

THE GOOD NEWS

October 2021

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



A LETTER FROM FR. BRIAN

Dear Ignatians ~

Due to Covid-19, we've all been through one long year-and-a-half! And we've been looking forward to a gathering to celebrate the end of Covid. Since Covid may still be around for a while, we, as your Vestry, are seizing what appears to be an opportunity to gather during a bit of a lull in the virus to host a **Fall Family Reunion Sunday**.

Along with missing one another and wanting to move forward, we also have an extra reason to gather to celebrate because in September we made our final mortgage payment on the church! Now we want to celebrate with all who over the years helped bring us to this day! We also have a few up-coming things to announce as we move forward together into God's "new normal" for us.



So here's the plan:

WHEN: Sunday, October 17th, 10am

WHAT: Fall Family Reunion Sunday

One Eucharist at 10am to gather us together before the Lord. Eucharist will be followed by a Grand Sunday Brunch under a tent on our east lawn – we'll serve brisket, pork shoulder, and chicken, sides, and celebration cake for all! No charge. Food will be prepared by Mike & Jan Culat, and the meal will be served by our Vestry members. Outdoor seating will be available so dress for the weather, masks will be required inside the church.

WHO: All current and former attending members of St. Ignatius are invited. You will receive an invitation in the mail. If you do *not* receive your invitation by Wednesday, October 7th, e-mail brian.beno51@gmail.com. Please **RSVP no later than Monday, October 11th** so we can prepare accordingly.

WHERE: St. Ignatius, 500 Depot St., Antioch

WHY: Because God is good. Yet we've been separated by Covid too long, and we want to reconnect and move forward, asking for God's blessing.

HOW: We'll gather in prayer and then share a festive meal while we reconnect with friends – new and longtime.

When you receive your invitation, please **RSVP your intention to attend**. Please **list the names of those from your household who will attend so we can have your name tags ready when you arrive at the church**. (Your name tag will be your meal ticket.)

Looking forward to celebrating with you, we are, in the Lord's service – your Vestry:

*Fr. Brian Beno
Mike Culat
Merv Daehler
Cathy Ehlers
Nancy McConnell
Donna McElligott
Mike Walker*

~ Fr. Brian

Ps: Please make sure we have your current e-mail address! In a spike in Covid requires us to postpone this gathering to a later date, we will notify you on Thursday, October 14th in our weekly *E-Announcements* and on Facebook.

A Covid Recap

Because our *Newsletter* becomes our written parish history for future members to look back on, here follows a bit of a recap of what happened during 2020 – 2021. May it be helpful to future readers:

2020

- On Sunday, March 15, Bishop Jeffrey Lee was with us for our Canonical Visitation. Little did

we realize that day that it would be the last time the Eucharist would be celebrated in our church for several months!

- March 22 - June 17 we were totally *closed* – church and shop. Fr. Brian zoomed *Word Services* from his home on his laptop Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings – *all* of Holy Week and Easter Sunday were on-line!
- Beginning June 20, we were open for “10-or-fewer” in-person worshipers, allowing us to celebrate the *Eucharist* for the first time since March 15. We offered five services each week (Sat. 5pm, Sun. 7:45, 9 & 10:15, and Wed. 6pm) to accommodate 10 in-person worshipers at a time.
- After July 1 our in-person capacity was increased to “25-or-fewer” – returning us to a regular Sunday morning schedule of 8 & 10. (From July 1 - Sep. 9 we also offered a summertime Saturday 5pm Eucharist on a trial basis – during these 9 weeks we averaged 5 worshipers each Saturday.)
- On November 18 we were placed under a 3-week *emergency suspension of services* from which we bounced back rather slowly – celebrating a quiet Christmas Eve with 10 in-person worshipers and 10 zoomers, and Christmas morning with 6 in-person and 14 via zoom.

2021

While Covid-19 has hung on, **2021** has been mostly kind to our Parish Family:

1. Whether on-line or in-person, our St. Ignatius Parish Family has continued to faithfully gather, to “reach up” to the Lord on Sunday mornings.
2. We wear our masks as Illinois requires, keep appropriate distance, and promote cleanliness.

3. During Lent, with on-line and in-person attendance about 50/50, we offered “Drive-up Communion” to our zoomers during the half-hour following each zoomed service. Very few zoomers chose to take advantage of this opportunity.
4. We received a \$5,000 Grant from the Diocese of Chicago and added \$2,000 from our Parish funds to up-grade our Zoom capabilities for present and future use.
5. We resumed Fellowship times following both services on 1st and 3rd Sundays, providing wrapped snacks and bottled beverages.
6. Our Re-Sale Shop has followed the same guidelines as church throughout this time, and continues to offer great bargains to thrifty shoppers as well as to those in serious need – without judgment.
7. Throughout this time, we have excelled in our efforts to “reach *out*” through our *Missions of the Month*. And moving forward, we are always open to your suggestions for future new causes.
8. As a summer experiment, we offered Wednesday 6pm Eucharists outdoors on our church patio – during summer’s 12 weeks we averaged 5 worshipers.
9. Several of our households did experience Covid. We’re overjoyed that all have recovered.
10. And by the mercy of God we’ve experienced no Covid related deaths among our attending members.

We are now moving forward. We had at first naively thought we’d quickly return to our “old normal.” We now realize Covid will probably hang on and affect us for a long while. We’re not out of the woods yet, but there is light at the end of the tunnel – and that light is the Light of Christ.

Through our faith, we are learning that, in time, God will reveal “God’s new normal” for us – and it will be a time when we’ve learned to live in charity toward one another, not focusing on “*me*-ism,” but on “what’s best for *you*” – and for all of *us*.

Learning to think of others and not of self may be what God has been trying to teach us all along. Maybe it takes a global pandemic for God to get our attention.

Time will tell . . .



Outreach Summary

P.A.D.S. September Mission of the Month

We collected 146 items and cash during the month of September. Donations will go to P.A.D.S. which stands for: Providing Advocacy, Dignity and Shelter. Our donations will assist people who are transitioning into permanent housing. Collected items included: Dishes, silverware, cleaning supplies, light bulbs, laundry supplies, towels, and personal care items.

October Mission of the Month: Canines 4 Comfort

Parish member Lisa Wernli founded Canines 4 Comfort. This non-profit organization trains psychiatric service dogs for veterans, children and adults in need of emotional support. Please consider a cash/check donation or go on line and purchase a wish list item. Lisa will present information and demonstration with animals on **Sunday, October 24th at 11:00** following the 10:00 service.

- **Support Canines 4 Comfort at no extra cost when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)! Select Canines 4 Comfort as your charity and Amazon donates a percentage of your qualified purchases to us.**

- Choose item(s) from our Amazon wish list <http://a.co/1cWuL2m> and add it to your cart. Select Canines 4 Comfort's Gift Registry Address and items are shipped directly to our organization.

"Heavenly Father, look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life." (BCP, p830, #50)

October Wedding Anniversaries

- 10/2 - Mike & Jan Culat
- 10/9 - Bob & Pat Billimack
- 10/9 - Greg & Jennifer Nelson
- 10/12 - Mike & Dawn Walker
- 10/15 - David & Tami McCollough
- 10/16 - Mike & Chris Brown
- 10/21 - Roger & Carolyn Van Patten

"O God, send your blessing upon your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their lives together may witness to your love, and their home be a haven of blessing and peace." (BCP, p431)

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

October Special:
50% off ORANGE sticker items!



Any questions call the shop at 224-321-4475

Let's Celebrate!

October Birthdays

- 10/04 - Jack Fields
- 10/11 - Diane Cinnick
- 10/11 - Donna McElligott
- 10/21 - Jenn Bodden
- 10/23 - Mike Mizwicki
- 10/26 - Nick Brown

COMEDY CORNER



So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.

