

# St. Ignatius Parish

*St. Ignatius Church-St. Alban's*

*St. Anne's Church- Conne River*

Pastor: Reverend Patrick Osuji

Secretary: Doug Lambert

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March 24, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update of the financial situation of St. Ignatius Parish. Unfortunately, it is a bleak picture. For some time now, our yearly expenses have been exceeding our income. Currently our yearly expenses run to approximately \$150000.00 and our income is approximately \$110000.00. To date, the deficit has been covered by using money from our Savings account which had been built up from our past successful Chase the Ace fundraiser. The Savings account is now approximately \$200000.00, and was originally meant to take care of major repairs and purchases. If another source of income is not found in the near future, this savings account will be depleted by 2028 or sooner. As a Parish Council, we have been struggling for some time on how to resolve this situation, but there are no easy solutions. As I'm sure you can understand, this situation will have to change or we will have no choice but to make some very difficult decisions.

How did we arrive at this point where our expenses far exceed our income? There are a number of factors, some of which are completely out of our control. St. Ignatius Church has always been and remains a source of pride for all the communities of Bay d'Espoir, and traditionally, the parish has always been well supported. However, in recent years, the number of active parishioners who financially contribute to the parish have dwindled, through deaths, residents moving away, and those who did not return after the pandemic shutdown. Our regular parishioners now number about 100. While we deeply appreciate their financial support, it is not enough to cover our current monthly expenses. Besides the regular envelope donation, the only other sources of income have been our monthly 50/50 fundraiser, donations, and grant money that we have been successful in obtaining. At the same time, our regular expenses have been increasing: heating fuel, insurance, building maintenance and replacing aging equipment. In spite of all efforts to cut costs such as a part time administrative assistant instead of a full time one, reducing heating in the parish residence, and using the chapel for weekday masses instead of heating the church, our expenses still far exceed our income.

St. Ignatius Church was built by the community and is the heart of the community. It has served our ministry needs for over 60 years: celebration of masses, funerals, weddings, baptisms, preparation and celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation for our youth, and other liturgical celebrations such as Stations of the Cross, Rosary, and Penitential services. If we wish to continue using this beautiful church for the ministry needs of the community development of our spiritual life then we will have to make a commitment to increase our financial support of the parish.

We are asking you to please reflect on this letter. We are asking you to please support the church even if you do not attend regular services because the church will be there for you and your family when you need it. If you do not want to use envelopes for regular donations, it is very easy to set up an **automatic deposit** with your bank and that information is included below. If you wish to use an **e-transfer**, you can send it directly to [st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:st.ignatius@nf.sympatico.ca). Many people already use these convenient options. If you have any suggestions for sources of income that we are not aware of, please feel free to get in touch. We will be happy to hear from you.

Thank you to all who have served and supported St. Ignatius. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

St. Ignatius Parish Council

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#### Electronic Funds Registration Form for St. Ignatius Parish, St. Alban's

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to donate \_\_\_ per  week/ month  
to the upkeep of St. Ignatius Parish.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Please select ONE:

- My voided cheque is enclosed  
 My banking information is as follows:

Name of Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Number (3 digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

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