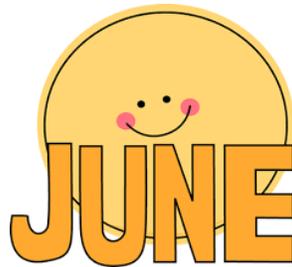


THE GOOD NEWS



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

As May ends, Illinois is at the end of its **Phase Two** “shelter in place” and has entered **Phase Three** “10-or-fewer.” We pray there won’t be a spike in Covid-19 cases which would force our Region to return to Phase Two for a while. All things being in our favor, the Governor announced that we may begin **Phase Four** “50-or-fewer” as early as June 26th. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer!

Following Governor Pritzker’s and Bishop Lee’s guidelines, our worship committee, wardens and vestry have been working with me toward a sense of

summer 2020 at St. Ignatius. In this article, I am addressing the *summer months only* because folks are often away summer weekends – and whatever our reality come fall, we will recalibrate then.

Our worship committee is recommending our campus’ re-opening to take place on Fathers’ Day weekend – both church and store.

- Our **Phase Three** “ten or fewer” adjusted schedule will offer the **Holy Eucharist on Saturday afternoons at 5, and Sunday mornings at 7:45, 9, and 10:15** for those who have made reservations – in compliance with the set maximum number of people allowed. (There will also be chairs on the other side of the narthex window for unanticipated worshipers.) And we will continue to **zoom both Sunday morning services** for those not comfort-able returning just yet
- “Assuming” **Phase Four** will begin on June 26th or after, the balance of our summer Eucharist schedule will be Saturday at 5pm, and Sunday at

8 and 10am – after Labor Day we may or may not continue the Saturday 5pm.

What will our worship look like during “10-or-fewer”?

- **Entering the church building:** The outer and inner doors into the building will be propped open (weather permitting) as well as the door entering the church proper – so no one will need to handle the doors. In the narthex we will have a table with worship materials, and hand sanitizer for cleansing. Face coverings (which are required) will also be available for those who do not have them.
- **Entering the church proper:** While the church will have been previously cleaned and sanitized, pews will be color coded. The color markings will indicate which pews are to be used at which service, ensuring sanitized space throughout the weekend while also maintaining social distancing. Yes, masks throughout the service please, and no handshaking – while friendly waving and nodding will always be appreciated. Until we know more than we do today, everyone’s safety is worth taking every precaution.
- **Once in church:** The collection plate will be located at the baptistery to receive your offering as you enter (and will not be brought forward), and the bread and wine will already be at the altar.
- **At communion time:** You are asked to come forward, masked, at six-foot distances via the main aisle. After receiving the consecrated host, you are asked to consume it while on your way back to your pew via the side aisles and not at the point of distribution. (Communion will be offered only under the form of hosts.)
- **At the end of the service:** You are asked to leave quietly at the end of the service, and to dispose of your worship materials, tissues, etc. in waste baskets provided at the church’s front and

rear exits. And kindly maintain social distancing both when exiting and while in the parking lot for everyone’s well-being.

- **Odds and ends:**
 - Our Prayer Books, Hymnals, Bibles, etc. will have been removed from the pews, replaced by disposable (recyclable) “one touch” worship materials.
 - Science tells us it is in our best interest not to have singing during Phase Two.
 - Restrooms will be open, but for one-at-a-time usage only – please knock before entering.
 - Both the kitchen and classrooms will be closed until further notice.
 - If you are sick or have been exposed to someone with Covid-19, please stay home – and let us know so we can pray for restored health and well-being.
 - And please be aware that I will need to pretty much keep to myself between Sunday services as I am among the vulnerable – I’m 71, diabetic, and a dialysis patient.

Additionally: The wardens and I met with the God’s Will leads. Our store will re-open at the same time the church does, and will be under the same capacity, mask, social distancing, and sanitation guidelines as the church. The leads will continue their usual fine day-to-day outreach ministry to the community.

At the Sunday, June 14th Vestry meeting, representatives from both the worship committee and store will present their responses to the diocese’s checklist. **If all guideline directives have been or will soon be addressed by both church and store, the wardens, vestry and I will sign off and submit our plans to the diocese, ensuring that our campus is able to re-open on Saturday, June 20th – the store with its Saturday 9-2 hours and the church with a 5pm Eucharist.** I thank all parties in advance

for working toward a safe, organized, guideline compliant re-opening.

Hopefully Phase Three won't last for a long time, yet it will be a considerable improvement over Phase Two! Then we will be on to Phase Four, with fuller options for us to re-embrace our parish mission, serving Christ and his people in our "new normal."

Know that I am personally very excited about our re-opening and getting to see one another again – even if *from the eyes up!*

May our parish family continue to be calm, safe, connected, cooperative & hopeful!

~ Fr. Brian

PS: Our experience zooming Sundays and Wednesdays has helped to keep us connected even while separated. Our average Sunday attendance at this time last year was 44, and during the 11 weeks we have zoomed services our average Sunday attendance has been 44. Not everyone "does church" every week, so more specifically, a total of 65 people have zoom worshiped with us one Sunday or another during May. And 23 people have joined us on one or another Wednesday evening for "Midweek prayer and open-mic fellowship."

When this is over,
may we never again take for granted:
A handshake,
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,
A stadium roaring with fans,
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,
and may we stay that way --
better for each other
because of the worst.

-- by *Laura Kelly Fanucci*

A WORD FROM THE WARDENS

Beginning Saturday, June 20th we are finally being allowed to open our doors (under very limited restrictions). We look at this as a kind of resurrection. We have all been quarantined, holed-up, restricted in some form or another. Like flowers in the spring, now is our chance to start emerging and blossoming.

As in the past, after any natural disaster, war, disease, or even an attack, when the smoke clears (sometimes literally), we humans tend to return to places and things that we feel safe in/at. Church and church family is one of the first places people want to take part in.

Starting out, we will be having limited services (following safety guidelines). Soon we will be able to have larger gatherings and be able to welcome new faces to our beautiful space.

Let's all begin to look with a new direction and enthusiasm as we prepare to welcome anyone who is looking to find a new home. WE are and have always been a great family and very welcoming. No need to say that we all need to put on our best smiling faces, and even with limited contact, show the world who we are and why we are here.

GOD BLESS and STAY SAFE

[WEBSITE](#)

Check out the St. Ignatius website @
Ignatiusantioch.com

We have a new look. What can you find on our website???

Under Worship you will find the current weeks Zoom meetings along with the username and password codes for your convenience.

We have our Payer List posted with a convenient form if you need to have anyone added or removed. This is extremely important during these times.

We also have links to the Chicago Diocese, GWRS and our Facebook pages. Thank you, Nicola McConnell!

~ Donna McElligott

[A QUOTE FOR THESE TROUBLING TIMES](#)

“The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate...Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

--*Martin Luther King, Jr.*