 am in the Church

### Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29

Morning Mass at 8:00 am in the Marian Chapel

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Monday, January 1: 9:00 am in the Church

### Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 6: 4:30 pm in the Church  
Sunday, January 7: 8:00, 10:00 & 11:30 am  
in the Church



## PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

Rev. Lukas M. Laniauskas, SJ, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence  
Rev. Dr. James O'Donnell, Deacon  
Marcia Leous, Director of Faith Formation for Adults  
Mary O'Neill, Director of Faith Formation for Children & Families  
Mark Ehrbar, Director of Music Ministry  
Lori Wright, Chief Operating Officer  
Mary Roscoe, Business Manager

Mary Kate Farrar, Development & Communications Director  
Anna Blakeslee, Communications Coordinator  
Colleen Clemens, Development Assistant  
Amy Zucca, Outreach Coordinator  
Regan Kazel, School Principal  
Kenneth Grant, Assistant Principal & Director of Student Life  
Debbie Lautenbach, Preschool Director  
Matthew Culkar, Athletic Director  
Michael Martinek, Director of School Operations & Technology

## VOLUNTEER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Gesu Communication Committee

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All efforts have been made to provide accurate information. Please contact us for corrections.

