

THE GOOD NEWS



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN



Dear Ignatians ~

I'm writing this on Monday, March 2nd.

Last week was a busy week at St. Ignatius: Tuesday Mardi Gras; Ash Wednesday services; Friday's Fish Boil; and Saturday's Morning of Reflection.

Last evening we had a wonderful Lenten "Evening Prayer" (Vespers Service); the Worship Committee meets tonight to discuss Lent and Holy Week; on Wednesday, I'll meet with the Tri-Parish clergy in the morning, celebrate our weekly noon Eucharist, and later in the day we'll Walk the Stations of the

Cross, enjoy a soup and salad supper, followed by a Lenten discussion; Friday is the second of our five Lenten Fish Boils; and then Saturday breakfast with the men of the parish (time with "the guys" which I look forward to every month!). What a great time of the year this is!

Lent is one of my favorite seasons. Yet, as I mentioned in my Ash Wednesday reflection, I've found that "I don't find Lent; Lent has its way of finding me." So while we will be following a Lenten schedule week-by-week, there's no hiding from the fact that something – I have no idea "what" – *something* will define this Lent for me . . . and it's probably the same for you as well.

Meanwhile, I do most heartily hope you'll take advantage of the weekly opportunities before us as a congregation:

- Sunday morning Eucharist, 8 and 10am;
- Sunday evening Vespers, 6pm;
- Wednesday Eucharist at noon, Stations at 6pm, Soup & Salad Supper at 6:30pm, Lenten Discussion at 7pm;
- Friday Lenten Fish Boils, 4:30-7:30pm;

- And Bishop Lee's Visitation on Sunday, March 15th, with Eucharist at 9am (combining 8 & 10 just for that morning) followed by a luncheon celebrating Bishop Lee's twelve years as *our* Bishop and the Bishop of the Chicago Diocese.

All this in preparation for our celebration of Easter, the Lord's resurrection and triumph over sin and evil – and, by then, the arrival of spring and the first robin in Antioch!

Do take advantage of these special weeks, this holy season, these days between Ashes and Easter. Stay close. And know that I'm always as close as an e-mail or a phone call. I'm here to serve, and available should you need me.

In the space remaining, I'd once again like to share some of the Lenten thoughts I received just this morning from a blogger-priest I admire and enjoy: Fr. Jay Sidebotham.

Addressing the question, "*Can God set a table in the wilderness?*" he wrote and I paraphrase:

With the children of Israel oppressed by Pharaoh and the Egyptians, God and Moses led the Israelites' forty years' wanderings in the *wilderness*, tracing a rather circuitous route. Israel in exile sought a path home through the *wilderness* – with no cell phones or GPS to guide them, but with God as their guide!

Then, the voice of John the Baptist was heard crying in the *wilderness*. And immediately after Jesus' baptism, the Lord himself retreated to the *wilderness* where he was tested by the devil.

The Church compares the season of Lent to a time spent in the *wilderness*, wandering and all the while wondering in the language of Psalm 78: "*Can God set a table in the wilderness?*"

The fact is, we don't need the Bible to tell us about *wilderness* experiences. We all know something about it, even those who are not exactly outdoorsy types. Some of my *wilderness* moments came in densely populated urban settings, with lots of people around and yet no one around.

Wilderness can come when we enter uncharted territory. *Wilderness* can come through all kinds of experiences of deprivation:

Wilderness can come in response to a crisis of health or finances or employment or relationships or meaning. *Wilderness* can come with the sense of abandonment that accompanies grief. Just a few examples, illustrating what we all know so well: "Suffering is a promise life always keeps." We're all way too familiar with *wilderness*.

The Church, again, presents Lent as a journey through the *wilderness*, a time marked by challenge. At the same time, for Moses it was the place where he received his call. It was the place where the children of Israel were formed as a nation. It was the venue for John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Messiah. And it launched Jesus in his public ministry. So the answer, sometimes hard to believe, is that yes, God can indeed *set a table in the wilderness*. In other words, it is a place from which something new can emerge.

The fact that we make our way through this season of Lent together means that on some level, we are all experiencing *wilderness*. As you navigate this journey, let's make it more than a season to just feel deprived, to feel more miserable-than-thou. Let's see what God might have to teach us in this time.

The children of Israel discovered that *God could indeed set a table in the wilderness*. Perhaps we can discover that too this Lent.

~ Fr. Brian

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A WARM INVITATION

If you enjoy reading the Psalms,
hearing Lenten Scriptures,
singing a praiseful Hymn, and
praying for others far and near
in the company of others . . .

If you are moved by evening shadows,
the sound of our church bells,
the sight of flickering candles, and
the smell of incense
in the presence of God . . .

You are warmly invited to gather
with your St. Ignatius Church Family
Sunday evenings during Lent at 6pm
to experience the timeless and treasured
Evening Prayers of "Vespers."

FISH BOILS CONTINUE

Thanks to everyone who has helped at our boils. The boils continue through March 27th. If you haven't signed up to work yet, please consider doing so. Remember we still need desserts each week. Ask friends and relatives to join you to eat at the boils.

Kathy Kraak

EASTER FLOWERS

Please consider donating monies toward Easter flowers to decorate our worship space. Envelopes will be found in each pew or by asking an usher. The cost is \$15.00 per plant. Please remember to note if your donation is in memory of or in thanksgiving for someone or something.



Palm Sunday, April 5

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist *with Passion Reading*
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist *with Holy Palm Procession & Passion Reading*

Wednesday, April 8

- 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Soup, Salad & Discussion

Maundy Thursday, April 9

- 6:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper *with Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar*
- 7:30 p.m. "Night Watch" until 6:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 10

- 12:00 – 3:00 Church open for private prayer and/or "drop in" bible study with Fr. Brian
- 6:00 p.m. Good Friday Service *with Passion Reading & Veneration of the Cross*

Holy Saturday, April 11

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday Service (before decorating & other preparations)
- 8:00 p.m. Vigil of Easter & First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Sunday, April 12

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist of the Resurrection

RELAY FOR LIFE – KRAAK TEAM

Every year Ernie & I are part of a Relay for Life team. Five years ago, Ernie volunteered to shave off his beard if I raised \$1,000. Then the challenge came from Mike Culat to have him wear a Bears jersey for another \$1,000. That year I succeeded on both fronts and raised over \$2,000. That was the first time since 1984 that he had shaved it all off. He has again volunteered to shave his beard off if I raise \$1,000. I am going to try. If you are able and have the desire please contribute to this cause. Our family has lost too many family members and friends to cancer and I am sure most of you have too. Thank you.

Kathy Kraak

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

This would be a great dish to bring for the church social hour (hint-hint) or serve for Easter brunch.

CREAM CHEESE SQUARES

2 (8 oz) cans crescent roll dough (you can also buy a crescent roll sheet as opposed to rolls)
2 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup melted butter
1/4 cup sugar
1 tsp cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 9 x 13 pan.

Press one can of rolls/sheet pastry into bottom of pan. Cream together cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, and vanilla until smooth and creamy. Spread over crescent layer.

Unroll second can of rolls and lay on top of cream cheese layer. **DO NOT PRESS DOWN.** Pour melted butter over entire pan. Combine remaining sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle over top.

Bake 25-30 minutes until top is crisp and golden.

Enjoy! ~ *Faye Nash*