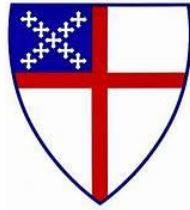


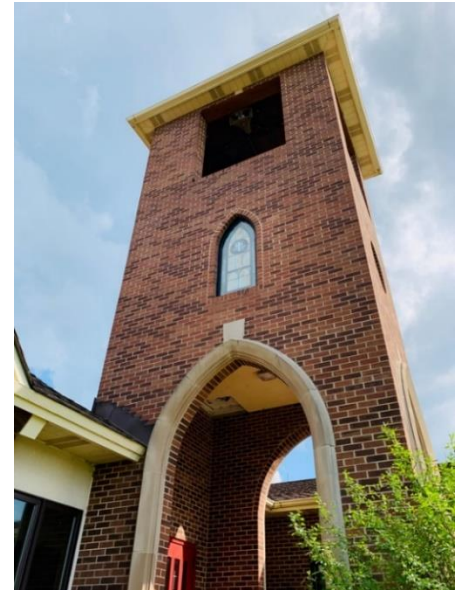
THE GOOD NEWS

October 2023



St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church

Walking in love as Christ taught us



A Different Ending

A form of wordplay people think is either great or terrible, depending on whether or not they're fans, is the pun. You know, jokes that play on words with different meanings or words that sound alike. Silly things like, *Why do cows have bells? Because their horns don't work. What's the best thing about Switzerland? Well, their flag is a big plus. How does Moses make his coffee? Hebrews it. Need an ark? I Noah guy.* Starting a sermon with even one pun may seem like, you know, cruel and unusual *pun-ishment*.

What makes puns work is that they make us make new connections. There's that beat, then the moment when we get it and either giggle or groan. *Oh, I know-a guy!* Speaking of Noah: *Why did Noah punish the chickens on the ark? They were using fowl language.*

Cognitive scientists have said that the delight we experience, the mirth that comes from that *aha!* moment, is an important part of

evolutionary development for humans. They say our brains simplify the world by creating and relying on a series of assumptions. This shortcut of relying on expectations helps us go through a day without having to think about each and every little thing. But sometimes our brains get it wrong. Our expectations are incorrect. Depending on the situation, this could be quite dangerous. So, our brains developed a reward for making new connections.

When we make new connections, disrupting our assumptions and overturning our expectations, our brains get a reward: delight, a moment of pleasure, mirth. This reward helps our brains stay on the lookout for gaps between our assumptions and reality. We get a jolt of joy when we think, *Oh, here's another way to look at this, here's another possibility.*

This works for all kinds of stories: not just comedies; mysteries and drama, too—anytime there's a new connection made, an ending we hadn't seen coming.

Jesus told a lot of stories—parables—and he told them for the same reason: to change our expectations, to get us to look at the world and ourselves in a new way, to make some connections we might not make otherwise.

He said things like, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed,” and we can imagine people saying, “Where’s he going with this?” Like, “A shepherd had 100 sheep and left 99% of his inventory to go in search of one who was lost,” and people say, “What kind of a shepherd would do that?” He told one about weeds growing among wheat, and when the farm workers come and say, “You want us to pull up the weeds?” the owner says, “Nah, let them grow together, I’ll sort it out later.” What?

Jesus told stories to upend our assumptions about “this is just the way things are” or “I know how this turns out.” When we take Jesus’ stories to heart, we may have several *aha!* moments, but unlike a riddle or a pun, they’re stories we have to come back to again and again, because they leave us, not with, “Oh, I get it!” but with a moment of decision, “Okay, now what? Now how will I live? Now what will I do? What decision will I make?” Because Jesus tells stories, not just for a moment of mirth, but to save our lives.

That’s really apparent with today’s parable, which is no joke. It’s usually called, “The Parable of the Wicked Tenants.” Jesus tells this story about a landowner who rented property to some farmers. In Jesus’ day, this was a very common arrangement. The usual terms of the agreement were that the farmers were allowed to live on the land and farm it, and in return, they had to give the landowner a percentage of the crop they harvested as rent.

In Jesus’ story, when harvest time comes, the landowner sends some of his servants to collect what was due to him. But the farmers aren’t willing to

hand over any of their crops. Instead, they beat and kill the servants, maybe thinking they would show the landowner who is really in charge.



After a while, when he hadn’t received any word from the farm, the landowner sends some more servants to collect his share of the crops. But once again, the farmers kill the servants.

Finally, the landowner sends his own son to the farmers, hoping that the farmers will respect and listen to the son. But the farmers treat his son like all the others: they take him outside the vineyard and kill him. They think they’ve shown the landowner who is really in charge.

Then Jesus asks the people how the story should end. He asks, “What do you think? When the owner of the vineyard comes, what do you think he’s going to do?” The people answer, “Surely he’s going to come and get those horrible farmers. He’s going to put them to death. He’ll make them pay for what they’ve done!” In other words, the crowd is sure that when the landowner comes, he’ll play by the farmers’ rules, he’ll go by the farmers’ expectations, he’ll do what we all expect—respond to violence with more violence.

Notice: This is not Jesus’ conclusion to the parable. This is how the people say it *should* end. They’ll get

what they deserve. This is just how things go. Isn't this just the way of the world? The way things work?

But what if it's not?

If this story is an allegory, it's pretty clear that God is the landowner, the servants are the prophets, and the landowner's son is Jesus, who is sent by God to God's people. But people don't listen to or respect him. They kill him instead.

So, does God respond to Jesus' death in the vengeful and bloody way we might expect—in the way the people say the story will end? No. The story of Good Friday and Easter shows us this is not what God did. Despite the ways Jesus was abused, despite his death as an innocent man, despite the ways those who serve God and good have been mistreated throughout time, God refuses to meet our expectations, go by our assumptions, play by our rules. Violence and death will not be the end of the story. Rather than revenge, God chose resurrection.

Isn't that amazing? Not just that God has the power to raise Jesus from the dead, but that God is willing to, not just for love of Jesus, but for love of the whole world. That God has any affection left for people who treat one another and even God's own son with such brutality is astonishing. That God has any hope left for the world is absolutely, well, divine. We can marvel at what must have been in the heart of God on the night of Good Friday, or all day long on Saturday. There is Jesus lying dead in the grave, his body broken and cold. And there is the whole human family, most not even realizing the gravity of what they've done, and some of them smug that they've killed the son.

But here's God who gives new life to the Son and says to him, "We cannot stop now. This is not the end. They are still my children, still your brothers and sisters. It is not my will that any of them should

perish. It's time to make their salvation complete." And God can't even wait for the sun to come up on Easter morning before the risen Jesus Christ is stepping forth from the grave, going ahead to meet the disciples who had abandoned him, to send them on his behalf into the world, to give us all another chance to remember the story God is writing, a story where we can throw aside our expectations, and instead, expect good to defeat evil, forgiveness to heal guilt, unity to overcome estrangement, joy to conquer despair.

That is the ending God wrote to the parable of the wicked tenants.

God raised Jesus from the dead so we can learn new ways to be in the world: God's ways. God shows mercy rather than hatred so we can forgive and reconcile instead of trying to get revenge. God shows love so we can break stupid cycles that lead to more and more misery; live out of God's future instead of repeating the tragedy of the past. Love.

Do you have any stories in your life that need a different ending than just the same old thing? Any ongoing drama in your life where instead of just meeting expectations of more of the same old, same old, you might allow God to write a new chapter? A new ending? Is there some way God might use this parish to do something new, something unexpected, something life-giving in this community? Some way to say or show more violence is not the solution to violence?

Jesus asked the people, "Now how do you think the story should end?"

Today, Jesus asks us, "Now how do you think the story should end?"

-The Rev. Dr. Amy Richte



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

Welcome back Fr. Jim!

With Fr. Jim's successful return, we return to our Sunday 8am & 10am Worship Service schedule.

Fr. Jim would like to continue with the Lay Eucharistic Ministers leadership. This means there will be some changes leading up to the "Peace".

Our Annual Stewardship Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, November 12th. This is where we commit on December 3rd, our time & talents as well as our financial commitment to St. Ignatius.

We have been blessed to provide a social hour after each service. It truly is a topic of conversation to take time to visit with our church family!

Peace to all,

-Jack & Renee



We are happy to inform our family that the St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish Profile has been updated and uploaded to the Diocesan of Chicago and National Websites.

The search committee held a meeting on Oct. 8th in preparation for the discernment of candidates.

In service to the St. Ignatius Community, we are:

Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick, co-chairs, and Jim Hallwas, Ernie Kraak, Kathy Fields and Roger Van Patten, members.



Thank you to all who stepped up in my absence in September to provide nourishment & friendship to our St. Ignatius family. The protracted schedule was covered seamlessly as 'helping' is part of our DNA!

Please notice the sign-up sheets in the vestibule for the after service social hours, and please sign up where you are able to help out.

-Diane Cinnick



Building & Grounds



Last month the HVAC units were all tuned up and maintained in preparation of the winter months ahead.

We continue to get concrete quotes for the 20x24 patio, and hope to have a bid approved at the Oct. Vestry meeting.

-Jim Blestch



Outreach Summary

Our August & September Outreach Mission was a collection to benefit the residents of Hillcrest Nursing Center in Round Lake Beach.

We provided a wide selection of personal care items, books, puzzles, socks, snacks, and a monetary gift to benefit their residents, a little Christmas in the Fall.

Thank you to all who donated both material items and monetary donations!

-Diane Cinnick



2023 Diocesan Convention

November 17-18 at Westin Chicago Lombard

After three years of virtual conventions, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago will gather in person for the **186th Diocesan Convention**.

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. Watch for more information on the convention schedule coming soon.

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

SAVE THE DATE

St. Ignatius Church Blood Drive

November 4th, 2023
8:30am-1pm

-Cathy Ehler



Sharing Our Faith



The Church

Q. What is the Church?

A. The Church is the community of the New Covenant.

Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

Q. How is the Church described in the creeds?
A. The Church is described as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Q. Why is the Church described as one?
A. The Church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. Why is the Church described as holy?
A. The Church is holy, because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's work.

Q. Why is the Church described as catholic?
A. The Church is catholic, because it proclaims the whole Faith to all people, to the end of time.

Q. Why is the Church described as apostolic?
A. The Church is apostolic, because it continues in the teaching and fellowship of the apostles and is sent to carry out Christ's mission to all people.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?
A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?
A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?
A. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

The Communal Cup



A long-standing tradition in the Episcopal church is drinking from the communal cup. Unfortunately, Covid came about, and a lot of our traditions went by the wayside.

At St. Ignatius, we have tried to bring back these traditions. One of the traditions that has not reappeared is drinking from the communal cup. This has been a conversation at several Vestry meetings without coming to an agreement, so I have decided to ask the congregation how they feel about it. Please give your opinion to one of your Vestry members so we can discuss it again.

Thank you for your time in considering this.

-Kathy Kraak, Worship Commission

GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP

October Special:

50% off all ORANGE sticker items!
Accepting all donations during business hours



Thank You To Our Sponsors!

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
Ellen Ipsen, Agent

ROSATI'S
PIZZA

Kelley's Sanitary Service, LLC

KELLY'S
ITALY PARK & GRILL

Reflections

BIES
TECHNOLOGIES

Strang Funeral Home, Inc.

Mellen's
SUPPLY SERVICES INC

REALTY WORLD
Tiffany Real Estate
JACK FIELDS

Mike & Jan
Culat

WE SUPPORT ANTIOCH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES
GWRS Community Give-Back

8th Annual Chuck Larson Golf for the Hungry



What an amazing fundraising effort by all involved!
This year was our highest earning year to date with
total proceeds raised of **\$21,600!!**

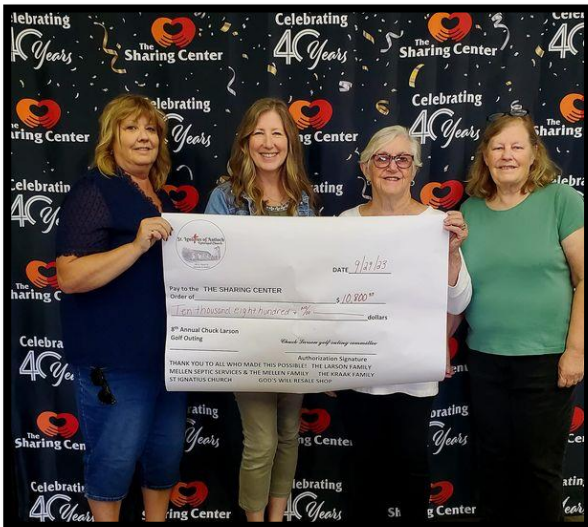
Thank you to Mellen Septic, God's Will Resale
Shop, St. Ignatius, and all of our dedicated volunteers
who helped make this such a wonderful event for all
who attended.

Kathy Kraak, Sheri Mellen, & Joan Larson delivered
the checks equaling half the proceeds to both Open
Arms Mission in Antioch, and The Sharing Center in
Trevor, WI. with a total of **\$10,800** given to each
organization!



Here is a breakdown of the proceeds the **past 8 years** of sponsoring the Chuck Larson Memorial Golf Outing Fore the Hungry.

- 2016- \$7,359.50**
- 2017- \$10,000**
- 2018- \$13,200**
- 2019- \$11,757.48**
- 2020- \$11,865.42**
- 2021- \$14,752.72**
- 2022- \$16,000**
- 2023- \$21,600**



Total = \$106,535.12

Look how we have grown!



Fall Feast 2023

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 14th!

This is the date for our Fall Feast, and we need everyone who is available to put in some time working at it.

There are sign-up sheets in the vestibule at church. One is for working, another is for dessert sign-up and the last one is for advance ticket sales.

Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. There are also flyers that can be taken if you have a spot to hang one.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 3-11. We are serving pulled pork and brisket made by Bill Mellen also chicken and sides.

We are doing a 50/50 raffle and I looking for anyone who would like to help roam the floor and sell tickets.

Thank you and see you there on the 14th!



-Kathy Kraak

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.





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.

11/4- Blood Drive in social hall 8:30am-1pm

11/12- Stewardship Campaign Kick-off

11/17th-18th - 2023 Diocesan Convention at Westin Chicago Lombard

12/3- Commitment Sunday



October Birthdays

- 10/4- Jack Fields
- 10/11- Diane Cinnick
- 10/11- Donna McElligott
- 10/12- Mark Leverenz
- 10/21- Jenn Bodden
- 10/23- Mike Mizwicki

October Anniversaries

- 10/2- Mike & Jan Culat
- 10/9- Bob & Pat Billimack
- 10/9- Greg & Jennifer Nelson
- 10/20- Tom & Libby Deichsel
- 10/21- Roger & Carolyn Van Patten

- Kathy Fields- Ernie Kraak- Kaylee Kraak
- Felix Cizewski- Elizabeth Johnston
- Zach Green- Margaret Slamar
- Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman-
- Doug McConnell -Mike Culat
- Mildred Hamlin- Kathy Burns- Pam Anast
- Jayne McCoullough

