

Sunday February 9, 2020

## Pastor's Column

*Our Lady's Message at St. Francis Xavier Church*



An overflow crowd of over 1,000 people gathered last Saturday, February 1, for the Vigil Mass and a visit by Ivan Dragicevic, Medjugorje visionary. It was a very blessed time.

In his talk before the apparition of Our Lady, Ivan shared Mary's sadness over the breakup of families and the acceptance of abortion, and her ongoing call to regular family prayer and Bible reading. He also shared Mary's revelation that the Mass is the greatest prayer of all, and that if it ever came down to a choice for Ivan between receiving her apparition or attending Holy Mass, he should choose Mass. She commended daily Mass to all who are able to participate.

After the apparition of Our Lady, Ivan shared the message Mary gave for those gathered in church that evening. She said she was happy to see so many people. She blessed everyone and prayed for all their petitions. She asked God's special blessing on St. Francis Parish (I was delighted to hear that). And she urged everyone to pray fervently for religious vocations and for "peace, peace, peace" – peace in the heart, peace in the home and peace in the world.

I would like to thank Ivan, his hosts, our Parish Staff and Parishioners who attended to all the details of Ivan's visit. I also thank everyone who attended this very special evening. Above all, I give thanks to Jesus and Mary for such an anointed time of prayer and grace.

God bless,  
Fr. Joe