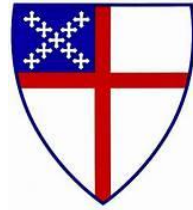


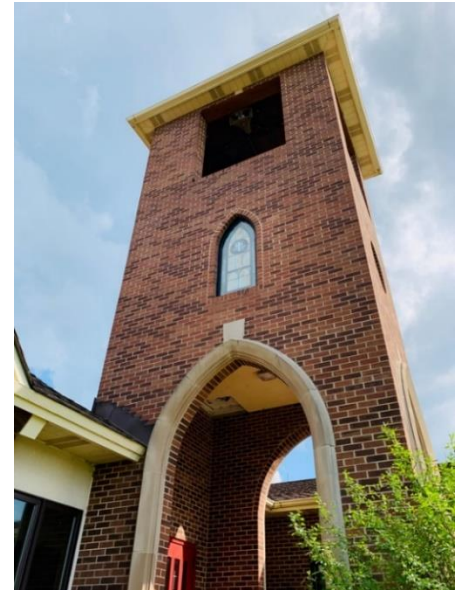
THE GOOD NEWS

November 2023



St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church

Walking in love as Christ taught us



The Annual Stewardship



The annual stewardship season is fast coming to a close. We will be making decisions on how we share the gifts that God has given us with our church, and in other ways that touch lives and causes that are special interests of ours. We most often consider what we do based on our financial resources and the taxes we can save next April.

We need not find fault with the money we give or the taxes we do not have to pay. But there is more to stewardship than money and tax savings. Look again at our Collect for today: Almighty and most merciful

God, it is only by your gift that your faith people offer you true and laudable service.

Both our Gospel story from Matthew and Paul's instructions to the church in Thessalonica give us guidance to the greater gift of stewardship.

Gods creative force is the foundation of our stewardship. In creating all things, God has made it possible for humankind to give back to God what is already Gods. Stewardship is an everyday occurrence. It needs to be the lifeblood of how we see the community around us: our family, our work, our friendships, our ministry.

In the Matthew lesson Jesus tells his disciples, and the crowds that gathered around him, to pay attention to the scribes and Pharisees; listen to what they say and teach and follow their knowledge of past prophets; but do not practice what they do. They

create heavy burdens, yet are unwilling to lift a finger to move those burdens. Most of us have known individuals who had all the right answers, but had no desire to implement them. They always wanted someone else to perform their wisdom and give them credit.

This is a story about Godly leadership. Jesus understood the dilemma of the multitude. Those in power had the rule of law. They demanded obedience; yet they did not follow the laws of past generations themselves.

One of the great gifts of stewardship is the ability to be a good leader, and to understand how God's gift of leadership can be used to guide others to be good stewards of their own time and talents. Some people are leaders; other people are followers. It takes both a leader and a multitude of followers to accomplish many of the challenges of the church and of society.

Godly leadership calls us to use another gift of stewardship: the gift of discernment. Especially in the church, we need to understand those who are called to be leaders and those who are called to be workers in the vineyard. There must always be checks and balances. There are those who want to be the center of attention. They may believe they hold the power of life and death. Watch for the clues of false leadership that can tumble down the faith community struggling to be built. Prayer becomes the source of discerning leadership.

Jesus reminds all that there is but one teacher and it is he the Messiah. We are all students. Likewise, Jesus says, we are to call no one father for there is but one father, the one in heaven. Godly leadership

is best when the greatest among you becomes a servant.

Paul makes the effort in this Epistle to prove that his behavior is beyond reproach. Paul had been criticized by the people of Corinth, and elsewhere, for working to earn his keep instead of obeying Jesus' command to allow his needs to be met by those to whom he ministered. Some could say he did not trust God; in reality his trust of God was unswerving!

Paul is making the point that his ministry comes from love, not from his own personal needs. Compassion calls for flexibility. Paul had great compassion: a fundamental desire to share Jesus and his teachings with those who would listen. Paul was gifted with the ability to sit down with others, share his concerns, letting people know clearly and concisely where he stood on issues confronting the new Christian. But with the Thessalonians he could not do this. He needed to communicate by letter. In so doing, he made his point.

We need to know that in the church of today ongoing communication is essential. It is essential between priest and people, between vestry and communicants, between rector and staff, between those who see needs and those who are comfortable with the status quo.

After declaring his message of acting in the spirit of love, Paul turns abruptly to verse 13 and gives thanks. It is his attempt to encourage the people to join him in his desire for them to receive God's word and the benefits God's message can bring to their lives.

What does this have to do with stewardship? It is about the stewardship of far more than our monetary resources. It is about our whole life, our purpose in God's creation.

It is our ability to see the goodness in God's creation and to understand how we can exercise God's gifts in what we do, say, and share with others. We become the extensions of God's love for God's children: our brothers and sisters. We become stewards of God's creation.

Just recently a woman in her early fifties went through the rigors of cancer treatment. After successful surgery she was asked to be a volunteer at a small hospice for people with few resources. Her first reaction was, I can't do it. But a friend said, God told me you had a special gift of listening. She reluctantly volunteered. Today she is the angel who sits and listens to special people dying of cancer. She says little, but she is a priceless example of the stewardship of compassion. And her friend who listened to God, exercised her gift of discernment as well.

Look around and see what new thing you can do in God's creative world this next year. It doesn't need be a gigantic leap of ministry, but a simple act of faith. Share your life with someone else. Pray for them, give them a smile, a hug, an acknowledgement they exist.

Make their day in the name of Jesus! That's stewardship of time and talent. Money is important, but people are the church! God's love is for the faithful who serve him in unlimited stewardship!



As you look forward to celebrating a national holiday later this month, coming together with your family for a meal, laughing a little and enjoying some football, we encourage you to reflect on the gifts given to you, and us as a church family, by God.

On Sunday, Nov. 12th, we will begin sharing information on our Stewardship. We will come together to talk about our future and ask each family to prayerfully think about making a commitment to St. Ignatius to keep us together, help us grow our church family, support the community, and continue to provide a space for all to come to for worship and perform outreach.

You will be provided a package of information for review, providing you with knowledge of the budget and intentions for bringing a full time Rector to St. Ignatius.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a member of the Vestry.

Let's continue to flourish in faith, together....

-Vestry



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

Thank you all for your input regarding “Communal Cup or Paper Cups”. Due to the split responses, our Vestry decided on offering both options. However, with the recent outbreaks of Covid and flu, Fr. Jim has recommended postponing the Communal Cup until further notice.

Our Stewardship Campaign kick-off is Nov. 12th, with an informational package. On Nov. 19th after the 8am and 10am services, plan on staying for a special social gathering to hear a short presentation on budget, time and talents, and discernment. December 3rd will be “Commitment Sunday”.

Thank you, Roger Van Patten, for leading us on Wednesday (Nov. 1st) in an Evening Prayer Service in recognition of All Saints Day.

Peace to all,

-Jack & Renee



The RSC met twice during October following 10am Sunday Services. On behalf of the congregation, we made progress on three important elements in the search for a full-time rector.

Our opening was reposted on the Diocese of Chicago website which is the most direct way to reach clergy

interested in changing their calling within the Diocese. Since the Diocese overall is so large, it also is the first place to visit for those seeking a calling into our area of the country. The new posting displays an increase in base pay from our original offering, and an updated Parish Profile that added more inclusive and welcoming language, as well as updated information about the positive financial standing of our parish. Please visit our opening, and the other openings in the Diocese, by clicking this link: [Clergy Openings - Episcopal Diocese of Chicago \(episcopalchicago.org\)](http://Clergy Openings - Episcopal Diocese of Chicago (episcopalchicago.org))

The RSC met in-person with Rev. Sierra Reyes, who leads Clergy Transitions for our parish and other parishes in the Diocese of Chicago. When she visited us on October 22, we discussed candidates and potential candidates and the processes for interacting with these individuals. Rev. Reyes also joined us for the 10am Services and shared her joy about how our congregation “shows-up” and is involved in worship. Every two weeks, Rev. Reyes meets with other Clergy Transition leaders from across the US to discuss “clergy looking to make a change”. While this supports us, it is also true that across the US there are far more clergy openings than available clergy. Should you wish to view a compilation of openings across the country, click this link: Jobs & Calls – Episcopal News Service

On the evening of November 2, the RSC met via Zoom for the first time with a candidate for our full-time rector calling. To remind everyone about the process, we will not be sharing the name, location, or any meaningful information about candidates outside of the RSC. This is because candidate confidentiality is part of the process, since in many cases candidates have not yet fully communicated their interests in “moving-on” with the congregations or communities involved in their present calling. When parishioners ask us questions, please understand we are not being

rude to you by not answering questions like “where are they from?”, “why is this candidate looking?”, or “is this individual married or single?”

We look forward to interacting with the Vestry as the RSC reviews this candidate, and additional candidates, in the near-term. And we ask for your continued prayers and goodwill to support our efforts on behalf of each of you and our parish community.

In service to the St. Ignatius Community, we are:
Co-chairs: Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick,
and Members: Jim Hallwas, Ernie Kraak, Kathy Fields and Roger Van Patten



'Tis the Season...no, not that one. November is the season of thanks and gratitude. At least that's what the holiday decor says with signs, placards and cards proclaiming we are blessed and thankful. The culmination of these feelings comes on the fourth Thursday when we celebrate with food, food, and more food. The tide changes that weekend as we start our Christmas preparations, at least in the secular sense.

I'd like to think that the St. Ignatius family celebrates thanks and gratitude all year long through our Fellowship/Coffee Hour gatherings. We are thankful for the Eucharist which brings us together and for Fr. Jim's consistent service to us so that we can celebrate Eucharist. We are grateful to share our week's activities and family issues with each other and talk about expectations and concerns for the coming week. We are grateful to all who contribute to the Fellowship effort.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 19th, as the Vestry will be providing the Fellowship. Our Stewardship campaign will have commenced, and we offer you 'our thanks'.

-Diane Cinnick



Building & Grounds



A big Thank You to all who worked on the buildings & grounds throughout the spring and summer months in helping to maintain our church home and keep our 5 acre campus beautiful.

-Jim Blestch



Outreach Summary

On Saturday, Nov. 4th, St. Ignatius hosted a Blood Drive. Please know that this effort helped to make a difference to 27 local families. Thanks to all who donated and helped!

Our **November Mission** is for Midwest Veterans Closet in honor of veteran's day.



The Veterans Closet helps veterans and their families with employment leads, transition to housing and assistance to the homeless.

See the list of items needed on our website under Community Outreach, or there will be copies available in the vestibule. -Cathy Ehlers



2023 Diocesan Convention

November 17-18 at Westin Chicago Lombard

186th Diocesan Convention is the annual business meeting of the diocese, during which we elect leaders, consider resolutions, and hear reports from across the diocese and the wider church. This year, we will also have opportunities for worship, connection, and learning.

St. Ignatius Delegates this year will be Jack & Kathy Fields, and Kevin Wood. Alternates are Jim Bletsch and Kathy Kraak

Mother Teresa said:

In My Own Words To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything he has given us- and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

Do You Hear What I Hear? A Song?



I hear YOU! Yes! I'm sure that was you singing in the pew!!

Did you say you play a musical instrument also? Come see me! Come join our musicians as we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord with song!

This is an invitation to everyone! Please communicate with Music Dir. Kathleen Cizewski at kfc860@hotmail.com (I am in the directory).

I will share the music selections soon... Don't miss this!

We will have 2 rehearsals like last year in light of everyone's busy schedules. We can do this!



Sharing Our Faith



I wanted to send a story about healing for the newsletter. My daughter's fiancé is Zach Green, who is on the prayer list, and has been for the past several months...he has clearly benefited from these prayers.

Zach was in a catastrophic motorcycle accident in June and had a serious TBI. He was in a coma for two weeks, and at Shepherd Center in Atlanta for three months for rehab. He is improving and recovering at home. We don't know what the final outcome will be, but his progress has been amazing, and I can't help but believe that a part of this is due to the prayers on his behalf.

I am grateful to the St. Ignatius family for these prayers and the healing energy they no doubt provided. Thank you!

Best,

-Liza Simon Roper

1. 12/17- Sunday Rehearsal from 11:15am-12:45pm. (Last year this was 1.5 hr. rehearsal time used efficiently.)
2. Christmas Eve Rehearsal- 3:45pm (before 4:30pm Carols and 5pm Mass. Christmas Day Carols start at 9:30am before 10am Mass.

I bless your presence and Thank You SO Much!
 God blesses you sharing your many talents.
 I will wait to hear from you now.

Blessings,

-Kathleen

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

November Special:

50% off all GREEN sticker items!

Accepting all donations during business hours

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
Ellen Ipsen, Agent

ROSATTI'S PIZZERIA

Kelley's Sanitary Service, LLC

KELLY'S

Reflections

BIES TECHNOLOGIES

Strang Funeral Home, Inc.

Mellen's SEPTIC SERVICES INC

REALTY WORLD
Tiffany Real Estate
JACK FIELDS

Mike & Jan Culat

WE SUPPORT ANTIOCH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

God's Will Give Back

We fulfilled 6 vouchers to families in need along with giving back to the community totaling \$368.

Let's continue to work together to help others in our community in need!

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.



11/19- Stewardship discussions after both services.

11/29- Vestry Meeting at 6:45pm in the social hall. ALL are welcome to attend.

12/3- "Commitment Sunday"- please return Pledge Commitment Card

12/20- Vestry Meeting at 6:45pm in the social hall. ALL are welcome to attend.

12/24- 4th Sunday in Advent: 9am Morning Prayer...Decorate the church after service.

12/24- Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm

12/25- Christmas Day Mass at 10am



Kathy Fields- Ernie Kraak- Kaylee Kraak
Felix Cizewski- Elizabeth Johnston
Zach Green- Margaret Slamar
Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman
Mike Culat- Mildred Hamlin
Kathy Burns- Pam Anast
Fr. Jim- Roger Van Patten



November Birthdays

11/18- Chris George
11/29- Greg Nelson

November Anniversaries

11/18- Felix & Kathleen Cizewski
11/18- Larry & Diane Ward



St. Ignatius is looking to hire a Website Designer to maintain and enhance our presence in the social media era.

We are seeking help with keeping our site updated, live streaming, zooming, You Tube, etc., for our St. Ignatius campus including the church, God's Will Resale Shop, Community Services, etc.

If you know of anyone interested, please contact Jack Fields at 847-274-3958 or at baronjack@aol.com.



COMEDY CORNER

