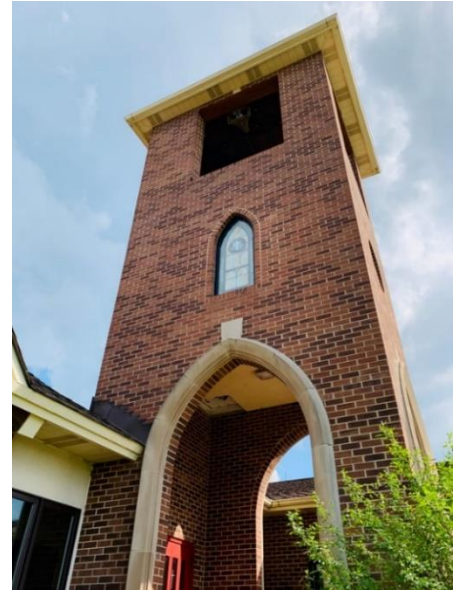
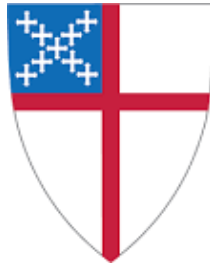


THE GOOD NEWS

April 2023



In The Darkness

The Easter Vigil is a dramatic service.



It is the first service of Easter Day. In this holy night, before the lilies, the brunches, and the flowered crosses of the morning, we begin quietly, in near darkness.

With the scratching of a match or flint against steel, we ignite the new fire, and from that fire, the Paschal Candle is lighted. The Paschal Candle, drawing our

attention to the light of Christ, is the focal point as we share aloud the stories of how, over and over, God creates order out of chaos, liberation out of oppression, hope out of despair, and life out of death.

These stories culminate in the one that finds Mary Magdalene and Mary diligently approaching the tomb, expecting to find no life, only a continuation of their grief in an oppressive and chaotic world.

Instead, something has happened in the darkness. In the darkness of the tomb, something wonderful, something hardly believable, something earth-shattering, has happened. Jesus is no longer there; he has been raised and is on his way to Galilee.

While so much of our focus is on the light, let us not forget where it all began.

As Barbara Brown Taylor writes in *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, "As many years as I have been listening to Easter sermons, I have never heard anyone talk about that part. Resurrection is always announced

with Easter lilies, the sound of trumpets, bright streaming light. But it did not happen that way. If it happened in a cave, it happened in complete silence, in absolute darkness, with the smell of damp stone and dug earth in the air.... new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.”

As Christians, we are prone to talking about dark versus light—more specifically, to see the light as a conqueror of the dark. But to pit the two against each other is to miss the ways God is present and working in both.

We tend to think of darkness only as periods of despair, hopelessness, or confusion—times when God feels far away or at best unknowable. In darkness, we hit our shins on the coffee table; in the darkness, we don’t know what might jump out to get us.

But there is also goodness in darkness. It is the condition necessary for restorative slumber. In the dark and quiet, we can rest and replenish. In the dark and quiet of the earth, bulbs wait quietly for warmer temperatures. In the dark and quiet, seeds germinate before pushing green shoots up above the soil, ready for the sun.

God works marvelous wonders amidst darkness. As the familiar words of Psalm 139 remind us, “Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”

God creates in the darkness—in the soil, in the womb, in the cave.

Though periods of grief, hopelessness, and confusion might seem like the moments God is the farthest away, if we observe closely, we can see signs that

God is quietly present, sowing seeds, working wonders, and inviting us into growth and new life.

Our reading from Exodus tells of the fear and disarray of the Israelites trying to flee generations of enslavement in Egypt, and though they are pursued by Pharaoh’s army, God creates a way, a path forward into new life.

Our passage from Paul’s letter to the Romans proclaims that though Christ was crucified and died, his resurrection means that death no longer has dominion over him. What could have been the end of the story is only the beginning. In Christ, “we too might walk in newness of life.”

And in the Gospel from Matthew, Mary Magdalene and Mary meet an angel from the Lord who tells them the good news and invites them to go and share it too. And so, “they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” It is this fear *and* great joy that can be instructive for us modern-day followers of Christ—yes, there is much to fear in this world. The news every day reminds us of the many dangers around us—the persistent hatred, apathy, and despair that we cannot afford to ignore. And yet, even with this fear, there is great joy. We can hold great joy because we know that God is present, working wonders and inviting us into new life.

The joy of Easter is no shallow joy. It is a joy grounded in the depth of knowing that God is with us and always opening a path to walk in newness of life—with us in the dark and quiet, with us in the unknown, and with us in the bright light of day.

And so, on this holy night that shines with the glory of the Resurrection, let us give thanks in the dark and quiet, amidst the light and fanfare, and in all the moments in between, knowing that God is steadily present, creating, inviting, and restoring. In this

service of the Easter Vigil, we have been witnesses to the fullness of that truth, and soon it will be time to go forth from here, sharing what we have seen. May we follow in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene and Mary and tell the good news, with our fears cushioned by great joy in the knowledge of the wonders God works.

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Amen.

-The Rev. Lucy Strandlund

“The Red Door”

Why are the doors of most Episcopal churches painted red?



Turns out, there is no definitive answer, and the question has been posed many times. The tradition is centuries old and has several meanings associated with it. No matter the meaning, many older Protestant churches have distinctive red doors, and when you're visiting a new city, you can readily identify the Episcopal Church because it's the one with the red doors.

The tradition of red doors originated in England during the Middle Ages when it was a sign of sanctuary. If you were being pursued by someone, you would be safe if you could reach the church door. No one would dare commit violence on holy ground; furthermore, the Church didn't have to abide by civil law. Pursuers could proceed no further, and victims knew that the red doors meant sanctuary, refuge, and safety. The person who claimed sanctuary like this could state his case to the priest and ask for justice to be served. The red doors also represented protection from spiritual evil as well. In the beginnings of cathedral architecture, red stood for the Blood of Christ, and it was painted on the north, south, and east doors of a church. In other words, they were making "the sign of the cross" which ultimately marked the church as a safety zone from spiritual dangers in addition to protection from physical harm.

Other meanings for red doors through the ages include red being a reminder of the Passover and God's covenant with the Israelites. Red is also a symbol for the sacrificial blood of Christ our entry into salvation. It is also indicative of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Wittenberg Cathedral is believed to have had red doors, the church where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, so red may symbolize a church of the Reformation. Other stories go that if church doors were painted red, it meant their mortgage was paid off.

Today many Episcopal churches, as well as Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic and others, paint their doors red to symbolize that they are a haven for emotional and spiritual healing and a place for forgiveness and reconciliation. In other words, their red doors are an invitation to visitors to enter a space filled with the Holy Spirit. Bright red doors shine with welcoming warmth. They gleam like fire and show the way to the Holy Spirit to all who walk through them.



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

Welcome to Holy Week 2023! As some of you are aware, the campus of St. Ignatius had no phone or internet service from Wednesday, March 29th at 11am until Wednesday, April 5th at 5pm. Comcast updated their system and evidently our equipment was as old as Christ! Anyways, we are back...better and stronger than before.

Our worship attendance continues to grow! During Lent our Wednesday Service attendance averaged 13. Since Jan. 1st our Sunday Services average is 45 parishioners.

During Lent we were able to start up Adult & Children Formation. Thank you to Fr. Jim & Libby Deichsel for your leadership skills.

In regard to the local community, we continue to host between 250-300 weekly visitors at God's Will Resale Shop. We helped 7 families in need last month through our voucher program and are currently operating above our financial income goals.

Speaking of the community, we fed over 500 people at our 3 Community Fish Boils. We received great reviews and had people in the community asking for more events!

Our Vestry is planning a retreat on Saturday, May 20th from 9am-1pm in our social hall. The agenda will be to discuss the current status of St. Ignatius and how to move forward in the future. If you would like to join us during that time, please let a Vestry member know.

As some churches are closing around us, God is very present at St. Ignatius.

Thank you for your continued support to our family, volunteers, and the community!

Peace,

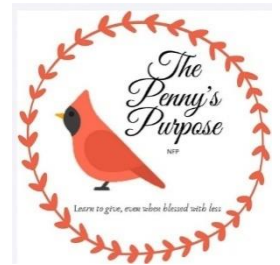
-Jack & Renee

Outreach Summary



Our February & March Mission

for **The Penny's Purpose** was another successful effort with collecting 25 plus new, gently used, or homemade blankets to provide warmth to those in need from this local Antioch organization.



Our next **Mission for April-May is for the Matthias Academy**, located right over the border in WI. This is a nonprofit adult day program that serves



adults with mild to severe disabilities, specialized medical needs, behaviors, and mild to severe autism from IL. to WI.

Matthias Academy provides a student-centered program for adults to learn, work, and socialize. Classes are offered and based on interests of the students, changing every 8-12 weeks. We highly encourage the involvement of the surrounding community to come into our facility to shop and visit, we also encourage the involvement of local schools and colleges to volunteer and help! Times of recreation and leisure are guided, and exercise and mobility are required multiple times daily to

maintain health and wellness. Independence is strongly encouraged and parent and student-guided goals are carried out throughout daily opportunities. The Matthias Academy highly qualified, experienced and loving staff embrace every student for who and how they are.

-Cathy Ehlers

Search Committee Update

My dear friends, the update from the Search Committee is actually quite short: we are still searching. We have posted our position and continue to communicate with the Diocese on the process. Currently, we have extended the period of time for the position to be posted. We are discussing interview procedures, and we are ready and waiting for the next steps. Understandably, those of us who are ready for action can become impatient. Roger, our committee chaplain, suggested the best action we can take: get on our knees in the church and pray. His wise advice brought me to scripture and the concept of searching, looking, and lost things. As co-chair of the search committee, my update this month is more pastoral than procedural.

Luke 15: 4-5: Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

Luke 15: 8-9: Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.

Honestly, in my daily life, I am not a great “searcher”. When I lose something, I usually decide to manage without it and hope it turns up again somewhere. Of course, not if I lose a pet, or my phone, or my car keys; but I have been known to go without a tv remote control for months until a house guest finds it on top of the microwave. So, these parables have always been a bit of a struggle for me. If I lost a coin, I would say, “That’s OK, I have nine others.” If I lost a sheep, I would write it off and hope I can breed my best ewe to make up for it. However, these parables make it clear that God blesses those who persevere in the search. Even more clearly, God does not write us off; he perseveres in his search for us.

Luke’s parables tell us that God rejoices when the lost is found. God does not “write off” our needs. God does not think, “St. Ignatius needs a priest, but I have many other parishes who are doing OK.” God searches--by us, and with us, and in us--for our next leader. God also searches with all the prospective priests in the world who are searching for their next parish. Every week, we pray for the search committee and we pray for our future priest who is searching for us.

The search committee is taking action: sharing our position on social media, reaching out to seminaries, and preparing interview questions. We are also faithfully waiting and praying. We rest in the faith that God restores what may be lost and that God is with us in our search.

Blessings,

Linda Mizwicki, Search Committee Co-Chair;
Warren Cinnick, Search Committee Co-chair; Roger Van Patten, Kathy Fields; Jim Hallwas; Ernie Kraak

Faith & Fellowship

25 families joined us for the Agape Dinner at 5:30 on Maundy Thursday. Sign-up sheets are available for a dish to pass following Easter Vigil Service on Saturday. Champagne will be supplied by Fr. Jim for the Vigil event. Your participation in our Fellowship events is appreciated.

Thank you to our March Fellowship sponsors:

Mark & Karen Leverenz

Lillian Golonka & Carolyn VanPatten

Your contributions offer variety and plenty of 'goody-ness'. There is a sign-up sheet for future Fellowship dates in the Narthex with time slots available for both services.

Finally, our Fr. Jim-ism for the month... 'Join St. Ignatius of Antioch and gain 50 pounds!' Seriously, it is with Fr. Jim's encouragement and support that we have experienced warm & welcoming 'coffee hours'.

-Diane Cinnick

Sharing Our Faith



A Scripture Reflection

One of my favorite moments in Scripture takes place in Matthew 27:50-51 with the words, "And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

In the Old Testament, this curtain was the barrier to the Holy of Holies. The Holy of Holies was the place in the temple where God's presence rested. It also housed the Ark of the Covenant. Only the high priest could enter this area- once a year, to make atonement for the sins of Israel, after an extensive purification ritual. It was such a holy place that they would tie a rope around the high priest before he entered this sacred space, to be ready in case his presence was deemed unacceptable by God and he was struck down.

This curtain, or veil, was recorded to have been over 45 feet high and 4 inches thick...

This veil was torn in half after the death of Jesus, through an act of God and its significance amazes me.

Before Jesus' death, only the high priest was able to be in the presence of God; but Jesus acted as our great high priest, bringing us forward into a new covenant, so that we can now come before God and be in His presence.

And yet the awe and wonder of God's presence remains today as great and mighty as the days of the early children of Israel. That has never changed. May we never forget how great and wonderful God is and how beautiful and undeserving we are to be gifted every opportunity as we come before Him in the Sanctuary of our parish and partake in the Holy Eucharist.

-Submitted by Libby Deichsel



Come Join Us! ...an update from FORMATION

Our next Formation activity is a Tri-parish conversation on *Resurrection Hope*, by Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, facilitated by Deacon Anne Smith. We will be joining Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church in Gurnee and Christ Episcopal Church in Waukegan in reading, studying, and sharing our reflections on this book.

If you are interested in joining in the conversation, please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the social area (and/or send Renee Garrett an email: rhallwas616@gmail.com) and register to attend (or plan to watch the recording later) a Zoom session where Rev. Douglas will speak about her book on April 25 th from 7 to 9 pm CST.

Additional information can be found on the Diocese website at: One Book, Once Diocese. Please purchase the book on your own; we hope attendees will be able to attend all three sessions.

Each session will start at 6:30pm with a light meal, followed by 1.5 hrs. of discussion:

May 3rd: St. Ignatius in Antioch

May 17th: Annunciation in Gurnee

June 7th: Christ Church in Waukegan

Link to register for the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvcuitqDsvG9TAvz6P7-aPEDLYvvMzK-y1>

Diocese website information:

<https://episcopalchicago.org/one-book-one-diocese/>

Hi Everyone,

Thank you so much to all who participated and helped with the Lenten Children's formation classes. It

was a wonderful time to learn more about the Gospel messages from each of the weekly Mass readings.

Please note that after the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday masses, children are invited to pick up a special Easter bag to take home. These will be available by the entrance of the church.

It has been a joy to interact with the children of our parish. We are blessed with young, curious minds who are ready and eager to learn, discuss, and grow in their relationship with God.

In Christ,

-Libby Deichsel



4/19/23- Vestry Meeting at 6:45pm.

ALL are welcome!

5/20/23- Vestry Retreat- 9am-1pm at Church

Fish Boils

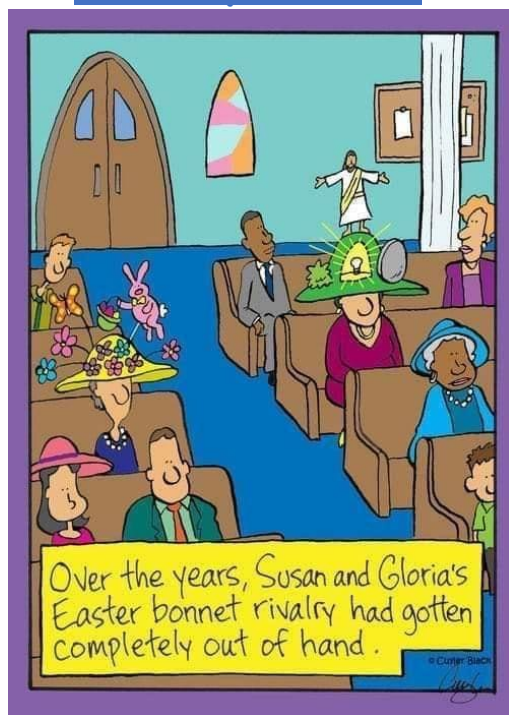
Our Lenten Community Fish Boil events were a great success, and it's all thanks to all of you who helped!

With over 500 people served, and many raffle baskets won, we raised over \$3000!

As always, we had the best dessert table around! Again, thank you to all who came to help or just enjoy the meal. We look forward to continuing these events next year.



Comedy Corner



April Birthday's

- 4/1- Jan Culat
- 4/7- Cathy Ehlers
- 4/8- Fr. Jim Caldwell
- 4/11- Mary Ann Daehler
- 4/11- Paula Neville
- 4/13- Dawn Walker
- 4/15- Tom Deichsel
- 4/22- Bill McElligott
- 4/28- Bob Billimack



The Moncrieff Family- Felix Cizewski
Ian McDonald- Elizabeth Johnston
Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman
The Deichsel Family- Mike Culat
Mildred Hamlin- Dave Shoenbeck
George Pahlke- Pam Anast
Margaret Slamar

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

April Special:

50% off all YELLOW sticker items!

