



St. Ignatius Catholic Church

OREGON'S JESUIT PARISH

3400 SE 43rd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97206
503 777 1491 - office@sipdx.org - www.sipdx.org

September 20, 2026 - **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Matthew 20:1-16a

Labor Day For the past five years I have belonged to a monthly zoom discussion group. We read an article or view a podcast to prepare for our meetings. Piece of cake. At our latest meeting, I said something about the Pope's encyclical. And so, somehow, we decided to read it for our next meeting. No piece of cake.

The encyclical is lengthy, serious, densely reasoned, and treats all the issues of living in today's world: war and peace, economics and poverty, Artificial Intelligence and worker's dignity, slavery, and freedom. After a history of the development of Catholic Social Justice, the Pope outlines some responses—preserving our past, but being ready for the future.

In speaking about work, he insists on treating laborers with dignity. Technology and artificial intelligence have to be judged by whether or not they help individuals and society to become more humane. The gap between those few who have control—political, economic, technological, military—and those who don't, needs to change. Productivity and profit are insufficient in determining the morality of work. Humanity gets overlooked too easily.

Those of us, of a certain age, remember Lucille Ball working at a conveyor belt wrapping chocolates at a candy factory. The boss comes in, and seeing that Lucy and Ethel are doing well, keeps increasing the speed of the conveyor to such a pace that

they can't possibly keep up. They stuff the chocolates in their clothes and in their mouths to the point of chaos. The boss wants productivity. Humanity is not an issue.

Pope Leo pictures a lot of the crises in this world: the wars, arms races, human trafficking, modern slavery, dismal working conditions, environmental decay. Lucy's conveyor belt is part of it. It's all there and it is grim.

But that is not the last word. There is hope and we can be confident. "Even in the darkest nights, the Lord raises up men and women who refuse to give up, who persevere in doing good, who protect the vulnerable and open pathways to reconciliation. The memory of the saints, righteous people, and the oft-forgotten peacemakers, show us that grace does not magically eliminate conflict, but instead it inspires active resistance to evil and an astonishing creativity in doing good. Christians see the darkness and acknowledge it for what it is, yet they do not merely gaze on it passively, for they know the light and understand that the darkness has not overcome it and cannot defeat it. Even when suffering seems to have the last word, Christians serve the good and are sustained by a theological hope that gives reality both meaning and direction." (paragraph 211)

***Dan Brown** is a retired teacher and usually attends 10:30 Mass on Sundays.*

***Wisdom from the Pews** is a chance for parishioners to share their faith journey as it relates to the weekend readings, with their reflections featured in our weekly bulletin. Interested in participating? Follow this link to sign up: <http://bit.ly/4eyinsG> and contact Joseph Byrd with any questions (jbyrd@sipdx.org)*

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM
10:30 AM
7:00 PM

Weekday (M-F) 8:00 AM
at LJC - La Storta Chapel

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30–4:30 PM,
or by appointment
503-777-1491

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday,
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Mass Intentions

Mon, September 21

† Raymond Koudossou

Tue, September 22

† Peter Linh Nguyen

Wed, September 23

† Patricia Obradovich

Thur, September 24

† All Souls

Fri, September 25

† Elinor & Loren Lindquist



AI and Our Faith

Every day I see another major news story about “AI,” either that it will fundamentally change human life as we know it or is an entirely fraudulent bubble that will pop any moment now. Because of my pre-Jesuit life in tech, I’m often asked if the Church has any official position on AI, and, of course, the answer is: “it’s complicated.”

Pope Leo’s recent encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, examines AI in the context of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), which has in the past been sardonically referred to as one of the Church’s “best kept secrets.” Because of its deceptively generic name, some Catholics don’t know that CST is a proper noun, a very specific set of teachings around human dignity, the rights of labor, and the role we all have to play in building a just society.

This fall, St. Ignatius’s Education Ministry will hold three sessions exploring CST in the context of technology and *Magnifica Humanitas*. In preparation for these sessions, there will be pieces in your bulletins to get you thinking on these issues whether you attend or not.

When it comes to what currently gets labeled as “AI” (large language models working through chatbot or agent interfaces), I’m personally fairly dubious but not completely dismissive. There are good questions about LLMs leading to cognitive atrophy or simply producing bad output; the environmental concerns and plagiarism in the training process also cannot be ignored. But Pope Leo probes deeper in a way that is

fundamentally more interesting and more Catholic.

Even before *Magnifica Humanitas*, he cautioned priests not to use AI to write homilies, because “to give a true homily is to share faith,” which AI can never do. This is a much more interesting angle of critique than the others: using AI circumvents the very thing a homily is supposed to *be*: an expression of faith shared between preacher and congregation. No matter how articulate, how witty, even how *correct* an AI-generated homily might be, it’s not a product of faith and prayer, thus cannot serve the purpose.

We can ask ourselves, then: what else should AI *not* be used for? You might know the arguments against using it for schoolwork — analogous to using a forklift instead of lifting weights yourself. But what other uses potentially replace our necessary human presence? A love letter to your partner, for one... what value would that have if it is not an actual expression of what *you* feel? I see some people excited to use AI to tell them about their child’s likes and interests, but isn’t that part of the humanity of a parenting relationship? I’m sympathetic to the pressures people are under; parents have little excess energy, and a lover may feel their words inadequate. But the question at least needs to remain in our hearts of how we want to live our one precious human life. What are we trying to optimize away?

I hope these reflections serve you well as you negotiate your own relationship to this still-emerging technology. More to come in future weeks!

Fr. Shane Liesegang, SJ

Register to join the sessions [HERE](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CAFAA2DA1F58-65693128-catholic/):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4CAFAA2DA1F58-65693128-catholic/>

St. Ignatius Mom’s group welcomes new members this season

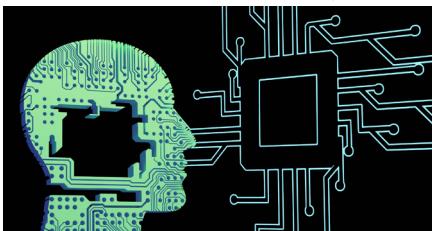
Are you looking for a place to share the joys and struggles of motherhood in the context of faith? We range from moms of babies to moms launching kids off to college, and we welcome YOU to join us. We meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 9:15-10:15 AM in the upper room of the parish office. Our first gathering will be Sunday, Sept. 27th. In October we will begin reading *Death by Minivan* by Heather Anerson Renshaw, and we hope you’ll join us. Questions? Contact Beth at bethschaller@gmail.com.

TODAY: Last day to register for the First Reconciliation & Holy Eucharist Class

Registration available online for children in the 2nd through 5th grade at <https://www.sipdx.org/first-reconciliation-and-eucharist>

De-escalation Training

On September 26 from 1:30-4:30pm in the Bradley Room in the parish office, the Social Action ministry will host a de-escalation training. Members of the Portland Peace Team will lead a workshop on the CLARA (Center, Listen, Affirm, Respond, Add Information) method to equip participants with non-violent de-escalation skills. CLARA is the gold standard of nonviolent intervention and is used by organizations around the world. This training will focus on using CLARA to reduce the risk of violence at public events, but it can be adapted to many situations in everyday life. Please join us in helping to create a more peaceful world! Space is limited, so please register to attend here: <https://forms.gle/Ru9j5aWGwtTjU5fT9>





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The Church observes National Migration Week from September 21–27, culminating in the World Day of Migrants and Refugees on September 27. This year's theme, **"Even Just One of These Children,"** reflects the words of Jesus: **"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me"** (Matthew 18:5).

As Catholics, we are called to see the face of Christ in our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters, especially vulnerable children who are forced to leave their homes in search of safety, hope, and a better future.

During this week, let us pray for all migrants and refugees that they may be protected on their journeys, welcomed with compassion, and treated with the dignity God has given to every person. May the Lord open our hearts to welcome the stranger and to respond with faith, hope, and love.

2026 World Day of Migrants and Refugees/National Migration Week



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops



"EVEN JUST ONE OF THESE CHILDREN"

SEPTEMBER 21-27

Pray for Vocations

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for the men in formation!

Meet An Nguyen Vu, SJ



- From **PORTLAND, OR**
- Graduate of **PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**, focusing on biology and pre-dental studies
- Taught **VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE** in a parish school before discerning and entering the Jesuits
- Currently a **JESUIT SCHOLASTIC** studying theology at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, CA



Pray for An and Jesuit Vocations

Know someone who would make a great Jesuit like An?

BeAJesuit.org
or reach out to your Jesuit Pastor or Associate Pastor



Meet Joe Dickan, SJ



- NEWLY ORDAINED** June 8, 2024
- Currently serving as a **PARISH PRIEST** at St. Joseph and St. Therese Parish Family in Seattle, WA
- From **LONG BEACH, CA**
- Graduate of **UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES** in neuroscience
- Participated in the **"SIX WEEKS A JESUIT"** program, tutoring at Washington Jesuit Academy in Washington, D.C., before entering the Jesuits



Pray for Joe and Jesuit Vocations

Know someone who would make a great Jesuit like Joe?

BeAJesuit.org
or reach out to your Jesuit Pastor or Associate Pastor



Join us for a **Pancake Breakfast** at 11:30 AM, Sunday, September 27, at Dillon Hall! All are welcome!

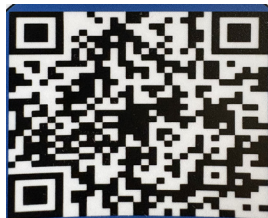
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS



Planned Giving

For several decades, St. Ignatius has been here in SE Portland serving people in faith, educating the young with hope, and engaging the world with the love of Christ and the Good News of the Gospel in the Jesuit tradition.

Please prayerfully consider including the parish in your estate plans to help us sustain this mission for future generations.



If you are interested in learning more about planned giving options at St. Ignatius Parish, please see the "[Ways to Give](#)" page on our website or [contact Fr. San](#).

From July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027

Church tithing	Actual	Budget	% of Goal
Aug 31-Sep 6, 2026	12,442	15,000	83%
Month of September	12,442	48,474	26%
Full Year	114,651	637,000	18%

Make a Year-end Donation to St. Ignatius!

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity such as St. Ignatius Parish. By making a charitable IRA rollover, you can support our parish, help sustain our mission, and continue caring for our beautiful church.

You may transfer up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to St. Ignatius Parish without paying income tax on the distribution, provided the transfer qualifies as a QCD.

To qualify:

- You must be age 73 or older.
- The transfer must be made directly from your IRA to St. Ignatius Parish.

Please consult your tax or financial advisor to determine whether a Qualified Charitable Distribution is right for you. If you have questions or need assistance with making a transfer, please contact the parish office.



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Thank you everyone!

Your response to our request for additional food for the poor and food insecure people in our area has been inspiring! Your generosity has shown how God's love and grace lives in the hearts of all of those in our parish. Thank you for your service.



Please pray for our brothers and sisters who require assistance with food and other commodities. We ask for your continued support for our pantry so that we can continue God's work of serving the poor and marginalized.





In addition to completing a new roof on Dillon Hall over the summer, we upgraded the entry tile and installed much needed new carpet into the Xavier Room. With matching funds through the Archdiocese Safety Grant, we installed a long overdue new bell system this summer in the school. Finally, we cleaned and polished our school floors as part of our annual summer maintenance.

Our students are settling into the rhythm of school joyfully developing eager minds committed to building a just and compassionate world for all.



Our Groove Our Way to \$50k Jog-a-thon fundraiser is next week! Please consider making a donation to the school for this event. You can donate through Realm or by check to the school. Thank you for supporting hands-on learning in our school.



Our St. Ignatius School Foundation is hosting an adults only Cornhole Tournament next Saturday, September 26th in Dillon Hall as a fun, community-building event. We are blessed that the Foundation will split the proceeds from this Cornhole Tournament 50/50 between the Foundation's endowment fund and schools general fund. Learn how you can join the fun at the Foundation's website: <https://www.stignatiusschoolfoundation.org/cornhole-classic.html>

Is your child interested in altar serving? Altar server training for Catholic students in grades 5-8 will take place on the following dates and times: Sunday, 10/11 after the 10:30 Mass, or on Wednesday, 9/30/26 from 2:15-3:15 PM. All altar servers and their parents should plan to attend one of the training sessions to note any changes in procedures for this year.

Principal

Carol Pausz
cpausz@sispdx.org
Ext 246

School Secretary

Julie Frangipani
jfrangipani@sispdx.org
Ext 233

We, the community of St. Ignatius School, in the tradition of Mother Marie Rose and St. Ignatius of Loyola, provide a faith-centered Catholic education guiding God's children toward building a just and compassionate world.

As we begin in earnest to learn and grow together, may we always know God is always with us. *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom,"* 2 Corinthians 3:17.

Carol Pausz
Principal

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, exist to give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an apostolate of the Church, Catholic Schools minister the salvation of Jesus Christ, exercising His mission to teach (Mt. 28:19-20) by providing Mission Passionate Catholic Education.

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