

Parish

News



ST AGNES
PARISH

Vol. 2 No.5

Eyes to the Future – Ministries Embracing the New World

Parish Council members made direct, individual contact with leaders of 43 established parish groups. In normal times, these groups provide regular services to parishioners as well as to our community through ministry activities.

This was an enormous undertaking that delivered rewarding results. Information that was gathered offers a parish-wide view of how our ministries are faring in this 8-month period of reinvention. Many ministries, although facing considerable challenges, are discovering innovative ways to continue partial service; others are using this quiet time to set future goals and plan their options. Not one ministry has given up - a testimony to our trust and faith in God that He will show us the way.

Another interesting outcome is the growing desire among similar ministries to collaborate. Sharing ideas, resources and supporting one another creates new energy. This unplanned pause from busy activities has given us the precious commodity of time to reflect on how best we can work together to advance Fr. James' vision for St. Agnes Parish.

Information from Council-Ministry discussions will be shared in a Leadership Summit for ministry leaders and Parish Council on November 28th. It's here that next steps will be considered as 2020 draws to a close. We look to the hope of a new year to continue to minister in different ways to make every day brighter for one another.

Weekend Mass Attendance November 14/15

Sat. 5:00 p.m.	71	Sun. 11:00 a.m.	58
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	56	Sun. 7:00 p.m.	78

Liturgy Committee Sets Christmas Season Mass Schedule

Essential components of our weekend Mass, Christmas Mass and New Year's Mass including scheduling are coordinated by the Liturgy Committee, chaired by Carolyn Wiznuk. Members include:

Father James	Bryan North, Eucharist	Andrea North, Atmosphere
Cindy Jarvela, Lectors	Joyce Ilkka, Greeters	Bill Bragnalo, Ushers
Jean Joy, Music	Tim Sullivan, Altar Servers	Wanda Major, RCIA

The confirmed Christmas season mass schedule is:

Christmas Eve – Thurs. Dec. 24

5:00 p.m. live streamed
8:00 p.m.
10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day – Fri. Dec. 25

9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. live streamed

New Year's Eve – Thurs. Dec. 31

5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day – Fri. Jan. 1, 2021

11:00 a.m. live streamed

Regular mass schedules will resume on the weekends that follow this special mass schedule.

Update from the Crisis Response Steering Committee

Co-Chairs: Cindy Jarvela and Beatrice Metzler

Worship Pillar: Andrea North, Executive Lead

- The weekend masses are functioning smoothly. Most attendees are now wearing their own masks rather than using complimentary masks available in the church foyer.
- The offering envelope boxes will soon be made available in the hall, alphabetically placed on socially distanced tables. Please find your envelope box BEFORE Mass begins. Thank you.
- Thank you to Karl Schulzki for serving as the interim chair of the new Live Streaming Ministry. Anyone interested in free training on this technology is invited to attend the **Training Session December 5th**. Please contact Karl at 475-8725 or kschulzki@shaw.ca to register.
- There will be no communal celebration of Penance during Advent this year as directed by the Bishop.

Evangelization Pillar: Karen O'Connor, Executive Lead

- The Prayer Group continues to respond to online prayer requests each week.
- Alpha Online is more than midway through its program with 18 to 20 regular participants. A full-day retreat is scheduled for this Saturday, November 21st.

Ministry Pillar: Sharon Bukovy, Executive Lead

- Ministry members will ensure that St. Agnes seniors residing in Long Term Care Homes or alone in their own homes receive a special Christmas card from our parish family. A Mass on December 19 will be dedicated to these seniors.

Discipleship Pillar: Maureen Van Dyk and Lyndsey Swoluk, Executive Leads

- Sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation celebrations were beautiful family affairs this year. The new format with designated seating for each family worked very well, Registration for the 2021 First Communion and Confirmation programs is now available through the parish office. Kim Coursolle has offered to download video versions of these celebrations for each family.
- Children's liturgy continues to be offered weekly, online. The search continues for online programs that offer excellent visual quality and meaningful content related to the Gospel reading.
- Lyndsey Swoluk has arranged a Zoom meeting of the Youth Advisory Council on November 24 to explore ways to engage our youth in meaningful, safe programming.
- St. Agnes is blessed to have one candidate for the Rite of Christian Initiation. Thank you to David Gibb for assuming the role of sponsor for our candidate. This year St. Patrick's Cathedral is hosting the RCIA program for all local candidates.

Finance: Al Tennant, Executive Lead

- The October 31, 2020 financial statements indicate that parish finances are stable. Revenues are at 71% of the projected 2020 budget
Expenditures are at 73% of the projected 2020 budget.
- The 2021 Parish budget has now been approved by the Finance Council. The focus on collections for 2021 will encourage online giving. The new website will soon have a Giving Page to make it easy for parishioners and other contributors to donate online.
Al Tennant is a member of the Finance Council.

Communications: Executive Leads: Kim Coursolle and Wanda Major

Statistical Analysis courtesy Wanda Major:

Family Mass: Facebook – a 30% increase in viewers

Instagram – a 77% increase in viewers

Family Mass: 279 reached 135 engaged

Adoration: 219 reached 74 engaged

Confirmation and First Communion: 500+ viewers

The St. Agnes website www.stagnesrc.ca now has a link to *YouTube*. Anyone can access the Family Mass through the website if they miss the live stream.

Anniversary Acknowledgements

The Senior Leadership Team would like to acknowledge two dates that are very special for Fr. James.

On November 22, 1992, Fr. James was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop O'Mara.

On November 28, 1992, Fr. James conducted his first Mass in his home region in India.

A Brighter Life with God

