

THE GOOD NEWS

APRIL

A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians-at-Home ~

How are you doing? I'm writing this on April 1st, and am part of the way through my third round of personally phoning each of you listed in our *2020 Parish Directory*. I'm truly enjoying our conversations, they're often heart-warming and inspiring as we share our stories about the opportunities and challenges each day brings. I'm proud of all of you and honored to be your parish priest. Just as I'm phoning you, remember you can always phone me: (920) 904-7025.

We are offering **live Sunday Worship via Zoom every Sunday at 8 am & 10am** until the Sunday

we're given the green light to return to our building for what will be our Easter Day celebration (whatever the calendar date may be that Sunday). It is guaranteed to be a joyous and memorable occasion!

Since Faye has promised to get this out early in Holy Week, please also be aware that we will offer **live Worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday at 7pm.**

FYI, we are additionally utilizing Zoom with our weekly St. Ignatius' Emergency Response Team meetings, hosted a Parish Family Meeting, our monthly First Saturday Men's Meeting, and our Tri-Parish Clergy Partners Meeting last week.

Moving forward with Zoom: Our Vestry will continue to meet on third Sundays. During the pandemic, Bishop Lee meets with the clergy of the Diocese every Wednesday, and the Diocesan Experienced Rectors' Group to which I belong meets on designated Thursdays. All via Zoom.

Now, as need arises, let me know and other meetings and outreach responses can be arranged. (Zoom will always notify you about *each* meeting to which *you* are invited with an e-invitation. And if you ever

think your invitation was overlooked, let me know – errors are inevitable.) We may be separated, but we are still vitally connected; and our mission to live into and build God’s Kingdom continues!

An observation:

- The norm all our lives up until now has been: We gather for Worship and Fellowship as a community of faith on Sunday mornings, and then scatter into our various communities for the rest of the week.
- These days, while we are not able to gather physically as a community of faith on Sundays, we have been scattered-in-place in our various communities and are each on a special mission to live our faith and give witness to our values every day as never before – caring for one another, through acts of kindness, keeping social distance, and by “*Walking in love as Christ taught us.*”

By the time we are able to re-gather in church, we will have all learned and experienced so much! I look forward for us to be able to share what God has all been up to in our individual lives!

Living as Easter People in a Good Friday World,
may we continue to hold one another in prayer!

~ Fr. Brian

(920) 904-7025 ~ brian.beno51@gmail.com

[LENT 2020](#)

Fr. Brian’s note: Lent has “found us” like never before this year, and it will be a much longer Lent at that! Since the coronavirus is “extending” Lent, let’s seize the spiritual opportunity it daily sets before us. Here is a recent column from one of my favorite bloggers, Fr. Jay Sidebotham:

. . . It strikes me as strangely appropriate that we contend with all of this in the season of Lent. So here we are. Here's what we've been given. So the persistent faith question: *What will we do with what we've been given?*

The season of Lent has specific intentions, articulated in the liturgy for Ash Wednesday. The officiant invites people to “*the observance of a holy Lent*” (BCP-265). I've been thinking about those intentions, reflecting on how we respond to them in this particular, peculiar, perilous season:

Self-examination: Unsettling global events have a way of driving self-examination. What do we value? What is important? Where are we giving our hearts?

Repentance: One of the challenges of school closings is that we have millions of kids who won't have meals otherwise. How did that happen in a country of such prosperity? This is just one example of the need for a collective change of direction, which is what repentance is all about. Where else do we hear the call to repentance, as a community and as individuals? How can we turn from a life focused on self and move in the direction of a life focused on others?

Prayer: In times like this, prayer should be a first response, not a last resort. A friend told me that her pastor once said from the pulpit that he had gone through a personal crisis and had tried everything. Nothing worked. So he decided to pray about it. Is prayer just a “last resort”? What would it mean to recognize God's presence in the thick of this current mess? What would it mean to talk with God about that, a lot? To draw on strength beyond ourselves, the kind of help we now need? To pray without ceasing, as St. Paul advises us.

Fasting: In Lent, that can mean going without food, booze, sweets. Maybe some fasts will be presented to us without our choosing. We may find that some things we considered to be necessities of life suddenly aren't so important. A cartoon shows the guy forced to work at home. Caption: “It's true. All those meetings could have just been e-mails!”

Self-denial: Self-quarantine is just one example. It's no fun. But if ever there was a time to get ourselves out of the way and focus on others, focus on the greater good, this might be it. What might we give up for the sake of others? How might we orient our energies towards workers who lost their jobs? What creative, compassionate responses can we offer for people who work in hospitality industries? What can

we do for folks under the radar: elderly living alone, homeless under the bridge, parents losing sleep in the middle of the night over unpaid bills, health workers lacking equipment they need?

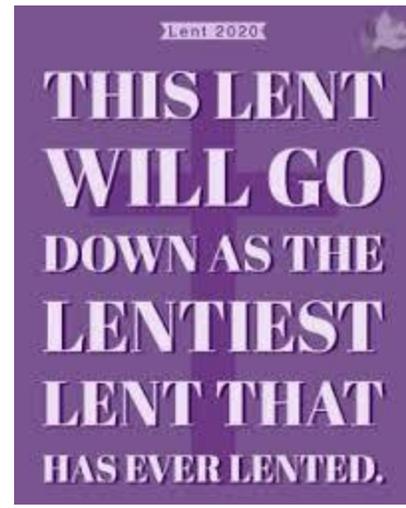
Reading and meditating on God's holy Word: You don't have to dig deep to find biblical stories that parallel our current crisis. I don't simply mean the various plagues visited on biblical peoples. I think of the oppression of the Pharaohs, the exodus through the wilderness, exile from homeland, the way of the cross, the persecution of the early church. The psalms are filled with stories of folks who feel like God has abandoned them. In other words, what we experience has been experienced before, in varied form. And God was present in it all.

Can you see how the intentions of the Lenten season correspond to this moment? **As grim as it may seem, as cloudy the future, as people of faith:**

We can withstand when we can't understand. We can proclaim when we can't explain.

Here's what we proclaim: People of faith have made the journey through this kind of thing before. They came to realize, as we will, that they were not left alone in that journey. They discovered that dead ends can indeed become thresholds. And as Julian of Norwich said, as her ministry unfolded in the midst of plague, they knew that ***"In the end, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."***

~ Fr. Jay Sidebotham



UPDATE FROM YOUR WARDENS

We hope this finds you well and in good spiritual health. Fr Brian has been very busy putting together as many virtual meetings as he thinks you can attend, and we are very grateful for that.

We all realize that these are very trying times for all of us, but as Christians, we have faced much worse in our long history. We do not need to enumerate them at this time as you are all very aware of what Christ and his followers have endured to get us here.

One thought that struck us this week was, as we are being told to stay apart, we are in reality, all being brought together. Maybe not physically, but hopefully spiritually. We have noticed on social media that many families are spending a lot more time together and doing things as a family unit, without the need for outside help or being in groups, teams, clubs, etc.

Just as biological families are uniting, we feel that our St Ignatius family is uniting. We have received calls, e-mails, texts, etc, from people that we have not heard from in a long time.

As with all man-made and natural disasters in the past, when the smoke clears, people seem to want to come together closer than they had in the past. It is our sincere hope, that when this smoke clears, and it

will, we will be an even stronger unit and much better witnesses for our savior and redeemer.

In the meantime, if any of you have spiritual needs, please reach out to Fr Brian. If you have physical needs (help with shopping, Dr appointments, or anything else), please reach out to Kathy or Mike and we will do our best within our abilities to assist.

God-Bless and be safe and healthy

Kathy Kraak
Mike Culat

BISHOP LEE'S VISIT

And here we are, all together! (Thank you, Larry, for the picture.) It was a lovely day, a lovely service and a lovely memory, especially since it began our social distancing. Can't wait until we are all together again.



I HEAR THE GRASS A GROW'IN

Awakening to the sound of robins chirping and red winged blackbirds singing is a sure sign spring has arrived. Yes, these are welcomed sights and sounds. Now it's time to stash the snow shovel and dig out the lawn mower and prepare for the greening-up of our lawns, weed and all, and the church grounds are no exception. So, soon we will need volunteers to

undertake the lawn mowing task of our church grounds.

I would like to set up a mowing schedule through the summer if possible. To do so, I need volunteer names and times each will be available.

Actually, I'd like to set up two schedules. One for using the walk-behind mower and one for the riding mower.

The task for the walk-behind mower is to mow close to the building perimeter so that the riding mower does not have to weave in and out around light fixtures on the east side or roll over any brick edging on the west side.

The remainder of perimeter needs to be mowed out a distance from the building of about 6 to 8 feet. This is to keep grass clippings from the riding mower from being thrown against the building walls, windows, and air conditioner units. For the same reasons, I'd like at least two laps made around the church sign.

If you can volunteer some of your time to one or both mowing adventures, please let me know soon.

For the past two plus years this task has been handled mainly by two individuals, Jack Fields and Bill Malinow. I don't know if they are willing or able to give of their time to this summer's task. And I am sure that even if they are planning to do so, they would welcome some additional helping hands.

Please e-mail your availability to rvanpatten@sbcglobal.net.

With much appreciation,

Roger Van Patten

SHOUT OUT

I recently suggested that parishioners respond to an email with an update as to their household. Here are a few responses I received:

From the Donahues:

The Donahues are doing good at home. We are keeping busy with google meet with our daughters

and their families (sounds similar to zoom), Karen's daily exercises at home, walks, puzzles, enjoying feeding the birds, and binge watching on TV. The life of retirement is good! We hope everyone else is doing good too!

From Pat Billimack:

So lovely to hear from you! You and many others at St. Ignatius were a spiritual home for me in the four months we lived in Antioch with our daughter and her family. Our daughter is well. Did not contract the virus. She works from home as a foster care case worker. It was so beautiful to watch her doing facetime with the kids in foster care. We are self-quarantined as we think it is better for everyone. Please give my love and thanks to all the folks at St. Ignatius- my spiritual home in Antioch! "Hope frees us to live in the present, with the deep trust that God will never leave us."-Henri Nouwen Take care, Love, Pat

From Bonnie Ebler:

Doing OK. Trying to keep busy but it gets lonely after being confined. I get phone calls, texts from family and friends which makes my day! Looking forward to some warm weather to be outside.

From the Kraaks:

Ernie and I are safe at home. We have been working on a few home projects and miss seeing our kids and grandchildren. Take care everyone.

able to collect steps or miles walked by bringing your diary to church on Sunday. Simply email to Carol Frazier at cfrazierx@comcast.net. There are a few more days to Easter so keep on walking!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

I've shared my recipes for a year now. Now it's your turn. Send me your recipe – maybe your most requested recipe or your family's favorite? I'll share it here for all to try.

FAMILY FUN DAY UPDATE

The next Family Fun Day has been rescheduled from May 1st to June 6th.

Mark your calendars for the August 1 and November 7 Fun Days.

WALK TO JERUSALEM

All of us are likely in need of something to do during this time of self-isolation so why not walk? We are still walking to Jerusalem even though we are not