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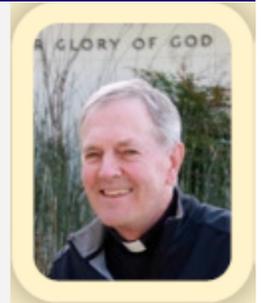
PASTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 5, 2020

How To Celebrate Holy Week

Dear Parishioners,

Since we cannot attend church in person during the COVID-19 pandemic, please go to the St. Ignatius Church website, and find the link to a Jesuit parish where you can participate in a live-streaming Mass. I look forward to streaming our own services once we have the capacity.



On this Palm Sunday, our tradition invites us to experience the events of the passion of Jesus. As you and I listen to the story of the passion once again, keep in mind this central fact. We know there is more to the story – but Jesus did not. He faced his death without knowing he would be raised up.

This may be confusing to say. Three times in Matthew's gospel, Jesus predicts his passion, death, and eventual resurrection. But scripture scholars show that these statements reflect the resurrection faith of Matthew's community – rather than words that Jesus could have said during his lifetime. Why? Because at the time of Jesus, there was in Judaism no expectation of the individual's survival of death.

Since Jesus was a good Jew, he would only have expected what his tradition told him – that God would vindicate the faithful Jewish believers as a nation *at the end of time*. Jews believed God would reconstitute God's holy people at the end of time – to be a mighty nation to rule over the other nations of the world. But individual survival of death was an unknown category of expectation for Jews when Jesus lived.

What does it mean, then, that Jesus faced his death without knowing he would be raised up? It means that Jesus faced his death the same way you and I are invited to face this last passion in our lives – moving into the darkness, trusting in God, who is Light.

When you think about the Passion, what emotions do you find? For Jesus, the overwhelming emotion must have been utter loneliness and abandonment, the defeat of his dreams. For Jesus, the pain includes Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, the disciples falling asleep as he prayed in the garden; and when he is on the cross, those words from Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus knew real human agony in those moments. It does no good to move quickly to "Not my will, but your will be done." He earnestly prayed that this cup might pass from him. And no speculative theories

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page:

of atonement should rob Jesus of the suffering human person who shows us the suffering face of God.

When you and I look back on this story and rehearse each year the drama of the Passion, it is almost impossible to take in the loneliness, the fear, the sense of defeat that came down on Jesus – because you and I live in the light of his eventual victory. We know how the story turns out on Easter morning, in triumph over unbelievers, whether Romans or Jews.

But, within the darkness of this week, there is yet a glimmer of light. Jesus endures the agony because part of him believes that he is not alone. There is in him a remarkable courage to stand up to the fear and the pain.

As his death approaches, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on the foal of a donkey. He undertakes the drama of this humble entrance in order to fulfill what was prophesized about him. You and I have a role in this drama. I invite us to make our participation in the drama real and present – not just a ritual reenactment of a past event. Our entry into the drama can take the form of identification. Perhaps you identify with Peter, or Mary Magdalene, or John the beloved disciple, or Mary, the mother of Jesus.

The passion of Jesus depicts a turning point in his ministry. The active ministry of Jesus now culminates in his ministry of acceptance. The final free act of a deliberate life will be to submit. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he hands over his will to his Abba, and is then handed over to those who will crucify him. This surrender, this handing over of control, this giving up of power is the heart of the ancient song in the second reading from Philippians.

The mission of Jesus to reveal God's identity culminates in the way Jesus dies. He reveals that God, ineffable in majesty and unsurpassed in power, is the One who gives away power. It is a staggering notion. *God gives away power.* So must you and I if we are to be part of his body.

The hearing of the passion draws us listeners into the mystery of the God made visible in the crucified Christ. Paradoxically, the three hours of his suffering and death throes – are the most productive and purposeful moments of his life. His death is the culmination of a whole life of giving himself away for the sake of the community. Every parable is illumined. The buried treasure is found. The grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies. The bread is broken. The cup is poured out.

Every prophecy is fulfilled. The Paschal lamb is slain. The Son of Man is lifted up. The messiah is revealed as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. The Law is fulfilled and justice is satisfied, even as mercy is poured out like blood to expiate the hopelessly guilty.

You and I take the road to Jerusalem with Jesus this Holy Week. Together we renew our commitment to enter the great story of God's own purpose on earth.

The old gospel spiritual, "Were you there?" frames the question for the drama of Holy Week. It is the most important question you and I will face in life. To be *there*, in the drama of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, will frame everything else that matters in our lives. As you and I enter our observance of Holy Week, submit in faith to the God who gives away power in order to reveal astonishing love.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor



Please keep in your prayers

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|---|
| Monday | April 6 | Anna & James Rooney, Sr. | † |
| Tuesday | April 7 | Joan Rooney Meyer | † |
| Wednesday | April 8 | Virginia Rooney Kearney | † |
| Thursday | April 9 | HOLY THURSDAY | |
| Friday | April 10 | GOOD FRIDAY | |

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PARTICIPATE IN PALM SUNDAY

Dear Parish,

Please find the link below as an invitation to participate in Palm Sunday from afar. More resources to come, regarding Holy Week, and until then, may you and yours be blessed and well as we navigate these days together.

Peace and all good,

-Joseph Byrd

Pastoral Administrator and Music director

[https://thedeaconsbench.com/a-beautiful-idea-for-palm-sunday/?](https://thedeaconsbench.com/a-beautiful-idea-for-palm-sunday/?fbclid=IwAR00bgRxW_RHV46sU64eySmghiTED7nhMy6tIslp3U5B6_isoH51aawFnIs)

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SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

Please feel free to “share back” any photos or written highlights about how you celebrate Palm Sunday at home. Send to office@sipdx.org -We love to add photos or comments to our bulletin or website and while we can't see each other in person, this is a fun way to still see what's happening. By the way, the www.sipdx.org website is full of information

A PRAYER

*Jesus, may all that is in you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer.
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes.
When with our saints, I may praise you forever.
Amen*

(David Fleming, S.J. Soul of Christ Prayer Source: Hearts on Fire: Praying With the Jesuits (pp. 3-4)

MESSAGE FROM STAFF

Your Parish staff is telecommuting during this time of crisis. We are still monitoring the



phones daily and we are available by email. (see emails on the left)

We encourage you to contact us with any of your questions or concerns, or just to say hi and check in. check often at

www.sipdx.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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***A warm welcome
to all our guests.***

***We are so happy you are
here to celebrate with
us!***

Are you new to
St. Ignatius Parish?
Register by dropping a
"Welcome" card in the
offering basket with your
information, or visit
us online at
<http://www.sipdx.org>
please visit our website
at:

www.sipdx.org
***The Link is below the
Pastor's welcome video***

PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS

Please keep this year's RCIA class in your prayers this weekend as they begin their sacrament preparation retreat.



Grace Byrd
gbyrd@sipdx.org

STATIONS OF THE CROSS...COMING SOON

Keep an eye on our website! Soon you will find an opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross together www.sipdx.org

FAMILY LIFE & FIRST EUCHARIST

Dear Sacramental Prep families,

My prayers are with all of you these days of quarantine and I wanted to update you on our Sacramental Preparation plans. With so many unknowns we cannot predict when our First Communion celebration will be, but please assure the children that as soon as our community can celebrate together we will schedule a new date and we will ALL be rejoicing with them! Read more at <https://www.sipdx.org/first-reconciliation-and-eucharist> (you will also find a Celebrating Palm Sunday Guide for your family.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD APRIL 5TH

Nathan Williams, one of our Children's Liturgy leaders, is offering a virtual Children's Liturgy this Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 a.m. We hope you'll participate!

Zoom can be accessed via a computer or smart phone and allows you to see and hear Nathan, and for him to see and hear you and your children. If you have any questions, please let Nathan or I know and we can try to help you with the technology.

Nathan Patrick Williams is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Children's Liturgy of the Word April 5, 2020

Time: April 5, 2020 10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/294192510?pwd=U3VxNEFVK0d1eGMwRVk0M2g2ZUxYUT09>

Meeting ID: 294 192 510

Password: 177337

OUTREACH ~ ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks. Let us pray for the strength to prevail over our own crosses by God's grace. The St. Ignatius St. Vincent de Paul Conference served 47 people in February. Your ongoing support is an example of how our parish "walks with the excluded."

SCHOOL NEWS

Communitas Ad Dispersionem

Greetings St. Ignatius Parish!

I hope this finds each of you healthy and safe. Though the Parish School was technically on spring break last week, families were trying to recharge in Staycation mode. These are interesting days, to say the least.

Teachers worked hard getting ready for the next round of distance learning. We all agree that we miss the kids and it is taking ingenuity to foster connections. This past Sunday I learned that early Jesuits talked about their **communitas ad dispersionem...a community in dispersion**. By contrast with the older religious orders, who often lived, worked and prayed together in one monastery or convent, Jesuit communities spent much of their time scattered among the different works that individual Jesuits and teams were engaged in. And so we are now – a community scattered but connected and focused on the work and mission at hand.

We've gotten some wonderful feedback from our families on the initial week of distance learning. Here are a few quotes that have come our way:

- We are blessed more than anything right now to be small and independent... and, yes, willing to take risks and jump right in w/ both feet to keep education coming.

- I have been impressed by how the teachers have been getting information out to our students. Mrs. Boyle did a Google Hangouts class and I think that was a great thing to do, it was fun to hear the kids communicate with each other and laughing. It brought a sense of class community even though they were not in the same place.

- I'm so impressed and grateful for the good work you have our kids doing and the attention you're giving to their emotional life too. Thank you also for the live time you're giving them 3 times a day! I feel lucky that 5th grade already was well versed in google classroom and could make the switch smoothly. And overall that St. Ignatius has our kids still learning...

We've also gotten some great, **constructive feedback**: use fewer platforms, help set a schedule and be flexible with turn in times. This is week #2, so we are adapting and – as they say – building the plane in the air! So proud of our staff, families and kids.

New Initiative: the **Together, 'Gators** team is being launched this week. Our aides and after-care workers are coming together to provide extra support for families, social check-ins and whole community building. Our focus is to see how we can be intentional in our love and support.

And as we head into **Holy Week**, our 7th graders are preparing reading for all classes, as they do each year. Know our prayers are with you as you face the challenges of this time. Stay healthy and may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Playground: *If you live near St. Ignatius School, please be advised the playground is not disinfected and is closed for the duration of the quarantine.*

Kelli Clark, Principal



WE HAVE A DREAM

KIDS FOR LOVE!



Seven Acts of Love in a time of Coronavirus:

- 1) Call someone who is lonely
- 2) Check on someone who is old or sick
- 3) Keep your distance (physical not spiritual)
- 4) Listen to public health officials
- 5) Pray for medical workers
- 6) Wash your hands
- 7) Stay home

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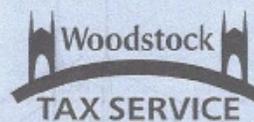


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