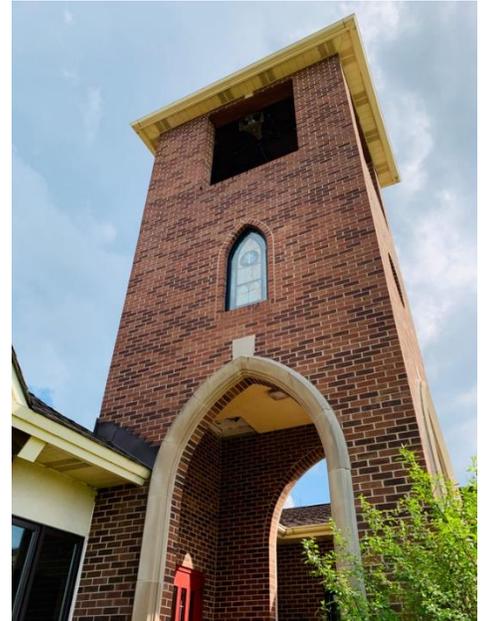
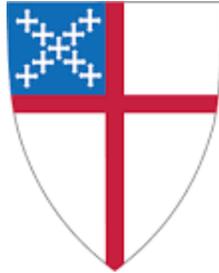


THE GOOD NEWS

September 2022



Family Ties



What does it mean to be family? What do we mean when we say we are part of a church family or God's family?

What about when the

interests of our family conflict with other things that pull on us, demand our time and energy and attention? What does love require of us? This morning, we have two readings that focus on family, and on untying and tying the ties that bind us together as family.

In 2004, the BBC reported that an 80-year-old retired teacher of Greek and Latin in Italy was seeking adoption. Widowed for 14 years and lonely, Giorgio Angelozzi placed an ad in an Italian newspaper, searching for a family willing to adopt him as a grandparent. Angelozzi was inundated with

responses from throughout Italy, and from as far away as New Zealand, including from many parents who hoped that Angelozzi could teach Greek and Latin to their children; this elderly man could be useful to them. Angelozzi also offered to contribute 500 euros per month to the family that would take him in.

Angelozzi chose the Riva family, near Milan, saying that the mother had a melodious voice that reminded him of the voice of his wife. The Rivas said they hoped that the elderly man would fill a gap for their children, whose grandfather had died.

It would be a sweet story if this is where it ended: a lonely old man with a new family to love, a family with a new grandfather.

Sadly, about a year later, Angelozzi was in the news again. The family had never really bonded.

Angelozzi was authoritarian, and the teenage children were more interested in computer games than spending time with the old man. He had irritating habits. He followed the mother around all day. He stuck chewing gum under the furniture. He did pay the 500 euros once, but he ran up a large bill with the family dentist after the Rivas had already paid for new glasses and an operation. When the Rivas told Angelozzi he would have to settle things with the dentist, Angelozzi skipped town. The Italian police found him in an old people's home in Milan and discovered a history of fraud, theft, bitterness, and alienation from his blood family.

Angelozzi died after being in a coma for six weeks. There had been no flowers, no cards, no phone calls, and not a single relative came to visit or claim his body after his death. A reporter found a sister of Angelozzi and informed her that her brother had died. She seemed relieved. But the Riva family asked the local authorities to organize a funeral for Angelozzi and said they would go and pay their last respects. The mother, Marlina, said, "How can we ask God for forgiveness for our sins one day if we do not pardon [Angelozzi]?"

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus says some harsh words related to family. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters... cannot be my disciple." Tough words. Jesus says, "Love your enemies," but "hate your own family members?"

Jesus wants us to get our attention. When Jesus uses the word "hate," he's not talking about hatred as we may think of it, where to feel hatred, we have to feel it, tend it, keep it alive. If we don't put energy into

hatred, it may lessen into ambivalence. It may even get healed.

Jesus isn't anti-family. But he is anti- anything we put in place of total commitment to God, anything that can become an idol for us. He's talking about the reality that loving one's blood family wrongly—giving it a higher priority than the God who alone can rightly order all our relationships—will get in the way of being Jesus' disciples. Whoever isn't willing to give up, well, everything, cannot be Jesus' disciple.

The idea of cutting a branch off the family tree may come as welcome news, especially if your family tree is producing a lot of nuts. George Burns once said, "Happiness is having a large, loving, close-knit family... in another city." But even with good relationships, Jesus wants them all to be subordinate to our relationship with God. What does God want for your children? Raise them with God's desires in mind. What does God want for your spouse? Live in such a way that your marriage serves God. What does God want from you? Don't use your family as a reason not to tend to your spiritual life.

What's more, through baptism, through calling us together to be his brothers and sisters, children of God, Jesus makes a new family. Even when our earthly blood families fail us, we are part of a larger, eternal family. Even when we need to detach from people who raised us, even when, in order to be faithful to God, we need to unknit the ties that would bind us, we find ourselves tied to a larger family, parented by a God who will not fail us, will always love us, who cares for us, always and forever. When we have failed those we love, when we let down our

own kith and kin, we find ourselves held within a fellowship of forgiveness, members of a family whose very purpose is reconciliation.

That is great news! But now we need to hear our second lesson for today, in which we see up close how hard it can be to live as a member of this Christ-centered family.

In his Letter to Philemon, a book in the New Testament we heard almost in its entirety this morning, Paul challenges Philemon to do something he probably does not want to do. That is, to take back his runaway slave, Onesimus, not as a slave, but as a brother; to receive him, not as property over which he has legal rights, but as a human being, and a living member of the family of which Philemon, too, is a part—the family of Jesus Christ.

Here's the situation. Paul is in prison, again, for preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, probably in Ephesus on the coast of modern-day Turkey. About one hundred miles inland is the town of Colossae where one of the leaders of the church is a man named Philemon, who had himself become a member of Christ's family, the church, through Paul's preaching.

Philemon, like many householders of his day, had slaves. We may wish that Christians then would have all simply condemned and disavowed slavery, but don't let that keep us from hearing the radical call going on here, a call to Philemon to live as a member of Jesus' family.

One of Philemon's slaves is named Onesimus, which means Useful, but as it's turned out, Onesimus has

been far from useful to Philemon. He's run away. He may also have stolen from Philemon as part of his getaway.

Onesimus has gone off to Ephesus, where now he too has heard the Gospel preached by Paul and has now become a Christian.

Both Philemon and Onesimus are part of the family of Christ. Both are brothers in this new family. One, Philemon, is a person with the law behind him. The other, Onesimus, has few rights and nowhere to lodge a legal appeal. Both are now members of the same family, a family big enough to embrace them both. But what does that look like, really?

Listen to how Paul works for reconciliation. Paul appeals to everything that binds Philemon to Paul. They are old friends. They are partners in the Gospel. Philemon owes his new life, his eternal life to Paul, whose preaching has set Philemon free from his old life to the new life of love in Christ.

But Paul also appeals to everything that binds Onesimus to Paul. Onesimus has become like a son, like his own heart to Paul. Paul would love to keep Onesimus with him, but he knows that if he does, it will cause a rift, a split in the family tree between Paul and Philemon.

Reconciliation is costly, and Paul bears the cost himself. He says to Philemon, "If you consider me your partner, welcome him back as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, charge it to me. I'll pay you back." But, more, Paul asks Philemon to forego what is his right by law: to punish Onesimus, even by death if he wants. Instead,

do what he should as a brother in Christ, receive Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as the brother he has become.

Paul is so smart. This letter to Philemon was not a private letter sent for Philemon's eyes only. The letter is addressed to the church that meets at Philemon's house. This is a letter sent to be read aloud to all who gather in Christ's name in Philemon's home. And Paul ends the letter by telling Philemon to get a guest room ready for him. When Paul gets out of prison, he wants to come see how this whole family thing is working out. Are they truly behaving as the family of Christ? He looks forward to coming and seeing for himself.

This whole family of Christ thing is beautiful but hard. It must have been hard for Onesimus to go back, clutching this letter from Paul to his brothers and sisters at Philemon's house, and to take the risk that Philemon would say no. It must have been hard for Philemon to let go of his legal rights and pay attention to God's higher law of love, to extend his hand, not to punish, but to reach out to a brother.

Jesus knew about extending his hands. One of our prayers says he stretched his arms wide on the hardwood of the cross, that everyone might come within the reach of his saving embrace. And yes, that means that we, brothers and sisters of Jesus, are to reach out with that same reconciling love that Christ shows us.

What did Philemon do? The Bible doesn't say. But we do have a letter from a bishop named Ignatius, written sometime before 108 AD, who wrote to the church at Ephesus: "In God's name, I have received

your whole number in the person of Onesimus, whose love is indescribable, and who is your bishop."

In Christ, we have all received adoption as children of God. We are all made one family in Christ, with enough love and forgiveness for all of us to know, to share, to show.

-The Rev. Dr. Amy Richter

Letter from the Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

Let us review and together move forward! In the Vestry meeting on August 17th we did a 6 month review of the Supply Priest and the Vestry.

The following are the notes of our discussion:

Supply Priests: Fr. Jim Caldwell, Rev Debra Bullock, Fr. Mathew Kemp

- **General:** nice variety; brought everyone in the parish different types of sermons and exposure to different styles
- **Fr. Caldwell:** dedicated supply priest to St. Ignatius; he gives advice on how he feels the church should move forward and the type of priest we should be looking for (i.e., need to be involved in the community); he wanted to move to 1 Sunday/month, however, he came forward to offer more of his time; he was engaging with everyone; "advocate" for us
- **Rev Bullock:** she had a different perspective, different sermons; she could not continue on due to another calling; she filled in when we needed her the most; took her some time to get comfortable with us
- **Fr. Kemp:** graduate from the Nashoda house; he is trying to figure out what his next

move is; he understands the position is open here, he has not come forward with interest; he has a 1-year contract to teach at a university; with his old school style, individuals “felt at home”

We’ve never missed a mass, even without a full time priest.

Seeking:

- Nursery – need a place where kids can go (Vestry agreed to make this a priority)
- Bible Study Group – during the week or on the weekends... does not need to be limited to only St. Ignatius parishioners – invite others
- Idea of Growth - need younger families coming in

“All are Welcome” to our Vestry meetings, and an opportunity to “Have a Voice”. This Vestry has worked very well together and recognize each other’s strong leadership skills.

The average attendance for services has increased since February. As we move forward, we will need your help. Please help the Search Committee in their goal to secure our next Priest/ Reverend. They will need input on your needs here at St. Ignatius.

Peace,

Jack Fields & Cathy Ehlers



Fellowship

Many thanks to all who participated in the Family Picnic on August 7th. What a joy to see over 50 people, old friends and new, sharing stories, laughing, and enjoying a variety of great foods. Fr. Jim said more than once that it was GREAT! We

hope events like this help to 'reunite us' after the drastic changes to our lives of the last 2-1/2 years.

Coming Events!

September Fellowship Sundays - the 4th and 18th.

Save the Date - **October 30th Family Fall Fest!** Lunch will be served following the 10:00 service and important updates will be shared by the Rector Search Committee after completion of the Congregation Assessment Tool. Your participation is valued as we again share Fellowship and good food. Further details will be shared in the October newsletter.

November will be Veteran Appreciation Month. We plan to honor family veterans, both current parishioners and our family members who served our country. Fellowship will be working with Outreach to make the most of this opportunity. Details in the October newsletter.

Vivere in pace Dei! (Live in God's peace)
-Diane Cinnick



Outreach Summary

August Mission: It was another successful month with our Outreach going to **A Safe Place** in Zion, IL. Many items were collected and donated. Thank you everyone for the wonderful support!

The **September Mission** is **PADS** of Lake County. We are collecting items for Housewarming Kits.

Wish List Includes: tissues, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo/ conditioner, toothbrushes & paste, disposable razors, body & hand lotion, deodorant, nail clippers, shave gel/cream, combs/brushes.

-Outreach Committee



7th Annual Chuck Larson Golf Fore the Hungry

On Aug. 28, 73 golfers hit the links at Spring Valley Country Club. While the golfers were out enjoying the course, Bill Mellen and team were cooking a feast to serve for dinner.

The golfers manage to get back to the club house before the rain came in. There were raffles galore for all to take a chance on.

When it was all said and done, over \$18,000.00 was raised. As the dust settles on this year's event, bills will be paid and a final number will be calculated. The net amount from this event will be split between the Sharing Center in Trevor, WI and Open Arms Mission in Antioch, IL.

A big thank you to all who help put this on and to all who came and enjoyed a great meal and a day of golf.



STEWARDSHIP

We are moving into that time of year when we are prayerfully thinking about how to be good stewards of God's love, in support of the today, tomorrow and future of St. Ignatius Church of Antioch.

A biblical view of **stewardship** can be defined as: *"Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."* Annual commitment is different from all other kinds of church fundraising because it is about the personal transformation of the giver. In reflection of this biblical definition, today we ask you to begin your stewardship journey; please think about how you may define your role and can participate by utilizing the gifts God has given you.

Search Committee

Rector Search Committee Update

Survey to Start September 15

- Rector Search Committee has met on four occasions
- As a reminder, the Committee members are: Kathy Fields, Jim Hallwas, Ernie Kraak, Roger Van Patten (Vestry), Ken Ward, Linda Mizwicki (Co-Chair), and Warren Cinnick (Co-Chair).
- Two main activities right now:
 - Creating a Parish Profile document, which will be used in communicating with rector candidates
 - Initiating a survey of parishioners, to ensure the views of everyone are included in the work of the Search Committee
- Survey will begin on Thursday, September 15
 - It will be available in three ways:

- On-line sent via email
- Paper form send via US Mail
- Paper form picked-up at Sunday Services starting on September 18
- Paper forms of the survey need to be returned to the Parish Office for entry into the electronic survey portal
- Survey is called the “Congregation Assessment Tool” or CAT
- Used by all parishes in our Diocese of Chicago for new rector searches
- Survey will take 25=30 minutes to complete
- Most of the questions only require simple multiple choice answers, and there are a few open ended questions to give participants more room to share personal thoughts
- Every “invested and able” person may participate in the survey
 - “Invested” means involved in parish life, including participation in religious services, supporting one or more of the ministries (such as God’s Will Resale Shop), or making contributions to the parish.
 - “Able” means everyone 16 years of age or older with the maturity and experience to understand the importance of the survey and assessment process, and who can complete the survey in one sitting.
- We need your help ... Please ensure the parish office has an accurate email address and mailing address for each invested and able parishioner.
- The parish office will be doing a reach-out on this matter, and you can help by sending accurate information to

saintignatiusofantiochil@gmail.com, or by [US Mail to 500 East Depot Street, Antioch, IL 60002](#)

- Once again, the survey will open on September 15, and close on October 11.
- We will repeat this information at each Sunday Service before the survey becomes available.
- On behalf of the Search Committee, thank you for your willingness to be a part of the congregation assessment and for helping to build the future of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish.
- If you have questions about the survey, please contact Warren Cinnick at wcinnick@hotmail.com, or 847-494-6678.

GOD’S WILL RESALE SHOP

September Special:

50% off all BLUE sticker items!



questions call the shop at 224-321-4475



Parishioner Submission:

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.
And you need the church.

-Michael Carl

Let's Celebrate!

September Birthday's:

9/4- Michael Ehlers
9/4- Abigail Nelson
9/8- Gary Kriens Sr.
9/15- Lisa Wernli
9/22- Warren Cinnick
9/26- Ken Ward
9/28- Carolyn Van Patten
9/30- Karen Donahue

September Anniversary's:

9/8- Jim & Heidi George
9/11- Bill & Donna McElligott
9/17- Jim & Sue Hallwas
9/25- Mike & Cathy Ehlers



The Daehler & family - Elizabeth Johnston - Jim & Pat Bletsch - Clare Coleman - The Deichsel Family - Ken Ward & family- Mildred Hamlin- Jerome & Gloria- Cathy Haley- Dave Schoenbeck- George Pahlke- JoAnne Kriens- Mike Culat- Mike Haley Family- Pam Anast- Felix Cizewski- Fr. Jim-Nancy McConnell

COMEDY CORNER

