

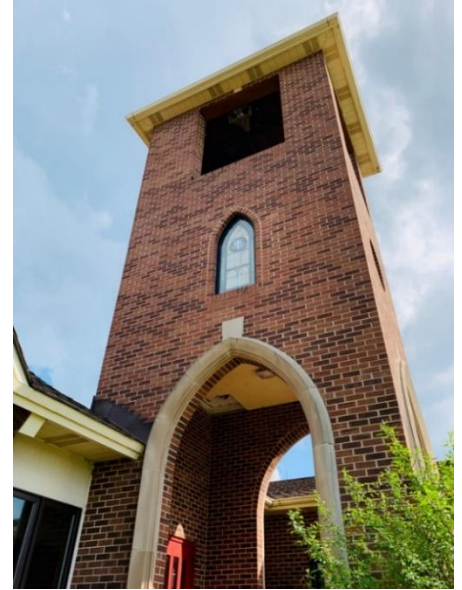
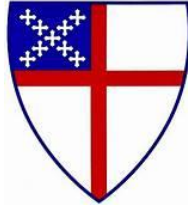
# THE GOOD NEWS

February 2024



St. Ignatius of Antioch  
Episcopal Church

*Walking in love as Christ taught us*



## HOLY DUST



The Ash Wednesday liturgy is possibly the most meaningful liturgy in our Book of Common Prayer. It offers us an opportunity to stop, reflect on who we are and whose we are, adopt an attitude of humility, hit the reset button, and begin again. We are invited to stop the whirlwind of life and activities that surround us on all sides and remember: God hates nothing God has made; God forgives the sins of all who are penitent; our God is the “God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.” As if all this in the opening collect is not enough, the reminder that we “are dust, and to dust [we] shall return” ought to put our life in Christ into a proper perspective of humility.

This is made visible and tangible with the imposition of ashes from last year’s Palm Sunday palms, which seem to retrace the Baptismal Cross on our foreheads as a reminder of the promises we make each time we renew our Baptismal Covenant: to participate in the full life of the Body of Christ, his Church; to say we are sorry whenever we have violated our relationships with God and others, all others; that everything we do and say will proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ; that we will seek and serve Christ in all persons; that we will strive for justice and peace for all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

The Church has long recognized how challenging it is to keep these core promises that constitute walking in the Way of Christ. This is why we set aside these forty days each year for self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; to read and meditate on God’s holy Word. The ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us not only of our mortality and

need for regular repentance but also that it is only by God's "gracious gift that we are given everlasting life" through Jesus Christ.

Although we are to remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, we ought never to forget that we are Holy Dust, created and inspired by the very breath and Spirit of God, as described in Genesis chapter 2: "The Lord God formed man [*ha-adam/ha-ah-dham*] from the dust of the ground [*ha-adamah/ha-ah-dhamah*] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." In these days, as we reflect on our relationship to the Earth itself, the Hebrew reminds us just how interconnected and interdependent we really are – *adam*, man, is made of the dust of the ground, *adamah*. Just as Moses was reminded by the burning bush that he was standing on Holy Ground, so the ashes of Ash Wednesday remind us that everywhere we stand, everywhere we walk, every speck of dust is Holy Ground – and that we are made Holy from the moment of our very first breath. Receiving these ashes is meant to remind us of these humbling and defining truths.

Next to the Cross itself, however, there is no more tender and revealing moment in God's Holy Word than that proclaimed on Ash Wednesday by the prophet Joel, who in days of great darkness and gloom calls the people of God to a solemn assembly to pray for deliverance. Yet, amid this call to return to the Lord with all our hearts, the prophet reminds us of God's very essence, and then imagines just how much the Lord our God loves us:

"Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord, your God?"

Do we hear this? When we are enveloped with such darkness and gloom that we are unable to make the appointed sacrifices to God, unable to turn our hearts and minds back to God on our own, the prophet imagines that the Lord God himself will make the appointed sacrifices himself, leaving a grain offering and a drink offering on our behalf – which offerings constitute the essence of our Holy Communion. We are those people who, like the prophet, can imagine that God enters our lives and leaves an offering and blessing for us every Sunday – because our God is the God who is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing."

This realization of God's love and care for us brings us to our knees and a Litany of Repentance in which we rehearse all the possible ways in which we stray from the way of the Lord God, the Way of Christ. It is after this remarkable and thorough confession that the reset button is pressed, and we are forgiven by Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that "the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy."

Ash Wednesday: A day to stop, reflect on who we are and whose we are, adopt an attitude of humility, and hit the reset button of our life in Christ. A day to remember that we are dust, but that we are Holy Dust, animated by God's own breath. For it is God's own Spirit that enlivens us and sustains us, day in and day out. A day to remember that God loves us so much as to make sacrifices for us when we are unable

to do so ourselves. A day to allow God in Christ to forgive us so that we might live the residue of our lives reflecting the very love that God has for us and for all of creation. A day that we may remind ourselves with great humility to love God, love all others, and love all of creation itself. For that is what it means to be the Holy Dust of God! Amen.

-Kirk Alan Kubicek



## Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

At our 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the following Temporal Letter was read and approved by the Vestry regarding the state of our church in 2023.

Let it be known and recorded.

1. Attached is the Financial Report for 2023. This reflects the funds that have been received, expended, and audited for the year 2023. No land or property has been mortgaged in 2023. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, per the Bishop and Diocese of Chicago request, the Vestry passed a resolution using Reserve Funds for full-time Rector compensation short-fall.
2. In 2023 St. Ignatius was in there second year of transition. The Services were led by 6 different Supply Priests, including home visits, memorial service, anointing, hospital visits, and a funeral mass. Attendance during Holy Week and our two Christmas Mass's totaled 205. Sunday service attendance averaged 42. Healing services following mass averaged 6-8 people.
3. Employment Agreements with the Office Coordinator and Organist were reviewed and updated. A Hall Donation Lease will continue

with Midlothian Counseling through June of 2024. The 2022 Parochial Report was reviewed, signed, and submitted to the Diocese.

4. In 2023 with funds from the Building and Maintenance funds of \$12,354.51 were made to improve and maintain the church building and grounds.
5. In 2023, 6 parishioners were blessed to participate and complete formal training for Lay Eucharistic Ministry by Fr. Jean Beniste.
6. The following temporary committees were approved by the Vestry: Audit Committee, Stewardship Committee, & Financial Committee. The Vestry approved to extend the Search Committee. The current Search Committee will stay in place until the calling of a full-time Rector. The Diocesan Convention was attended by Jack Fields and Kevin Wood.
7. We continue our love and support to the community through several outreach programs including but not limited to: Gods Will Resale Shop, Lenten Fish Boils, Fall Feast, Chuck Larson Memorial Golf Outing, Missions of the Month, and the Diocese of Chicago.

We thank our whole family on the St. Ignatius Campus, for your Faith, Trust, Patience, Communication, and your love of God to make all these things possible in 2023. We now look forward to 2024 and all the new beginning as we continue "**WALKING IN LOVE AS CHRIST TAUGHT US**".

Peace to all,

-Jack & Renee



Your Vestry and Rector Search Committee met together on Sunday, January 28. This was to take advantage of our combined perspectives and wisdom about candidates for the full-time rector position at St. Ignatius of Antioch. Based on our prayers and discussion, and approved by the RSC at its meeting, we invited two highly qualified candidates for on-site visits to our parish.

Within days of our invitation, and consistent with the highly qualified nature of the two candidates, one of them graciously informed us that he has decided to accept a rector calling in Alton, Illinois. This parish is in the Diocese of Springfield. The other candidate is prayerfully considering our invitation, along with their family. We are hopeful of a positive decision from this candidate to accept our invitation.

Given these circumstances, we have decided to be proactive and spend parish funds by reposting our rector opening on the Episcopal News Service (ENS). Recall that we utilized the ENS service previously in 2023. See the Jobs & Calls portion of the ENS website to view our opening. This time, we added the Facebook outreach option to the posting. This option, which represented an added expense, will reach more clergy and other individuals in our global Episcopal Community. (<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/jobs/>)

In addition, on a local level, we have sent a personal email to the rectors of Episcopal Parishes in our area about our rector opening and search. Through this

email, we are attempting to stimulate the network and friends of rectors who have chosen to “live and serve nearby us”.

As we have throughout our journey, we are committed as an RSC to transparency, listening, and service to our community.

Please continue to pray for candidates to find their way to St. Ignatius.

**Your RSC Committee:** Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick (co-chairs); Ernie Kraak, Roger Van Patten, Kathy Fields, and Jim Hallwas (members)

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Our increasing interest in the Social Hour has led us to offer the sponsorship opportunity every Sunday.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Although two services are listed for each Sunday, if you could cover both, that would be great and give you the opportunity to meet folks from the 'other' service! If you need assistance with locating the supplies or making coffee, just ask. Someone is always available to help. And, as always, we appreciate your monetary contributions.

Watch next month's newsletter for information on the Easter Triduum events.

February 11<sup>th</sup> is FAT SUNDAY...start your 'Big Game' eating early!

## Parish Development



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

Our newest commission's goal is to improve our outreach and presence in the community to attract new members. As stated in my speech at the Annual Meeting, we should not be waiting for a new Rector to grow the parish when WE have the ability to attract new members through our social & civic interactions.

Our initial efforts begin with the Fish Boils where we will focus on the identity of St. Ignatius by thanking our patrons for their support and inviting them to join us for other activities. Come & See is the central theme and will be displayed with table tents, thank you cards with information on Services & Fellowship, and name tags identifying our parish workers who will be able to answer any questions.

If you would like to join the committee spearheading this commission, please let me know!

-DianeCinnick



## Sharing Our Faith



Come join us for a **Lenten Study** where Fr. Jim will guide us through the Book of Common Prayer. For some this may be a refresher course, for others a new experience, but for all it will be knowledge.

Sunday's from 9am-9:45am starting Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> for five weeks during the season of Lent.

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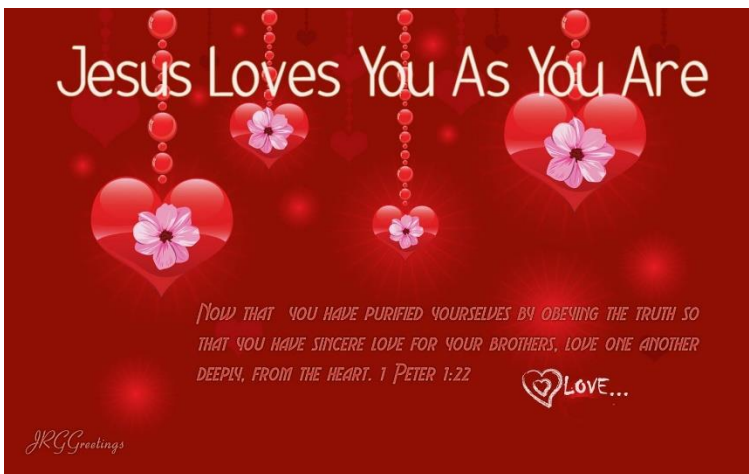
## THE WAY OF THE CROSS



Also known as the Stations of the Cross, this service is a reminder of the days when Christians went on Pilgrimages to the Holy Land to honor the places associated with Our Lord's Passion. Later when Pilgrimages could no longer be safely made, Pictures were hung in the Churches and devotions were made before them.

From this arose the service, "The Way of the Cross", the object of which is, by picturing the Passion, to deepen our faith, love, and repentance, make us realize Our Lord's Sufferings and arouse our devotion to the Savior.

**Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7pm** through Lent, for this soul-searching journey as we walk the pathway that Jesus took during his last earthly hours. This journey with Christ will pierce your soul, though all the while knowing he loved you so much that that upon the cross, he became the Propitiation for our sins.



Zooming into the service will be available at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81934521269?pwd=UUROWmxyNmN4YkFxUkM2T3pzckxudz09>

-Roger Van Patten

## **Fish Boils Are Coming!**



Our Community Lenten Fish Boils are set for 2/16 followed by 3/8 & 3/22.

Please help us to get the word out! There are flyers in the social hall, and available on social media, via Facebook, website, and email.

We need volunteers to make this a successful event. There are sign-up sheets in the social hall for presale of tickets, workers, and desserts.

Lastly, we need raffle baskets. This is a huge part of our profit from the boils. You can either bring a basket to church or put a donation in the collection plate, (marked: Fish Boil Basket), and I will put one together for you.

If you have any questions, please call me at 262-308-5448.

Thanks for all you do to make the community fish boils a great success!

-Kathy & Ernie Kraak



## **Were You There? Will You Be There?**



Lent is upon us! We will be getting our choir together to celebrate EASTER VIGIL and EASTER DAY masses with our congregation.

### **2 Rehearsals – 2 Masses**

1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal 3/24 PALM SUNDAY at 11:15am  
(after healing blessings)

2<sup>nd</sup> Rehearsal 3/30 at 4:15pm (before the 5pm Mass)

**CHOIR:** 3/30 Easter Vigil Mass at 5pm

3/31 Easter Sunday Mass at 10am

Please plan to “spend time with Jesus” sharing your gift of music. We are blessed to have musicians and voices to lead our congregation so beautifully as you have in the past.

The CHOIR SIGN-UP SHEET will be on the table by the main entrance. A CHOIR MUSIC PACKET will be available for your preparation before rehearsal. Choir members are invited to sing on Maundy Thursday leading the congregation also for the 7pm mass.

Blessings for LENT and the Celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection!!

-Kathleen Cizewski  
Organist, Pianist, Director

## GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

### February Special:

**50% off all ORANGE sticker items!**  
Accepting all donations during business ho



### St. Ignatius Campus Hours:

- **Worship Services:**  
Sunday's at 8am & 10am
- **Office Coordinator Hours:**  
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am – 12:30pm
- **God's Will Resale Shop:**  
Wed.- Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
- **Midlothian Counseling Services**  
**hours at the church:** Mon. & Wed.  
1-8pm & Fri. 1-6pm



2/11- 8am & 10am Services

2/14- Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm

2/16- St. Ignatius Fish Boil 4-7pm

2/18- 8am & 10am Services  
9am-10am Lenten Study

2/21- Vestry Meeting at 5:30pm  
Stations of the Cross at 7pm

2/25- 8am & 10am Services  
9am-10am Lenten Study

2/28- Stations of the Cross at 7pm



Kathy Fields- Ernie Kraak- Kathy Kraak  
Felix Cizewski- Elizabeth Johnston  
Zach Green- Margaret Slamar  
Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman  
Jennfier McElligott - Mike Culat  
Mildred Hamlin - Kathy Burns- Pam Anas



## Outreach Summary

For the month of **February**, our Mission will continue to be for **PADS of Lake Country**. We are supporting their Housewarming Project by collecting various items they are seeki

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

-Cathy Ehlers

<p><b>KITCHEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dishes</li> <li>• Glasses</li> <li>• Coffee mugs</li> <li>• Silverware</li> <li>• Pots and pans</li> <li>• Cooking utensils</li> <li>• Knives for food preparation</li> <li>• Can opener</li> <li>• Cutting board</li> <li>• Kitchen towels</li> <li>• Food storage containers</li> <li>• Ziploc bags</li> </ul>	<p><b>MISC.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light bulbs</li> <li>• Calendar</li> <li>• Pens</li> <li>• Laundry basket</li> <li>• Fan</li> <li>• Rubber Gloves</li> </ul> <p><b>CLEANING SUPPLIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-purpose spray, dust spray, toilet bowl cleaner</li> <li>• Sponges</li> <li>• Bucket + mop</li> <li>• Broom + dust pan</li> <li>• Toilet brush</li> <li>• Trash can and bags</li> <li>• Paper towels</li> <li>• Dish soap and dishwasher detergent</li> <li>• Laundry detergent and fabric softener sheets</li> </ul>	<p><b>PERSONAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tissues</li> <li>• Toilet paper</li> <li>• Bar soap</li> <li>• Shampoo and conditioner</li> <li>• Toothbrush and toothpaste</li> <li>• Disposable razors</li> <li>• Body lotion</li> <li>• Hand lotion</li> <li>• Deodorant</li> <li>• Nail clippers</li> <li>• Shave gel or cream</li> <li>• Comb or brush</li> </ul>
<p><b>BEDROOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full-sized bedding</li> <li>• Table lamp</li> <li>• Extra blanket</li> <li>• Bedbug mattress protector</li> <li>• Alarm clock radio</li> <li>• Hangers</li> </ul>		<p><b>BATHROOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair dryer</li> <li>• Bath towels</li> <li>• Hand towels</li> <li>• Wash cloths</li> <li>• Non-slip mat for shower/tub</li> <li>• Shower curtain and hooks</li> <li>• Shower liner</li> <li>• Bath mat/rug</li> </ul>



## February Birthdays

- 2/2- Mike Walker
- 2/4- Christopher McConnell
- 2/5- Bill Malinow
- 2/12- Pat Billimack
- 2/12- Tim Donahue
- 2/22- Jim Hallwas
- 2/25- Lillian Golonka

## February Anniversaries

- 2/14-Jack & Kathy Fields
- 2/20- Tim & Karen Donahue

## COMEDY CORNER

