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UNDER THE CARE OF THE JESUITS

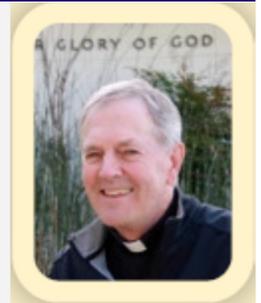
PASTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 19, 2020

Mercy and Justice During COVID-19

Dear Parishioners:

On this *"Divine Mercy Sunday"* in this season of the pandemic, I look for a little consolation. I want to begin with one of my favorite stories that speaks of mercy. In April of 1986, two gray-haired men greeted each other warmly in Tokyo's International Airport. Both men had tears in their eyes. One man was an American, named Ponich; the other was a Japanese named Ishibashi.



The last time the two men met was forty years before, as enemies, in a cave in Okinawa. At that time the American, then Sergeant Ponich, was holding a five-year-old Japanese boy in his arms. The child had been wounded in both legs. Ishibashi was one of two Japanese snipers hiding in a dark corner of the same cave.

Suddenly, Ishibashi and his comrade leaped from their hiding place, aimed their rifles at Ponich, and prepared to fire point blank. There wasn't a thing Ponich could do. He simply put the five-year-old on the ground, took out his canteen, and began to wash the child's wounds. If he had to die, he thought, what better way to die than performing an act of mercy.

The two snipers watched in amazement. Then, slowly, they lowered their rifles. Minutes later, Ponich did something Ishibashi never forgot. He took the child in his arms, stood up, bowed in gratitude to the two Japanese, and took the child to an American field hospital.

How did the two men happen to meet again after all those years? In 1985, Ponich wrote a letter to a Tokyo newspaper thanking the Japanese people for the two Japanese soldiers who had spared his life forty years before in that cave in Okinawa. Ishibashi saw the letter and contacted the newspaper, which set up the meeting. The reunion was long and affectionate. Kindness shown to a child elicited mercy from an enemy combatant. Mercy spared lives.

Pope John Paul II instituted Divine Mercy Sunday on April 30, 2000 when he canonized Polish Sister Faustina Kowalska. Sr. Faustina urged the world to seek reconciliation through the Risen Jesus. The pope championed the church's duty to extend mercy to others through the works of mercy. He dedicated the Sunday after Easter as the special occasion for seeking and offering mercy. Pope John Paul died during the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday 2005.

Today's Gospel story is about Thomas doubting that Christ rose from the dead. When the Risen Jesus first appeared to his disciples gathered in the upper room, his presence calms their fears. But Thomas was absent from this first encounter with Christ, so he says he will not believe until he has touched the Risen Jesus for himself. The experience of Thomas represents the difference between those first witnesses of the visible risen Lord on the first Easter day, and all believers ever since.

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page:

When Thomas finally felt the wounds of Jesus, the Spirit empowered him to declare the truth about Jesus: "My Lord and my God." This declaration of faith identifies Jesus for believers for all time.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, one of the ways to experience the Risen Christ is to ponder how justice and mercy are two sides of the same coin in God. This is a paradox. How can justice and mercy co-exist at the same time in God?

Doesn't *justice* mean giving to another what that person deserves? For example, when others are respectable, they deserve respect. When others do not act respectfully (they sin), they forfeit their right to respect – they deserve punishment. The justice of God is to allow others to receive the consequences that come to them when they act disrespectfully.

Mercy means treating others with respect even when they don't deserve it. Mercy means withholding deserved punishment. The paradox results: how can justice and mercy co-exist in God's heart without contradiction?

The solution is profound yet simple. Even though God sees what people deserve (justice), God continues to respect people who no longer deserve respect (mercy). How? God loves God's image in everyone – God sees Christ in everyone. God can't help being reminded of his fabulous Son every time he sees one of his human creatures. That is why the greatest sinner is still offered God's friendship. Still, God is not a sucker. God respects a sinner's freedom to refuse mercy. That is why the separation from God is a real possibility.

The most consoling line in scripture is that God does not will the condemnation of the sinner but wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Divine Mercy means that the risen Jesus ceaselessly labors to encourage the fearful, to reconcile enemies, and to touch hardened hearts.

This pandemic COVID-19 has generated uncertainty, worry, and wonder about what the "new normal" will look like. No matter how much doubt or despair people experience, God's last word is not the total isolation human sinners deserve. The last word is Christ speaking to each person, "***Do not be afraid. I give you the peace of my mercy.***" That's why even now, our last best word is Easter *joy*.

Fr Craig Boly, SJ.
Pastor

There are links to the daily readings, Video Messages from Fr. Craig, Online Mass links, beautiful music offerings from Joseph Byrd and much more posted on our website at www.sipdx.org

LET'S PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Our parish has an email based prayer chain you can submit prayers or sign up to pray for other's intentions, just email to prayerchain@sipdx.org

In the subject line please include either:

Asking for prayers OR ***Add me to the Email list to pray***



Please keep in your prayers

Monday	April 20	Suzie Mudric	†
Tuesday	April 21	Ana Donovan	
Wednesday	April 22	Joseph Dyson	†
Thursday	April 23	Jim Emig	†
Friday	April 24	Hickey-Knisley Family	

PARISH STAFF

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FAMILY LIFE ~ BETH SCHALLER

Happy Easter to all our St. Ignatius families!!!

Women's Gospel Reflection

We have scheduled a Women's Gospel reflection for Saturday, April 25th to hear and reflect on "The Road to Emmaus." Katie Hennessy will be offering our reflection this time and Jean Madden will play the harp for our contemplation time. The formal part of our prayer will be from 9:30-10:00 a.m. but we will open up the Zoom meeting again at 9:00 a.m. so people can visit, check-in, or just try out the Zoom connection. If you're not comfortable with Zoom video you can also dial into the meeting with your phone if you would like. The agenda and link to the meeting is below. You are welcome to share this opportunity with other women you think would like to participate.

- "The Road to Emmaus" reflection by Katie Hennessy
- 9:00 a.m. - visiting and connecting time
- 9:30-10:00 a.m. - Prayer & Gospel reflection
- Contact bschaller@sipdx.org for the Zoom code or to be added to our email list.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Led by Nathan Williams – Sunday, Apr. 19 from 10:30-11:00 a.m.

- Children (and parents) are invited to join Nathan Williams for Children's Liturgy on Sunday. To participate contact bschaller@sipdx.org for the Zoom code and password.

Warmly,

Beth Schaller

Family Life Coordinator



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

Please feel free to "share back" any photos or written highlights about how you celebrate Holy week or Easter 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 now for faith resources and the weekly bulletin is shared there as well.

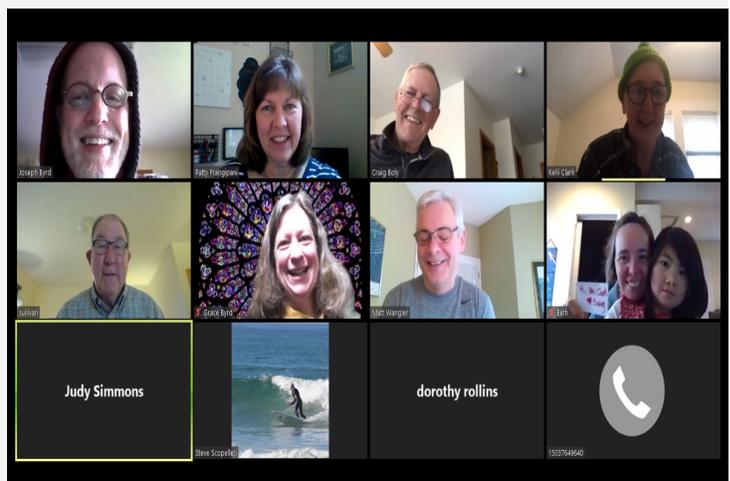
MESSAGE FROM STAFF

Your Parish Staff 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 our website often at

www.sipdx.org



PASTORAL COUNCIL

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Mike Moore Jr.

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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 join me in sending notes of encouragement to this year's RCIA class.

As you know, adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church each year at the Easter Vigil. We will still celebrate these Sacraments of initiation this year, but not at the time we have all been anticipating.

We currently have five adults and two children who are prepared to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, as well as nine adults prepared to celebrate the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Thank you for continuing to hold them all in your prayer, please also consider embracing them as part of our community with a note of encouragement, support or appreciation.

You may either write notes to individuals or to the class as a whole. Unless you are already in direct contact with one of the class, please send all messages to me (gbyrd@sipdx.org) and I will compile them all and forward them to the class members.

Members of this years RCIA class are: Jeff, Jiamee, Nicole, Devon, Ross, Jen, Deleecha, Micah. Jesse, Naomi, Benjamin, Sarah, Robert, and Michael.

Thank you, and peace be with you all!
Grace Byrd



FACILITIES

Playground project moving forward in design, scope of work and bidding, Fire Extinguishers updated and certified in all buildings, Dillon Hall roof repair over the gym, Closed Playground due to Coronavirus, Located and started to repair lawn irrigation system, Reactivating Church Bells System, Daily walks for the campus and buildings Monday thru Friday

DID YOU KNOW??



A very special award was presented to Peter Lax of our parish (by zoom meeting) from the L'Arche Portland. Peter Lax first became acquainted with families and individuals with intellectual disabilities during his career as a pediatric dentist. While providing gentle care to patients with disabilities,.... You can see the entire award on our website at <https://www.sipdx.org/outreach>

SCHOOL NEWS

"To Christians, the future does have a name, and its name is Hope. Feeling hopeful does not mean to be optimistically naïve and ignore the tragedy humanity is facing. Hope is the virtue of a heart that doesn't lock itself into darkness, that doesn't dwell on the past, does not simply get by in the present, but is able to see a tomorrow." — Pope Francis, TED2017 Conference



It is challenging to convey the mission of the school just now. Spring is typically driven by events that are so exciting to share (first communion, jog-a-thon, the bridge fieldtrip, outdoor school, the May crowning of Mary, service projects...) but that have been cancelled or delayed for the year. We continue to be challenged about how to share our academic fair and we look ahead in hope to the first opportunity to celebrate our wonderful 8th grade class.

And yet, today, even with so much of our routine shifted, students continue to learn and interact every day, led and nurtured by teachers who care deeply that they are growing their hearts and minds in this historic time. Please look in this space next week for a video that will share exactly how that is happening and how the remarkable kids and teachers of our parish are continuing to walk together in faith. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers, as we keep all of you in ours.



Blessings--
Kelli Clark
Principal



FAMILY LIFE ~ MOM'S GROUP

Mom's Group – meets virtually via Zoom each Sunday from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Here is our schedule of upcoming meetings:

- ◇ Apr. 19 – Celebrating the whole Easter season at home (Anne Holt will lead)
- ◇ Apr. 26 – Ch. 7: Playing the Field: Xbox, Soccer, and Other Fun Family Games*
- ◇ May 2 – Ch. 8: Take, Read: From Seuss to Scripture*
- ◇ May 9 – Ch. 9: Blessing and Letting Go*

*These are chapters from the book, "In the Midst of Chaos: Parenting as Spiritual Practice" by Bonnie Miller-McLemore. You are welcome to find a copy and read or just participate in the discussion questions – the leader will provide an overview of the chapter.

To join, email bschaller@sipdx.org for the Zoom login.

There is a link to the How to make an Paschal candle, and many other resources and letters for your family on our Family Life page of our website: <https://www.sipdx.org/family-life>

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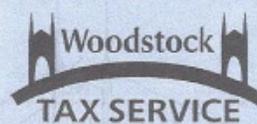


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