

THE GOOD NEWS

November 2020

St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church
Walking in love as Christ taught us



A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN:

Dear Ignatians ~

Because my article of necessity is “information heavy,” I apologize in advance; and, to make up for it, I’m sharing an inspirational “spiritual” article a page-or-two later in this Newsletter.

I think the best way to approach this is chronologically – and you may wish to jot a few of the dates on your calendars.

(1) As a Diocese, we will hold a virtual **Electing Convention** for our 13th Bishop on Sat., **Dec. 12** – and our delegates to that Convention are Roger and Carolyn Van Patten, and Terry Hansen-Beno. Our delegates (elected by us at January’s Annual Meeting) wish to take into consideration our input to them on the Candidates when they cast their votes on behalf of St. Ignatius. On what basis can we give them our input?

By attending any or all of the Diocese’s six on-line “Candidate Conversations” with the four Candidates,

and then by attending our Pre-Election Convention meeting at church on Sun., **Dec. 6** at 9am.

The Diocese’s six “Candidate Conversations” are set for:

- Thu., Nov. 5 at 6pm ~ Fri., Nov. 6 at 10am
- Sat., Nov. 7 at 12 noon
- Thu. Nov. 12 at 6pm ~ Fri., Nov. 13 at 10am
- Sat., Nov. 14 at 12 noon



To access these conversations, go to chicagobishopsearch.org and click on **Candidate Conversations Schedule and Zoom Webinar Links**.

(2) At the same time, our **183rd annual Diocesan Convention** will be held on-line Sat., **Nov. 21**. Here too you are invited to a Pre-Convention meeting at church on Sun., **Nov. 15** at 9am. Our delegates will present this year’s Convention business, receive our input, and consider our input when they cast their votes on behalf of St. Ignatius.

Note that on the Sundays after each Convention – **Nov. 22 and Dec. 13** – our delegates will again be available at 9am to “fill us in” on what happened at each Convention at Post-Convention meetings.

In all of this, please pray for the 122 congregations in the 22 counties in our northern third of Illinois, and please pray for the delegates’ Holy Spirit guided discernment of the Candidate who will be elected our 13th Bishop.

(3) Last year I so enjoyed the tradition of our Tri-Parish partners – Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal – joint celebration on the Sunday evening before **Thanksgiving**. This is a different year because of Covid-19, and the Methodist congregation has a new pastor while the Lutheran congregation is “between” pastors.

I met with Pastor Katie (Methodist), and we will definitely do something the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving on-line as a Joint Service. What it will look like via Zoom we do not know yet, but it will happen. Details in my weekly e-mails as they unfold.

(4) I asked the Vestry to consider Covid-19 and how it might affect our **Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning** schedule. (Indiscriminate family gatherings on Thanksgiving *may* catch up with us and affect our positivity rate by Christmas.)

Last year our 5pm Christmas Eve Eucharist was attended by 57 people, and our 10am Christmas Day Eucharist by 20. Assuming Illinois will still hold us to “25% of capacity,” it seems best to the Vestry that we have **two Christmas Eve Eucharists at 5 and 8pm, and one Christmas Morning at 10am**. Plus, each of these Eucharists will also be available on-line.

Using aisle seating and every other row: 18 “households living under the same roof” can be masked and socially distanced at each service, meaning we can safely accommodate **you and yours**. As your holiday plans take shape, do plan to be with our St. Ignatius Family for Christmas – either in-person or on-line!

(5) Okay, that raises a question about **New Year’s Eve and Day**. Last year we began the New Year with one (lightly attended), Eucharist on New Year’s Day at 10am – with nothing to end the Old Year on New Year’s Eve. I welcome your thoughts about this. I’m here to pray with you whenever you want. What would you like? I’m open to your wishes. When would you attend?

Honored to serve you as your parish priest!
I pray for all of you. Please pray for me.

~Fr. Brian

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OCTOBER OUTREACH SUMMARY

Kids for Kids Treasure’s & Treats Drive Thru Food Drive...



On	Saturday
October	31st,
St. Ignatius	
collected	276
individual	kid
friendly	food

items for PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter) . In addition to the collected items, PADS also received all the leftover "drive through" treats which included candy, juice, snacks and cake in a mug packets. Special thanks to the following costumed volunteers and those that assisted with making October's outreach event a success: Fr. Brian and Terry Hansen-Beno, Jim and Patty Bletsch, Bonnie Ebler, Heidi, Jim, Meg, Robyn and Chris George, Kathy and Ernie Kraak, Nancy and Doug McConnell, Donna and Bill McElligott, and Fr. Bob and Carol Seay.

-Terry Hansen-Beno

FUN FACTS:



As we are in the time of year where we elect the next President of the United States of America, it sparked my curiosity to the religious affiliations of past President's.

The majority of President's were practicing Episcopalians (11), this includes our First American President, George Washington.

In part, the more vast amount of Episcopal President's is because of the Church of England, from which the Episcopal Church is derived, was the established church in some of the British Colonies, of which they are from.

-Jenn

The Ministry of Outreach



It's an old saying among our Jewish brothers and sisters that "It isn't that Jews keep God's Commandments, but that God's Commandments keep them Jewish." In the same way: "It isn't that Christians do Outreach, but that Outreach keeps us Christian."

I'm told that in past years St. Ignatius was quite ambitious in its parish outreach, but then our membership began to shrink, and with the opening of our Resale Shop, outreach began to be identified more and more with the shop. As a result, apart from our members who volunteer at the shop, the

congregation as a whole became less and less involved in outreach. That's the story I'm told.

Covid has slowed us down and has given us the opportunity to examine the importance of outreach in our parish mission and vision. After a few recent initiatives, our Outreach Committee has been helping us back on track through our:

- 9/11 memorial bell tolling and prayers;
- September collection of items for A Safe Place;
- St. Francis Day blessing of pets; and
- Halloween drive-through "Kids for Kids" collection for PADS (P^roviding A^dvocacy, Dⁱgnity & S^helter).



A new initiative this year is for us to present Fruit Baskets to our congregation's "hometown" First Responders on Thanksgiving at our Police Department and three Fire Stations. If you would like to contribute toward these appreciation gifts, please write a check to St. Ignatius and write Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo section by Sun., Nov. 22nd. The amount of our combined donations will determine the size of the baskets. Thank you for helping us thank them for their service to us!

Additionally, even with our kitchen being closed due to Covid-19 and our social opportunities seriously limited, our Fellowship Committee is also rising to the occasion:

- Paula, our Fellowship chair, is donating ten pumpkin pies to be given away at random at the shop Nov. 18-21;
- Bagged celebratory dessert items will be distributed after Eucharist on November 8th celebrating Deacon Anne Smith's ordination and Sunday with us;
- Bagged Christmas cookies will be offered to those attending our Christmas Services.



Our hope is that complimentary posture to the outreach being offered through the shop, we can once again mobilize the congregation as a whole through an "Outreach of the Month" effort each month through 2021. If you have ideas and would like to assist Donna, Terry, and myself in our Outreach Committee, please talk to one of us.

From time to time I've shared articles from a few of the clergy bloggers I read regularly: Revs. Richard Key, David Sidebotham, and David Luecke. This month I'd like to share this seasonal message from Scott Stoner.



Mindful Raking



A story is told about a Buddhist monk who was asked what he did before he attained enlightenment. He responded, "I chopped wood and carried water." He was then asked what he did after achieving the highest state of enlightenment. "I continued to chop wood and carry water." The point is that living a mindful, spiritual life does not always lead to dramatic changes in our behaviors, although it indeed may. Living a mindful, spiritual life changes us on the inside; it changes our perspective on life. What we do may not change, but our mindset while doing it will likely shift.

All that I just shared with you came to my mind early this week when I was raking leaves. If you were to walk by my house while I was raking, you might think to yourself, "There's a guy raking his lawn." This would be true, but what you might not realize is that what you are also observing is a guy who is having a spiritual moment.

I actually love raking leaves. I have been looking forward to it for weeks and am so excited the time has come again here in Wisconsin for this annual ritual. Raking the brilliantly colored leaves reminds me of both the beauty and the impermanence of life – all the more reason to live more mindfully in the ipresent moment. Raking the yard can be mindless work, or when done mindfully, it can be energizing, and even comforting.

All of us have numerous mindless tasks that we do regularly: brushing our teeth, taking a shower,

making meals, taking care of the kids, doing the laundry, taking out the garbage, cleaning the house, grocery shopping, and paying the bills. Like the leaves that are falling from my trees right now, all of these tasks are constant. These are the givens of life.

What is optional, though, is the mindset we will bring to doing these things. Will we do them with impatience or resentment, wishing we could get on with something more important or more pleasurable? Or will we do them with a spirit of acceptance, being fully present in the moment? Can we find a way to be grateful that we have a yard to rake, kids to care for, or a house to clean? Attitude will not alter the time needed to perform a task, but it will determine whether we end up feeling content or exhausted when we are through.

The next time you have a repetitive task to do, try making it a mindful task, doing it with presence and gratitude for all you have and all you have been given. Remember, it won't take any longer to do, and it just might make a difference in your well-being and the well-being of those around you.

THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS CASSEROLE



Recipe by: Erica Walker

Ingredients:

- ❖ 3 cups turkey shredded
- ❖ 1 1/2 cups cranberry sauce
- ❖ 4 cups mashed potatoes
- ❖ 2 cups corn
- ❖ 2 cups turkey gravy
- ❖ 1/3 cup milk

- ❖ 4 cups stuffing
- ❖ 1/4 cup chicken broth or to taste

Instructions

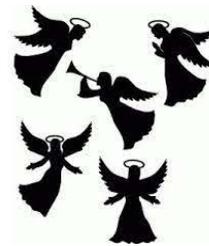
1. Preheat oven to 400-degrees.
2. Combine turkey and cranberry sauce and spread evenly on the bottom of a 9x13 glass baking dish.
3. Evenly press on leftover mashed potatoes and sprinkle corn over the top.
4. Mix together milk and leftover gravy and spread evenly over potatoes and corn.
5. Sprinkle on leftover stuffing and lightly drizzle chicken broth over the top (this will keep the stuffing from drying out).
6. Cover with tin foil and bake at 400-degrees for appx. 35-40 minutes or until heated through.

COMEDY CORNER



-How do groups of angels greet each other?

-Halo, halo, halo!



A cheerful ❤️ is good medicine.
-Proverbs 17:22