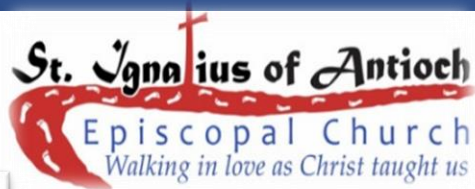


THE GOOD NEWS

January 2021



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN

Dear Ignatians ~

Looking Back on 2020 and Forward to 2021



Looking back on 2020, while it was a doozy, I thank you that we have stayed connected through our faith!

- For the 11 Sundays prior to Covid (Jan. 1- Mar. 15): Our average in-person attendance with 2 Eucharists served on average 80% of our parish family weekly.

- During the 13 Sundays we were closed under Phase II, zooming from my home: Our average attendance with 2 Word Services averaged 70% of our members.
- For the 2 Sundays we were under Phase III's "Ten-or-Fewer" rule: In-person and zoom served 57%.
- Then for 20 Sundays we did very well under Phase IV's "25% of capacity" rule: Averaging (both in-person and zoom) 75%.
- Now for 7 Sundays we've been under a return to Phase III's more limiting "Ten-or-Fewer" rule: Our zooming with limited in-person attendance served 40%. *Note:* Our zoomed Christmas Eve and Christ-mas Day Eucharists served a combined 50%.
- It appears our attendance is best when we have the option for both in-person and zoom worship. Zooming alone does not appear to serve us well.

Also, during this time I have reached out to each of you personally with phone calls: From March 15 until Memorial Day, I phoned everyone on our list every week; during summer, every other week; and now in fall and early winter, once each month.

During these months I have enjoyed many wonderful conversations that have enabled me to get to know many of you quite well. These calls have been a blessing for which I am deeply grateful. At the same time, I've never successfully reached several, and have always left a message inviting a call back – although few chose to.

My thoughts on this most unusual year:

- First, God has been and always will be with us every step of the way. In my weekly *E-Announcements* I have recently asked: “*What have you learned during these months?*” I’m sharing your responses in this month’s Thursday *E-Announcements*. God seems to use occasions like we’ve experienced in 2020 to speak to us – to our faith, to our hearts, to our lives.
- Second: I hope that once the vaccines become available to the majority of us, we may be able to return to predominantly in-person worship (while we will continue to zoom for those who consider themselves housebound). I look forward to our returning mostly to what we were accustomed liturgically, although probably still encouraged to wear masks as an act of charity for others while also keeping a certain measure of social distancing. I welcome that hope, and from it will probably emerge the “new normal” we’ve been waiting for.
- Third, folks who have attended fairly regularly (either in-person or zoom) have also generally answered or returned my phone calls. Thank you! Meanwhile, I pray for each and all of you daily.
- Fourth, I do what I do as an act of love for and service to you in God’s Name. Some programs and ideas work, and some don’t. I’d always

rather “try and fail” than “not try and never know.”

We as a congregation are here for you, and it’s for each of you to determine to what extent you wish to avail yourselves of our services – mine included. I respect that.

What I conclude is that you’ve each allowed me to get to know and serve you to the extent you’ve wanted me to get to know and serve you. And that’s fair.

Do know that I’m here for each of you equally. I’m never any farther than a phone call or an e-mail from you, and I’m always especially happy to *see* you at our in-person and/or zoom services.

Pastoring is my life’s work, my ministry, my vocation – and I’m here to journey in faith with each of you. It’s who I am; it’s what I do.

Do you perhaps remember Floyd Brown, longtime announcer on WGN radio? On Sunday evenings in the 70’s-90’s, he played a mix of Gospel and Inspirational vocals interspersed with bits of philosophy. At the end of each Sunday broadcast, he signed off with these words:

**Life is like a journey taken on a train,
With a pair of travelers at each window pane.
I may sit beside you all the journey through,
Or I may sit elsewhere never knowing you.
But if fate should mark me to sit by your side,
Let’s be pleasant travelers: It’s so short a ride.**

As we say goodbye to 2020 and greet 2021, my prayer is:

For all that has been, thanks!
And for all that will be, yes!



God has been by our side and will continue to guide us to do His work with a renewed sense of hope, zeal and energy. Happy New Year!

~Fr. Brian

This poem by Laura Kelly Fanucci imagines life on the other side of the coronavirus pandemic.



When This is Over

When this is over,
May we never again take for granted –

A handshake with a stranger,
Full shelves at the store,
Conversations with neighbors,
A crowded theater,
Friday night out,
The taste of communion,
A routine checkup,
Coffee with a friend,
The stadium roaring,
Each deep breath,
A boring Tuesday,
Life itself.

When this is over,
May we find that we have become –

More like the people we wanted to be,
We were called to be,
We hope to be.

When this is over,
May we remember the lessons this virus taught us
And live what we've learned –

Better for each other,
because of the worst.



A Note From Your Technology Team



There is no need to comment on the difficulty of this past year. We hear that enough, but it's the Vestry's hope that we have done enough to keep you in touch with your parish. It was a steep learning curve for this technology liaison, but I hope we have used our resources to the best of our ability.

That said, we move into 2021 with confidence that our in-person services will resume sometime in the coming year. The good news is that our online services will continue no matter what. We are hoping to move from the ZOOM platform to online streaming through YouTube and later Facebook in early January. This will allow Father Brian to resume a more traditional service format at the altar, provide better sound and visuals for our audience, and no longer limit our service length.

To make things easier, parishioners can access our YouTube Channel from the website, so Fr. Brian will no longer need to send out Zoom invitations. Every Sunday morning at 8 am and 10 am parishioners will log onto our website or go directly to our YouTube Channel and have access to the live stream of the worship service. The link to the channel is on the welcome page and is currently operational. Although there is no live stream running yet, you can check out a few things already on the channel. Also, in anticipation, I ask parishioners to **do a trial run** to make sure they understand how to access the channel, hopefully we can iron out any difficulties before we make the switch. Our website address is www.ignatiusantioch.com.

Please contact Nancy McConnell with questions. We are also looking for an iPad to help run our camera,

so if you are upgrading to a new iPad and interested in donating the old one to the church, please contact Nancy as well.

Blessings to everyone,
Nancy McC
262-716-5252
nancyemcc@wi.rr.co



Fun Winter Facts!

- ❖ The average snowflake falls at 3mph
- ❖ 10 inches of snow equals 1 inch of water
- ❖ All snowflakes have 6 sides
- ❖ The word “solstice” means “sun stands still”
- ❖ The 1st Winter Olympics was held in France in 1924.
- ❖ The snowiest city on Earth is in Japan
- ❖ Winter cold increases people’s appetite
- ❖ The coldest temp ever recorded was in Antarctica at -123 degrees Celsius (-189 F)

December Outreach Summary



Toys were donated to the wonderful local organization Antioch Traveling Closet. They collected hundreds of toys to distribute to needy families throughout our community.



Our January outreach will go to The Sharing Center. We are collecting flour, sugar, and cat food.

-Outreach Committee

God's Will Resale Shop



The store is open and accepting donations now during regular business hours.

COMEDY CORNER

