

# ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

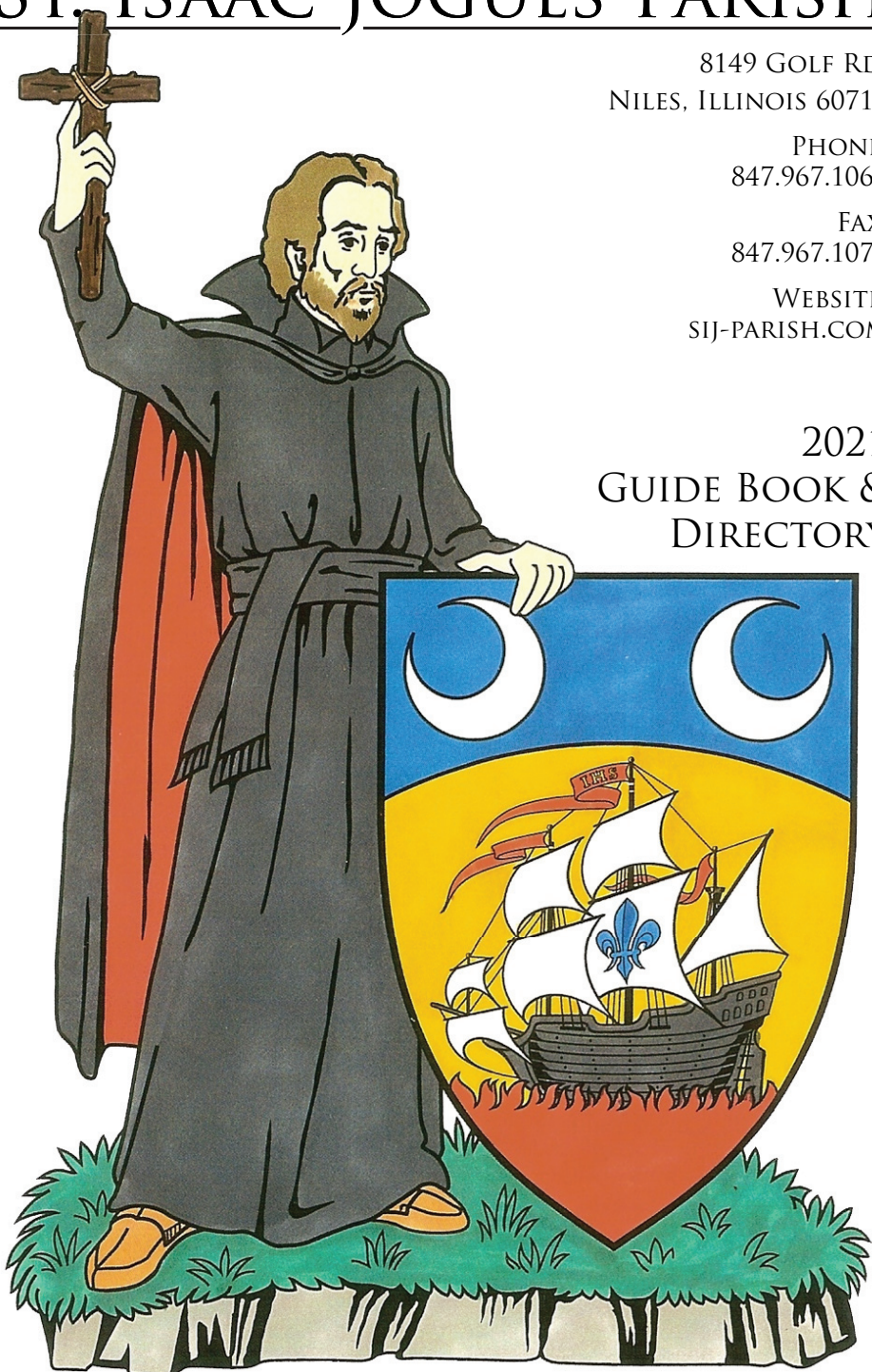
8149 GOLF RD.  
NILES, ILLINOIS 60714

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2021  
GUIDE BOOK &  
DIRECTORY



# ST. ISAAC JOGUES PARISH

8149 Golf Road, Niles, Illinois 60714  
Phone: 847 967-1060 • Fax: 847 967-1070  
Website: [sij-parish.com](http://sij-parish.com)  
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## PASTOR LETTER

Dear Parishioners:

It has been a while since we updated our directory. It is especially important now due to the Covid - 19 restrictions in place. We depend so much on technology to communicate with each other and share information and pass it on to others. We use the means available to us today. We learned from the wellness phone calls from the rectory since Covid-19 restrictions began, that many parishioners have changed their telephone number, so we've spent some time trying to get the parish system updated and share the new information with you so that everyone is aware of the happenings at church and the ministries that are continue. We thank you for your cooperation and eagerness to help us with it by furnishing the changes as it would benefit all of us.

We thank our donors and advertisers for their support in our cause. As always with the support of our Staff, Councils, Commissions and Committees, we are able to serve you and the parish community of St. Isaac Jogues Church. May God bless us all.



Faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Mario Pereira, S.F.X.  
Pastor

### ***Please note:***

*1. This directory is for the private use of our parishioners. It is not to be lent, sold or given to any person, company or agency for any purpose whatsoever. Everyone's cooperation is asked for and expected out of respect for the persons listed. Thank you.*

*2. Due to Archdiocesan and State policies regarding activities during Covid-19, please check the parish website or call the Rectory regarding Mass times, other Sacramental celebrations and schedules of meetings or events. Many groups are meeting virtually or not at all.*



## MISSION STATEMENT

**“A Catholic Parish sharing experiences of  
the Kingdom of God”**

## INFORMATION ON THE RITES OF THE CHURCH

**Baptism** - Every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 1:30 p.m. except Advent & Lent. Other arrangements are possible for special circumstances. Baptism preparation class, held on the first Tuesday of each month, is required for new parents or those who have not attended a preparation class within the past 3 years. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

**Marriage** - Wedding preparation sessions are required. Please contact the rectory no less than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date.

**Anointing** - Available day or night. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

**Last Rites** - Available day or night. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

**Funeral** - We suggest you work with the funeral home of your choice to begin your arrangements. The funeral director will call St. Isaac Jogues to coordinate dates and times. We are available to assist with Wake services, Funeral Mass preparation and Committal. If you have questions or need assistance, please call the rectory.

**Reconciliation** - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – Noon, or by appointment. Please call the rectory.

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday	8:00 a.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:00, 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.

## MEET OUR STAFF

### **Rev. Mario Pereira, S.F.X., Pastor**

Rev. Carlos Pereira, S.F.X., Associate Pastor

Deacon Paul Stanton (Dolores), Parish Deacon

Lisa Hall, Director of Music

Dolores Stanton, Director of Religious Education

Lori Ronczka, Business Manager

### **Administrative Support**

Marlene Garber

### **Maintenance**

Jerzy Sokolowski

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## ORGANIZATIONS COUNCILS

Finance Council

Parish Pastoral Council

## COMMISSIONS

Human Concerns

Spiritual Life/Education

Parish Life

*In the following pages, we will describe the mission and focus of each commission and the activities, events and ministries performed by committees and members of the commissions.*

## FINANCE COUNCIL

### Function and Purpose

*Mandated by Canon Law, this body serves the Pastor in an advisory and consultative manner. The members, chosen by the pastor, from the community have demonstrated skills in business management and or finance and is not a part of the Parish Pastoral Council structure.*

Members meet regularly, to review current and projected parish finances. They are also responsible for providing input to the pastor in any/all decisions according to strictly defined Archdiocesan guidelines. They are required to attest to the published semi-annual and annual reports which are prepared and submitted to the Cardinal.

### Current Members

Barbara Watson  
Irene Baron

Kathy Denning  
Lori Ronczka

Gerry Zeller



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ted Lenart, Chairperson

### Statement of Purpose

- To serve as a consultative body to the pastor providing guidance for the spiritual life, education, community building and outreach activities of the parish
- To discern prayerfully and communicate the needs of the parish
- To help empower the parish to carry out the mission of Christ

### Function

A diverse group of advisors, from many backgrounds, called by the Spirit to serve and advise the pastor and our parish community, representing the four commissions and many committees, we serve as a bridge between the parish community and the pastor. It is our responsibility to provide input on matters that fulfill the statement of purpose and to listen to comments, concerns & questions raised by parishioners and consider that information in a prayerful way that results in attention, discussion, resolution and communication. We serve as “gatekeepers” or coordinators of all of the commissions and committees within St. Isaac Jogues to make sure everyone’s needs are met.

### Participation

Parishioners can become a member of the PPC in several ways. Parishioners can be recommended or invited to join and we’re always looking for prayerful, spiritual people to help guide the parish. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Mario Pereira.



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JENENE PATERNO  
*Community Relations*

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Glenview, IL 60025

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Irene Baron  
Gerry Zeller  
Maria Swidzinski

John Kadiri  
Kathy Lord  
Fernando Bonto

Debbie Dexter  
Dolores Stanton  
Lori Ronczka

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

### **Altar Servers - Dee Stanton**

Youth servers (Grade 4 and older) assist at weekend Masses and weddings. Adult servers assist at daily Masses and funerals. Training provided.



### **Arts & Environment - Dee Stanton**

Plans and prepares the environment according to liturgical seasons with the use and care of plants and flowers, pictures and icons. More time and tasks surround decorating the church for Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

### **Catholics Come Home - Deacon Paul & Dee Stanton**

We invite those who have been away from the Catholic Church, no matter how long, to COME HOME. Sessions offered to help you find out what's been happening while you were away.

### **Eucharistic Ministers - Kathy Lord**

Lay ministers mandated to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ during Mass. Training provided.



### **Faith Sharing Groups - Alex Gairabetoff**

Monthly evening meetings, to pray and share the Scriptures and discuss how faith integrates with life.

### **First Friday & Holy Hour - Joan Heffernan**

Contemplative Holy Hour, concluding with Benediction from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. On First Friday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed from the end of morning Mass until 3:00 pm followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

### **Lectors - Bill Dexter**

Proclaim the Scriptures at various liturgical celebrations. Training provided.



### **Liturgy Board - Dee Stanton, Liturgy Coordinator**

Coordinators of each liturgical ministry to guide the liturgical life of the parish and help facilitate the liturgical direction of the Parish.

### **Liturgy Planners - Julie Higgins**

Teams meet to pray and reflect on the Scriptures then help to write designated parts, or choose from options for various liturgies - Sundays, Holy Days, Mass of Anointing, Reconciliation.

### **Ministry of Praise** - Dee Stanton

Parishioners, whose life situations do not allow them to be involved in outside activities support our church and world through daily prayer including 30 minutes for specific monthly intentions.



### **RCIA** - Dee Stanton

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process of prayer, study & Christian living that welcomes adults seeking to be baptized, Christians who wish to join the Catholic Church, and baptized Catholics who desire to complete their initiation with Confirmation and Eucharist.

### **Sacristans** - Dee Stanton

Teams serve once a month to care for the details of our liturgical celebrations such as cleaning and preparing the sanctuary and cleaning liturgical vessels.

### **Ushers** - Nancy Okoobo-Kadiri

Serve the community through a ministry of welcome, hospitality and assistance during Mass. During Covid – 19, they also help to carry out the disinfecting procedures.

### **Music Ministry** - Lisa Hall, Director

St. Isaac Jogues offers many opportunities to share your talents and enjoy quality musical experiences while leading the congregation in song. Friends abound!



**Youth Choir** - This young choir consists of children from grades 4-8 who love to sing. Our youth choir rehearses on Mondays from 5:30 pm until 6:40 p.m. and sings for the 12:00 p.m. Mass on the first Sunday of each month and other special Masses.

**Praise Singers** - This group is a contemporary ensemble whose members are mainly in high school and college. They rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and sing for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass every week and other special Masses.

**Adult Choir** - Our choir is open to all singers of all ages. Rehearsal is Wednesdays from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and sings for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass every week and other special Masses.

**Bell Choir** - To be a member of the hand bell choir, some music reading experience is required. It's a great ministry for those who love music, but don't necessarily want to sing. We rehearse every other week according to the availability of the members. The bell choir plays for different liturgies during the year.

**Cantors** - The cantors assist the assembly by leading them in acclamations and song. The program requires the ability to read music and membership in one of our vocal ensembles. An audition and training are required.





## HUMAN CONCERNS

### **Bereavement Ministry** - Deacon Paul Stanton

A ministry to companion those who grieve through the funeral rites and beyond. We send sympathy cards from the parish, have a calling of names on All Souls day on November 2nd, listen and support.

### **Hopeline**

A referral and resource service provided by the local cluster of parishes, which helps girls and women who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy to keep their babies. The phone number is 847-823-4673.

### **Ministry of Care** - Deacon Paul & Dee Stanton

Mandated parishioners bring the Eucharist as well as the care and compassion of our faith community to the homebound, area nursing homes and hospitals. Visitation times vary. There is a required six week training program. Two ministry meetings are held each year. If you or a loved one need Communion brought to you, please contact the rectory and arrangements will be made.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Barbara Napravnik

The group meets monthly to pray and knit or crochet shawls and lap blankets to embrace recipients with the love of Christ and the prayers and support of our faith community.

### **Pro Life** - Joann Posch & Dee Stanton

Opportunities to witness to the Gospel of Life through material, spiritual and advocacy means. We organize and participate in several activities to support the efforts of the Archdiocesan Office of Human Dignity & Solidarity and The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland.

### **St. Isaac Jogues Outreach Ministry** - Alex Gairabetoff

Our mission is to help those in need both materially and with prayer. Our Group serves the poor with food and certain urgent needs. We operate a food pantry, distributes non-perishable items that are primarily donated by parishioners via food drives. We also organize a Christmas Giving Tree event for local nursing centers. Prior to Easter, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas, we provide food baskets to several local families.

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**Ecumenical/Interreligious Committee** - Ann Livorsi & Dee Stanton



Seeks ways to learn about and engage with other Christian communities and faith traditions in the area. We offer presentations, participate in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, attend Ramadan celebrations and participate in the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service. Currently we have relationships with two neighboring Lutheran congregations through the John 17 Fellowship group. We are also part of the Parish to Parish Learning Process with the Archdiocese. Meetings are held monthly.

**Sharing Parish** - Deacon Paul & Dee Stanton

Our parish shares with Maternity BVM Parish in Chicago. Friendship, support through monetary gifts, toys, schools supplies and other donations and presence have forged bonds for years. An annual event is their participation in our Corpus Christi Procession.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Adult Enrichment** - Dee Stanton

Parish Mission, Lent Series and various other presentations and events which encourage adults to continue learning, growing and being formed in their Catholic faith.

**Baptism Preparation** - Deacon Paul & Dee Stanton  
Preparation meeting held monthly for parents asking for their child to be baptized. It is held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Deacon's home or at the church and lasts approximately 1½ hours.

**It includes an explanation of the sacrament as initiation, its history, symbols and the importance of parents and godparents in passing on our Catholic faith and tradition. To plan a baptism, please call the rectory.**



**Bible Study** - Dee Stanton

The group meets Wednesday mornings to study and discuss selected books or themes of the Bible and how God's Word impacts our lives using materials from Little Rock Scripture Study. There is also a monthly Bible talk on the first Sunday at 9:00 am which reviews the Sunday Mass readings for the month.

**SPRED** - Adriean Mikeska

A process of sharing faith (through symbol) and friendship with adults who are mentally challenged. Each of 12 sessions helps connect them to the experience of celebrating the Eucharist with the faith community. Every participant has a helper catechist. The team also meets 12 times for faith sharing and session preparation.

### **Religious Education - Dee Stanton**

As Pope Francis wrote in his first encyclical *The Light of Faith*, “Faith makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God’s faithfulness.” To proclaim, teach, pass on and live the faith, in essence to go make disciples, is the mission entrusted by Christ to each of the baptized and to His Body, the Church. As parents/guardians it is your sacred privilege and responsibility to keep the flame of faith alive and burning bright in the lives of your children, and in yours. The parish community commits to helping you in this most important work.

St. Isaac Jogues Parish offers a religious education and faith formation program which includes worship, study and service for children attending public school, kindergarten through eighth grade, to learn and practice the Scriptures, teachings, traditions and values of the Roman Catholic Church. Our catechists and assistants, many of whom sent their children to, or themselves were part of, the Religious Education Program share their faith with joy and dedication. They are either certified or working toward certification in the Archdiocese and are in compliance with the Protecting God’s Children requirements of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

**Kindergarten classes meet on Sunday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. and Grs. 1-Confirmation Year II (Gr. 8 & early high school) meet on Monday, 6:45-8:00 p.m.** All classes meet in the school building. Families are strongly encouraged to have their children come each year as no one year suffices in providing what is important for a strong faith foundation. Children preparing for sacraments must attend for the two immediate years prior to receiving each sacrament. **If families have children with special needs or who have not received their sacraments, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss options.** *There is a tuition along with book and sacrament fees.* **Families with financial concerns are encouraged to talk with us as no child is denied religious education because of finances. All are welcome!**

For more information or to ask questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 847-966-1180. We look forward to the opportunity to help all families raise their children in our Catholic faith!

### **Parish School - Rectorry**

Children of our parishioners attend St. John Brebeuf School. It offers preschool through eighth grade. St. Isaac Jogues will subsidize Catholic education tuition for registered parishioners who meet minimum requirements.

## PARISH LIFE - GROUPS & COMMITTEES

### **Filipino-American Group** - Jelly Carandang (Interim)

Meets monthly to pray the Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and to encourage full participation of the Filipino-American community in parish activities, while maintaining the unique culture of the Philippines. The group promotes the Feast of San Lorenzo, Simbang Gabi, sponsors parish fundraisers and organizes various outside events.

### **Men's Club** - Don Baron, President

A men's social club which meets monthly September-May, with emphasis on Christian fellowship by providing its members with social and spiritual activities.

### **Polish Community** - Danuta Ellsworth and Maria Swidzinski

Opportunities for Polish parishioners to help plan, sponsor and participate in special Masses and celebrations including Wypominki, Sharing of Oplatki, Gorzkie Zale and other multi-cultural events.

### **Teen Group** - Dee Stanton with Gabrielle Carsello & Elizabeth Stanton

Teens and young adults - Come meet on Sunday once a month after 10:00 Mass for refreshments, conversation, prayer, and to plan or do service and social activities. Possible activities include making sack lunches for the homeless, visiting the elderly, helping at parish functions, having fun at parties, bowling and more! What do you want to do?

### **Women's Club** - Louella Preston, President

Open to all women of the parish, our goals are to promote service and spiritual growth to our Parish and social activities for our members. Time commitment is your choice. Smaller guild meetings occur monthly, club meetings are held quarterly and there's always opportunity to volunteer for a fundraising activity.

### **Hospitality** - Barbara Napravnik & Dee Stanton

Members of Parish Life organize and host refreshments after Mass and for special events.

## PARISH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### **Buddy Concert** - *Parish Life Commission*

Annual concert featuring professional entertainers in memory of parishioner/entertainer Buddy Gries to benefit our parish.

### **Marian Festival** - *Spiritual Life Commission*

Celebration of Our Blessed Mother in the month of May

### **St. Isaac Jogues, Feast Day** - *Parish Life & Liturgy Board*

Special Mass with a focus on Native American Indian music & the Taste of St. Isaac Jogues which celebrates the diversity in the parish through food.



[illegible]



***St. Joseph's Table - Committee***

Special Mass with an Italian focus, followed by traditional St. Joseph Table (meatless). No charge. All donations are appreciated and used to fund the St. Isaac Jogues Outreach Ministry helping those in need.

***Corpus Christi - Liturgy Board & Parish Life Commission***

Special Mass followed by outdoor procession and Benediction in the church, followed by lunch.

## PARISH HISTORY

St. Isaac Jogues Parish was organized in July, 1956 on a six and one-quarter acre tract of land on Golf Road just west of Washington Avenue. This property had been purchased by the Archdiocese in 1954 as the site of a future parish. The 280 families who made up the nucleus of St. Isaac Jogues Parish had previously attended Mass at St. John Brebeuf Church in Niles, St. Martha Church in Morton Grove, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview, or St. Mary Church in Des Plaines. St. Isaac Jogues still serves parishioners these areas and beyond.

Rev. Leo M. Spring, a former assistant at Blessed Sacrament Church in Chicago, was named pastor of the new parish which embraced parts of the villages of Morton Grove, Glenview, Niles, as well as unincorporated areas of these three suburbs and nearby Des Plaines. The parish property of St. Isaac Jogues did not become a part of Niles until February 28, 1978, when it was annexed to the village.

Father Spring celebrated Mass on July 22, 1956 in Notre Dame High School for Boys in Niles. Thus began a working relationship with Holy Cross Fathers which has continued through the years. Fr. William Brinker, C.S.C. was part of our parish family for 46 years.

A house at 221 Washington Road in Glenview was purchased for use as a rectory and plans were made for permanent church quarters. In February 1957, construction began on a combination church and school building at 8149 Golf Road according to the plans of architect, Leonard Gliatto.

The Sisters of Christian Charity opened St. Isaac Jogues School on September 16, 1957; Mass was celebrated in the new church quarters for the first time on November 24, 1957. Enrollment in the parish school increased so rapidly that in 1958, a farm house east of the parish property was rented as a temporary convent and the Sisters' living quarters in the ranch-style school were remodeled into classrooms. Still, the number of school-age children increased and in 1959, a 10 classroom addition was constructed. Archbishop Albert G. Meyer dedicated the new parish complex on May 24, 1959.

As in other post World War II parishes, enrollment in St. Isaac Jogues School skyrocketed, from 350 students in 1957 to 1,256 students by 1962. To finance the construction of more classrooms as well as a much-needed convent, a \$350,000 fund raising campaign was begun in 1962. Through the generosity of families in St. Isaac Jogues Parish, an addition was built which included eight classrooms on the first floor. This project, known as the Junior High School Wing, was completed in 1963. This wing now serves our parish as meeting rooms and offices.

Enrollment in St. Isaac Jogues School peaked at 1,432 students in 1964. To meet the needs of his large parish, Father Spring purchased three acres of land west of the parish buildings. However, plans to build a new church on this site never materialized.

In 1960, Our Lady of Ransom Parish at 8300 N. Greenwood Avenue was established to serve Catholic families living in the western part of Niles, the northern part of Park Ridge, and the eastern part of Des Plaines. St. Isaac Jogues Parish lost the territory between Milwaukee Avenue and Potter Road.

Our founding pastor, Rev. Leo Spring - 1956 to August, 1973.

Fr. Spring died on November 27, 1987.

Rev. Elmer C. Klug - August, 1973 to January, 1981.

Fr. Klug died on January 7, 1996.

Rev. John C. Massion - January, 1981 to June, 1986.

Fr. Massion died May 3, 1998.

Rev. John E. Hennessey - October, 1986 to June, 1997.

Rev. Edward R. Fialkowski - October 1, 1997 to November, 2005.

Rev. Andrew Luczak - January 2006 - June 2016.

Rev. Mario Pereira was appointed July 1, 2016 and installed in a Mass celebrated by the

Most Rev. Frances Kane on September 10, 2016.

St. Isaac Jogues Parish now serves approximately 750 middle income families of many different ethnic backgrounds. In June of 1992, our School and Our Lady of Ransom school merged with St. John Brebeuf School. Our Religious Education Program currently has approximately 50 students.

St. Isaac Jogues Parish has been in existence for almost 65 years. Five of its young men have been ordained priests and three of its women have joined religious orders. At present we have one active deacon and one retired deacon and a deacon candidate in formation.

## PATRON SAINT, SAINT ISAAC JOGUES

Over the centuries the native peoples of America had developed societies that were based on delicate balances among the tribes and with their natural setting. Their pace of life, their boundaries, and their means of livelihood corresponded with nature. Over the ages various tribes along the water routes, now called the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, confederated into “nations”: the Algonquin tribes north of the St. Lawrence, the Huron peoples north of the lake bearing their name, and the Iroquois confederation south of the Great Lakes. They lived in longhouses (long wooden dwellings used as communal homes or council halls by some tribes) in the cold winters and traveled to fishing and hunting grounds in birchbark canoes during the summer. Their life was demanding, but prudent with the wisdom of long experience.

When explorers came from Europe many disdained the native people of America. They brought with them a culture that disturbed the natural balance. They brought diseases for which the Native Americans had developed no resistance and weapons which enabled one group of people to make another captive. They also brought the foreign concept that the land demanded ownership and that the natural gifts of the earth belonged to a specific individual.

The French explorers came to Canada with a little less greed and with a more respectful attitude than did some other conquerors. Perhaps it was because there was no gold for the greedy or perhaps because the long winters of New France required companionship. Or they may have realized that the Hurons and Algonquins were, like themselves, created by God. Some Frenchmen came to search the waterways for a route to the Pacific Ocean and the Far East. Some came to trade for the sleek pelts of the beaver, popular in the manufacture of European top hats. But also daring the two month Atlantic journey the Jesuit priests, dressed in their black robes, trading their French education and homeland for a chance to share with the Native Americans what was most dear to them - their faith and their belief in God's love. They came with full knowledge that they would likely suffer and die for the truths they held most dear . And they were not wrong.

### **North American Martyrs**

These men became the group we now venerate as our North American martyrs. Their martyrdoms were most severe. Their lives contain the “stuff” of legends, and due to the Jesuit insistence on record keeping, we can read in their own words what they hoped and endured as they landed in a world absolutely alien to that of their homeland. Traditionally, one of these saints, St. Isaac Jogues, has been claimed by the Catholic Church of the United States because he was martyred in what was later to become the state of New York.



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In 1636 Pere Isaac Jogues, newly ordained and 29 years old, joined the small band of Jesuits at Three Rivers (Irois Rivieres), a tiny French trading post on the St. Lawrence River. He arrived with the small Mass kit that his mother had given him. He also arrived with the hope that the Hurons, who were completing their summer's trading, would allow him to travel hundreds of miles inland with them when they returned home.



### **The Huron Villages**

To strengthen French-Huron friendship, the French authorities convinced the Hurons to exchange children for the year. So it was that 10-year-old French orphan boy Jean Amyot and Fr. Jogues traded places in the birchbark canoes with three Huron youths

for the return trip to the Huron villages. For weeks the two newcomers squatted shoeless and motionless in the fragile canoes as they followed the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers westward. The Jesuits at Three Rivers had told Fr. Jogues to be of as much use as possible, so he helped gather wood for their evening meal and helped portage the canoes and supplies when they came to dangerous rapids or to the land they had to cross between waterways. Jean and Isaac began to grow accustomed to the Hurons' habits and to the sound of their language, and learned of necessity to eat the native food.

Pere Jean de Brebeuf, who had been the first "Blackrobe" to reach the Hurons a few years before and who would later be martyred and canonized, greeted Isaac when he reached the Huron village near the present location of Midland, Ontario. Fr. Jogues' arrival brought the Blackrobes' total to five, three recently arrived. Fr. Brebeuf began sharing his several years of experience with the newer missionaries. "We can only progress slowly and count on God's ways," he cautioned the newcomers. He had baptized few Hurons in the years he had been there, most as they lay dying. He recognized that even the little trust he had painstakingly cultivated was due to the Hurons' distress in times of famine and illness. But he felt the priests must continue to be constantly attentive to the ways and needs of the Hurons. Only God would know if they made progress.

The Hurons were traditionally friendly to all strangers. The Blackrobes felt free to move in and out of the longhouses of the villages and knew the Indians would share what they had with them. The Hurons felt equally free to sit near the fire in the Blackrobes' lodge, to partake of their meals, and to talk to them of their beliefs. Sometimes they would wait for hours to hear the clock chime over and over, mystified, and convinced that a spirit within it was speaking to the priests.

Some Hurons guessed, and rightly so, that the arrival of the Blackrobes was a mixed blessing. It seemed that illness and death, thought by the Hurons to be caused by angry spirits, came with the Frenchmen. Fr. Jogues was sick with influenza his first winter with the Hurons and it spread to several other Frenchmen. They recuperated slowly, only to help the Hurons who had no resistance to this white man's disease and who often died. The epidemic spread from village to village. Fr. Jogues was blamed and some Hurons wanted him to leave. Only by sincere service could the missionaries counteract these judgments. As summer arrived, the epidemic lessened, and fishing, hunting, and the annual trading trip were more in mind. As Fr. Jogues learned the ways and language of the Hurons he became more acceptable.

### **The Iroquois Confederation**

The Iroquois confederation of tribes south of the Great Lakes was the traditional enemy of the Huron people. Dutch traders had provided these Indians with muskets, while at that time the French did not provide Algonquins or Hurons with guns. With weapons the Iroquois became invincible and daring, finally able to destroy their long-time enemies north of the lakes. As a result the Hurons were vengeful toward any Iroquois whom luck delivered to them. They killed their prisoners painfully, as they knew the Iroquois did Huron captives. It was soon after his arrival that Isaac witnessed these gruesome proceedings in which the Indians did not distinguish between killing an enemy in defense and taking vengeance after the battle. Centuries of tribal customs dictated against Christian insights and the time of true Christian conversion seemed far distant to the missionaries. When the yearly reports that traveled east by canoe and ship reached France, the missionaries admitted to no conversions among the Hurons - until a surprising thing happened.



At a council fire, Isiouendaentaha, a respected older brave, spoke up and related the concern and wisdom he had seen the Blackrobes freely share. He asked Brebeuf to baptize him. Later Fr. Brebeuf questioned the Huron closely to make sure he realized the radical difference baptism should make in his way of life. The brave was committed to that change and so was baptized, aptly given Peter as his patron and Christian name. This man of stature gave credence to the Blackrobes' views so that other families joined "Peter" and the new Christian way of life. They lived together in villages for mutual support. They prayed in the way of the Blackrobes. Their way of life made a marked contrast to that of their tribesmen. Becoming a Christian was a radical decision but, once they took the step, they were as unflinching in their faith as their Huron training had required in every other aspect of their lives. Eventually many Hurons would be Christian martyrs.





In the summer of 1642, the Hurons decided to forego their annual trading trip to Three Rivers since Iroquois war parties were infiltrating the area. The missionaries, knowing that a lack of medicine and supplies would cause much suffering, decided to make the trip alone. Fr. Jogues offered to go and some Christian Hurons and French laymen offered to accompany him.

The four canoes made it safely to Three Rivers where a young French doctor joined them for the return trip with the year's supplies. On their return, the group was attacked and captured by Mohawks, members of the Iroquois nation. They were paraded through many villages and constantly tortured as their captors traveled south to Ossernenon, their village in upstate New York near present day Auriesville, not far from Albany. They finally arrived at Ossernenon with open wounds and broken bones.

Fr. Jogues encouraged the captives to forgive their captors and offer their sufferings to God on their behalf. An Algonquin captive was forced to cut off Fr. Jogues' thumb to assure the Mohawks that the missionary would never use weapons against them. Several of the captives were killed. The young French doctor asked Fr. Jogues if he might vow his life to God as a Jesuit since only his health had deterred him from joining the Society earlier. He did so and was soon killed, thus becoming the first North American Jesuit martyr.

For some reason the Mohawks were saving Fr. Jogues, perhaps as protection against reprisal from the French. He ended up in the service of a respected old Mohawk woman who preserved his life more than once and even called him "nephew." Once, while he acted as his "aunt's" porter to a Dutch town, the men of the town offered to help Fr. Jogues escape. At first he refused since he was learning the ways and language of the Mohawk people and felt he might even be able to share his beliefs with them. But eventually, when he had managed to send a warning note to Quebec about a Mohawk attack, he knew he must escape the wrath of his captors. His first escape attempt was thwarted by some barking dogs but he managed to get free with a daring second attempt.

### **Return to the Mohawks**

A kindly Dutch ship's captain returned Fr. Jogues to France on Christmas Day, 1643, and he was able that day to receive communion for the first time in seventeen months. When Fr. Jogues reached the Jesuits, his appearance was so changed that at first he wasn't recognized; but he soon found that all of France had been following his ordeal through reports sent back by way of French and Dutch ships. Even the queen requested his presence. During this age of specific liturgical requirements, the Pope gave Fr. Jogues permission to use his remaining fingers to hold the consecrated host at Mass. Fr. Jogues spoke with love of his former persecutors, telling how his Mohawk aunt had protected him. Since he now knew their language and customs, he felt God had suited him well to return to the native Americans. In time, Fr. Jogues' superiors agreed.



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The Jesuits of Three Rivers were astonished to see Isaac Jogues reappear on a ship from Europe! Fr. Jogues was equally surprised to hear that the Hurons and Iroquois had cautiously begun to trade prisoners rather than kill them. Fr. Jogues went back to Ossernenon, the place of his captivity, as an envoy of the French to help with this peace effort. Then he decided to return there a second time, not as a diplomat but as a priest. Before leaving he wrote these words to a fellow priest: My heart tells me that if I am the one to be sent on this mission I shall go but I shall not return. But I would be glad if our Lord wished to complete the sacrifice where He began it. Farewell, dear Father. Pray that God unite me to Himself inseparably.

Fr. Jogues returned to his aunt's longhouse but could tell she was concerned for him once again. A long summer's drought was believed to have been caused by evil spirits in his Mass kit. Also, the younger braves were irritated by their elders' moves towards peace and knew that Fr. Jogues had encouraged the exchange of prisoners. While the elders were in council, a young Mohawk asked Fr. Jogues and a Jesuit lay volunteer who had come with him to come speak to the young braves in his lodge. Both "Auntie" and Fr. Jogues knew that he would have no security outside her longhouse, yet, to refuse the invitation would be unthinkable. Fr. Jogues went, and, as he entered the lodge of the young man, he was killed. He died in October of 1646, ten years after first arriving in the New World. The Jesuit lay helper was killed as well.

As remarkable as Fr. Jogues' story is, there is another that follows it. During the autumn of the year following Fr. Jogues' death, the orphan boy who had accompanied him eleven years previously was with some Frenchmen who were attacked by a dozen Mohawks. The French killed eleven attackers and captured one who was then taken to Three Rivers. Eventually, the captive Mohawk bragged that he had been the one to kill Fr. Jogues. The Algonquins and Hurons were furious and planned revenge on the man, but the Jesuits protected Fr. Jogues' murderer.

After some weeks in their care, the Mohawk asked the Jesuits for baptism, relating the knowledge he had gained from Fr. Jogues at Auntie's fireside in Ossernenon. He asked to take Isaac Jogues' name and so was baptized. A week later, Algonquins dragged the Mohawk from the Blackrobe's care and killed him. One of the priests later reported, "God willing, there are now two Isaac Jogueses in heaven."

This article is excerpted from an unpublished manuscript entitled "Our Saints, Our Story," by Sister Pat Davis, O.P., and is printed with permission.

Sister Pat Davis, O.P., a Sinsinawa Dominican, got hooked on saints in third grade from the stories in her readers. Her curiosity about these Christian heroes eventually developed into a master's project on the American saints. She currently works as a Director of Religious Education in Peoria, Illinois.