



# NEWS & VIEWS

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*Rising 4th grader, Nick Lambert's chalk creation during Ohio's "stay-at-home" order served as a wonderful reminder that even while we are apart, we are all in this together.*

## FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Gesu Parishioners and Friends:

I write to you at a time of crisis in our country and our world. The killings of several African American citizens and the resulting protests and civil unrest have sadly made racism a national shame in America. I want to state loudly and clearly that we as Roman Catholics denounce any type of racism and violence against our African American brothers and sisters. Racism in

any form is wrong. Our hearts break when we hear, over and over again, the stories of our brothers and sisters being mistreated by some members of law enforcement and by so many others. While strongly rejecting the violent protests and destruction of property that have occurred, we understand the anger and hurt of our fellow citizens and stand firmly with them against racial injustice.

As Catholics, our teaching on the sanctity of life is one of our greatest treasures. Now, as we have done so often and so well when discussing the protection of the unborn, we are called to take our beliefs on life into the national discourse on racial justice. We must speak boldly and often that every life is sacred. We Catholics cannot tolerate racial hatred and injustice. We must take a stand for our brothers and sisters who are the object of so much hatred and unjust treatment. For Catholics, this position is nothing new, but we recognize that we have not been vocal enough in clearly applying Church teaching when discussing race in America.

Now is the time to take action. Following our Gospel call, we must

act and use our voice to consistently denounce racism and bigotry. We must defend the right of Americans to peacefully protest without fear of repercussion. We need to add our voice to all those who are seeking a change of attitudes and a change of heart in our nation, so that the dream of equality can become a reality, and that people of all races are treated equally and have the rights promised in our country's founding documents of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

So what can we do? First, in a prayerful way, we can examine our own hearts to see where we may need conversion on this issue. We can pray for the conversion of the hearts of those who hate, that they may come to recognize the beauty of every human life. We can contact our elected officials and tell them what Catholics believe. We can make a donation to organizations that work for peace and racial equality. We can engage in constructive conversations with family and neighbors. We can challenge ourselves to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches so clearly. Gesu's website and bulletin is a good place to begin. We have many tools we can use to help combat racial injustice. We can and should lead by example. Let each of us do what we can to make the world more hopeful and just.

My brothers and sisters, our Church has repeatedly asked us to stand up for the dignity of life. Alongside the issue of protecting the unborn, there are many other issues that we are called to act on. Racism is one of those issues.

May God bless you.  
Karl J. Kiser, SJ

# Building a Legacy Through Faith & Action

## Coyne Family Supports Gesu School Teachers



*Mary & Jack Coyne have been loyal to Gesu Church and School for 53 years.*

When they moved to Shaker Heights in the summer of 1967, Jack and Mary Coyne enrolled their daughter, Cathleen, and her brothers, Dennis and Tom, in Gesu School. Enrollment at Gesu that year was 954 students, but there were desks for the three Coynes, and then also for Mike, Marty and Terry in ensuing years. The six Coyne children all graduated from Gesu.

Cathleen went on to Glen Oak School (now part of Gilmour Academy), and from there attended St. Mary's College in Indiana where she was Student Body President in her senior year and graduated with honors. During all those years Cathleen's "trademark" was her sensitivity for the needs of others in her life. As her mother, Mary Coyne, recalls: "Whenever anyone needed help, Cathleen showed up. She might come with a meal, or a flower arrangement, or candy or something

creatively special to the situation. Her visits were always highlighted by encouraging words."

Cathleen's college major was accounting. While taking accounting classes at the University of Notre Dame, she met and later married John Lane. They had a daughter, Sarah, who is now an aerospace engineer married to attorney Joe Czerwien. Sarah and Joe have two sons.

Cathleen's dedication to helping others was especially tender because, for 25 years of her life, she painfully endured varying forms of cancer. Even when cancer took away her speech and ability to eat, she continued to make meals and bake cakes for people who she knew, as her parents put it, "needed a lift in their lives."

In 2006 Cathleen passed away. Gesu Church was packed with family and friends for her funeral – many of them reflecting on her constant gentle kindness and on her successes as Junior League President, a Lake Erie Girl Scout Council leader, and board member and dedicated volunteer at Laurel School.

Cathleen's death was a loss to the Coyne family and also to the Gesu family. With special gratitude for the excellent educations that their children received at Gesu, in August of 2006, the Coynes established The John and Mary Coyne Family Endowment in Memory of Cathleen Coyne Lane, to honor Cathleen's memory and to benefit



*Cathleen Coyne graduated with honors from St. Mary College in Notre Dame, Indiana.*

the students and teachers at Gesu School. The fund has helped scores of Gesu teachers throughout the years by making funds available to acquire classroom aids and to fund teachers' attendance at contemporary seminars on leading-edge teaching techniques. When Fr. Karl Kiser, SJ, became Gesu's pastor, he recognized the potential for the endowment to help Gesu enhance its STREAM program, accelerate the use of forward thinking teaching skills, and be even more competitive with other schools in this area.

"This fund has been a game changer for us," said Gesu Principal Lucy Iemmolo. "The Coynes were very wise in recognizing that helping teachers become better in their classrooms would also help students to learn more... Every aspect of our school has benefited from this fund. Our teachers are learning timely teaching skills and bettering themselves individually. They're also working really well together as a team. And our students are the beneficiaries. That's a very big gift in many ways," said Iemmolo.

One of the current beneficiaries of the Coynes' generosity is Jenny Lambert, a second grade classroom paraprofessional at Gesu School. "I was a business major at John Carroll, but after I had graduated I knew I wanted to help teach children. I'm now at Gesu and able to help children become better readers thanks to my participation in an Orton Gillingham training program funded for me by the Coyne family."

With Cathleen and her love for Gesu School in mind, the Coynes are committed to growing this fund to help even more faculty members develop advanced, contemporary and specialized teaching skills, as well as to provide funds for licensure renewal, faculty enrichment programs and extracurricular supplemental pay.

"Cathleen taught accounting part-time at John Carroll University

and the Weatherhead School of Management," notes her father, John Coyne. "She knew people could use all the help they can get – and that includes elementary school teacher. Mary and I plan to continue increasing the endowment in memory of Cathleen. Her five brothers loved her dearly, and they are committed to this effort in her memory. The fund benefits everyone at Gesu School. That would make Cathleen very happy."

"We'll continue to work to keep this endowment vibrant," said Coyne. "And if anyone else likes the cause and wants to help, we'd be honored to hear from them."



*Cathleen Coyne and Fr. Francis Dietz, SJ, when she graduated from Gesu School. Fr. Dietz was Gesu's beloved pastor from 1957 to 1964, and also from 1967 to 1976.*

## LEAVE A LEGACY

As Catholics, we are asked how we will pass on the faith to the next generation. It is knowing our faith and sharing it with others. As we reflect upon the gifts that have been entrusted to us during our lives, we prayerfully consider how we can use these gifts to benefit our loved ones and to strengthen Gesu Parish for the future.

Recently, Gesu Parish has spent time preparing materials regarding planned giving to share with parishioners, alumni and friends. The brochures

include: Legacy Giving Options, How to Create or Update Your Will, Gifts from Your Will or Living Trust, and An Invitation to Join Gesu's Madonna Della Strada Society. There are many different ways to make a planned gift. A few of the options include: bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies and retirement plans.

If you are interested in discussing estate planning with Gesu, please contact Mary Kate Farrar

at (216) 932-0617 or [mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org). Thank you for considering Gesu in your future plans.



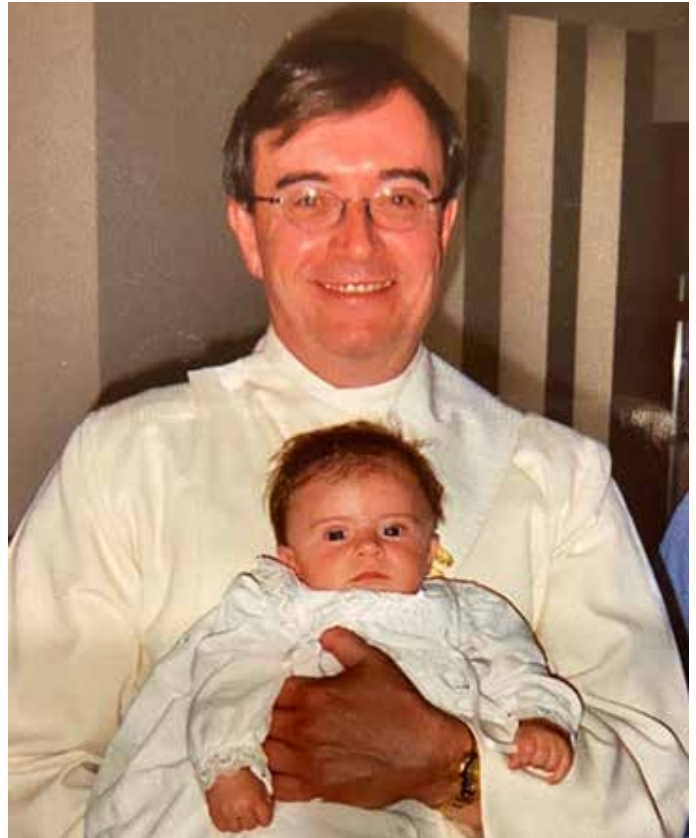
## THIRTY YEARS A DEACON

By Deacon Jim O'Donnell

*Receive the Book of the Gospels whose herald you now are.  
Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.*

That book was handed to me by Bishop Pilla at the liturgy for my ordination as a deacon, along with six other men in the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist on May 19, 1990. We were then assigned for service to our home parishes, as are nearly all deacons, now numbering over 200 in our diocese as of 2020. For all deacons, the Gospels serve as our foundation, our guide and our inspiration. Deacons are called to view the Gospels through a particular lens, emphasizing Jesus as the Savior who came to serve. The sacrament of Holy Orders that deacons receive imparts a threefold duty toward service in Word, Sacrament and Charity. We proclaim and preach the Gospel; participate and assist as ministers of sacraments (especially Baptism); and look to assist those in need within our parish, workplaces and society. In the real world, this all boils down to striving to bring Jesus to that world around us. This should sound familiar, right? Because it is the mission we all commit to in our Baptism. The deacon only makes that commitment a little more public and he makes it sacramental.

Our Catholic community of Gesu is distinctive in its Jesuit tradition, and I am well and truly blessed to have served as



*Deacon O'Donnell and grandson, Keaton O'Donnell, baptized 2004.*



*Deacon O'Donnell and grandson, Tyson Friedlander, baptized 2018.*

a deacon here over the last thirty years. Among my fondest memories are the baptisms of my own grandchildren. I am asked sometimes what changes I have seen in our parish over the years. I suppose there have been minor adjustments in our liturgies, but as someone who has lived through the changes after the Second Vatican Council, they have been minor indeed. Activities within the parish always percolate through the personalities of those who lead and participate in them. Yet, I believe the commitment to the mission of our parish has maintained its momentum throughout. We have benefited so much from the vision of our pastors, staff, teachers and lay leaders, as they have kept Gesu focused on exemplary Eucharistic worship and in applying it to the issues of our times. Much is being written today about what makes a parish successful, as our population seems to be less affiliated with its religious heritage. Vibrant parishes maintain involvement with issues in their larger communities, they are comfortable with lay leadership and they prioritize a welcoming and missionary spirit – all of these are strengths here at Gesu. We have always been people for others.

I believe these strengths will continue to serve us well as we are challenged to stop a pandemic, to forever abolish racism and injustice, and to steward our world's environment and resources. Gospel values remain our foundation and our future at Gesu, all for the greater glory of God.

## WELCOME NEW CHURCH MEMBERS!

By Marcia Leous, Co-Director of Faith Formation

On June 20, the Church of the Gesu welcomed five new members to the Catholic Church through the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** or **RCIA**. Victoria Brown, Barbara Pines, Frank Pines and Sam Thomas celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, and Lauri Strimkovsky celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. These individuals met almost weekly in person or through Zoom, beginning in September of 2019 through June of 2020, and were originally scheduled to celebrate the sacraments at the Easter Vigil in April.

RCIA sponsors Nancy Taylor, Jan and Jim Grover, Jim Meyers, Tina Valdez-Meyers and Ed Peck accompanied Victoria, Barb, Frank, Sam and Lauri during several months of the journey. Sponsors are assigned to RCIA participants as their primary link to the parish, supporting them in prayer and presence, and witnessing to their understanding of and growth in the Catholic faith. Nancy Taylor, sponsor to Victoria Brown, stated the following about her experience, “The faith-filled Tuesday evening meetings have been a source of strength and hope for me. A sponsor for the first time, I have deeply appreciated the willingness of everyone to share their thoughts and desires. It has been a blessing to be on the journey with this community of love.”



Barb Pines stated the following about her and her husband, Frank’s RCIA experience as catechumens (those not yet baptized):

“Frank and I spent quite a bit of time over several years discussing when we would start this journey together. We had often thought about going through RCIA when our kids were growing up, but busy life never allowed us the time we thought we needed to do this. We are very glad we made the time to start this process.”

“When we started class, we both really thought that from attending Mass over the years with our kids, we had a pretty strong foundation, and boy we were surprised by how much we didn’t know. RCIA for us has given us a true religious foundation

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS



Gesu News & Views is published three times per year.

To submit articles, information and photos, please email: [mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mkfarrar@churchofthegesu.org), or mail items to Gesu Church, Attn: Gesu Communications Committee.

– even though we know we still have a lot to learn. This journey has been more than either one of us could have imagined. Personally, Frank and I have struggled with tragedy this year and I think that having religious support has helped us go through some difficult times. The information we have both gathered in these classes has helped us. There have been times when we felt overwhelmed and wondered if some of the information was beyond us, but through the help of the group we understood that it’s ok to ‘not grasp every concept’ and to say ‘I don’t really understand that’...this is part of our journey now and going forward. We have been told, and now understand, that even those who are Cradle Catholics still ask and wonder.”

“Frank and I are very excited about taking the Eucharist and look forward to joining the Church completely. The delay was disappointing, but we look forward to finishing this part of our journey with RCIA and continuing forward with the whole Gesu community.”

We are delighted to welcome these persons into full membership in our Church and parish community, and are grateful for all those members of Gesu Parish and School who offered their prayers and support throughout the process, especially during the additional months of waiting for initiation due to the pandemic. The parish staff is especially thankful for the substantial amounts of time and energy devoted to the RCIA by guest speakers and the team, consisting of Karen and Vic Turk, Deacon Jim O'Donnell and Mark Phillips.

John Carroll University students Sarah Brown, Max Ciccarello, John Cameron Niehus and Kari Tomeny will be initiated into the Catholic Church at a later date, after their return to campus. They have been prepared by Kathleen Sardon and Andrea Bianchini, SJ, through JCU’s Campus Ministry Office.

*If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the Catholic faith with a view towards becoming a member of the Church, please contact Marcia Leous, Co-Director of Faith Formation and RCIA Coordinator, at [mleous@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mleous@churchofthegesu.org).*

## PARISH STAFF SERVES PARISHIONERS DURING "STAY-AT-HOME" ORDER

By Fr. Michael A. Vincent, SJ, Associate Pastor

I want to share with you some of our experiences as a parish staff during the past several months. I will also share with you some of the things that happened in our Jesuit Community during that same time. I know that every Gesu family has its own memories to share about this unprecedented time, when we tried to stay at home for the sake of our own health and that of our families. Many family members also have had to navigate going out to work, while dealing with significant changes in their daily lives.

On the days leading up to the stay-at-home order, I recall that after reflecting on the situation in Italy and elsewhere in Europe, I had mentioned in my homily that we may need to fast from the Eucharist during Lent. However, at that time, I don't think I considered it anything more than a remote possibility. Yet, on Monday, March 16, Governor DeWine had announced the closing of all academic institutions, and we received an e-mail from the Diocese of Cleveland informing us that all public Masses and liturgies were suspended indefinitely, and that the faithful were dispensed from Mass attendance.



Fr. Michael Vincent, SJ

Over the next two and a half months, Gesu School operated virtually through distance learning classes. Though forced to cancel numerous events, the school made the best of the situation. Perhaps most disappointing for the school community was the need to cancel the 8th grade graduation ceremony; however, instead, our eighth graders were honored on their graduation day with a parade led by University Heights police vehicles and fire trucks. It was truly a very different year for all of us, unique in the annals of Gesu history.

Throughout the past months, the parish staff has continued to meet virtually each week to hammer out policies and continue our mission. Staff members in our business office worked behind the scenes to keep things going. Fr. Kiser spent a lot of time fielding questions and e-mails and recording Masses and Gospel Reflections for parishioners to view virtually.

Oddly enough, we did not have any parish funerals from early March until the end of May, and since then the number has been very low. We did hear of a few parishioners and relatives of parishioners who were hospitalized to treat the virus, but as a parish, we have been fortunate.

We broadcast Masses on our website, as well as daily Gospel reflections. We spoke on those occasions about "Spiritual Communion" and how God can work in the absence of the sacraments, the same way that God works for Christian communities that are only sporadically able to have a priest from outside visit them. In a certain sense, our "fasting from the Eucharist" and our use of the "domestic church" right in our own homes has given us the opportunity to share in an experience that is commonplace for a considerable segment of the Catholic Church around the world.

While the church was closed, several of the parish staff members tried to keep in touch with the homebound by phone and by e-mail. Among them were Sisters Linda and Kathleen. During that time, one of my duties was to call the parishioners whom I usually visited monthly in nursing homes. The parish staff had urged me to stay out of the office, and I did many of these calls from my home. We also reached out to older parishioners, many of whom are still concerned about their safety coming back to church, as well as to many of our school families and members of our various parish commissions. We had also, very early on, requested that parishioners volunteer to do grocery shopping for elderly or ill parishioners who are at home and alone. While only a few people made use of these services, we thank everyone who volunteered.

I think it is important for all parishioners to know that we at the Schell House Jesuit Community offered Mass daily for the needs of our parishioners, especially those who were ill, as well as for the Mass intentions gathered by Gesu. We are still celebrating two Masses daily at Schell House, even as parish Masses resume at the church.

Please know that we are praying for treatments, a cure and a vaccine. The pandemic certainly is not yet over. In the meantime, at each Mass, we are praying for all who are ill and all who are in need. We are aware that some of our parishioners have lost jobs and benefits or have businesses that are facing hard times. Please let us know if you need any kind of help, financial or otherwise, during these difficult days.

Here at Gesu, as we resumed public celebration of the Eucharist on Pentecost Weekend, we experienced very small congregations. We know that many individuals and families want to see how things go at Mass, and that they may be reluctant to be among the first to return. Please know that we now live stream Mass on our website at [www.churchofthegesu.org](http://www.churchofthegesu.org). This allows a way for you to stay spiritually connected with us and also allows you to remain safe and healthy. In the meantime, know that we miss you all and are keeping you in our prayers.

## *Black Lives Matter: A Psalm of Lament and Sorrow*

*Hear me, O God.*

*Hear me through my stream of tears.*

*Hear me, O God, because this feeling of hopelessness requires I turn to You.*

*Hear not just me, O God, but all of the angry, tender, tired tears streaming down the faces of many in our little corner of Your universe.*

*Hear me, O God, and I ask not for a reply, but simply that we may share tears together.*

*Hear me, Sophia, Wisdom of God, I rely on you to guide my mind, heart, mouth, and hands.*

*My tears stream down for reasons beyond my full comprehension. . .*

*I weep because people are murdered – unjustly, brutally.*

*I weep because the reason for death is no mystery but one seen at first glance.*

*I weep because Black Lives Matter, but are not honored as such.*

*I weep because replaceable things seem to hold greater value than irreplaceable human beings.*

*I weep because the voices and bodies of Black Americans are far too often silenced and assaulted.*

*I weep because hate, bigotry, discrimination, and racism run so deep it seems impossible to change.*

*I weep because the family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and communities of George, Breonna, Ahmaud, and many more are burdened with tears without their consent.*

*Sophia, are you weeping too? My heart tells me you are. I pray to fully trust that You weep as I, and so many, do when injustice ensues; when injustice seems to be the default.*

*As I wipe away my tears, I desire a revolution rooted in Your overwhelming love.*

*I desire to hear the voices of the Black men and women who have been unheard for centuries.*

*I desire to use my privilege as a tool for advocacy and action, not to perpetuate the problem.*

*I desire to be called out when my thoughts are self-centered, my words ignorant, or my actions complacent.*

*I desire to grow in the empathy, kindness, understanding, and patience that the work of solidarity requires of me.*

*And when I fail, I pray You breathe on me a spirit of persistence and resiliency.*

*I believe in a revolution that brings forth a Kingdom so beautiful it exceeds comprehension. In the depths of the truest, most beautiful part of my soul You have planted a knowing of what Your love can do. I listen for a whisper of how you want me to love those who society marginalizes and those wailing in despair as I sit with the aftermath of puffy eyes and a heavy heart.*

*Sophia, I admire you and cherish your work in my life. I rely on your presence to those most in need of your comfort and compassion, as I am limited. Be with me; be with all in need of You. For the longings of my heart not fully expressed I pray you hear them.*



Sadie Curtin is a graduate of John Carroll University (B.A. '13) and Ursuline College (M.A.'16) where she studied theology and religious studies. She is an 11th and 12th grade theology teacher at Magnificat High School, and cantor at the Church of the Gesu. This piece was first published by the Ignatian Solidarity Network.

## **FIRST COMMUNION 2020 IS MOVING AHEAD!**

Every year, the parish staff anticipates our parish First Communion celebrations with great joy, and particularly so this year due to the extended period of waiting caused by the pandemic. First Communion celebrations at Church of the Gesu have been rescheduled for the months of August and September during regular parish Masses on Saturdays and Sundays. Small groups of families and their First Communicants will be present at each of these Masses in the front center pews.

The word Mass comes from the Latin word missa, which means “sent forth.” At the end of Mass, we are dismissed with the word “Go!” God gives us everything we need to take with us as

we go forth into the world. The Eucharist is our spiritual food – nourishment that helps us approach everyday life and the broader world with the courage and love of God needed to meet the challenges of each day. The sacrament of the Eucharist is a wonderful gift, meant to be celebrated over and over again. Let us all pray for our children and their families, as they celebrate this sacrament for the first of many times.

*The 2020-21 First Reconciliation/First Communion program for all parish children is still in the planning stages and will be announced closer to the start of the 2020-21 school year. For questions, please contact Marcia Leous at [mleous@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mleous@churchofthegesu.org).*

## SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH OUR YOUTH

### PSR 2020-2021

Growing in faith means living a life centered on Christ, through active participation in Sunday liturgy (Mass), the sacraments, and generous service to others. Especially in these uncertain times of pandemic and physical distancing, the Church of the Gesu is committed to providing the best possible faith formation experiences for your child. Children with strong faith and values do better in school and have happier home lives. Ideally, our first option is to welcome all children back to our LIVE Faith Formation programming, but we realize that there are many factors that will play into your/our plans for this coming catechetical year. We will be offering a variety of programs to support parents in their roles as the primary educators in the ways of our Catholic faith, and are preparing for several options that will work best for your family's unique situation. Accommodations are already in place for remote/distance learning through our Family Catechesis program and will now be made available to all families, as faith formation must now be completely moved to remote/virtual learning. We will continue to keep you posted as the beginning of the catechetical year (September 13, 2020) approaches. Online Registration is now open for the 2020-21 Catechetical Year!

It has now become necessary for learning to be done remotely due to the recent escalating surge of COVID-19 cases. We will provide all the resources you and your child(ren) will need for a successful and nurturing faith learning experience. A drive-by Pick-up Party date will be announced for a "physically-distanced" September date, so that you will receive all the tools, books and resources that your child(ren) will need for a truly successful experience! We will reassess this situation at the close of the first semester. Regardless, the faith-forming learning experience will continue to be periodically supplemented by family programs that will foster both parental involvement and a connection with our faith community.

### *Top 10 Reasons to Become a VIRTUAL Catechist:*

**We are looking for a few virtual Catechists for Grades: Pre-K/K, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Middle School! If you are interested, we could certainly use your help and faith! Training and professional development will be provided. If you feel God calling you, please contact Mary von Carlowitz at (216) 932-0617 or [mvoncarlowitz@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mvoncarlowitz@churchofthegesu.org).**

1. You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
2. Your Baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
3. Children, teens, and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus.
4. Children, teens, and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to encounter good role models of faith.
5. You have much to share with those you'll teach, and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
6. Today's catechetical textbooks/resources offer outstanding support.
7. You will be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
8. You'll be helping people deepen their relationship with Jesus. (You'll be evangelizing!)
9. You'll be handing on a 2,000-year-old Tradition that changes lives.
10. It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."

### YOUTH MINISTRY IS ALIVE AND WELL

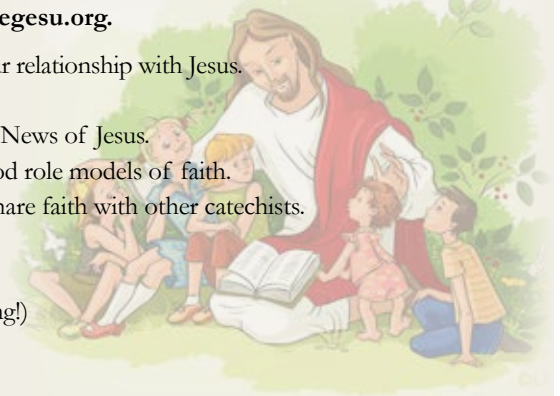
Gesu Youth Ministry has adapted and continues to adapt as the country practices social distancing. When the quarantine began in March, the Junior High Youth ministry used virtual meetings every Wednesday, with an average of 2-10 students attending. Those meetings and Bible study continued until the middle of May. Though an unknown and unfolding experience, it provided a platform for our youth to maintain social relationships with friends in uncharted times. We knew we were there for each other, no matter what.

Moving forward, as the pandemic continues, our goal for high school and junior high school youth alike is to continue talking about current events and how to live out our faith life in the world in which we find ourselves. Hopefully, this will be in person, if a secure and healthy way can be found. If not, we will continue our meetings via Zoom and small group conversations. As much as things change, we believe God is with us and that better days are ahead.

Join us! Sign-ups for both high school and junior high school youth ministry will be available in August. If you have any questions about youth ministry, or if you are interested in helping out, please contact Jenny Lee at [jlee@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:jlee@churchofthegesu.org).

### FAMILY CATECHESIS

Our Family Catechesis program focuses on empowering the Domestic Church! It combines a monthly parish-based virtual group meeting for families (must include at least one parent/guardian/adult) with children in grades Pre-K through 8. Family catechesis includes a home study component that encourages participation of the family unit, as we build up and support the Domestic Church. This option is fast becoming one of the most highly utilized forms of Catechesis in our Diocese during this time of social distancing. For more information, email Mary von Carlowitz at [mvoncarlowitz@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:mvoncarlowitz@churchofthegesu.org) or register now at <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/3963>.





## ONE BOOK, ONE PARISH



After two years of success with One Book, One Parish, Gesu has selected a new book, titled *Mercy in the City*, by Kerry Weber. The parish will engage in book discussions and special programming that coincide with our newest book selection, and also provide focus on our Corporal Works of Mercy.

*Mercy in the City* is Weber's frequently humorous, but always authentic story of exploring the challenges and rewards that accompany a lay Catholic trying

to practice the Works of Mercy in a nonstop city of eight million people. From handing out sandwiches, to riding the subway, to nearly being locked out of the Easter Vigil, Weber embraces each experience as an opportunity to better understand what mercy is really all about and to grow in her love of God and others.

For anyone who, like Weber, longs to live a more merciful life amid the pressures and responsibilities of the "real world," *Mercy in the City* offers this inspiration: You can do it - wherever God has placed you!

Copies of the book will be available in early September for a donation of \$5. Happy reading!



Dive deeper into the Catholic faith with *Fireside Chats: This is Gesu*. In these 10 minute episodes, Fr. Kiser answers questions that have been submitted by our parishioners, in an effort to help us better understand Catholicism's beliefs, traditions and history.

Visit our website, [www.churchofthegesu.org](http://www.churchofthegesu.org), to find all current and past episodes.

And be sure to keep the questions coming! Email [gesucleveland@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:gesucleveland@churchofthegesu.org) with any topics you would like to hear Father address.

STAY CONNECTED WITH OUR NEW

## PARISH APP

Gesu has recently launched a new parish app and it's a way to stay connected with us! This app allows you to be engaged, learn about upcoming events, receive important messages, grow your faith and much more.

To download the app, simply go to the Apple App Store:

<https://apple.co/3fLcN5e>

or

Google Play store:

<https://bit.ly/32KuH46>

Select WeConnect Parish App and pick Church of the Gesu.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [communications@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:communications@churchofthegesu.org).



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If you wish to receive our bi-monthly e-Newsletter, along with links to our live streamed Vigil Mass and *Fireside Chats: This is Gesu*, please send an email to [gesucleveland@churchofthegesu.org](mailto:gesucleveland@churchofthegesu.org) and request to be added to our distribution list.

If you do not receive Gesu emails and do not have access to our website, please contact the Gesu Parish Office at (216) 932-0617 and we can send you a weekly bulletin.

## SALUTE TO GESU STUDENTS



### ONLINE LEARNING AT GESU

Friday, March 13, 2020, was a day Gesu School's faculty and students will long remember. There were those lighthearted students who headed out of school elated at Governor DeWine's news of statewide school closings; however, the reality of nearly three

months of online learning slowly morphed into a longing to return to their classrooms, teachers and friends. Gesu's teachers had merely a weekend to transition into the world of digital learning and heroically banded together with colleagues to set up Google classrooms, master the art of Zoom meetings, create their own teaching videos and employ new applications like Flipgrid and Ed-Puzzle. They certainly gave it their best effort, but all seem to agree that teachers working directly in the classroom with students offers the best chance of academic success.

Looking back over postings on Gesu's Facebook page, we have an interesting diary of some key events of the last quarter of the school year. Despite the fact that this new normal meant missing some major events, including our production of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, First Communions, eighth grade trips to Cedar Point and Washington D.C., spring graduation and dance, spring sports and Field Day, Gesu students remained spirited and hopeful. The posts show activities designed to substitute for some treasured Gesu traditions and also keep students connected to each other and to their teachers. They include:

- Daily morning broadcasts led by teachers and students with trivia and riddle contests, birthday greetings, morning prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance
- Videos of teachers reading a favorite story to Gesu students
- Weekly nature videos shared by naturalist Marty Calabrese, one of which was assisted by his daughter Noelle (a future Gesu first grader), and was a fan favorite
- Online family prayer services, a May Crowning service and rosaries during Holy Week and in the month of May
- A moving Memorial Day prayer service, which shared the musical talents of eighth grade students
- The traditional Missioning Mass, virtual eighth grade Awards Ceremony, and Picture show

As we go to print in late July, Gesu's comprehensive re-entry plan details the school's hope to offer two options for the 2020-2021 school year. Families are choosing between attending school in person each day or working with classmates virtually using Zoom technology. The school also has plans for a full remote learning model if our state or local school districts' schools are ordered to close.

### CATHERINE CLEMENS WINS K OF C SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to eighth grader Catherine Clemens, winner of the \$1,000 Knights of Columbus Robert Blazunas Scholarship. There were 15 entries in the essay contest, which determined the scholarship recipient. In light of the yearly Gesu theme, *Living with the Saints*, students were asked to reflect on how their understanding of sainthood impacted their daily decisions and actions. The scholarship will be applied toward Catherine's tuition at Walsh Jesuit High School. Catherine is the daughter of Colleen and Paul Clemens and has been a student at Gesu since preschool.

### 8TH GRADE ATHLETIC AWARDS

Athletic Director Matt Culkar, announced the winners of the annual eighth grade athletic awards in a video created for this year's Awards Ceremony. Students were selected by coaches for all three awards, and Gesu teachers aided in the selection of the scholar athlete.

#### Fr. Murphy Scholar Athlete Award

Lucy Salata  
Christian Bermel

#### Fr. Boggins Sportsmanship Award

Alexa Borally  
Charlie Roberto

#### Thomas Koch Outstanding Athlete Award

Sean Martin  
Reilly Parent

### MARILYN BIANCHI PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

This spring, two of our junior high students were among the 20 winners of the 42nd Annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, sponsored by the Dobama Theatre. There were hundreds of entries submitted to this longest-running celebration of young playwrights in the United States.

Eighth grader Maeve Evans' play is titled, *The Witch in the Woods*, and *Forget Me Not* is the title of seventh grader London Elersich's play. Normally we would have had the opportunity to see their plays produced at Dobama's festival, but it was not possible in light of recent coronavirus restrictions.

We congratulate them for this exciting recognition of their talent. We also recognize their parents and their teacher, Genevieve Kenealy, for their support and encouragement. Finally, we thank those involved with the Festival for providing this amazing opportunity to students at all grade levels.



## WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENTS

Two beloved teachers completed their Gesu careers in June, and their students and colleagues found some creative ways to mark their retirements. Staff members and retired teachers contributed to a video for Mrs. Alice Elliott, as well as a scrapbook for Mrs. Marjorie Gessner. Students also concluded the year with a Zoom party and a Friday morning parade for Mrs. Elliott. Pictures of these events can be found on Gesu's Facebook page.



Mrs. Elliott has been a favorite teacher at Gesu for 26 years. She spent many years teaching second grade and was a vital part of the sacramental program at Gesu. Her loving ways made experiences with Reconciliation and the Eucharist joyful and memorable for her young students. Mrs. Elliott has spent recent years teaching fourth grade, where her skills as a master teacher

inspired students to love learning and brought them to a higher level of understanding of the curriculum, especially in mathematics. Additionally, Mrs. Elliott was a valued member of faculty committees and led several extracurricular activities, including the school's Food Drive, Christmas Sharing project and outreach to St. Pat's Hunger Center. She also advanced our STREAM initiatives with weekly Sewing and Quilting clubs, which were quite popular with our students.

Those who have offered their congratulations on the Gesu Facebook page and through the videos made by colleagues and students all commend Alice for her expertise as a teacher and her integrity as a colleague and friend. All agree, there will never be another Mrs. Elliott!



Mrs. Gessner retires from Gesu after 22 years of service to our school community. Most people remember Mrs. Gessner's years in fifth grade and recall the simple machines project, the Inventors' Tea, and the Living Stations of the Cross. They also remember her great intelligence, wit, wisdom and the way she supported students through the challenging tasks she

asked of them. For many years Mrs. Gessner also directed Gesu's Destination Imagination program and frequently moderated her own teams, which achieved state and even national recognition. She was a member of the school's Building Leadership Team and worked at Spotlight Discovery camp for many years.

When Gesu opened its STREAM Center in 2017, Mrs. Gessner was the perfect choice to assume the position of STREAM Director. She worked tirelessly to engage teachers in new types of instruction, and she conducted numerous professional development sessions for them. She continued moderating the DI program and opened up new opportunities for Gesu students to explore

robotics, coding, and even drones. Mrs. Gessner encouraged Gesu's participation in regional STREAM activities, as well as mentorships with local experts. She came to know STREAM colleagues around the Ohio region, and she was a well-respected member of their community of innovators. Gesu has had a great friend and advocate in Marjorie Gessner. We are most grateful for her years of service and we cannot wait to see what she cooks up for herself in her retirement!

## REBECCA HYLAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Each year, Gesu School awards the Rebecca Hyland Scholarship to two students in seventh grade who show a passion for learning, loving, living and serving. Those are the qualities that marked the life of Rebecca Hyland, a member of the Class of 1997. Memorial scholarships were established by her parents, Ann and Kevin Hyland, over twelve years ago at the three schools Rebecca attended. This year's recipients are Mi-Na Diggs and Bryce Beard. They are students of outstanding character and compassion. They are strong leaders and they are well respected by their classmates for the easy, friendly way they engage others in their activities and projects. We congratulate their parents and we thank the Hylands for funding this scholarship, which goes toward tuition for their final year at Gesu. We know that Rebecca's life will inspire them to do great things in coming years.

## ALUMNI MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Two past winners of the Rebecca Hyland Scholarship have recently made the news. Maya Moufawad '17 was recently recognized for donating \$1,000 of the proceeds of her online digital artwork business to Babies and Children Hospital at University Hospital and another \$1,000 to the Cleveland Clinic. Alexandra Wiskes '12, now a recent graduate of Marquette University, won her Rebecca Hyland Scholarship while attending Walsh Jesuit High School. A moving letter describing her first job as a nurse dealing with Covid-19 patients in the emergency room was published in early May in *The Plain Dealer*, as well as various online outlets.

We congratulate these Gesu graduates for the courageous and creative ways they have found to be persons for others in these challenging times.



## 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."*

### EUCHARISTIC LIVING

We center our lives in Christ and the celebration of the Eucharist.

### LIFELONG LEARNING

We engage, at all ages, in learning and being formed in the image of Christ.

### GENEROUS SERVING

We use our gifts to serve God and others.



## PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

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Rev. Gregory Hyde, SJ, Priest in Residence  
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