



PARISH REVIEW

FALL 2025



5 Bedford Street, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1W5
Tel: (902) 835-2910 Email: saintignatius@bellaliant.com



Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. Ignatius,

I am pleased to contribute to the parish's Annual Report, which reflects our shared life of faith, service, and community. This annual publication is not only a record of numbers and events but a true testament to the enduring vitality of our parish family.

The year 2025 has been especially meaningful for me personally, marking my 25th Anniversary of Ordination that I had the joy of celebrating with many of you last May. This milestone has been a moment of deep gratitude - for God's grace, for the privilege of priestly ministry, and for the steadfast faith of this parish. I am profoundly thankful for the warmth, generosity, and dedication I have experienced since arriving as your pastor in November 2021. I have come to see and experience more and more, that these are the incredible qualities that define Saint Ignatius.

Our summer project of renewing the inside of the church was a great success! The church looks beautiful. There is still more to be done, both inside and outside, but as I mentioned before, 2025 strikes me as a kind of "turning of the corner", as we work through our capital maintenance objectives. I would

like to thank all of you for your continued financial generosity to St. Ignatius, as it is only because of this that any of these improvements are made possible. A simple distinction that I have been making this past year is to remind us that the parish is the people and the church is the building. Like our family home, we need to keep the structure and beauty of our buildings in the best possible condition, to ensure that others following us will enjoy the space to pray, gather, and celebrate as a family of faith. As we draw ever closer to our church's Centenary Anniversary in 2029, we will continue to work hard toward making sure the parish properties serve our needs, both now and well into the future.

This year, the Church around the world has been celebrating the Jubilee Year 2025, calling all the faithful to live as "Pilgrims of Hope." It is a time to renew trust in God's mercy and rediscover the joy of walking together as disciples. In that spirit, our parish recently joined in pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, uniting our journey with the universal Church's call to prayer, communion, and renewal. The afternoon was very enjoyable, a visible expression of what it means to walk together in faith.

Our attendance and engagement data for the past three years reflect a community that is not only stable but growing stronger in its commitment to worship and mission. From steady Mass attendance to renewed ministry involvement and online participation, these numbers tell a story of a parish alive with the power of the Spirit. I encourage all of you to keep asking and inviting - former parishioners, family, friends, co-workers and neighbours - to "come and see" our parish's life.

As we move forward, may this Jubilee Year continue to strengthen us as true Pilgrims of Hope - carrying faith, compassion, and joy into every corner of our lives!

Blessings,

FATHER PAUL MORRIS, PASTOR
November 2025

MEET OUR OFFICE STAFF



Kelley Sullivan-Durnford
Parish Administrative Assistant

Kelley is the first point of contact when you call or visit the Parish Office. She books appointments, answers administrative questions, and greets visitors with warmth and care. Her primary role is managing the parish's financial accounts and supporting the Finance Committee. Kelley is also responsible for paying bills, depositing funds, and coordinating with contractors.



Peggy Dupuy
Pastoral Ministries Coordinator

Peggy oversees the religious education of parish prepare for the sacraments and deepen their understanding of faith. She organizes the annual Steubenville youth retreat and coordinates the OCIA (formerly RCIA) programs for adults wishing to enter the Catholic Church.

Contact Information:

- Kelley: saintignatius@bellaliant.com
- Peggy: religed@bellaliant.com
- Parish Office: 902-835-2910

For more information about parish life and events, visit our website: www.saintignatius.ca

TESTIMONIAL

The Lenten Reading Group

Four years ago, Father Paul established The Lenten Book Club, and the journey began.

For the past three years, I've had the privilege of participating in Father Paul's Lenten Reading Group - a gathering unlike any typical book club. Rather than discussing bestsellers, detective stories, or celebrity memoirs, we delve into timeless literary works that challenge us to wrestle with profound questions about life, faith, and human purpose.

Three years ago, we read *The Seven Storey Mountain* by Thomas Merton—a deeply introspective memoir chronicling Merton's early life and his spiritual awakening, culminating in his conversion to Catholicism at age 23. Published in 1948, the book struck a chord with a post-World War II generation searching for meaning and direction.

Two years ago, our selection was John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, published in 1939. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, which helped earn Steinbeck the Nobel Prize in 1962, follows the Joad family - tenant farmers driven from their Oklahoma home by drought and economic hardship. Their journey to California, shared by thousands of other displaced "Okies," is a powerful testament to resilience, dignity, and the pursuit of a better life.

Last year, we explored *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, Mary Shelley's groundbreaking 1818 Gothic novel, written when she was just eighteen. The story of Victor Frankenstein and his creation probes the boundaries of science, responsibility, and identity. As the Creature grapples with isolation and existential despair, he asks haunting questions: What is my purpose? Why was I created?

Each of these books sparked rich, thoughtful conversations among participants. For me, the experience has been more than literary - it's been a deeply personal and meaningful way to build community within our parish.

ROSEMARIE SAMPSON

**"GIVE AND IT WILL BE
GIVEN TO YOU."**

- LUKE 6:38

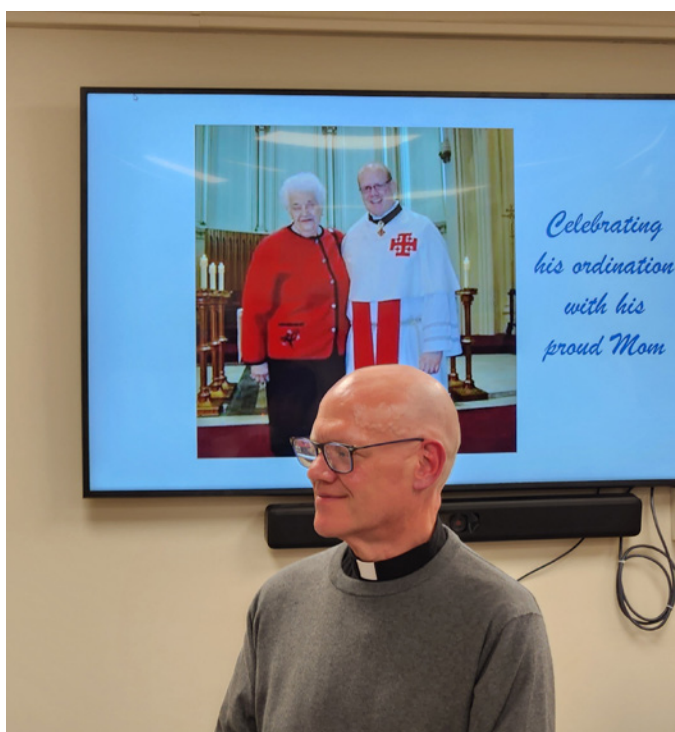
TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE LORD

On May 7, 2025, our parish joyfully celebrated Father Paul's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. Archbishop Dunn, together with many priests from across the diocese and our Deacons, joined us for a beautiful Mass and celebration that followed.

We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers who assisted with setup, food preparation, and hospitality. A special word of thanks goes to Michelle Kucey and Rosemarie Sampson for their leadership in organizing this memorable occasion.

At Father Paul's request, parishioners were invited not to give personal gifts but instead to contribute toward new liturgical appointments and sacred vessels. Thanks to many generous donors—including one especially significant gift—our sanctuary now gleams with a new bronze Paschal candle stand, processional cross, incense vessel with stand, bronze candlesticks and a missal stand. Of course, some parishioners still found ways to show Father a little extra appreciation on this milestone occasion!

The joy on Father Paul's face made it clear: this was truly a day of faith, gratitude, and love.



ADULT FORMATION

Scripture Study Group – Winter 2025

Following a busy fall in 2024, the parish launched its first Bible Study in January 2025. Led by Deacon Howard Goldstein, more than 20 participants met weekly for ten weeks to explore the Passion and Resurrection of Christ as viewed through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Using the Little Rock Scripture Study series, Deacon Howard guided the sessions with thoughtful discussion questions, enriching the experience with his personal insights and deep knowledge of Scripture.

Concluding just in time for Holy Week, participants shared that the study was an ideal spiritual preparation for Lent and the Easter season, deepening their understanding of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.

Scripture Study Group – Gospel of Matthew

On October 7, our parish began a new Bible Study session, once again led by Deacon Howard Goldstein. Using the Little Rock Scripture Study series, this time, the group is focusing on the Gospel of Matthew.

The 10-week series will carry participants into the Advent season, offering a rich opportunity to reflect on the life and teachings of Christ as told by Matthew.

Many who took part in the January study returned for this new session, expressing their delight at continuing their journey through Scripture together.

Rosary Rally

On Saturday, October 11, 2025, our parish joined thousands of other parishes across Canada in the annual Rosary Rally, to pray the Rosary together, asking for peace, repentance, conversion, and intercession of Mary.

Morning Retreat

On Saturday, November 1st, the parish held its first Morning Retreat, facilitated by Sr. Elaine Biollo – Sister of Charity of Halifax.

Ongoing

Gospel Reflections with Fr. Paul

On Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:30 PM, Father Paul hosts a weekly Scripture Sharing session in the Parish Hall.

The first evening, held on October 7, drew more than 25 parishioners who gathered for prayer, reflection, and fellowship. Each session begins with a 45-minute presentation on the upcoming Sunday Gospel, followed by small-group discussion and reflection.

No registration is required—simply read the Gospel beforehand and come when you can. The evenings are welcoming, insightful, and even feature a touch of hospitality with home baking!

COMMUNITY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH THE ST. IGNATIUS COMBINED CHOIRS – WORSHIP AND SONG

On April 11, 2025, our parish gathered for a special evening of worship and song, as the St. Ignatius combined choirs led us in a powerful celebration of the Way of the Cross, guided by Father Paul.

As each parishioner entered the church, they were given a copy of Everyone's Way of the Cross by Clarence Enzler. Enzler's interpretation of the Way of the Cross is not merely a recounting of events, but a spiritual journey that invites us to see Christ's path of suffering as one we, also, walk in our own lives. The harmony of song and scripture created a deeply moving experience.

The turnout exceeded expectations, and in the spirit of community, some parishioners joyfully shared their booklets with one another. We hope to make this an annual tradition.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA) AND ADULT FORMATION

Come and See: Exploring the Catholic Faith

Each year, God stirs hearts to seek Him more deeply. Some people have never been baptized; others were baptized in another Christian tradition. For all who are new to the Catholic faith, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) offers a welcoming, prayerful journey into the life of the Church.

OCIA is more than learning about doctrines—it is about joining a living community of faith. Along the way, participants discover the joy of prayer, hear God's Word, and share in the mission of the parish. Sponsors and parishioners walk beside them, offering encouragement, friendship, and witness. For many, this journey leads to the beautiful celebration of the Easter Vigil, where Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are received, marking a new beginning in Christ. Yet the journey continues beyond that night, as the newly initiated grow deeper in faith and embrace their place in the Church's mission.

If you are a baptized Catholic who has not yet celebrated Eucharist or Confirmation, we also offer a pathway designed to help you complete your initiation and share fully in the sacraments of the Church.

If you feel God's gentle call—or if you simply wish to learn more—we warmly invite you to contact the parish office. Come and see how the Lord may be calling you. You will be welcomed with open hearts.



THE RITE OF INSTITUTION OF LECTORS

On September 14, our parishioner Joseph Banwo took an important step on his path toward becoming a Deacon by receiving the Rite of Institution of Lectors, celebrated by Archbishop Dunn.

While we are familiar with our parish lectors who read at Mass, Joseph's role is different. For men preparing for the Diaconate, being instituted as a Lector is more than reading - it is a formal ministry of the Church. In this rite, the candidate publicly commits to serving God's Word and helping others grow in their love of Scripture.

Later, as a Deacon, Joseph will continue this mission by proclaiming the Gospel and, at times, preaching. But the journey begins here, with the ministry of Lector, which calls him to live the Word he proclaims.

Our parish is very proud of Joseph, and we will continue to support him with our prayers and encouragement as he walks this journey of faith.





STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025

The Steubenville Youth Conference is a series of Catholic gatherings held across North America, offering high school students a powerful encounter with Jesus Christ. Through dynamic speakers, uplifting worship, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, these conferences help young people grow in faith, deepen their relationship with God, and embrace the call to live as missionary disciples.

The 2025 Steubenville Atlantic conference in Halifax was held July 11-13, 2025 at Dalhousie University. Here are some reflections shared by those who attended:

"I have been involved with the youth of our parish for about 30 years and have continued to grow with them. I have taken groups to Steubenville for the past 10 years and am truly amazed as I watch the transformation from the time they arrive on Friday afternoon until they leave on Sunday. They continue to inspire me every year. I guess that is why I stay.

This year was our largest group which meant we needed more chaperones. I want to thank Andrew Hachey, who has been with me from almost the beginning, Theresa Onochie and Joseph Banwo, our two newbies. Without their support and commitment, we would not have been able to send such a large group. I also wish to thank Fr. Paul and members of the parish who supported us through prayer and donations. You always come through for us. Blessings to all and we look forward to a larger group next year."

- Peggy

"Steubenville is honestly indescribable. Seeing so many people like me, coming to grow and strengthen their faith is amazing. Also, it's one of the few places in my life that I know Jesus is present, like he's right there with us. It's truly amazing! The music there is heavenly honestly, I always feel close to God when the music plays in that world. Going to Steubenville is like going to the moon, it's like I've left this world and I'm somewhere else closer to God.

All teens in the church, I don't care if you're shy, you haven't met me, I'm so shy. You honestly can make Catholic friends your age and as a teenager knowing you aren't alone in your faith is amazing."

- Deborah

"My experience in Steubenville was very eye opening, though, it was my second time participating, it was still a great experience where I was able to grow in my spirituality. I am very thankful to all those who made the event possible and a success. The attendance was inspiring and everyone was happy and felt blessed. I am truly privileged that I was able to attend through God's grace."

- Owen

COMMUNITY

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - OCT 3

In honour of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of Creation, Ecology, and all God's creatures, our parish celebrated the Blessing of Animals on Sunday, October 4.

A large and lively group of furry friends gathered—mostly dogs, with one special guest, Lola, a beautiful 21-year-old cat. Father offered a general blessing for all the animals, then invited anyone wishing a special individual blessing to bring their pet to the side. While Father continued the blessings, the rest of the crowd—both two-legged and four-legged—enjoyed the treats and fellowship that made this joyful event such a delight.

TESTIMONIAL

A Reflection on My Ministry as a Permanent Deacon

Since my ordination as a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth on August 10, 2004, I have been richly blessed by God to serve in many ways.

Over the past 21 years, I have ministered in several parishes as a deacon, while also serving in leadership roles at various parishes, including Saint Benedict Parish and the former St. Paul Parish, Dartmouth. I was also Chancellor for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. I will remain the Director of Deacons and Deacon Formation, and a deacon to this parish.* Throughout these years, I have been privileged to witness parishioners coming together to form new parishes, sharing their gifts and talents for the good of the Church. I have also seen strong leadership from pastors and laypeople, whose dedication has helped parishioners minister to one another for the glory of God.

My time at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (CPC) was especially meaningful. There, I worked alongside faith-filled and dedicated staff, serving under two Archbishops. I witnessed firsthand their compassion, their leadership, and their commitment to parishioners, to the Indigenous community, and to those who have been hurt by the Church.

None of my ministry would have been possible without the love and support of my wife, Donna-Lynne, and our children, Shannon and Jason. Balancing family, work, and diaconal service has often been challenging, but it has always been rewarding. As deacons, we are called to place our families first, then our work, and finally our ministry—and it is within this balance that I have found great grace.

Now, in retirement, I am prayerfully discerning where God is calling me next. At 75 years of age, my energy is not what it once was, but I trust in God's grace to guide me as I continue to serve the diocese in the ways I am able. I give thanks to God for the many blessings of these past years, and I look forward with confidence in His continued blessings in the years to come.

– DEACON ROBERT DOYLE

*Since this article was written, we have learned that Robert is leaving our parish to be a deacon at Holy Apostle Parish. We are very sorry to have him leave, but he's not completely gone. Robert will continue meeting deacon candidates at St. Ignatius Parish once a month and will join us for mass on the Sunday of the formation weekend. We look forward to his monthly visits to our parish!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word for Children is not "Sunday school." It is an integral part of the ritual prayer of the Mass, just as it is for adults. Its purpose is to help young people understand and engage with the Word of God.

During Children's Liturgy of the Word, children are invited to a sacred space of their own, where the Gospel is proclaimed using The Lectionary for Children. These readings are written in simple, age-appropriate language so that the stories of Jesus can be easily understood. There is also a time for discussion and questions, allowing children to explore the message of the Gospel in a meaningful way.

Although children may be in a separate space for this part of the Mass or may engage at a different level of understanding, they are never "dismissed" from the assembly. Their participation in Children's Liturgy is meant to enhance their inclusion in the Mass, not separate them from it.

Parents or guardians are always welcome to join. Training is available for anyone interested in becoming an adult leader in this special ministry.

For more information, please contact Peggy at religed@bellaliant.com

"START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT."

– PROVERBS 22:6



CAPITAL PROJECT 2025 – CHURCH RENOVATION

On June 22, we celebrated our final Mass in the church before closing it for renovations and moving worship to the parish hall. As soon as the last person left the 11 a.m. Mass, volunteers got right to work. Everything was taken down and moved into storage, while all items needed for summer Masses were carried over to the hall. The sanctuary chairs were loaded onto a truck for reupholstering. The next day, the pews were removed and the old carpeting torn up, preparing the space for painting. Scaffolding went up on July 2, and on July 4 the painters were hard at work. Our painters, Ian and Steve, covered the entire main church and AV loft in just three weeks.

The flooring crew faced a few unexpected setbacks. Originally scheduled for one week, their work stretched into August due to unforeseen issues: asbestos discovered in the old tile required safe removal, and a spongy floor necessitated a new subfloor.

Meanwhile, our craftsman, Thomas Moore, worked steadily in the background. He restored the long-boarded-up front window, repaired and reinstalled the stained glass in the entryway, and built a safety railing for the choir area. His crowning achievement was the stunning stained-glass shadow box of our

patron, St. Ignatius of Loyola — truly a masterpiece for our parish. This project was generously funded through a donation made in honour of longtime parish member Burton MacDonald, who passed away in October 2022.

Once construction wrapped up, volunteers returned once again to help put the church back together. And, of course, we can't forget the large metal container that sat in the parking lot for three weeks — a reminder of how full our renovation season truly was!

Finally, on August 16, we gathered joyfully for the first Mass back in our beautifully renewed church. This project didn't begin in June. Planning started back in December 2024, when our team met with Father Paul to plan the 2025 renovation. From tender calls and contracts to diocesan approvals, flooring and carpet selection, and the scheduling of trades, every detail had to be coordinated.

Of all our capital projects, this was the most extensive — and the most rewarding. Whenever help was needed, our parish community stepped forward with generosity and enthusiasm. Thank you to everyone who supported us along the way.

– **YVONNE FENWICK**
DAVE PENNINGTON
ANGELA KING
 Capital Project 2025 Team

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA: JOURNEY FROM NEW YORK TO OUR CHURCH

This is not the journey of our blessed patron saint, but the journey of our beloved new stained-glass window.

The window was originally manufactured in New York for the Sisters of Charity at Mount Saint Vincent University. When the Motherhouse was torn down, the Jesuits in Halifax were entrusted with the stained glass.

When they were leaving Halifax a few years ago, they faced a dilemma: what to do with Saint Ignatius. They reached out to our parish, and we gratefully accepted him. Since I had seen stained glass presented in a shadow box, I knew we could use it in our church.

Deciding to make a shadow box and actually making one are two very different things. I reached out to other parishes and dioceses and found that the best, and safest, option was to install it like a window between the main church and the Sacristy.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. Just as I was wondering who could take on this work, a former parishioner recommended a carpenter. And that's how Thomas Moore, of Doing Moore Right, came to our aid.

For those who don't know, Thomas restored some of the stained-glass windows in the front of our church. He worked tirelessly to make the new shadow box a reality — just in time for our grand reopening. He continues to restore and repair our windows.



Sometimes I sit in church and I can't believe how beautiful it looks and feels. Then I look over at St. Ignatius and I say, yes, it was worth every minute of time to get to this!

– YVONNE FENWICK

"IN EVERYTHING I DID, I SHOWED YOU THAT BY THIS KIND OF HARD WORK WE MUST HELP THE WEAK, REMEMBERING THE WORDS THE LORD JESUS HIMSELF SAID: 'IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE.'"

- ACTS 20:35



COMMUNITY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – JANUARY 1, 2025

On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, our church was full as we celebrated our Holy Mother, Mary, under her most important title: Mother of God. As has been our tradition at St. Ignatius for several years, everyone gathered in the hall afterward for a festive feast featuring hearty soups, chili, salads, and, of course, plenty of desserts. Everything was joyfully shared and washed down with egg nog, apple cider, tea, and coffee, according to each person's taste. It was a beautiful way to begin the New Year together as a parish family — in gratitude, peace, and celebration.

GROUPS IN THE HALL

Along with our parish activities, several community groups also meet in our hall. For contact details, please call the Parish Office.

Bedford Basin Toastmasters #3826192

Meets: Wednesdays at 7:15 pm, Parish Hall

Toastmasters International is a worldwide nonprofit that helps people build confidence in public speaking and leadership. Local clubs meet in a friendly, supportive environment where members practice giving speeches, leading discussions, and even thinking on their feet with impromptu speaking.

Tuesday Craft Group

Meets: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, Parish Office

A warm and welcoming circle of friends from our church and community who share talents in knitting, crocheting, and hooking. Our mission is simple: to enjoy each other's company while creating together. New crafters are always welcome!

Seniors Drop-In

Meets: Mondays from 1:00–3:00 pm, Parish Hall

A relaxed afternoon of card games, conversation, coffee, tea, and sweets. No commitment—just drop in when you're free. A 50/50 draw helps cover the cost of the treats.



THE GRAND RE-OPENING

On September 15, our parish joyfully celebrated the grand re-opening of our beautiful church, with Archbishop Dunn in attendance. As a parish we always feel the beauty of our parish on the inside; now we are showing it on the outside!

It was a dual occasion - the reopening of our church and the introduction of Joseph Banwo into the Diaconate (more on that in another article).

Well over 200 people attended the Mass, followed by a reception that drew even more parishioners and friends. The hall looked beautiful and remained full for over an hour - a wonderful sign of the excitement and strong community of faith we share at Saint Ignatius. Having our Archbishop stay to enjoy the feast with us was an extra blessing!

We extend heartfelt thanks to the CWL for hosting and serving, to Nimfa and Alberto Bautista for their generous donation of delicious hot food, and to all those who completed the feast with salads and desserts.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE & EXPENSES - 3RD QUARTER 2025

Monies Received	\$	Expenses Incurred	\$
Sunday Collections		General Maintenance	101,125
E-Transfer Donations	36,364	Capital Maintenance	181,577
Envelopes	99,086	Insurance	11,393
Loose Collection	24,821	Property Taxes, Water Fees	14,250
Pre-Authorized Remittances	154,826	Ministry Supplies & Expenses	42,080
Christmas, Easter, New Year's	10,626	Electricity	11,959
Building Maintenance	24,717	Equipment & Fixtures	12,496
TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$350,440	Fuel	5,447
Other		Office Administration Expenses	9,277
Donations, interest, formation	67,873	Salaries & Benefits	126,720
Rental income, parking fees, rebates	24,712	Rectory Expenses	10,360
Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms	5,052	Communications	5,825
Grants, Bequests	0	Diocesan Assessment	47,637
Monies transferred from Funds on Deposit with Diocese	150,000		
TOTAL MONIES RECEIVED	\$598,077	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$580,146

DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT

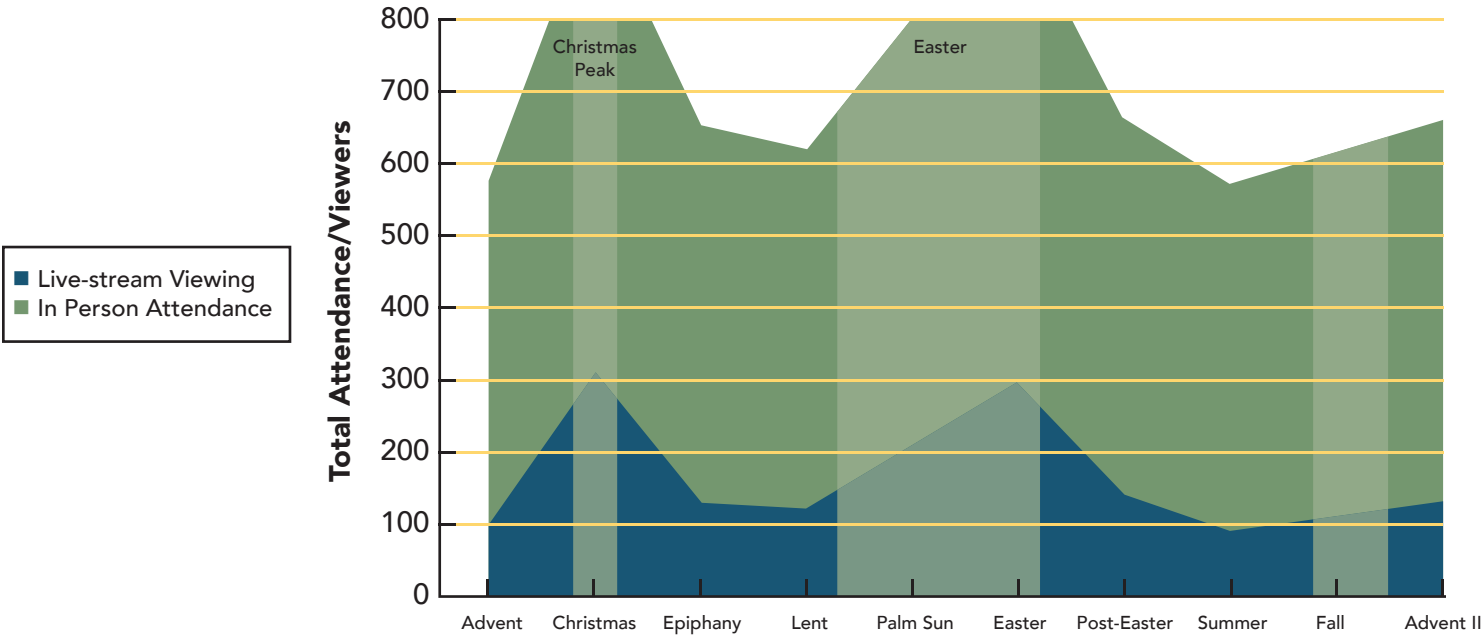
The Archdiocesan Assessment is a monthly payment by each parish to the diocese which enables an equitable sharing of the resources of the Archdiocese among its members. It's calculated on the basis of the previous years of "net assessable revenue", not the gross amount of ordinary revenue each parish receives.

This is a breakdown of the St. Ignatius Parish Assessment for the past seven years.

Year	Total Paid Per Year
2019 (January - December)	\$65,017
2020 (January - December)	\$32,708
2021 (January - December)	\$56,376
2022 (January - December)	\$56,360
2023 (January - December)	\$56,594
2024 (January - December)	\$56,568
2025 (January - December)	\$65,000



IN-PERSON & ONLINE PARTICIPATION (2025)



In-person worship remains the cornerstone of parish life, averaging roughly 500–600 total attendees across weekends. Online participation continues as a valuable complement, accounting for 15–20% of total engagement. This hybrid model ensures that those unable to attend physically remain connected to the liturgy and parish life.

PROPORTIONAL GIVING

Some people may wonder how their income relates to their parish giving. The Following is a simple tool to give you an idea of how a weekly contribution is related to income. Something to prayerfully consider.

Total Household Annual Income	1%	2%	5%
\$10,000	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$30.00
\$20,000	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$40.00
\$30,000	\$6.00	\$12.00	\$30.00
\$40,000	\$4.00	\$8.00	\$40.00
\$50,000	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$50.00
\$60,000	\$12.00	\$24.00	\$60.00
\$70,000	\$14.00	\$28.00	\$70.00
\$80,000	\$16.00	\$32.00	\$80.00
\$90,000	\$18.00	\$36.00	\$90.00
\$100,000	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$100.00

How did we get these numbers? Your annual household income divided by % and number of weeks in a year (52.1429), rounded up to next \$10.

“SOW
GENEROUSLY
AND REAP
GENEROUSLY.”

- 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6



2025 JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATIONS AT ST. IGNATIUS

The Jubilee theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” reminds us of the enduring hope that flows from faith and grace — a hope that does not fade.

This fall, as part of the Church’s 2025 Jubilee Year, our Archdiocese invited parishes to celebrate with four gatherings — one for each of the pastoral priorities: Catechesis, Evangelization, Social Justice, and Liturgy.

At St. Ignatius Parish, we marked the Jubilee Year with four special events and a parish pilgrimage.

Jubilee of Catechesis – September 19

At the 9 AM Mass, we celebrated the Jubilee of Catechesis. During this Mass, our catechists were blessed and commissioned to continue their ministry of teaching and sharing the Catholic faith with our children, helping them grow in understanding and love of God

Jubilee Town Halls

The parish also held three town hall gatherings after the Sunday Masses to reflect on the remaining diocesan priorities: Evangelization, Social Justice, and Liturgy. Each town hall focused on listening together as a community and discerning how God is calling our parish to grow and serve in faith and hope.

Jubilee of Evangelization – October 26

On this Sunday, we celebrated all those involved in evangelization within our parish - those who spread the Good News by word, witness, and service. The event was open to everyone interested in deepening their understanding of what it means to be missionary disciples.

Social Justice Sunday – November 16

Our Social Justice Sunday brought together members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women’s League, and others dedicated to justice and service. This town hall provided a wonderful opportunity to share experiences, strengthen partnerships, and renew our collective commitment to those in need.

Jubilee of the Liturgy – November 23

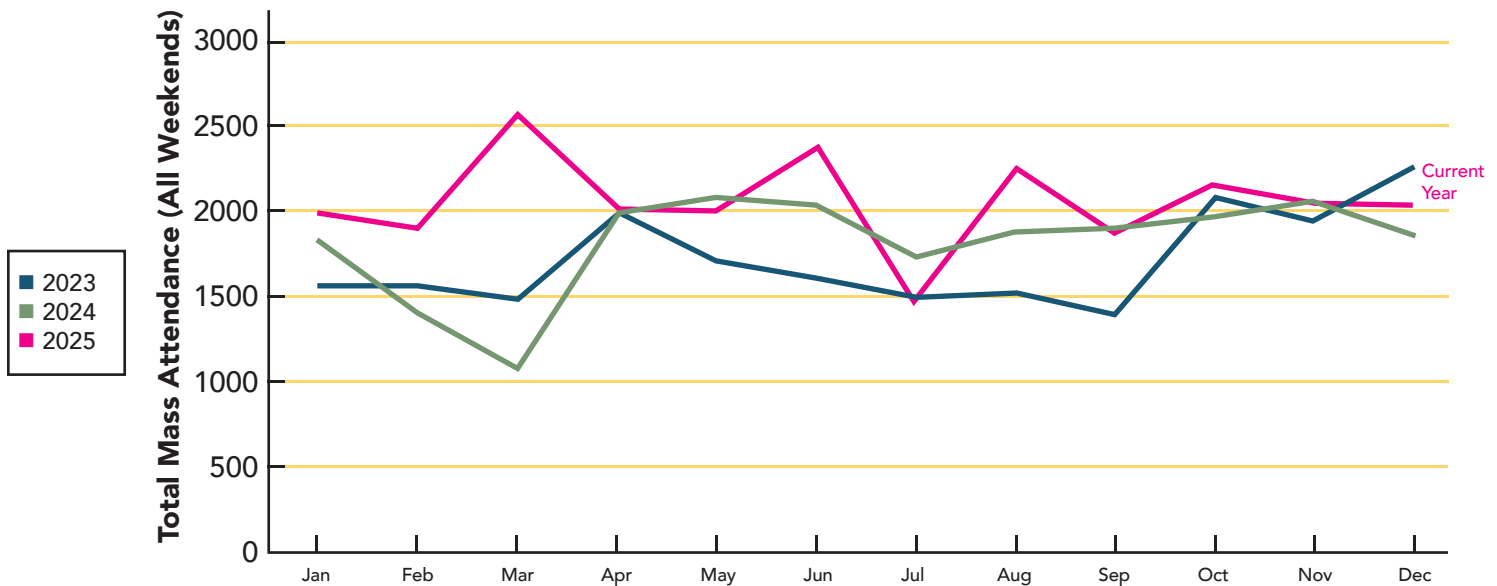
We concluded our Jubilee series with the Jubilee of the Liturgy, our largest gathering of all. This event brought together everyone involved in preparing and celebrating the Mass - from those who decorate the Sanctuary to the Deacons, Choir, Ushers, Greeters, AV Technicians, Altar Servers, and all who serve our worship community in any way. It was a joyful celebration of the gifts and dedication that enrich our liturgical life.

Pilgrimage to St. Mary’s Cathedral – October 19

In addition to the parish gatherings, Father Paul led a group of parishioners on a pilgrimage walk from Holy Cross Cemetery to St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica. The day included a guided tour of the Basilica and participation in the 5 PM Sunday Mass. The walk was made especially meaningful as Father Paul shared his insights into the rich history of the area and the Basilica itself.

Through these celebrations, our parish joined the global Church in living out the Jubilee theme - “Pilgrims of Hope” - deepening our faith, strengthening community, and renewing our sense of mission for the journey ahead.

PARISH MASS ATTENDANCE TRENDS (2023-2025)



Overall attendance shows a steady post-pandemic recovery, with 2025 surpassing both 2023 and 2024 in most months. Seasonal peaks continue at Lent/Easter and Christmas, confirming these as the parish's strongest periods of participation. A predictable summer lull, as well as our renovations which had us gathering in the parish hall for mass for 2 months, is followed by renewed engagement in autumn. The 2025 line holds strong through the year, ending with a projected December total marked as 'Year in Progress,' signaling continued vitality.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

We are deeply grateful for your generosity, which sustains our parish community. Your financial support makes possible the celebration of the sacraments, the care of our church and property, the work of our staff, and the many ministries that serve our people and the wider community. Thank you for giving to St. Ignatius from the heart.

Ways to Give:

- Parish Envelopes – Traditional weekly envelopes can be placed in the collection at Mass or dropped off at the parish office.
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) – With PAR, your offering is withdrawn automatically each month, ensuring steady support for the parish and peace of mind for you. PAR forms (green) are available in the church porch or at the parish office.
- E-Transfer – Contributions can also be made easily through your online banking. Please use our parish email: stigparish@gmail.com.

Every gift—large or small—is received with gratitude. Together, we make St. Ignatius a parish of prayer, welcome, and service. Thank you for your generosity to your parish family!



TESTIMONIAL

There is always a day two.

Throughout our human journey there are day Ones, but they are always followed by day Twos. Day Ones are the events in our lives that mark starts on our journey. Day Twos are the walking forward from these events.

Day One is our conception. Day Two our birth. Graduation is Day One, and Day two follows as we enter the world around us. Marriage or ordination is day One followed by living that unbreakable commitment. And as we walk our earthly journey of Day Twos, we are often faced by events that are unplanned and radically change our path.

Over the past 14 months I have experienced the Day one of a medical event. In June of 2024 I was diagnosed with a stage four cancer tumor in one of my nostrils. Cancer can instill fear. That's what I initially experienced. But Day two came and my first thoughts on that morning were to give thanks. Thanks that I had been given seventy-eight years of love. Whatever lay ahead was to be a gift from God.

From June to December, I received monthly sessions of Blood work and Chemo / Immuno therapy. This was followed in January when half of my nose was surgically removed. The next stage was six months of radiation therapy, six sessions a week.

On September 15th, I found myself back in the operating room to begin reconstruction. I had requested a Hollywood nose. We'll see.

That's the journey. But the most important part of this journey is that I was never alone. My wife was at my side constantly, giving up her life to be with me. Our children, living in far reaches of the earth were constantly with me. The community of St. Ignatius were with me. The reaching out, the prayers, the ever-present concern of all were and are still with me. This is the gift that I received every minute of every day. A gift that I can only give thanks.

When I was able to be with the community I was often greeted with the words "It's so good to see you". To which I could only reply "It's good to be seen."

Our Day twos are the beginnings of our journey on earth. A journey that is always allowing us to step into other people's shoes and walk with them just as they did for me. My prayers are in thanksgiving for all who walk with me. God bless and thank you. We will be together again.

– DEACON TOM SMITH

COMMUNITY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – JANUARY 1, 2025

On Wednesday, January 1, 2025, our church was full as we celebrated our Holy Mother, Mary, under her most important title: Mother of God. As has been our tradition at St. Ignatius for several years, everyone gathered in the hall afterward for a festive feast featuring hearty soups, chili, salads, and, of course, plenty of desserts. Everything was joyfully shared and washed down with egg nog, apple cider, tea, and coffee, according to each person's taste. It was a beautiful way to begin the New Year together as a parish family — in gratitude, peace, and celebration.

GARDEN GROUP

The gardening season kicked off with a heartfelt call to volunteers for a parish yard clean-up. An enthusiastic group turned out to weed, shovel soil and mulch, dig out invasive plants, and tidy up the grounds surrounding the parish buildings.

A heartfelt thank-you to: Wanda Hall, Ewan Lecompte, Logan Thorpe, Sandra Pereira, Mary Anne Waite, Patricia and Fernando Monteiro, Ulpiano Sanchez, Jody Campbell, Kurt Estorninos, Aileen Estorninos, and Joseph Banwo.

Several exciting projects were completed including the construction of the raspberry planter, and the completion of the brick garden wall beside the church.

COMMUNITY

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Craft Group has been busy again in 2025 with their prayer shawl ministry.

A prayer shawl is more than just a shawl — it is a gift of prayer, comfort, and love. Each shawl is hand-knitted or crocheted by members of our parish who pray for the recipient as they work. Once finished, the shawls are blessed and then shared with those in need of comfort, healing, or encouragement, as

well as with those celebrating special milestones of faith. Wrapped in a prayer shawl, the recipient is surrounded by God's love and the prayers of our faith community.

The group gratefully accepts donations of new yarn. Approximately 1,200 yards of worsted weight yarn are needed to make one shawl.

If you know someone who would be comforted by receiving a prayer shawl, or if you would like to join this ministry, please contact Peggy at religed@bellaliant.com or through the parish office at 902-835-2910.



CELEBRATION OF FAITH AND CULTURE

The Celebration of Faith and Culture

On Sunday, November 2, 2025, following a packed 11 a.m. Mass, our parish was treated to a wonderful buffet of traditional African dishes, graciously prepared and served by parishioners of African heritage. This was the second year that the community organized this beautiful event, and once again it was a tremendous success, with more than 250 parishioners gathering in the hall to share the meal.

This year, the celebration extended beyond the feast to include active participation in the Mass itself. Parishioners served as lectors and Eucharistic ministers and presented the Offertory gifts. The event—fittingly titled The Celebration of Faith and Culture—was a true reflection of unity, joy, and faith in action. What a beautiful gift to our parish—and what a magnificent feast!

"The African community hopes to make this an annual tradition, with the ongoing support of our Parish Priest. To the glory of God, our children continue to use their gifts and talents to serve the parish—as lectors, choir members, Sunday School teachers, youth group members, AV assistants, and altar servers. Many of our men have joined the Knights of Columbus, and our women serve faithfully as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and volunteers. I encourage my African sisters in faith to join the CWL and help it remain strong and vibrant for future generations.

Finally, I wish to express special pride and joy for my brother in faith, Joseph Banwo, as he continues his journey toward becoming a Deacon.

On behalf of the African community, I sincerely thank Father Paul and the entire St. Ignatius Parish for your warm welcome, acceptance, and support. We are grateful for the opportunity to share our gifts and to help our parish grow ever stronger—by God's grace. Bless you all!"

– THERESA ONOCHIE,
on behalf of the group

TESTIMONIAL

Before joining St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, we were active members of St. John Vianney Parish for about forty years. During that time, Vi entered the RCIA program and became involved in religious education, assisting with receptions, days of enrichment, hospitality, and serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist. David participated in music ministry, liturgy, Parish Council, stewardship, finance, hospitality, and days of enrichment.



Since coming to St. Ignatius, we have continued to be involved in parish life. We both serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and in hospitality, and we have also participated in Alpha. David serves additionally as a lector and usher, helps with the preparation for daily Mass, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus. "As members of the parish family, we try to help wherever we can, grateful for the opportunity to serve and grow within our faith community."

– DAVID AND VI SMITH

"It is rare to come to the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass and not find David and Vi at the door to greet you. David can also be found most days leading or participating in the Holy Rosary beforehand, and reading Scripture at daily Mass. We are so blessed to have them as part of our parish family at St. Ignatius."

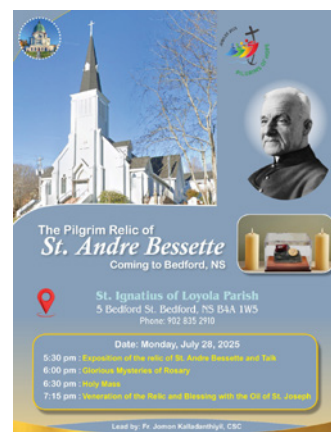
- Yvonne Fenwick

VENERATION OF ST. ANDRE BESSETTE

From July 25 to 31, 2025, the Archdiocese of Halifax–Yarmouth was honored to receive the primary relic of Saint André Bessette, on loan from Saint Joseph's Oratory and the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal. On July 28, our parish was privileged to be part of this sacred diocesan tour.

Father Jomon Kalladanthiyil, CSC, from Saint Joseph's Oratory, celebrated Mass and offered a detailed presentation on Saint André's life and path to sainthood. He recalled how, through perseverance and faith, Brother André built the first chapel in Montreal dedicated to Saint Joseph—what would become the great Saint Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal.

We are grateful to Father Jomon, the Congregation of Holy Cross, and all who made this visit possible. Above all, we thank our parishioners and guests who joined us in prayer. May Saint André's humility and trust in God continue to inspire our community in faith and service.



CHALICE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Chalice Share Tables Invites You!

Chalice Share Tables is a new initiative designed to support individuals in need as they navigate today's economic challenges. The program offers:

- Basic money management skills training
- Interest-free personal loans of up to \$750 for critical needs
- Opportunities for regular small savings

Already established in the Truro area, Chalice Share Tables has expanded to Bedford this fall, using space offered by our parish.

On September 13, 2025, Chalice hosted a Come and See session, which included a short presentation, group discussion, and time for questions. Ongoing, the group will meet for bi-weekly gatherings throughout the year.

The program is built on leadership and accompaniment, with the help of three leaders that are willing to walk alongside the working poor, sharing their experiences, talents, and skills. Leaders encourage participants to manage their finances well, grow their savings, and work toward living free from unnecessary debt.

If you are interested in becoming a leader or if you'd like more information - please contact:

SELVI ROY

Chalice Share Tables Coordinator
selviroy@chalice.ca
902-252-3917 ext. 108



TESTIMONIAL

Creating the Sanctuary Banners

When the Liturgy Committee asked me to help create the new Sanctuary banners, I hesitated. I've never had formal training and don't sew for income. My mother, a skilled tailor, taught her four daughters that sewing was an essential life skill. From her, I learned finish work, overcasting, and hemming. Of the four of us, I'm the one who continued beyond the basics.

Over the years, my love of sewing deepened – from making clothes and home décor to quilting. I've learned that while luxurious fabrics like silk, satin, and velvet are beautiful, they can be difficult to work with. Still, I find joy in handling fine textiles, blending colours, and watching a project come to life.

When the request came, it was close to Christmas and my daughter and her family were arriving from Spain. My schedule was full, but I felt called to give back to my parish and agreed. With members of the Liturgy Committee, we spent a productive day selecting fabric and supplies.

We didn't use a pattern; I designed a prototype that made the banners easy to hang and store. Working in my small space with a modest sewing machine and fluid, fraying fabric was challenging, but the process was rewarding.

When the banners were complete, I felt grateful to have contributed to the beauty of our church. I see volunteering as a form of almsgiving – a way to return thanks for the blessings I've received. Giving isn't always easy, but it is fulfilling. My part was small compared to the many who serve tirelessly at Saint Ignatius, yet it was my joy to offer it.

– FATIMA MEDEIROS



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP)



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a worldwide lay Catholic organization whose mission is simple yet profound: to serve Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy. At St. Ignatius, our founding activity remains the Home Visit,

meeting people where they are, listening with compassion, and offering not just assistance, but friendship and understanding.

This past year, thanks to the dedication of 28 active members (39 in total) and the unwavering support of our parish community, we have been blessed to serve our neighbours in Bedford in many meaningful ways. With five rotating teams answering calls for help each day, we:

- Volunteered more than 4,000 hours of service.
- Made 409 home visits, walking with families through difficult times.
- Delivered 327 Beacon House orders.
- Distributed \$50,000 in grocery gift cards throughout the year, including the Christmas season.
- Supported urgent needs such as rent, power, heating, water, medical, dental, and transportation costs.

Beyond this daily work, our parish conference also contributed to the broader mission of service. We faithfully maintained our monthly commitment of preparing and delivering six casseroles to Hope Cottage. Our long-standing twinning partnership with St. Finbar's Conference in Trinidad and Tobago remains active, reminding us that our Vincentian family extends across the world. Together with our parish and community, we responded to special appeals, for example, helping a newcomer family with a newborn through targeted fundraising and outreach.

And once again, our Sponsor a Family Christmas campaign was a resounding success. With a record-breaking \$35,000 raised, we were able not only to brighten Christmas for many families but also to extend support well into 2025.

While much of our work focuses on responding to urgent needs, we also strive to walk alongside families as they work toward long-term stability. Through our Navigator Project, we continue to address systemic issues such as debt, housing insecurity, and barriers to education.

This year, with support from our Particular Council, we were able to provide systemic financial assistance to a single mother in Bedford, enabling her to complete the final year of her post-secondary education, a step that will create lasting change for her and her family. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our parish community. Your prayers, donations, and encouragement are the reason we can serve. Each act of giving, whether financial, material, or spiritual, makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbours.

We also owe deep thanks to our members, whose time, talent, and energy bring the mission of Saint Vincent de Paul to life every single day.

Looking ahead, we know the need is growing. To meet this, new membership is essential. If you feel called to live your faith in a practical way, by bringing hope, friendship, and support to those less fortunate, please consider joining us. Together, we can continue to serve Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope, and joy.

ELIZABETH LAPPIN CLARK
SSVP St. Ignatius Conference President
president@ssvpsaintignatius.org

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)

ANNUAL REPORT OCTOBER 2025



Service to God and Canada through membership in the Catholic Women's League of Canada has brought women into the light of God's love for all.

CWL Activities – Past Year

Over the past year, the Catholic Women's League has been blessed to serve our parish and community in many ways. We:

- Continued to sponsor an elderly person through Chalice Canada
- Presented a wreath at the Bedford Cenotaph during the Remembrance Day service on November 11
- Celebrated the World Day of Prayer in March, highlighting the women of the Cook Islands, and contributed to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada
- Hosted First Communion and Confirmation receptions, and provided spiritual mementos to the children receiving their sacraments
- Provided spiritual cards and books to RCIA candidates
- Awarded a \$500 scholarship to a Grade 12 graduating student in June 2025
- Hosted two Trivia Nights, raising \$820 in support of youth attending Steubenville Atlantic
- Hosted 10 diaconate lunches and dinners in the parish hall
- Hosted 10 funeral receptions
- Hosted a reception for Father Paul's 25th anniversary of ordination
- Contributed funds to church renovation project



In addition, St. Ignatius CWL made donations to many organizations, including,

- St. Vincent de Paul
- Beacon House, Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority, Catholic Missions in Canada
- Coady Institute, Development and Peace, and, Catholic Near East Welfare Association

This year marks 42 years of the St. Ignatius CWL. We remain committed to faithfully supporting our parish and community. The CWL council of St Ignatius parish meets monthly in person, usually at 2pm on the third Sunday of every month. We have 48 members, and are involved in numerous activities and charities.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE POTHIER

President, CWL St Ignatius Parish



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 9404

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society with over two million members worldwide, offering fellowship and financial security to members and their families.

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT:

2024-25 has been an exciting year for the Bedford Council of the Knights of Columbus. Knights have been very active in the parish community this year. Thank you to the Council executive and all 86 of the Council 9404 Brothers who work throughout the year supporting the pastoral team and parishioners of the Parish of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and also the broader community.

Bedford Council 9404 – Parish Community Involvement Summary

Building Parish Community by:

- Hosting a weekly Drop-In at the parish hall where seniors enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and playing cards.
- Assisting the parish Religious Coordinator in making Christmas Advent wreaths.
- Sponsoring a Family Skate at the LeBrun Center, serving hot chocolate and sweets.
- Hosting regular cribbage game nights for parishioners and guests.
- Awarding an annual \$500 bursary to a parish youth pursuing post-secondary studies.
- Faith and Parish Support Activities

Members also volunteer across various parish committees and ministries, including:

- Music Ministry
- Lay Ministries
- Rosary Prayer Group
- AV Team
- Maintenance Committee

Faith and Parish Support Activities

- Volunteers serve at Sunday and weekday Masses as Ushers, Readers, and Ministers of the Eucharist.
- The Council Youth Director organizes the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest for parish youth, with monetary prizes in several categories.
- Members set up the Christmas crib outside the church.



- We present each First Communion candidate with Rosary Beads and each Confirmation candidate with a cross to mark their sacramental milestones.
- We proudly hosted the Silver Rose Program at Saint Ignatius Church in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Fundraising for parish programs:

- The Council raises funds to support parish and community activities, never for members' personal benefit.
- A key fundraiser is the Annual Cash Calendar, which awards monthly prizes; last year 120 calendars were sold.
- The Council is grateful to parishioners for their ongoing generosity and support.
- Get Involved - Everyone is welcome: You don't have to be a member to help — all assistance is appreciated.

Membership is free. Visit: www.kofc.org/joinus

"Come join us and we can do great things together!"

JOHN MAYICH, GRAND KNIGHT
Knights Of Columbus, Council 9404

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

The year 2025 will always be remembered as a significant one for our parish – marked by meaningful improvements to the look and feel of our beautiful church. The stained-glass shadowbox of our Patron Saint, Saint Ignatius of Loyola was truly the highlight of the year.

While many projects were completed in 2025, many important ones remain. Most of the required funds to complete these projects will come from the sale of our commercial property on Bedford Highway and existing funds on deposit with the Diocese.

Capital Projects for 2026

Focus: Church and Rectory

Church

- Roof
- Siding
- Doors
- Sacristy Renovation
- New Lighting (near completion)
- New Sound System

Our top priorities include installing a new roof and siding, and replacing the exterior doors. The roof has lost many shingles over time and has been on our list for several years. With no response to our tender call for a metal roof, we will proceed with an asphalt roof instead. Since scaffolding will already be in place, replacing the siding at the same time makes practical and financial sense.

A full renovation of the Sacristy will address structural repairs, remove remaining asbestos, and include the installation of a dedicated heat pump to ensure a comfortable space year-round.

The lighting project is nearing completion, and a new sound system will enhance clarity and reduce echo during Mass, improving the overall worship experience.

Rectory

- Roof
- Flooring
- New Driveway & Sod
- Asbestos Removal and Insulation

Rebuilding the driveway and lawn, delayed from 2025, will also be completed in 2026. Similarly, replacing the attic insulation with modern, energy-efficient materials – another deferred 2025 project – will now be done in conjunction with the roofing work.

Part of the rectory roof was repaired about six years ago, but a full replacement is now needed. The timing is ideal to coordinate this with asbestos removal from the attic and the installation of high-density insulation.

The flooring, now more than 25 years old, requires a new subfloor and updated materials for safety and comfort.

Hall and Safety Upgrades

Two essential hall projects, mandated by the Fire Inspector, will be undertaken:

- Installation of a new single-phase fire alarm system
- Reconstruction of the hall basement ceiling with proper fire separation and an enclosed furnace room.

All of this work is made possible through your continued generosity and support. Together, we are building not just for today, but for the future – strengthening our faith community for years to come.

– THE CAPITAL PROJECTS TEAM

“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD. HIS LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.”

- PSALM 107:1

WE NEED YOU!

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

1. Financially Support

Your generosity keeps our parish strong and active! Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) is our preferred method of giving — it provides a steady and reliable source of income for parish needs. Envelopes are still available, and cash donations at Mass are always welcome. Every gift, great or small, makes a difference!

2. Time and Talent

We're blessed with a caring, gifted parish community — and there's a place for everyone! Share your skills and spirit by volunteering with one of our many ministries or committees:

Committees and groups who need you:

- Pastoral Council
- Finance Committee
- Maintenance Team
- Capital Projects
- Liturgy Committee
- Adult Faith Formation
- Eucharistic Ministry
- Lectors
- Greeters & Ushers
- Compassionate Care
- Religious Ed Teachers
- Adult Formation
- Musicians & Choir Members
- Audio-Visual Techs (training provided)
- Gardening Group
- Parish Event Volunteers (food, setup, kitchen help)
- Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- Catholic Women's League (CWL)
- Knights of Columbus (K of C)

Many hands make light work - and all is done for the glory of the Lord!

3. Fellowship

Join parish gatherings, special events, and celebrations! Connecting and sharing with fellow parishioners builds the sense of belonging we all need — as Catholics and as members of the wider community.

Want to Get Involved?

Contact the Parish Office: 902-835-2910 | saintignatius@bellaliant.com

**Your time, talent, and treasure help our parish thrive.
We truly need YOU!**



5 Bedford Street
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1W5

Tel: (902) 835-2910
Email: saintignatius@bellaliant.com