

THE GOOD NEWS

May 2021

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



A LETTER FROM FR. BRIAN

Dear Ignatians ~

For more than a year, we have been anticipating the joyful day we would re-gather as a parish family. I suggest the days are upon us! While they may not appear dramatic on the surface, in some ways these days are more powerful and life affirming for our parish family than we might have hoped!

After a yearlong Covid Lent, Easter is breaking forth all around us! Each morning we wake to spring doing its best, putting a slow but certain end to winter and leading us toward the fullness of summer. In the same way, we as a congregation are emerging from Covid to a slow but steady experience of Easter happening around us, within us, and through us in our Sunday worship – and, as a result, we never stop serving needs within our community.

The last Sunday in April was the first Sunday in a very long time that 50 of us worshiped together – spread between two services with *more* of us

in-person and *fewer* via zoom. To this I cheer us on by saying, “Alleluia!”

And I’m so proud of our Vestry’s leadership:

- Our **Worship Committee** (*Nancy McConnell, vestry liaison*) is inviting Sacristans to pick up where they left off a year ago, Greeters to welcome us when we arrive, Acolytes to “lift high the cross,” and Lectors to “proclaim God’s holy word.”
- Our **Fellowship Committee** (*Cathy Ehlers, liaison*) has formed plans for First Sunday outdoor fellowship (May - October) utilizing our patio and parking lot (in addition to our hall).
- Our **Formation Committee** (*Merv Daehler, liaison*) is continuing to offer life-long learning and spiritual growth opportunities – eager for your topic recommendations.

- Our **Outreach Committee** (*Donna McElligott, liaison*) is calling us to participate in a wide variety of Mission of the Month initiatives addressing needs within our wider community – along with the ongoing ministry of our Resale Shop volunteers.
- Our **Building and Grounds Committee** (*Mike Culat and Mike Walker, liaisons*) is calling us to step-up and pitch-in with volunteers to clean our building and maintain our lawn.

For information, regarding any of the above, please contact me and I will cheerfully put you in touch with the appropriate person to contact.

I saw a church sign somewhere reading: “We can’t have **comm_nity** without u.” This is your invitation for u to join our **comm_nity** in some of the ways we express “who we are” as “God’s parish family” at St. Ignatius!

Our committees are doing the ground work, and now is the time for u to

- **Step-up** through lay ministry at worship;
- **Share** conversation with one another over a beverage and a snack;
- **Learn** with and from one another as we grow in our faith;
- **Reach out** through our Mission of the Month and Resale Shop; and
- **Assist** as we keep our building clean on the inside and our lawn inviting to passers-by.

These are the days of Easter . . . This is the springtime of the church . . . Our confinement is ending, and we can begin to joyfully emerge from our Covid tombs and re-gather as the Lord’s Easter People.

These are the days the Lord is making, let us rejoice and be glad in them. ~ Ps. 118: 24



Glory to God whose power working within us can do infinitely more than we could ever possibly hope or imagine. ~ Eph. 3: 20

Alleluia! Christ IS rising – within US!

~Fr. Brian

Leo the Great on the Ascension

(died 461)

The days between the Lord’s resurrection and his ascension, my dear friends, did not pass by without purpose: great mysteries were established in them, and great truths were revealed.

During these days, the fear of the horror of death was taken away, and the immortality of the body as well as the soul was made known. During them the Lord breathed on all his apostles and filled them with the Holy Spirit...

It was during this time that the Lord joined the two disciples as their companion on the road to Emmaus, and . . . dispelled the darkness of uncertainty from their minds. Their enlightened minds received the flame of faith . . . (and) as they ate with him, their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread...

Throughout this time between the Lord’s resurrection and ascension, the Lord in his providence fulfilled one purpose, taught one lesson, set one consideration before the eyes and hearts of his followers: namely, that the Lord Jesus Christ, who was truly born, truly suffered and truly died, should be recognized as truly risen. The apostles and all the disciples had been filled with fear by his death on the cross, and their faith in the resurrection had been hesitant; but now they gained such great strength from seeing the truth, that when the Lord went up to heaven, far from feeling sadness, they experienced great joy.

Ascension-Tide

Although we emphasize that the Spirit of Easter is intended to become a way of life in terms of our faith, outlook, and attitude in shaping our relationships, values and ethics . . . nevertheless, in church, Easter as described in the Acts of the Apostles, is the 50 day period of time between Easter and Pentecost. And on the fortieth day of Easter we celebrate the Lord's Ascension.

The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday leading up to our Thursday celebration of the Ascension are known as our annual Rogation Days (pronounced "ro-GAY-shin"). Although we have observed "Earth Day" in April for the last 50+ years, the Church has been observing its Rogation Days for more than 1,600 years!

Beginning on Monday, May 10th, we traditionally pray each day that as Christ ascended into heaven to care for people in every age and place, so may our crops once again be blest by God and all raise their heads to the heavens, produce abundantly, and provide – not only for our needs, but – for people's needs everywhere around the world.

Over the centuries, these prayers have been expanded to pray not only for *fruitful* seasons, but also to pray for *commerce and industry*, and for our *stewardship of all creation*.

Please join the church world-wide in these annual prayers the week of May 9th:

For fruitful seasons (Monday)

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks.

For commerce and industry (Tuesday)

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with our people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give to us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor.

For stewardship of creation (Wednesday)

Merciful, Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts.

For Ascension Day (Thursday)

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all the heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages. And to the vision of these prayers we might also add our own American Prayer Book's prayer assigned to our observance of Labor Day: Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all others lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work.



Outreach Summary

April/May Mission of The Month:

125 Literature Boxes for the Antioch Public Library were filled with items purchased with monies collected throughout April. These goodies included: Whistles on lanyards, inspirational note cards, chalk, stickers, fruit snacks, pencils with toppers, energy drinks, magnetic bookmarks and candy. Thanks to your generosity the Literature Box recipients will have something to smile about as they read their library selected book of the month.

May's Outreach Mission of the Month is: The Cottages of Fox Lake Memory Care/Assisted Living. Deana Liss the Marketing Director for the Cottages wrote: "We are deeply touched that you and your church family have thought of our community as a service project. Our community has about 50 seniors currently between our assisted living and memory care." Please consider donating one or more of the following items below. If you prefer to donate money, there are envelopes on the table in the entrance area to the church.

- **Bubbles with wands & refill bottles**
- **Hand lotion and chapstick**
- **Nail polish, nail files, nail polish remover**
- **10 – 100 piece puzzles**
- **CD's of Hymns**
- **4th of July Décor**
- **Small poster boards**
- **Small canvases for painting**
- **Scrabble, Ring Toss Games, Connect 4**
- **Large Dice (Dollar Store)**
- **Adult Bibs**

-Outreach Committee

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

May Special:
50% off **BLUE** sticker items!



Any questions call the shop at 224-321-4475



(Sunday, May 9th is Mothers' Day. I have extended an invitation to any members of our parish family who wish to share a brief thought, reflection, or tribute to motherhood or to their own mom (living or deceased) at either service on Mothers' Day to please let me know. To prompt your thoughts, a few words from a favorite blogger of mine, Fr. Jay Sidebotham:)

... I think of mothers of those who have lost loved ones to this virus, and those children concerned about their mothers who were isolated this past year, maybe in nursing homes where they couldn't be visited. I think of mothers of 20% of the children in our country who don't have enough to eat. I'm praying for a mother whose son ended his life this past week, a loss beyond imagination. I think of mothers who risked everything, covering hundreds of dangerous miles in the hopes of a better future for their children, who were then separated at the borders.

None of this goes on a Hallmark card. It seems that love and suffering seem to go together. That's in the Bible, in the story of Moses' mother (Exodus 1) who in a dramatic act of faith, courage and self-sacrifice set her baby in a make-shift boat in the river, letting him go, trusting him to God's care. There's Hannah who couldn't have children until late in life and when her child, Samuel, arrived, she turned him over to a life in the temple, giving him over to God's care (I Samuel 3). And I think of the words that came to Mary mother of our Lord, from Simeon in the temple. Simeon says that as a mother, a sword of will go through Mary's heart.

All of which is to say that we give thanks for the ministry of mothers, even when on occasion they

drive us nuts. Yes, there are many complicated relationships, between parents and children, some healthy, some not so much. But we also recognize that mothers know better than anyone that when we open our hearts, we let pain in. When it comes to any expression of love, there is cost along with promise. So maybe preachers don't need to talk about mothers in sermons, because mothers themselves preach the finest sermons, day after day, year after year. For them we give thanks.

Mom-isms

Compiled by Fr. Scott Stoner



1. Never leave the house without saying, "I love you."
2. Life goes on.
3. A good sense of humor goes a long way.
4. This, too, shall pass.
5. Just because you're thinking something, doesn't mean you have to say it.
6. Everything will look better in the morning.
7. Life isn't fair, so live the life you've been given.
8. Nothing is more important than what you're doing right now.
9. It's not what happens to you that matters, but how you handle it.
10. Nothing in life come easy; you have to work hard at it.
11. Life is hard by the yard, but a cinch by the inch.
12. Do your best, and leave the rest to God.
13. This moment is fleeting in the overall scheme of things.
14. You don't have to like the cards you're dealt, but you do have to play them.
15. It will all work out.
16. You'll always have some dirt in your house, but you will not always have kids in the house.
17. Let go and let God.
18. Never say never.
19. Always remember to be kind.
20. Take care of each other.

Fun (Liturgical) Fact

On the church calendar, Sunday, May 23rd is "The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday."

Our church feasts and rituals had their origins in the Middle East and southern Europe, and baptisms were historically performed in those countries during the Vigil of Easter, and the newly baptized were then clothed in white for Easter Sunday.

In England, spring was much slower to return. Since baptisms were ordinarily performed in streams, rivers, and lakes, baptisms were delayed from Easter until Pentecost (50 days later). By that time waters were warmer, performed at that time, and the newly baptized were then clothed in white for Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost then became known in England as "**White Sunday**" – "**Whitsunday**" is the 16th century British spelling.

COMEDY CORNER





BERRIES & CREAM SALAD

Berries and Cream Salad made using just 4 ingredients! Raspberries & Blueberries combine with Greek Yogurt, pudding mix and whipped topping to create a lovely berries and cream salad. Berries and Cream Salad is a wonderful recipe perfect for a picnic, Sunday dinner, or anytime you just want to add something special to your meal. The Greek yogurt, pudding mix and whipped topping come together and create a light and creamy base for showcasing the bright, sweet berries. In the recipe I use frozen berries but you're welcome to use fresh. I used raspberries and blueberries, but I think it'd be wonderful with blackberries, cut up strawberries- or a mix of all of them!

- If you use frozen berries, don't worry about thawing them beforehand. When I make the salad, I generally take the bags out of the freezer about 10 minutes before putting them in the salad, so they're still mostly frozen. However once you mix the ingredients together, the berries thaw quickly, so you can serve the salad immediately. It also works just fine to put the salad together a few hours- or even a day- ahead of time. The berries thaw and flavors blend in the salad beautifully. Just give it a quick stir before serving. The dry pudding mix works to thicken the salad too, so don't worry about the berries thawing and the salad becoming soupy- trust me, it all works together perfectly!

BERRIES & CREAM SALAD INGREDIENTS

- 1 box (3.4 oz) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 32 oz. container vanilla Greek yogurt
- 8 oz. container Cool Whip (thawed)
- 2 12-oz bags frozen berries*

HOW TO MAKE THIS BERRY SALAD

1. In a **large bowl**, combine the pudding mix and the Greek yogurt, **stirring** until well mixed.
2. Fold Cool Whip into the mixture.
3. Lastly, fold in the berries. I had set mine out for about 10 minutes before making the salad, but you can put them in frozen and they will thaw very quickly so you can serve the salad right after mixing.
4. If you don't serve the salad immediately, store in an airtight container in the fridge. When you're ready to serve, give the salad a quick stir and top with additional berries, if desired, to garnish.

- *I used frozen raspberries and blueberries in my salad, but you're welcome to use fresh berries if you'd like. You can also try using diced strawberries, blackberries or a combination of all 4 varieties!

