



The Messenger

June 2021

Rector's Message

It is June, which means that it has been three years since my ordination to the priesthood and it means that I have been Grace's priest for an entire lectionary cycle.

Naturally at this time, I get a little self-reflective about the previous year: accomplishments, areas for improvement, the things done and left undone, etc. The pandemic has skewed this process quite a bit, as you might imagine, and many of my personal expectations have been thrown into disarray. Liturgical practices I wanted to try, formation or adult ed., fellowship gatherings, and outreach opportunities have all been shelved in order to continue basic worship, both in-person and virtual, in accordance with Diocesan, CDC, and state guidelines.

A number of projects I have had my eye on were also moved to the backburner. As my wife, Ellen, can attest, I accumulate projects in various states of completion, much like my father and his father before him. I have developed a similar tendency with books, but that is a separate issue. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, the opportunity is slowly arising to resume my pursuit of these projects. The rest of this article, then, will be devoted to said projects and their present status.

The kitchen project is essentially completed, and has been for quite some time. The construction work was accomplished just before the pandemic hit. I have since become certified through the Food Safety Manager Certification course at Highland Community College. The missing piece left is acquiring the

Stephenson County Health Inspector's blessing to serve the public. Then we just need the virus to be gone so we can invite the public.

One of my major projects that has been on hold is converting what is referred to as the Youth Room into an all-purpose activity room where we can host Bible study, formation sessions, special presentations, and film viewings. During the pandemic, I regifted the furniture in that room (furniture that was cumbersome, limiting, and no one had a kind word about) to another Freeport area project. That furniture has new life out at the Lincoln Mall. The plan is to acquire new furniture, chairs and a few collapsible desks, that is more appropriate to the room's future purpose and easier to stack, move, and rearrange as activities necessitate. The walls, which have already been patched, will receive a new coat of paint (the inscription on the wall will be preserved), and a section of the wall will be coated with whiteboard paint for class and presentation use.

In late June, we will have work done on our sound system. The Vestry approved a proposal from the co-owner of Church Supply Warehouse in Wheaton, who provides much of our altar supplies. As a side business, he works on church sound systems. We will be getting new microphones for both the Eagle lectern and the pulpit, an updated mixer and amp for the overall system, and a pair of rechargeable lapel mics.

Another project in the works is setting up dedicated virtual worship equipment. Over a year into the pandemic, we are still relying on my phone and its onboard microphone sitting in a precariously rigged position in a pew. I have been in consultation with a few people who are graciously helping me devise the best, low maintenance system that will have one camera source, adequate sound capture, and can easily be started and stopped from the sacristy.

Lastly, concerning the ongoing issues with erosion and drainage on the church property, I have sent a letter to a number

of city officials, complete with a dozen photos of damage around the property, and cc'd the Diocese on that letter at their recommendation. Shortly after, I received a phone call from the new Public Works Director, who is at least investigating the issue. We will see if anything comes of that. In the mean time I have repositioned our sump pump discharge pipe so hopefully less silt will collect in the dips in our parking lot creating a mucky mess.

That is about all there is to report at this time. I so look forward to resuming regular worship with you all without all the ropes and directional tape. Until that day, blessings to all of you. And now if you'll excuse me, I need to go liberate a bird trapped in my office air duct.

Fr. Brian

- The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.
— Theodore M. Hesburgh
- Good manners make any person a pleasure to meet and to know.
— Anonymous
- A society will be judged on how it treats those in the dawn of life, those in the twilight of life and those in the shadow of life.
— Hubert Humphrey

Grace Community

ECW News The ECW First Friday Lunch will be held June 4th at 11:30am. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Connie B.

815-789-3181 cburden43@gmail.com

FACC June's donation is canned carrots.

Ordination & Consecration of Bishop-elect Clark

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry announced that after consultation with Bishop-elect Paula Clark and the Rev. Anne B. Jolly, president of the Standing Committee, he is rescheduling Clark's ordination and consecration from June 12 to August 28.

Bishop-elect Clark suffered a brain bleed in mid-April and is recovering at home after surgery and a brief stay in a rehabilitation center.

"The reason for this is that it will provide a bit more space and time for Bishop-elect Clark to continue her work and her healing, her occupational and physical therapy, and to do all the things necessary so that she can assume the duties of the Thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago.

"We have every expectation that she will be able to do this, but we wanted to be sure that she had the space and the time to do what she needs to do so that you and she together may serve and follow the way of Jesus Christ and his love in the ministry that has been given to you," said Curry, who will preside at the ordination and consecration.

Thoughts for Father's Day

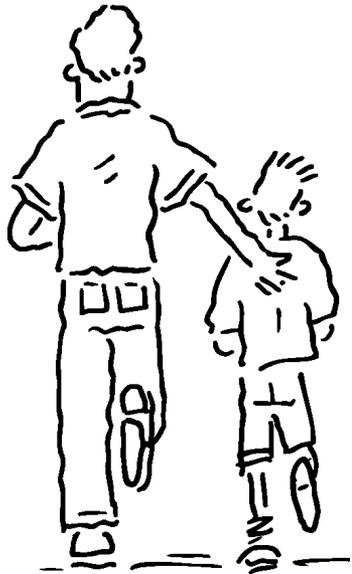
An unknown father who began to consider the example he should set for his children penned the following poem:

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me;
I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes;
Whate'er he sees me do,
 He tries —
Like me, he says, he's going to be,
The little chap who follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine;
The base in me he must not see,
The little chap who follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,
I'm building for the years to be,
For a little fellow follows me.





Class OF 2021



GRADUATION PARTY IN HONOR OF
MACKENZIE GRACE FRANCIS

Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 02:00 PM to 07:00 PM

Francis House, 618 David Dr.

Winnebago, Il 61088



2nd	Laura Watson	13th	Nicholas Smith
3rd	Connie Olson	18th	Mackenzie Francis
4th	Colton Terpening	20th	Ellen Prall
8th	Kathryn Terpening	22nd	Don Doak
9th	Candy Colby	23rd	Rose Dreier
10th	Eden Helm	24th	Jon Watson
11th	John Woodward	30th	John Burden
	Steve McMillen		Joseph Graham
13th	Quinn Mitchell		Jeff Francis



5th	Glenn & Laurie Gungel
8th	Duane & Carol Price
21st	Lan & Rayma Pinney
22nd	Bruce & Kathy Helm
24th	Ralph & Sue Norman

Deadline for the July "Messenger" will be June 18th.

Grace Episcopal Church
10 S. Cherry Avenue
Freeport, IL. 61032
815-232-4422

There is no
Holy One like
the LORD,
there is no
Rock
like our God.



1 Samuel 2:2

June Newsletter