



THE GOOD NEWS

May 2019

A LETTER FROM FATHER BRIAN

Dear St. Ignatius Family

March and April have zoomed by since Terry and I joined you. Again, we thank you for your gracious welcome! We do not take your many kindnesses for granted as you've helped us settle in and begin to feel at home. Meanwhile, our first priority has been to begin to get to know you.

In addition to many one-on-one opportunities in person and by phone, we've enjoyed:

- Sunday Eucharist with you and social time afterward;
- Learning Lent's lessons with you on Sundays, and walking the Way of the Cross on Wednesdays;
- Celebrating the stirring days and liturgies of Holy Week and Easter;
- Meeting so many folks from the community while serving at the Fish Boils;
- Working alongside you for a while most Wednesday afternoons at God's Will;
- Planning Holy Week services with representatives from our liturgical ministries;
- Working with our co-wardens and vestry;
- Being involved with our Tri-Parish ministry: participating in the Good Friday prayer walk, and hosting Pastor Char and folks from the UMC at our Easter Vigil;
- Breakfasting with St. Ignatius' men on first Saturdays;
- Visiting our homebound in person and by phone;
- Sharing life-stories and experiences, a few meals, and being invited to a few of your homes;

- Announcing the sad news of deaths to all of you on our e-list; and

Many other things that elude me at the moment that have been part of the fabric of daily life with you.

In all these situations, it is you whom we're getting to know, and we give thanks to God for each opportunity. (Okay, I wasn't exactly thrilled with the cold and snow of what seemed to be an overly prolonged winter – but everything else has been great.)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And now that we have celebrated our Lord's victory over sin and triumph over death, we now find many opportunities for us to allow Christ to rise within us as we continue to get to know one another and move forward in the joy of his resurrection:

- At the end of April, I met with the parents with children under age 12 to listen to them and to discuss their inclusion in the life of St. Ignatius. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me," so we need to encourage them and their families in their spiritual, social, and life-long formation needs.
- Similarly, I offered a Morning of Reflection on the Saturday after Easter to explore the meaning, presence, and challenge of Christ's resurrection in our daily lives. Wonderful discussion as we learned with and from one another! (I will also offer Mornings of Reflection on the first Saturdays of Advent, Christmas, and Lent.)
- Having developed a wonderful rapport planning the services of Holy Week, representatives from our liturgical ministries will continue to meet

with me regularly to anticipate and plan special occasions as the church's calendar continues to unfold.

- And there are several required clergy gatherings that will take me away from St. Ignatius:
 - There's a Deanery Meeting on Saturday, May 18th in Lake Villa;
 - The required College for Congregational Development, June 24-29 in Woodstock;
 - And Anti-Racism Training, July 25-27 in Chicago.
- And on Thursday, May 30th we will celebrate the Lord's Ascension into heaven, preceded that week by the Church's annual Rogation Days – special days of prayer dating back to the sixth century and pre-dating our Earth Day observances by more than 1400 years!

Otherwise, know that I am here to serve.

I am available to you
at church,

by cell phone at (920) 904-7025, and
by e-mail at brian.beno51@gmail.com.

During these weeks of Easter, let's continue to discover the presence of the risen Lord within ourselves, one another, our lives, and daily events. Remember: Christ is risen only to the extent that you and I allow him to live and rise in us! . . . And kindly keep me in your prayers that I may serve the Lord and you to the best of my ability.

Fr. Brian

Pastoral Care Commission. The Fellowship Commission, headed by Jo Anne Kriens, has reinstated social hour after the Sunday 10 am mass. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. We are thinking about a parish picnic in July. Paula Neville, as head of the Formation Committee, is in communication with our Diocese to launch 'Keeping God's People Safe' training. This is a 2-level workshop training program and is required for all clergy, paid employees, and all persons who work with youth or vulnerable adults. More information will be provided when it is available. Anyone with questions, please talk to Paula. The Outreach Commission, headed by Jack Fields, shared the following news from God's Will Resale Shop (information provided by Carolyn Van Patten): for the first 4 months of 2019 – served 580 customers as well as 16 families, including A Safe Place, the Sharing Center, Open Arms Mission, Antioch Township, One Hope United, and the Antioch Police Department. A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers! On behalf of our Administration Commission, Roger Van Patten has been working diligently on the security and fire systems for the church building and God's Will Resale Shop. The inspections have been completed and the security system is now live. There are a few more items on the to-do list that will be addressed by the Vestry. The next Vestry meeting is Sunday June 23rd after the 10 am mass – all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Jack Fields and Jo Anne Kriens

A LETTER FROM THE WARDENS

The Vestry and parishioners met on April 28, 2019 for a combined quarterly parish meeting and monthly Vestry meeting. We discussed the usual Vestry meeting items like financial reports (March 2019 and quarterly), the fire/security systems, and the updated contracts, but the primary focus was on the formation of the Commissions. We had a few people volunteer. You will see some new faces ushering and at the Altar. We continue to attempt to grow our Music Ministry. You will hear a few familiar voices and some new voices as well. Anyone interested, please talk to Dennis Mellen. Father Brian is leading the

FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Father Brian is proposing many formation opportunities and would like your feedback (he's going to keep us busy!). Here are a few ideas from his recent parish email:

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, I'd like to do a summer discussion / study group on the *Letters of St. Ignatius*. **I suggest 6:15-7:15pm on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays – June 12 & 26, July 10 & 24, and August 14 & 28.** St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Syria, wrote seven highly regarded letters while traveling, under arrest, as a prisoner condemned to be executed in Rome for his beliefs and teachings. He was thrown to the lions in the year 110. With the summer months just over the horizon, if you have interest in learning about what St. Ignatius was willing to die for and think you might be able to work 6 one-hour gatherings into your summer schedule, kindly let me know.

Then between Labor Day and Thanksgiving, I'd like to do a 5 week "wrap up" series on the *Gospels readings that end the Church Year and begin the next*. **I'm thinking 6:15-7:15pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays – September 4 & 18, 2 & 16, and November 6.** Would there be interest?

Realizing you have busy lives, I like to keep groups limited to one hour in length and for a limited amount of sessions – but I prefer no fewer than 6 regular attendees for the give and take necessary for an interesting discussion group.

(1) Reminder: There is an **open invitation to the men of St. Ignatius to gather for breakfast at 9am the first Saturday of each month downtown at Mauri's**. No agenda, just conversation. Separate checks. Attend whenever you can. The tables are movable to accommodate our group.

(2) Would you like to offer your home for a summertime **weekday evening Patio or Backyard Mass**? If you can gather 10-15 friends and neighbors, I'd be honored to offer an informal, relaxed Mass. Everyone BYO Lawn

chair . . . and maybe some finger food afterwards. (Not weekends so as not to compete with Sunday morning attendance.) *Note:* Home blessings – any time you wish.

(3) We had a thought-provoking **Morning of Reflection** from 9-11am the Saturday after Easter. I plan to offer future mornings to focus on our spirituality the Saturday beginning each of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

(4) Oh, and I really would like for us to offer **Evening Prayer at 6pm on the first Sunday of every month**. Any interest; any takers? I find this an especially peaceful way to move into the new week – and if you're busy Sunday mornings, this is an extra church option for "keeping the Lord's day holy." Should I sense interest, I'd love for us to offer this "most Anglican" of all of our Prayer Book services.

STORY TIME

On Wednesday, May 22, from 6:00 – 6:45 p.m., St. Ignatius will host a story time in our social hall for children in the community. This will be led by the parents of children in our parish and will include a story, small snack, and a craft activity. It's sure to be a good time – pass the word!

Mark your calendar for story time next month – June 26

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN -

your mother would admonish with, “Were you born in a barn. Shut the door!”, or “Do you think money grows on a tree?”

These admonitions ran through my mind last Tuesday when I stop by the church to see if the security alarm had been successfully activated. No problem there! Whew!

But what I did find did disturb me some:

- Lights left on
- Church to sacristy door wide open
- Sacristy exit door not dead bolt locked
- \$6,000+ worth of sacred vessels left out in the open

I know I’m sounding a bit preachy but remember there is no-one walking behind us to admonish us like mom could. Just asking for a little more thoughtfulness to our actions.

Roger Van Patten
Building & Grounds

CHURCH ACCESS

If you have access to the church, make sure you know how to operate the security alarm system and that you have a personal ID code entered into the system. Call Roger Van Patten for assistance @ 262-308-4608.

Also, if you have a key to the church, please check with the office to see that it is properly recorded in your name. Additionally, if your key is stamped with an identification other than 4AA, please contact the office. All unneeded AA keys should be turned in at the office. Thanks.

ASCENSION

Ascension will be celebrated on Thursday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a dessert social. We will also be *attempting* to fly kites. A few kites will be provided or bring your own. Please see the sign-up sheet for lectors, ushers, and servers for that service.

PENTECOST

As you know, Pentecost begins on June 9th. Father Brian has suggested we all wear red on that Sunday.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION (mark your calendar)

We have a great view from the “hill” at St. Ignatius to view the fireworks from Antioch and surrounding communities. So, pack your picnic basket, a blanket, and some bug spray and join us on July 4 to celebrate Independence Day. As an added bonus, God’s Will Resale Shop will be open until 9:00 p.m. that day! - More info to come –

INVITE THE COMMUNITY (mark your calendar)

On **Sunday, July 7**, we are kicking things up a notch! We are inviting friends, neighbors, and the entire community to come and experience St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church. We would like everyone to meet Father Brian and his lovely wife, be introduced to all the ministries here – Worship, God’s Will Resale Shop, Antioch Community Counseling Services, Story Time, and lots more. Help us get the word out – invite your friends and neighbors to the 10:00 service on July 7th. After that service, we will serve up a great picnic lunch. - More info to come –
