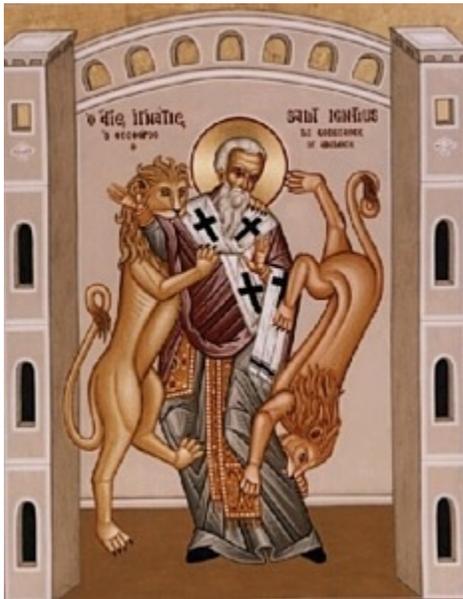


**For The Bulletin Of
October 18, 2015**

**THE FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS
OF ANTIOCH**

From Father Robert



***"We have not only to be called
Christians,
but to be Christians."***
-St. Ignatius of Antioch-

Of Syrian origin, St. Ignatius of Antioch, otherwise known as Theophorus, which in Greek means "God-Bearer," led the Christian Church during a critical period of her history. Pious tradition has always maintained that he was the little child that Christ held on His lap when he uttered the immortal words, "Let the children come unto me." What is known for certain is that he grew up to be a disciple of the Apostles, St. Peter personally ordained him a Bishop, and his name is mentioned in the book of Romans.

Not much is known about St. Ignatius' life until he began his famous last journey—on foot—to Rome, where he was thrown to the lions as portrayed in his icons. On his way to his death, many churches sent representatives to him, and fortunately for future Christians, he sent letters back to the churches. Thanks to St. Polycarp, seven of these letters survived; in them, we find some of the earliest teachings about the organization, practices, and beliefs of the Church. He emphasized the importance of loyalty and obedience to the bishop, as well as the salvific power of the Eucharist, "the flesh of Christ," "the gift of God," "the medicine of immortality." On December 20, 107, during the reign of Emperor Trajan, St. Ignatius ended his life in a Roman arena, torn to bits by beasts. Rather than discouraging the fledgling faith of Christianity as the Romans had hoped, his noble death ignited and strengthened the faith of many.

In St. Ignatius' most famous quote, he wrote to the Romans,

"I am writing to all the Churches and I enjoin all, that I am dying willingly for God's sake, if only you do not prevent it. I beg you, do not do me an untimely kindness. Allow me to be eaten by the beasts, which are my way of reaching to God. I am God's wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts, so that I may become the pure bread of Christ."

After his death, the saint's followers lovingly carried his relics back to Antioch, where they remained until 637, when they were transferred to the Church of St. Clement in Rome.

As we celebrate the feast day of our patronal saint, the prayers of the liturgy will be for his feast day, while the readings will be those of the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Those readings continue in the vein of these last Sundays of the Liturgical Year. Hard lessons take a long time to learn. Some lessons take an entire lifetime. Children learn quickly not to touch the hot stove burner. It takes them a bit longer to learn that applying themselves in school will reap future rewards. It takes them a lifetime to learn what it means to be a responsible person contributing to church and society. This Sunday's gospel begins with apostles seeking glory; they had yet to learn what being a follower of Jesus truly entails. There is more demand to being disciples than would appear, and finally facing that true glory is not found where we usually seek it. We receive true glory when we finally give up pursuing it and instead follow Jesus and the demanding life He offers.

Why did the apostles, and St. Ignatius of Antioch, follow Jesus? This gospel suggests the apostles had reward on their minds: the glory of sitting at the right and left of Jesus in positions of honor. It took the apostles a long time to learn that the real reward of following Jesus would be to "drink the cup" and "be baptized" with His baptism. His baptism was His lifelong choice to do the will of the Father no matter what the cost. The cost would be humbly serving others to the point even of giving His life for "many." As Jesus' followers, we can choose no less. Like the apostles, and St. Ignatius of Antioch, it takes us no less time to learn this.

The gospel includes the third prediction of the passion in Mark's gospel, but it does more than predict Jesus' passion and the consequences of being Jesus' disciples. It points to and challenges the basic human tendency to seek fleeting glory. There is nothing in this life that can bring us lasting glory - the eternal Life that has been prepared for us and in which we already share - except self-giving for the sake of others, a self-giving that conforms us more closely to Jesus' own self-identity as the suffering servant. Jesus' baptism was an entry into His willingness to suffer and die for our salvation, and then be raised up on the third day to risen Life. Thus a share in Jesus' glory ultimately means that we faithfully live our own baptism into Jesus' suffering and death and thus identify with Jesus and His saving work. It also means that, faithfully following Him in serving others, we will share in His risen life - now and in the age to come.

Jesus responds to the apostles' request for a share in His glory by saying that discipleship isn't about raw power. Discipleship is about servanthood, even when it entails suffering and giving one's life. The only way to glory is by self-emptying, serving, giving one's life. The apostles weren't ready for this - they abandoned Jesus at His passion and death. Are we ready to follow? Are we ready to choose our baptism into His suffering and death.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Much of our serving others is simply part of our everyday circumstances, for example, parents taking care of their children or a worker cooperating with others on a team job. Being the servant

of all isn't always something extra or big; most of the time it is simply doing our everyday tasks generously and with integrity while keeping in mind that others are the Body of Christ and to serve them is to serve Christ. If we can do these everyday tasks with loving care, then when something big comes along we won't deny Jesus like the apostles, but will say "we can." And mean it, knowing full well the demands that identity with Christ entails.

As we celebrate our parish feast day and hear the scripture passages that are given to us, how will we respond as disciples/followers of Jesus?

- The glory I often discover myself seeking is...The glory Jesus invites me to seek is...
- The "cup" Jesus asks me to drink is...When I drink of this cup, I...
- I am being baptized into...

About Liturgy: Parish Ministry and Servanthood

Every Sunday at our celebrations of Eucharist we see any number of men, women, and children selflessly give of themselves by means of the various liturgical ministries: presiders, deacon, hospitality ministers/greeters, music ministers, altar servers, sacristans, Environment Committee members, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers. These are quite visible to all those who come to our liturgies. Additionally, there are many other parish ministers (e.g. members of our Pastoral Council, Faith Formation Catechists, Finance Council, etc.) who generally work behind the scenes. Yet when we add all these numbers together, sad to say, the persons actively ministering in a parish remain a

rather small percentage of the whole parish community. Two points might be worth our reflection.

First, the parish ministries express real servanthood. Many people sacrifice much of themselves in order to minister in their parishes and this is truly part of what Jesus asks when we are to be the servant of all. If we truly believe that the parish is really the people, then being serious about our commitment to follow Christ means that our service begins with our own parish community.

Second, we ought to encourage and thank one another for this faithful commitment of service. One time someone mentioned that she had given selflessly for twenty-three years to her parish and no one had ever come up to her and said "thank you." This is a sad commentary on how much we take for granted! Perhaps our greatest expression of servanthood is to recognize and thank those who selflessly model for us what serving all really means.

This being said, we must always remember that the primary locus for our self-emptying is in serving the world, neighborhood, and home. The primary role of the church is to serve the world and be a sign of God's reign in our midst.

About Liturgical Music: Singing "The Lamb of God"

The plea for god's mercy which the assembly sings in today's Responsorial Psalm refrain makes sense in the light of the first reading and the gospel's reminder that discipleship means dying with Christ so that others might live. The "Lamb of God" we sing every

Eucharist at the fraction rite makes the same kind of sense. This litany is not “filler” music to cover the time it takes for the Eucharistic Ministers to gather around the altar and receive Communion. Rather it is a litany we sing to accompany the presider’s action of breaking the consecrated bread and preparing it for distribution. It is a litany we sing as a final act of preparing ourselves for what we are about to do: eat this bread and drink this cup.’

This bread is Christ’s body; this wine His Blood given for the world. We who consume this bread become Christ’s body meant to be broken so that the world may eat. We who drink this wine become His Blood meant to be poured out so that others may live. The “Lamb of God” is a litany of petition that Christ have mercy on us for what we are about to undertake. Do we realize why we are singing these words at this moment? At each liturgy, I break the bread with deliberation; do you watch it with awareness and attention? The style and tempo of “The Lamb of God” we sing has been composed to fit the awesomeness of what we are doing at this moment in the liturgy. Has it influenced your life and deepened your connection to Eucharist? Are you “becoming What you eat?”

Parish Festival Today

Following our 8:00 a.m. Liturgy this morning, our Knights of Columbus are beginning our celebration with breakfast in the tent. Following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, there will be games, Bingo, activities for the children, and the International Food Court representing the cultures of our parish community. The Grand Raffle Drawing will take

place at 3:00 p.m. On behalf of all of us, our thanks for all the Festival Committee has done to make this an enjoyable and festive day for everyone.

Work On The Pipe Organ

Beginning tomorrow, Monday, October 19th, technicians from the Rodgers Organ Company, from Hillsboro, Oregon, will spend a week at the church working on our pipe organ. They will be assisted by “RDJ” Construction (**Rich Confetti, Don Benson, and Jose Palomino**). The work will consist of removing all the pipework, rewiring each pipe chest, and then installing a digital “Pipe Interface Manager” or “PIM” that will replace the previous analog technology with state-of-the-art digital technology. The pipework will then be placed back on each chest and tuned. The work will take one week to complete and is being paid for by two anonymous contributions. As a result of this upgrade, the pipe organ will continue to play for many decades to come without service/maintenance issues that have affected the previous analog system.

Our Concert Series

Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us for two spectacular upcoming concerts:

Saturday, October 31, 8:00 p.m. **Don Pearson, Organist, accompanying the Silent Film, “Phantom of the Opera.”**

Reception follows; free will offering to offset the cost of the reception.

Friday, November 13th, 7:30 p.m. **Don Pearson, Organist, With Brass and Percussion**, in a concert of great works for Organ and Brass. Reception follows; free will offering to offset the cost of the reception.

Sunday, November 22nd, 4:00 p.m.
Sung Evening Prayer In Honor of St. Cecilia, Patron Saint of Church Music. This event is being done in conjunction with a national celebration of St. Cecilia facilitated by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, always held on the Sunday nearest her feast day. On this day, all across America, churches, choirs, and instrumentalists will combine to offer concerts and services to celebrate the “St. Cecilia Sing.” We invite you to join us for this wonderful musical experience that gathers us as a family in prayer and honors St. Cecilia. A reception will follow in the parish hall.

Antioch’s Women’s and Children’s Shelter

At each liturgy next weekend, October 24th and 25th we will welcome **Gary Kingsbury** to speak at our liturgies about the proposed Women’s and Children’s Shelter here in Antioch. Brochures will be in the bulletin that weekend to explain its mission and how we can help make it a reality, beginning with prayer.

All Saints and All Souls

The weekend of October 31st, November 1st, and Monday, November 2nd, bring us the wonderful celebrations of All Saints and All Souls. Our weekend liturgy schedule remains the same and each liturgy will be celebrated with special festivity. Then on Monday, November 2nd, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. as usual and then in the evening with Sung Evening Prayer to commemorate all those whose deaths took place since last All Souls Day.

A reception will follow in the parish hall to welcome the families of our parish and those whose Funeral Liturgies were celebrated in our church in the last year.

Please be sure to get one of the All Souls’ envelopes on which to list your beloved dead who will be remembered at each liturgy throughout the month of November. Envelopes will be found on the credenza.

You are also invited to bring memorial photographs and mementos for the memorial tables which will be placed across the front of the church for the Evening Prayer liturgy.

Each family who had a funeral in our church within the last year will receive a commemorative candle at the conclusion of the liturgy.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to be with us.

Inquiry Continues

All those who are interested in learning more about our church, or who are returning after having been away for some time, or who would like to become members through the Sacraments of Initiation (The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults) are welcome to join us Monday evening, October 19th, in the parish hall at 7:00 p.m. The sessions last an hour and a half and are a wonderful opportunity to ask any questions in a comfortable setting and to dialogue with one another about our faith and our following of Jesus. We have expanded the team this year to include the following parishioners: **Frances Rojek, Fran Barbanica, Jeanne Riley, Alicia Solano, Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller,**

Alicia Perez, Deacon Gary Hack, and myself. For more information, please contact **Frances Rojek, Director of Faith Formation**, at the parish office.

Thanksgiving

This year our Thanksgiving Morning Liturgy takes place on Thursday, November 26th, at 9:00 a.m. This is always one of the most beautiful and powerful liturgies celebrated in our church. In an environment that speaks of the harvest and all that for which we are grateful, we gather to hear God's Word and celebrate Holy Eucharist. One of the traditions of this day is inviting a parishioner to give the Reflection and this year that honor has fallen to **Kelly and Christi Ouimet**, the parents of Molly, Patrick and Matthew. Please mark your calendars accordingly and plan to be with us.

Thanksgiving Baskets

One of the great traditions of our parish is the preparation of Thanksgiving Baskets. Parishioners are invited to make use of the list of items for the basket that is in the bulletin, do the shopping, decorate a box with the items, and then bring the box to one of the liturgies on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, which this year is the Solemnity of Christ the King, November 21st and 22nd.

The Thanksgiving Baskets will then be distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society to needy families on Monday, November 23rd. Turkeys will be added to each box.

Beginning last year, we also added fresh vegetables from our Community Garden in addition to the canned vegetables on the purchase list. Fresh, grown broccoli

will once again be added to each basket this year.

This is a wonderful way to teach your children about giving to others, especially at the holidays. Take them to any one of our area markets and let them use the list to find the items listed. Then let them decorate a box with Thanksgiving themes. Be sure to share with them how important it is to think of and respond to the needs of those less fortunate than we. Let this be a tradition that they share with their families when the move into adulthood.

Thank you to all of you who will participate in this major outreach of our parish.

Blessing of Veterans

At each liturgy on the weekend of November 7th and 8th, we will offer a special blessing for all those who are veterans of military service to our country. Former Navy, Marine, Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard personnel will be invited to come forward and be recognized for their service and then receive a special blessing in gratitude and recognition. This will be a part of our Veteran's Day observance which takes place on November 11th.

Environment Help

You are invited to assist the Environment Committee in removing the Fall Environment and installing the environment for Advent on Friday, November 27th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Many hands will be needed. We have a great time together and coffee and breakfast pastries are provided. Please put the date and time on your calendar and plan to be with us.

