

THE GOOD NEWS

April 2021

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



A LETTER FROM FR. BRIAN

Dear Ignatians ~

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!



How do I know this is true? Because of the presence of Christ that I've experienced, first through my dear parents; then through my relatives, teachers, friends and peers; then through the people in the congregations I've been privileged to serve over 4½

decades; and now through you, my Parish Family at St. Ignatius!

I heartily thank all of you who participated in our Lenten worship, formation, and devotional gatherings. And I am especially thankful to all who, through their participation, made Holy Week a week of special blessings.

Our Bishop-Elect, Paula Clark, posted an Easter Message (available in its entirety on the Diocesan website: episcopalchicago.org). I'm writing this on Easter Monday, and would like to share a few of our Bishop-Elect's quotes and offer a few thoughts of my own. Bishop-Elect Clark writes:

“This Easter many of us are Zoomed-out, stressed out, or just plain tired. We have been living under COVID restrictions for over a year now, and we are ready to see our friends in person, hug our relatives, and go wherever our hearts desire.”

We've made it this far, and now is no time for any of us to act foolishly or selfishly, possibly causing a lengthening of restrictions for all of us. While

masked, Easter was the first time I walked to the back of church to greet folks from a proper social distance as they left church, while Terry offered each a wrapped Easter treat.

Now, over the next few weeks, as more of us will have received our vaccinations, we look forward to seeing some folks in-person we haven't seen in-person since last year! However restrictive, I ask us all to continue to follow current guidelines so folks will feel comfortable venturing back to church. Vaccinated or not, let's all continue to wear our masks and keep social distance, while we offer you "one-time use" worship sheets, Holy Communion served from trays with individual compartments, and social distancing maintained everywhere on our campus. We'll get past this sooner if out of a sense of Christian charity we continue to act in one another's best interest.

"This Easter I . . . have a 'Holy Hope.' . . . Holy Hope is a God-given expectancy and energy, grounded and powered by God's love for us, and our love for God. It is not wishful thinking or optimism, but an under-standing that no matter our circumstances, God is present to support, guide and love us."

As I said one of the Sundays of Lent: "Let's not try to return to the *old* normal, because it wasn't always as good as we may remember. And let's not hurry toward a *new* normal until we process what God may have been trying to teach us this past year. *Then*, let's rush together toward *God's* normal – thinking less of self and more of others, discerning God's presence each day "to support, guide, and love us."

"I have holy hope because these challenging times have often brought out the best in us, and we have seen glimpses of God in how we have come together . . . cared and prayed for one another . . ."

One of the things we did together this Lent was share a day-by-day prayer list in which we joined together each day to pray by name for the members of one of our parish family households. I received a number

of positive comments, folks appreciative of the united effort of 80 of our members and friends lifting them and their concerns to the Lord in prayer. Thanks to all for making this a comforting ministry during a time in which we were all experiencing significant stress.

"While Zoom and Facebook Live can be challenging, they have kept us connected, and brought into our worshipping communities some who would not have been able to be with us in person."

I am so grateful for Zoom as a ministry tool. I had to become a quick study, but our Technology Committee was very helpful and supportive. Zoom kept me and us connected even from a distance. I shudder to think what life would have been like were we to have experienced this pandemic without having the phone, e-mail and zooming available to us! And even as folks return to in-person worship, I think Zoom will continue to be an electronic Sunday outreach from us to the homebound and to our parishioners when they're traveling (if they wish).

"We have been creative about how we serve people in our surrounding communities and found that there is more – much more – to our church than its buildings."



Outreach is definitely one of our strengths as a congregation. Our Resale Store serves lots of folks who may never enter our church doors but nonetheless experience our outreach concern for the less fortunate (as well as bargain hunters). Still, while a limited number of our members are able to volunteer their services in the store, during Covid, we as a congregation began an "Outreach of the Month" – reaching out to a different community service or

agency *each month*, enabling all the members of our parish family to participate to the extent of their ability and interest in each month's concern. We, as a congregation, are reaching far beyond ourselves and our church doors, and do so to the Lord's greater glory, in service to his people.

“Easter . . . is all about holy hope. As Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, ‘Nothing could have been more hopeless than Good Friday – but then Easter happened, and forever we have to become prisoners of hope.’”

As a Christian, I believe I have no option other than to be an optimist. Holy Week's Friday is *good*, because God loves us, gave us his Son, who gave his life for us, redeemed us, and bids us love one another and have faith in our good and gracious God. Holy Week's Friday became *good* and Easter became *holy*, and we became “prisoners of hope” – God's beloved sons and daughters, and Christ's own forever!

“God calls us not to be prisoners of our circumstances, but prisoners of a holy hope, for Jesus our Savior has overcome death, God promises abundant life in Him, no matter what.”

Amen! Alleluia!

I am especially grateful to those who shared time with me during the 72 hours the Church offers us from Maundy Thursday evening until Easter evening. These are the only days in the church year when we uniquely “stretch out” and carefully celebrate step-by-step in “real time” the events through which we have been saved

Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper
Then the Night Watch in the Garden
And the apostles' dispersal as our Lord is betrayed.

Good Friday's open church from 12-3,
walking the Way of the Cross, and
viewing “The Passion of the Christ,”
Good Friday's evening service including
John's Passion and Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday Noonday Prayer “at the tomb,”
and the evening Easter Vigil including
Readings from the Old Testament,
preparing and lighting the Paschal Candle,
renewal of our Baptismal Vows,
and the First Eucharist of Easter.

Easter Day itself:
Morning Prayer “at the empty tomb,”
Easter Day Eucharist,
and Easter Evening Prayer.

And *now*: Pursuing the spiritual riches of Easter,
at 6pm on Wednesday evenings during April,
we will gather in-person in our Fellowship space
to study the Gospel's resurrection appearances.

Join me! Join us!

Faithfully, in the risen Lord!

~Fr. Brian

An Easter Editorial



From time to time I share bits from Fr. Jay Sidebotham's weekly blog. This month, his thoughts on Easter, our April 4th Prayer Book memorial to Dr. King, race relations, the pandemic – and our Easter faith. ~ Fr. Brian

Easter falls on April 4th this year, the day of the year on which our Episcopal Calendar gives thanks for the life and ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr. His life ended on April 4th on a balcony at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The night before Dr. King died,

he preached a sermon in which he seemed to know what was coming. He spoke about the Promised Land, a hopeful vision which he knew he himself might not see but to which he had led a movement. That sermon had Easter promise written all over it.

In 1957, he preached an Easter Sermon entitled “Questions that Easter Answers.” He said: “As I look over the world, as I look at America, I can see Easter coming in race relations. I can see it coming on every hand. I see it coming in Montgomery. Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity. What stops us does not stop God, and that miracle is as much a part of the end as of the beginning. Above all, Easter provides answers to the deepest queries of the human spirit.”

Our observance of Easter obviously happens year after year with dreams unfulfilled. In 1957, Dr. King claimed that he could see Easter coming in terms of race relations. I can’t imagine he would have imagined that in Holy Week 2021 we’d be watching footage of the end of George Floyd’s life. And while we may see Easter coming after a year of COVID, we still contend with the great losses that come from this health and economic crisis.

The new life that is promised in Easter does not mean that all difficulties of life dissipate. It does mean that week in and week out we affirm that love wins. We join with Dr. King in claiming this as the Easter message: “Love is the most durable power in the world ... Through the love that God revealed through Jesus Christ, things move on.” As he said, what stops us does not stop God.

May we this day, this week, this Easter season tap into that durable power.



Our Faith:

Ever Ancient; Ever New



Because there are two periods of time – the one that now is, beset with the trials and troubles of this life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy – we are given two liturgical seasons, one before Easter and the other after. The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess. This is why we keep the first season with fasting and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise.

This is now the season of “Alleluia,” as we urge one another to “praise God.” You say to your neighbor: “Praise God!” and your neighbor says the same to you. We are all urging one another to “praise God” – and are all thereby doing what each of us urges the other to do.

~ St. Augustine (354-430)



Outreach Summary

MARCH OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH RECAP:

Thanks to all who contributed so generously to **Camp Crayon** throughout the month of March. Together we collected the following:

- 1 large bucket of balls and a ball pump
- 6 playground balls
- 36 small handballs

- 150 pieces of playground chalk
- 44 bottles of bubbles
- 1 bubble machine
- \$50.00 cash



The children and staff of Camp Crayon can't wait to put our donations to spring and summer use.

APRIL OUTREACH MISSION OF THE MONTH:

April's Mission of the Month is **The Antioch Public Library**. We will be collecting cash donations to purchase items for their Community Literature Boxes. This new program features personalized book boxes for book lovers of all ages. Inside each box will be a library book (which is returned to the library after reading) and 2 additional items for each participant to keep. St. Ignatius will be purchasing the following requested items with the cash donations collected:

- 50 Powdered Energy Drink Packs
- 50 Floral Magnetic Bookmarks
- 25 Safety Lanyard Whistles
- 25 Mini Pop Open Inspiration Note Cards
- 50 Sticks of Sidewalk Chalk
- 25 Mini Pops
- 25 Fruit Snack Packs
- 25 Sheets of Stickers

St. Ignatius is the first group to have offered to partner with the library on this project. In a recent e-mail Jennifer Drinka, Director of the Antioch Public Library wrote: **"I am so impressed with what St. Ignatius Episcopal Church and the Outreach Ministry is doing to make our community a better place."** Our outreach efforts in the past 6 months have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Please place your cash donation or check in the box on the table in the entrance to church or drop off donations at the church office M-Th 9:00-12:00. Make checks payable to St. Ignatius and add Library Outreach on the memo line. Donations will be collected through Sunday April 25, 2021.

-Outreach Committee

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

We would like to THANK all of the local business sponsors and patrons for all of your support from previous years to present. We appreciate your patience and cooperation with following safety guidelines. Donations are accepted during our regular business hours, and we are receiving new inventory daily!

April Special:
50% off **YELLOW** sticker items



Any questions call the shop at 224-321-4475



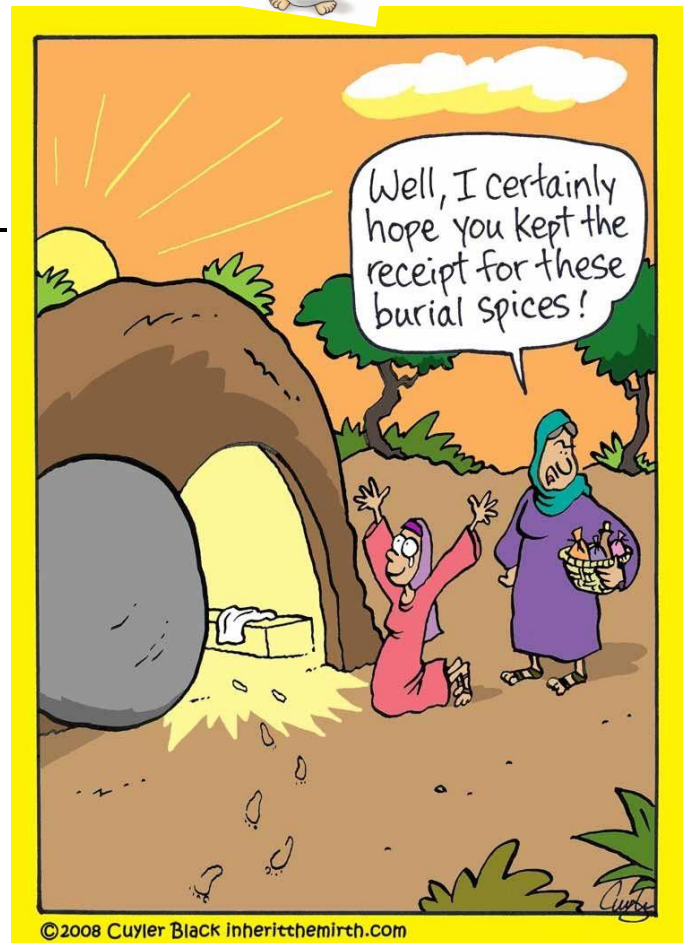
Easter Trivia

- The Jackrabbit can run up to 45 mph.
- Rabbits with upright ears hear better than rabbits with floppy ears.
- A female rabbit is called a doe.
- A baby rabbit is called a kit.
- The record high jump of a rabbit measured 3.3 feet!
- 76% of Americans eat the ears first when eating their chocolate bunnies.
- Chocolate eggs were first made in Germany in the 1800s.
- The world's largest Easter egg was over 25 feet tall and weighed nearly 9,000 lbs! Yum!
- Kids' prefer red jellybeans to any other color.
- Easter is a "moveable feast," meaning that it can take place on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25. It's different every year!
- Every year, Americans buy 700 million marshmallow Peeps!

www.FreeEasterTrivia.com

2. In a large bowl bowl, mix together the avocado, Greek yogurt, mustard, lemon juice, salt, and pepper.
3. Add the egg yolks and mash with a fork to incorporate. For a smoother filling, add the ingredients to a food processor and pulse to combine.
4. Transfer the filing to a piping bag fitted with a round tip or a zip-top bag with a corner snipped off.
5. Pipe the filling into the egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika.

COMEDY CORNER



Avocado Deviled Eggs Recipe

Ingredients for 6 servings

- 6 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
- ½ avocado, diced
- ¼ cup greek yogurt
- ½ tablespoon mustard
- 1 ½ teaspoons lemon juice
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- paprika, for sprinkling

Preparation

1. Cut each egg in half and remove the yolk. Place the yolks in a medium bowl, and refrigerate the whites while you prepare the filling.