

THE GOOD NEWS



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

We have a lot to cover in this month's newsletter.

First, we bid a very sad farewell to Faye Nash as she and her Dave move to Marion, IL to be near Dave's dad. During the year-and-a-half I've worked with her, Faye has been a friend, a wonderful office coordinator, and has been involved in every aspect of our life as a parish family. How she will be missed! Farewell, good friend! In the pages that follow, Faye has a message for us.

Second, we bid welcome to Jenn Bodden. Among the applications we received, Jenn comes to us with

background, experience, ideas, a willingness to learn, and a warm personality to greet callers and welcome visitors. (A Vestry search committee advertised, interviewed promising candidates, and presented Jenn as their recommendation to the full vestry, receiving a unanimous vote on our recommendation.) Welcome, Jenn! In the pages that follow, Jenn has a message of introduction for us.

Third, since Dennis Mellen's sad passing, Kathleen Ciszewski has been our organist, however a majority of those weeks we were closed due to Covid. Now that we've returned to in-person worship, Kathleen has been providing music for us at the 10am Eucharist (although Covid makes it wise not to have singing – only instrumental music). Since many have still not had the occasion to meet Kathleen and her husband Felix, she will also have a message of introduction in the pages that follow.

Fourth, I truly want to thank each of you for "hanging in there" with us during this pandemic! Church attendance is a habit which Covid broke, so I have tried to maintain connection through 3 months of zooming Sunday services and lots of phone calls. Now that we're back to in-person worship, it's so good to see so many of you again. It being summer, we're offering one Saturday, two Sunday, and one

Wednesday evening Eucharist, along with zooming both Sunday services.

My concern for us, however, is one of “morale.” I go to Walmart, Walgreens, and Jewel, and – apart from face masks and social distancing – folks pretty much carry on as they always have. It saddens me that church isn’t recovering quite as easily. In church our masks are somewhat of a barrier, as is being spread out due to social distancing, and the lack of singing, receiving only the host for Communion, the lack of visiting at a coffee hour – plus the appearance of light attendance. These circumstances make our worship appear to be missing something. It saddens me that I can’t produce a more inspirational and up-lifting worship experience for you.

Please know:

- Among our four weekly services and two zoomings, total attendance is just about the same as when we had two Sunday services before Covid – it’s just that we’re spread out with six options, and I’m the only one who sees everyone in-person and on-zoom. But take heart, each service may be perceived as being lightly attended, but, in spite of it being summer, the total numbers show that most of us are back. And we hope to see those who haven’t joined us yet, in-person or via-zoom, in the near future. Keeping the family together has been my goal, hope and prayer.
- Also: Jesus assured us in the Gospel that “whenever two or three gather in my Name, I will be with you.” Jesus is a promise maker and a promise keeper. He is with us in his Word, in his Sacrament, and in his gathered Community. A prayer in the First Book of Common Prayer in 1549 asks: “That we may ever-more dwell in him, and he is us” – we with him; he with us. And so it is; “Yes, Lord, we do believe.”

Fifth, we continue to gather in-person 1st Sunday evenings each month for “Vespers” (Evening Prayer) at 6pm, concluding the Lord's Day with Scripture and Prayer as we entrust the week ahead to God's protection and guidance. Join us! And please note

the 1st Saturday Men’s Breakfast Group is on temporary hold, pending our being able to safely gather together at a restaurant.

In addition to weekends, I encourage you to join us for our mid-week prayer and formation gatherings: Eucharist every Wednesday at 6pm followed by different formation opportunities – all in-person at 6:45pm:

- The 1st Wednesday of this month Carol Hawkins and I offered a discussion of diversity and inclusion both as a workplace standard and as a Gospel commission.
- 2nd Wednesdays Vestry members and others gather to craft the agenda for the next week’s Vestry meeting.
- 3rd Wednesdays the full Vestry meets, with everyone welcome – face masks and social distancing expected.
- And 4th Wednesdays I’m presenting portions of my yearlong project for the diocesan College for Congregational Development regarding strategic visioning for our future as an aging congregation.

All are warmly invited to these and all future Wednesday evening gatherings. Growing in our faith and on-going adult formation are important in the present, critical for our future, and essential in raising up future leaders.

Sixth, we thank Rebecca McConnell – artist of our sanctuary Icons of the Lord’s Nativity and Resurrection – who now has painted three panels depicting “St. Ignatius’ Ministries to help Soul, Body, and Mind” for our Re-Sale Shop. The Shop is celebrating their 6th anniversary August 12-15 with a tent sale: Stop in to see Rebecca’s panels, wish our staff a happy anniversary, and, while you’re there, I know you’ll find a treasure you – like lots of others – didn’t know you couldn’t live without!

Seventh, thanks to Roger Van Patten (in charge of our building and grounds) for retiring the tattered

American Flag flying outside the church, and thanks to Ernie and Cathy Kraak for donating a new Flag to proudly wave for all to see.

In that vein, Ken Ward shared an e-mail quote that has been going around, asking the question: **“With hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, the threat of Coronavirus, terrorist attacks, lootings and disregard for law and order: are we sure this is a good time to take *God* out of the Pledge of Allegiance?”**

Hoping summer has been a blessing for you, know that I am always eager to see or speak with each of you and to journey in faith and fellowship with you, serving you as your parish priest.

~ Fr. Brian

WELCOME JENNIFER BODDEN

Greetings All!

My name Jennifer Bodden, and I am very excited to be the new Office Coordinator here at St. Ignatius Church. Although I grew up right over the border, I have been residing in Oakwood Knolls in Antioch for 15 years.

I live with my husband Brian, and our three children...Ryan, Leona, and Abigail . For fun we enjoy camping, boating, bike rides, and spending as much time as we can with those we love.

I am hoping with my background experience, to be a positive asset to this congregation.

I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Jenn

I MISS YOU ALREADY

I recently had a long overdue visit with my daughter who lives in Cincinnati and her three children, my grandbabies. When they were all packed up in the car to head home, my youngest grandson (6) rolled down the window and said “I miss you already!” Be still my heart!

In writing this little note, that’s how I feel about my St. Ignatius family. Although I am very excited about the upcoming move, it is hard to leave you all. I have made such a home for myself here at St. Ignatius. You all have been my support and comfort. You have gotten me through things you didn’t even know I was going through. You are the village that helped me raise my little Maddie. Okay now I’m just blubbering! But let me say – Thank you.

As most of you know, Maddie will be staying here in Antioch. She recently flew the coop and is renting an apartment (damn that boyfriend – oh, did I say that out loud??), working full time at Goddard School and attending classes at CLC. She has a life and that’s what we want for our kids, right?? That being said, I will be visiting the area from time to time so I plan to stop in and say hi.

My new address will be 13105 N. Shoreland Drive, Marion, IL 62959. I am Facebook friends with many of you so I will be able to keep up with what is going on in your lives and vice versa. If you are ever in my neck of the woods or just passing through to southern destinations, know that we have space for guests and would love to see you.



Hello, I’m Kathleen Cizewski, your Sunday 10am organist/pianist. Music is my gift and my calling. I have a Masters in music, and am a nationally certified music teacher. I’ve been on the music

faculty at the College of Lake County for 45 years, and founded Kathi's Musicians' Center School of Music in Grayslake 28 years ago.

I'm also a member of National Pastoral Musicians, having been a church organist since I was 12! It was Bach who once said, "The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." My husband Felix and I enjoy worshipping with you Sundays mornings, and I hope my instrumentals will enhance your prayer and reflection.

ST. IGNATIUS' MINISTRIES TO HELP SOUL, BODY & MIND



Thanks again Rebecca!!