

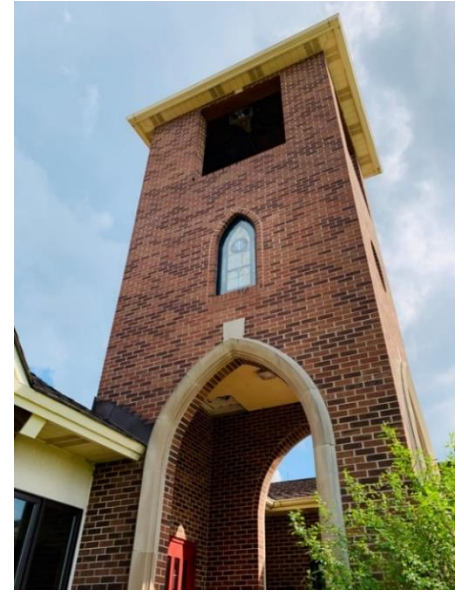
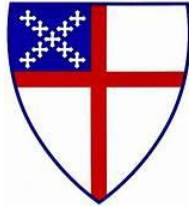
THE GOOD NEWS

April 2024



St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church

Walking in love as Christ taught us



Another Way

“Many are saying, ‘Oh, that we might see better times!’” The Psalmist’s words ring just as true now as they have throughout the centuries since they were written. The news is full of war, climate crisis, political polarization, violence, and suffering. It often feels impossible to see a way forward that will end in global peace. Communities feel torn apart. The future feels bleak.

One of the themes that connects the readings for the day helps to name that darkness and bleakness out there in the world: sin. Sin is a funny word. Many Christians — including priests and theologians — shy away from the language of sin these days. It is understandable why the word often gets swept under the rug. Fire and brimstone preachers have weaponized the language of sin to diminish people’s conceptions of themselves, branding their hearers as depraved sinners, unworthy of love.

There are serious pastoral and theological reasons to abandon that kind of “turn or burn” sermons. And yet, in the move away from regular preaching about sin, a vacuum opens up and our ability to name what is wrong with the world becomes diminished. Confronting sin is always uncomfortable and unsettling, but it is a necessary part of the Christian story. The texts today, when taken together, say something deeply profound about the nature of sin.

The first thing about sin these texts raise is that it is corporate. While wrongdoing can be and is done at the individual level, when these passages talk about sin, they talk about something done as a group. When Peter is preaching in Acts, he uses the second person plural to speak of sin: “All of you rejected Jesus; all of you rejected the holy and righteous one.” Here, Peter is speaking of a group failing to do the right thing. Peter does not single out any individual from the mob that called for the crucifixion.

One of the most beautiful things about humans is that we like to group and cluster together. It’s a survival

mechanism that, at its best, allows for communal enterprises and mutual flourishing of all people. And yet, at its worst, this tendency to group and cluster has led humans to form mobs that destabilize communities, harm the most vulnerable, and hijack rational decision-making processes. 1 John teaches that “sin is lawlessness.” The Greek text reflects an ambiguity in whether or not this law-breaking is intentional or done in ignorance. Nevertheless, sin is when humans turn from the way of justice to the way of mob rule.

How many of the problems in the world or in our communities arise because of mob-like behavior? The harm of bullying, and now cyber-bullying, can be traumatizing and tragic when the mob singles out its prey. Dehumanization of the other or of the scapegoat happens when one turns over one’s moral compass to the mob. That kind of dehumanization has led to all kind of horrors across the globe throughout history. The history of the United States is marred by the formation of lynch mobs preying upon vulnerable people — Chinese immigrants, Black Americans, Catholics, LGBT people, and Native Americans. Around the world, different forms of genocide are perpetrated against those in the out-group. Every war and conflict relies on the individual surrendering their morality to a violent mob.

But, like the Psalmist, we cling to the hope that there are better times in the future. A second lesson about sin is that redemption is also corporate. Peter tells the crowd gathered there that sin is not the final word in their story. He preaches, “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers...Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.” Here he similarly uses the second person plural form of ‘you’.

In essence, he is saying something like, “All of you participated in the mob before. But there’s a better way to be together in community.” Indeed, there’s a better way of being, even with those who are not part of your community. In God’s power, love can overcome sin. There’s an antidote to letting the worst of our human tendencies run rampant.

And that antidote is the third important lesson about sin. “Sinner” is not an identity. We are not sinners. That is not at our core who we are, despite what Jonathan Edwards and others might preach. The author of 1 John is clear about that: “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are...Beloved, we are God’s children now.” Who we are matters. We are part of the family of God, and we are called to spread that message throughout the entire world.

In the gospel reading from Luke, Jesus tells his disciples after his resurrection, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” There is good news in the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness. If sin is communal and derives from letting a mob mentality hijack our morality, redemption happens when we live out of our identity as God’s kin. When we bask in the love of the divine and rest in the knowledge that God loves us, our perception of the world can begin to change. And it is not just our perception of the world that changes, but our relationships within it start to shift as well. Instead of seeing the Other that needs to be punished or brought into line, we see as God sees. We seek as God seeks, looking for ways to show love and mercy, not death and destruction.

The proclamation of the gospel across the world is not that others need to become like us. The good news is not that everyone is already the same. There are real differences that divide and separate us. The

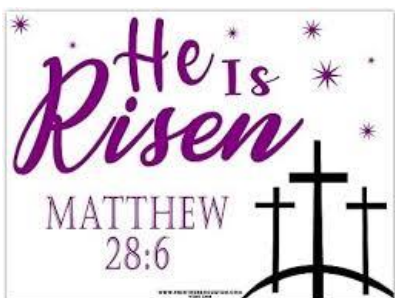
good news is that the brokenness around us does not have the final say. The good news is that, as we bask in God's love, we can identify when and where we are letting the mob rule in our thoughts, hearts, and actions. There is another way.

Through God's love, we stumble together through the darkness, learning together how to be God's family. As the church, as individuals, and as groups, we've made mistakes. We've given ourselves as individuals over to the whims of the mob. We've let differences become an excuse for structural, symbolic, and material violence. In that way, we've given ourselves over to lawlessness. But those mistakes do not have the final word on who we are. God's love has the first and last say on our identity, and that identity is love. This divine way of being is not about sappy, romantic, or abstract love, but a love that leads to a real change within us.

The texts for today, and the chorus of holy Scripture, attest that God came in love to give life. When we find ourselves longing for better days, when we find ourselves in the bleak despair that the world is marred beyond all repair, there is yet hope. There are real, material harms perpetrated in the world. We name that as sin. And we proclaim that sin is not the end of the story. We proclaim who we are: a people whose identity is grounded in a divine love that pulls us out of our darkest days and from our darkest impulses. As 1 John says, "We should be called children of God. And that is what we are."

Amen.

-Michael Toy



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

At our Vestry meeting on March 27th, Carolyn Van Patten reported that we are in "good financial standing". The Vestry approved a motion to invest in another (4th certificate of deposit) for a total amount of \$187,000, with an average of 5% interest rate. We have now met our Diocesan requirement to hire a full-time Rector.

The Vestry also approved to replace the AC/Furnace unit, (one of eight), which has been broken for three years.

Lastly, the Vestry would like to thank "all our family" for preparing St. Ignatius in beauty, song, feast, and above all spiritually to make Holy Week so special for our community of Ignatians.

Peace to all,

-Jack & Renee



Rector Search Committee – Progress with Candidates in the Discernment Process

On March 12, Reverend Sierra Reyes provided the RSC a rector candidate for St. Ignatius of Antioch. The committee completed an introductory call with the candidate on March 13, and a full committee interview via Zoom, known as Step 1, on Friday, March 22.

We met on Sunday, March 24 to review the candidate documents, interviews, and individual discernment items. At that time, the RSC elected to extend an invitation for the candidate to visit St. Ignatius of Antioch, and we happily report our invitation was warmly accepted. This represents the first time we have confirmed a candidate for an on-site visit. On two prior occasions, other candidates elected to pursue different opportunities.

Here's how Step 2, the on-site visit, broadly works. First, candidate confidentiality remains paramount during discernment. While a great number of us may be excited about this individual, only the RSC and Vestry will meet the candidate during the on-site visit. Activities and requirements during the visit include: in-person interview with the RSC, interview at the Diocese Offices with Bishop Paula Clark, leader of the Diocese of Chicago and Andrea Mysen, Canon for the Ordinary and Chief of Staff for the Diocese of Chicago, meeting with the Senior Wardens of our Vestry, meeting with Fr. Jim Caldwell, Eucharistic Service with the RSC and Vestry including sermon, and dinner with the combined RSC and Vestry. We will also be providing the candidate with tours, orientations, and information about St. Ignatius and the Antioch area, including nearby Southeastern Wisconsin.

While planning for the on-site visit is well underway, a second, viable rector candidate has emerged and been shared by Rev. Reyes. During the week of April 8-12, the RSC will complete a full committee interview via Zoom of this second candidate. If Step 1, the Zoom interview, results in a favorable initial discernment, the second individual will be invited for their own Step 2, on-site experience at St. Ignatius.

Your RSC members are in a very important period in the search for and discernment of a full-time Rector. We take our role and involvement, on your behalf,

with great seriousness and with great joy. It is really enjoyable to meet new people and share the goodwill of our community of faith.

Following the consideration of the two candidates, the RSC will take to the Vestry our consensus recommendation about next steps. In turn, each candidate will discern our calling for a Rector. Since Fall 2022, we have prayed together diligently during Eucharistic Services for a "new rector to find the path to us". This month, I ask you to pray that the RSC and Vestry members at St. Ignatius of Antioch "light the path for the new rector" to assist them in finding the way to lead our spiritual community.

Your RSC Committee: Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick (co-chairs); Ernie Kraak, Roger Van Patten, Kathy Fields, and Jim Hallwas (members)



Many thanks to those who sponsored Fellowship in March and special thanks to the participants in our Maundy Thursday Agape dinner of soup & salad, Vigil & Easter celebrations. This family feeds our bodies & souls.

However, we could use more help! Please consider sponsoring one of the upcoming Sunday Fellowship times. Since we have been offering the Social Hour every week, there has been great difficulty in filling all the time slots. Nothing fancy is required. Bakery items from any of our local retailers are welcome as well as juice and fresh fruit. Help with the coffee maker is always there if you are reluctant to make it. If you enjoy this time with fellow Ignatians,

please help keep it alive! Sign-up sheet is on the Narthex table.

If you have any ideas to share, please contact me!

-DianeCinnick

Parish Development



Love. Grow. Serve.

During March, our efforts to grow our community focused on the Fish Boils with promotion to local businesses, social media exposure, and print media. Table tents featured our service times, God's Will Resale Shop, and a thank you for supporting the Fish Boils. Attendees were given a 'thank you for your support card' listing our Easter services and contact information for the Church. Thank you to Karen Leverenz & Kathy Kraak for assisting in these promotional events.

Our Easter services were advertised in a special supplement to the Daily Herald and the Hi-Liter. Guests to our Easter services were also given a card, created by Renee Garrett, outlining the ministries of St. Ignatius. These are also available in the pews.

We continue to formulate ideas to attract new parishioners and welcome back those from the past. Your ideas are welcome.

-Diane Cinnick



Outreach Summary

Our Mission for **April** is a continued effort for an organization out of Lake Villa called **Shining Abilities**. They serve families in Lake and McHenry counties with individuals with disabilities through recreational programming.

Some items on their wish list include:

plant watering globes, miracle plant food stakes, indoor/outdoor watering can, small watering can is a long spout, Morton saltshakers, vegetable & soybean oil, medium blend ground coffee, paper plates, KitchenAid multi-purpose can/ bottle opener, all purpose scissors, word/puzzle books, all sizes of batteries, Clorox wipes, gift cards.

See their Amazon wish list on their website at shiningabilities.org.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



If you have any questions, contact Cathy Ehlers.

HOLY WEEK



Holy Week has come and gone!

“Holy Week 2024” has come and gone. The services that happened two weeks ago were very moving.

With the help of Father Jim, Kathleen, the choir, our readers, ushers, and those who served at the altar, the services were exceptional.

I want to thank our St. Ignatius family. If you feel the same way, please take a moment, and thank them for their time and talent!



Easter Flowers

Thank you for the generous donations that were made toward our Easter flowers.

There is a sheet in the social hall with the names of all who donated and who they donated to. Please look at it and say a little prayer for all who donated and for who they donated to.

-Kathy Kraak
Worship Commission



2024 Lenten Fish Boils

This year’s fish boils were a great success! We raised just over \$3,400.00, and we had many people from the community join us for good food and socializing. As always, many hands made for light work. Thank you for all you did to create these successful events.

GOD’S WILL RESALE SHOP

April Special:

50% off all YELLOW sticker items!

Accepting all donations during business hours



4/14- Fr. Jim’s Birthday Celebration after both the 8am and 10am services.

4/24- Vestry meeting at 6:45pm. All are welcome!



St. Ignatius Campus Hours:

- **Worship Services:**
Sunday's at 8am & 10am
- **Office Coordinator Hours:**
Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am – 12:30pm
- **God's Will Resale Shop:**
Wed.- Fri. 9am-5pm, Sat. 9am-2pm
- **Midlothian Counseling Services**
hours at the church: Mon. & Wed.
1-8pm & Fri. 1-6pm



April Birthdays

- 4/1- Jan Culet
- 4/7- Cathy Ehlers
- 4/8- Fr. Jim Caldwell
- 4/11- Mary Ann Daehler
- 4/11- Paula Neville
- 4/22- Bill McElligott
- 4/28- Bob Billimack



Ernie Kraak- Kathy Kraak
Felix Cizewski- Elizabeth Johnston
Jennfier McElligott - Mike Culat
Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman
Ken Cerk- Chris Szafranski
Kristina Baxter- Mike Donahue
Lennie Boresch- Ann McConnell
Lillian Golonka- Jim Hallwas
Mildred Hamlin- Kathy Burns
Valerie Rithame- Mike Yip
Zach Green- Margaret Slamar
Vic Shnooze

COMEDY CORNER

