

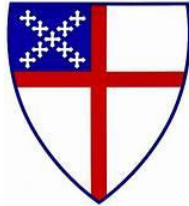
THE GOOD NEWS

May 2024



St. Ignatius of Antioch
Episcopal Church

Walking in love as Christ taught us



Sursum Corda



“Ascension” is one of those many “church words” that may not have much, if any meaning, to those outside the church. In fact, the ascension of Christ and Ascension Day itself may seem like an obscure event or day even to church members. Portrayals of the ascension in art can appear awkward, or even conflicting, with Jesus being carried by angels in early portrayals while in others he appears to be ascending on his own power into the clouds as though he could fly. In the Middle Ages in Europe, Ascension Day was sometimes commemorated with visual and dramatic practices that included processions to the Mount of Olives, with hikes up local hills and mountains, or in some places with the raising up of a crucifix or a statue of the risen Christ that was carried right through the

roof of the church. This may sound odd and distant to us in the 21st century, and we may wonder what theological purpose or point this holy day or this event has for us today.

The word “ascent” or “ascension” does, at least, have a straightforward meaning. It simply means to move upward, to rise, or to be lifted up. It is often used to describe those rising in rank or in position or even to describe the act of an airplane as it rises into the sky. In this case, the “ascension” refers to Jesus’ ascent as he was lifted up into the heavens at the end of his earthly ministry in the midst of his followers. This event was commonly assumed to have occurred upon the Mount of Olives 40 days following Jesus’ resurrection after he had made many appearances to his followers. Lest we downplay the Ascension as an event, it should be noted that the Ascension is one of the few affirmations we make about Jesus’ life in our ancient creeds. In the Nicene Creed, we proclaim that Jesus, “ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” The Ascension has also been observed universally by Christians since at least the

4th century and it ushers the Church into a liturgical period known as “Ascensiontide” that lasts until Pentecost Sunday, when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit.

One of the beautiful things about the liturgical year with holy days and liturgical forms of worship, is that if one pays attention to the appointed prayers and lessons throughout the church year, one can learn and experience all the central teachings of the Christian faith. For instance, the liturgy of the Eucharistic prayer opens with a dialogue that begins with the words, “The Lord be with you... And also with you.” This dialogue begins what is known by its Latin name, the “sursum corda” which translates directly to, “Lift up your hearts,” because the prayer continues with the invitation to those gathered to “Lift up [their] hearts.” Clergy are taught in seminary to physically lift their arms and hands upward during this prayer in the ancient prayer position called “orans,” in order to convey tangibly and physically this sense of lifting up in a posture of supplication. The people then respond, “We lift them up to the Lord.” The sursum corda ends with giving thanks to God and the prayer then moves into retelling salvation history with worship and thanksgiving to God until the invitation to receive Communion.

The goal of this portion of the ancient liturgy is to participate in, essentially, an ascension of the heart, by intentionally and prayerfully lifting up our hearts to God in faith, love, and joy. From a spiritual and emotional standpoint, this is a moment to pause and bring our awareness into God’s presence. In that sense, we are called to ascend to God, just as Jesus ascended to God, by lifting up our hearts, our souls, and our deepest selves to God. In this way, our prayer reminds us that the Eucharist is not just about the fact that Jesus descended to the earth to come to us, nor did Jesus merely ascend into heaven, but that he ascended in order to draw us all to God because we

too are called to ascend in heart, body, and mind to the Lord. In Christ, by faith through grace, we learn that ascension is a joint effort! In fact, not only is the Eucharistic celebration a joint effort of both descension and ascension, but our entire spiritual journey is a joint effort that involves God coming to us and our responding and coming to God, descending and ascending together, with God working in us and us working with God. In this way, heaven and earth are joined together for the work of God’s Kingdom.

When we follow Jesus and experience true ascension, there is a clear and gracious result. Luke’s Gospel account illustrates that result in our reading. Following Christ’s ascension, the text reveals that the disciples experienced three things: “worship,” “great joy,” and “blessing.” This is the same pattern of the Eucharistic prayer, and this is the pattern of the spiritual life. When we ascend and lift up our hearts to God, we too are filled with God’s life-giving, praise, worship, blessing, and joy!

Of course, we are called to ascend and lift our hearts to God not only on Sunday mornings or during the Eucharistic prayer, but continually and throughout our days. If we want to experience more joy in life, as well as praise and blessing, then we can lift up our hearts to God constantly in moments of ascension.

Think how our perspective might change if we ascended frequently by momentarily lifting up our hearts to God in the midst of life’s challenges. Finding yourself aggravated by someone or something? Pause and lift up your heart to God! On the verge of losing your temper? Pause and lift up your heart to God! Has someone said something hurtful? Pause and lift up your heart to God! Have you just been cut off in traffic? Pause and lift up your heart to God! Are you worried or anxious about something? Pause and lift up your heart to God!

Ascension can be done anytime and anywhere. And while this is certainly not a cure-all, it is quite difficult to remain in anger or worry long when we ascend and find our hearts with God in the joy of ascension.

These little, daily momentary ascensions can change our lives over time, because in those instances we are, by grace, rising above our current situation and being lifted into God's presence and awareness. Far from being an obscure event, ascension can be a most practical reminder of how we might live out and practice our faith regularly, knowing that God has come to us and we have been called to come to God. So today and every day: Lift up your hearts!

-The Rev. D. Rebecca Hansen

Rev. Dawn is planning on starting preaching on Sunday's beginning Aug. 18th.

On behalf of the family of St. Ignatius, the Vestry thanked the entire Search Committee on their commitment to our family.

On another note, this Sunday, May 12th, we start a Formation class with Fr. Jim's leadership. It will be held between the 8 & 10 am services.

See the Formation article within this newsletter.

Happy Mother's Day!

Peace to all,

-Jack & Renee



Letter from your Wardens

Dear Family of St. Ignatius,

Our prayers for our new Rector have been answered. At the April 24th Vestry meeting the Rector Search Committee brought forth a candidate for approval to become our next Rector. On April 28th at a special Vestry meeting, the Vestry after their discernment voted unanimously to call Rev. Dawn Stary. See article to follow.

The next steps in the process will be to prepare a Letter of Agreement to be signed by the Wardens, Rev. Dawn Stary, Bishop Paula Clark and Cannon of the ordinary Andrea Mysen.

Rev. Dawn will lead us on June 9th at both services. Rev. Dawn will officially be starting on Aug. 1st, however with moving across the country and settling in, she will not be officially starting her full-time duties until Sept. 1st.

Rev. Dawn M. Stary named as new Full-time Rector at St. Ignatius of Antioch



The Rector Search Committee and the Vestry of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish are pleased to report the calling and appointment of a new full-time Rector.

Rev. Dawn Stary will become the next Rector for St. Ignatius in August 2024. Rev. Stary is presently the Assistant Rector and Curate at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Encinitas, California. Her current parish assignment is in the Diocese of San Diego, where Rev. Stary was ordained in 2023.

The new Rector received her training for the priesthood from the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, where she earned a Masters of Divinity. Rev. Stary also holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the University of San Diego. She completed her undergraduate degree at Loyola University in Chicago, where she studied Theology, Philosophy and Women's Studies.

Rev. Dawn has more than 15 years of experience serving the community in San Diego, including the pastoral counseling of families, couples, and individuals, support for new immigrants to the US, and continuous involvement in social justice issues such as human trafficking and helping refugees who have been victims of torture.

Over the next several months, Rev. Dawn and her spouse, Simeon, and son, Declan, will be completing their work and school obligations in the San Diego area. All three are very excited to become part of the St. Ignatius community for many of the same reasons parishioners have chosen to live, work, and worship here.

Rev. Stary and her family were on-site at St. Ignatius on April 14-18 for a very busy set of meetings, tours, interviews, meals, and a Eucharistic Service. The interviews included one with Paula Clark, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, and others at the Diocese Offices downtown. When the on-site visit was completed, the Rector Search Committee, with members Roger Van Patten, Jim Halwas, Ernie Kraak, Kathy Fields, Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick, discerned unanimously in favor of calling Rev. Stary as next Rector. The Committee took its recommendation to the Vestry on April 24, where the candidate and the future goals of the parish were discussed. The Vestry, with Jack Fields and Renee Garrett as Senior Wardens, and Jim Bletsch, Kevin

Wood, Kathy Kraak, and Diane Cinnick as members, unanimously discerned on Sunday, April 28, that Rev. Stary would be called.

Rev. Dawn and Simeon will next visit our Parish and the Antioch area from June 6 through 11 to decide on where to live. On Sunday, June 9, she will celebrate both Sunday Eucharistic Services at 8am and 10am. You are invited to make plans to attend one of the two services on June 9, and to reach out to ask others to make a special effort to welcome Rev. Stary on that day.

Since this calling requires Rev. Dawn and Simeon and Declan to relocate from California, you can expect some transition time in August upon arrival. The plan is for her to embrace the full-time role on September 1.

Many thanks to every parishioner at St. Ignatius of Antioch. We have gotten to this important place through your support and patience, your trust in the Rector Search Committee and the Vestry, our caring and excellent Supply Priest, Father Jim Caldwell, and especially your frequent and meaningful prayers to our Lord. As we asked in our prayer every Sunday, "a Rector has found the path to us to lead St. Ignatius in a Godly manner."

During the Week of May 6, this announcement will also appear on the St. Ignatius of Antioch website, and in the Weekly Email from God's Will Resale Shop to its mailing list. Plans are being made for further communication of this important addition to our St. Ignatius Parish Community, consistent with our intentions for growth and formation.

Your RSC Committee: Linda Mizwicki and Warren Cinnick (co-chairs); Ernie Kraak, Roger Van Patten, Kathy Fields, and Jim Hallwas (members)

Faith & Fellowship

Did you hear Fr. Jim's sermon Sunday? His teaching included the concept of 'love', how it can be overused and I believe, underrated. We love many things and casually toss the word about. In my family, they have learned that food is another form of love. Treats for the kids are always made with love, the secret ingredient. You cannot see it or taste it, but you know it's there.

We are sharing the love weekly at our Social Hours following services. Thank you to those who contributed last month, whether providing treats or monetary donations. We feel the **love!**

- Carolyn & Roger Van Patten
- Mike & Jan Culat
- Mark & Karen Leverenz
- Jim & Pat Bletsch

Parish Development



Love. Grow. Serve.

Growing our community takes a village. I would like to hear from any of you who belong to local civic/community organizations in and around Antioch to help us expand our outreach.

The team is committed to gathering ideas in anticipation of working with a new Rector. We welcome input for consideration and look forward to implementing new concepts in the future.

-Diane Cinnick



Outreach Summary

Our Mission for the months of **March & April** was for an organization out of Lake Villa called **Shining Abilities**. We were able to successfully donate many items from their wish list.

As always, thank you to all who were able to help out with this mission!

We have set up another **St. Ignatius Blood Drive** through Versiti, to be held on Saturday, July 27th, in our social hall. There will be information and a link for signing up soon.

If you have any questions, contact Cathy Ehlers.



Faith Formation

Come Join Us!
...an update from FORMATION

Our next formation activity is a conversation on the book *The Uneasy Conscience of a White Christian*. A series of discussions are planned for 9:00am, between the 8:00am and 10:00am services, every Sunday beginning May 12th.

We will welcome in person the Author, Clifford Williams, to help us close out our session on June 16th. Consider grabbing a cup of coffee, a bite to eat and join in on the dialogue starting next Sunday, as

we discuss making racial equity a priority. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

-Renee Garrett

Mother's Day
May 12th



What is the Biblical Meaning of Marigold? Named by the early Christians as “Mary’s Gold” in honor of Jesus’ Mother, the Marigold symbolizes simplicity and was used to decorate church altars.

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



GOD'S WILL RESALE SHOP
May Special:

50% off all Blue sticker items!

Accepting all donations during business hours



Karen's Holistic Events at St. Ignatius

Karen's Holistic St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church

HOLISTIC WELLNESS TUESDAY NIGHTS IN MAY
RELAX - STRETCH - STRENGTHEN - BALANCE - FLOW

MAY 7TH, 14TH, 21ST, 28TH 2024
6PM - 8PM

500 E DEPOT STREET, ANTIOCH, IL
(CORNER OF DEPOT ST AND DEEP LAKE RD)

SOUND BATH CHAKRA BALANCE
AFFIRMATIONS
BASIC YOGA MOVES
MERIDIAN STRETCHING
CORE STRENGTH & BALANCE

\$30 PER NIGHT

\$100 FOR ALL 4 NIGHTS

SUMMER PREP SERIES

Scan for Event Page [QR Code]

Contact: Karen Jedele



Ernie Kraak- Kathy Kraak
 Felix Cizewski- Elizabeth Johnston
 Jennfier McElligott - Mike Culat
 Jim & Pat Bletsch- Clare Coleman
 Ken Cerk- Chris Szafranski
 Kristina Baxter- Mike Donahue
 Lennie Boresch- Ann McConnell
 Lillian Golonka- Jim Hallwas
 Mildred Hamlin- Kathy Burns
 Valerie Rithame- Mike Yip
 Zach Green- Margaret Slamar
 John Burns- Mike Madsen- Vic Shnooze

5/12 thru 6/16- Adult Formation 9-10am.
5/19- The Day of Pentecost, Mother Martha will preside at the 8 & 10am services.
5/22- Vestry Meeting at 6:45pm

COMEDY CORNER



May Birthdays

5/3- Mike Culat
 5/11- Diane Ward
 5/17- Bonnie Ebler
 5/21- Joan Larson

May Anniversaries

5/4- Clay & Paula Neville
 5/14- Kevin & Elizabeth Wood
 5/20- Doug & Nancy McConnell
 5/23- Warren & Diane Cinnick

