



# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

3400 SE 43rd Avenue \* Portland, OR 97206 \* 503-777-1491 \* www.sipdx.org  
December 29, 2019 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, AND Joseph

## Family as Domestic Church

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

On this last weekend of 2019, the Church contemplates the meaning of the Holy Family. In the first reading, Sirach entreats parents and children to love and honor one another. Paul’s letter to the Colossians recommends virtues needed to care for one another: heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another.

In Matthew’s gospel, the holy family fled to Egypt out of fear of Herod, who wanted to kill their infant. They left home and arrived in a country where everything was unfamiliar – language, food, social customs – separated from their extended family. It’s clear that just because it was God’s family, it did not have a divine exemption from the terrors of life.

I remember the Holy Child Sisters at St. Rose School teaching us kids to imitate the kindness of the Holy Family. I have to admit that it didn’t seem fair – at first blush it seems hard to connect my ordinary family with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Think about it: conception by the Holy Spirit, a divine child, and guidance through angelic dreams.

But when you take the *incarnation* seriously (that Jesus was every bit as human as divine), some similarities become apparent. First, Jesus had to develop the same as any other kid. He learned his mother-tongue from his mother. Mary probably taught him to pray, too. And Joseph taught him what it means to be a man. It follows from this that Jesus’ appreciation of God the Father as **Father** had something to do with the kind of father Joseph was to him as a parent.

For another thing, who comes to mind when you say “Holy Family?” Didn’t your grade school religion book show a picture of the holy family with Joseph in his workshop instructing Jesus in woodwork in the foreground, and Mary preparing lunch in the background? Trouble is, the picture does not include the further information from the gospels. Matthew and Mark mention those four “brothers” James, Joseph, Jude and Simon, and at least two unnamed sisters (Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3). They could be *cousins*; they could be Joseph’s children from an earlier marriage. He was older, after all, and one of the most common causes of female mortality in the ancient world was death in childbirth.

At any rate, these six stepbrothers and sisters (or cousins) were part of the extended family. They would have lived in the same compound with aunts and uncles, other cousins and grandparents. As David Hamm SJ has written in his 2016 Creighton University reflection on the Holy Family, the picture of Mary and Joseph raising their special child in splendid isolation is probably not accurate.

Imagine him instead in the rough and tumble setting of that extended family living in a compound with a shared outdoor stove. The Greek word for Joseph’s profession is *teknon*, which means builder or craftsman.

### Today’s Readings:

Sirach	3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians	3:12-21
Matthew	2:13-15, 19-23

### Next Sunday’s Readings:

Isaiah	60: 1-6
Ephesians	3: 2-3a, 5-6
Matthew	2:1-12

*Preaching Next Sunday:*  
*Fr Craig Boly, SJ*

### Mass Schedule:

**Saturday Vigil:** 5:00PM  
**Sunday:** 8:00AM & 10:30AM  
**Sunday Contemplative:** 7:30PM  
**Daily:** Monday 8:00AM in church  
 Tuesday - Friday 8:00AM La Storta Chapel  
**Centering Prayer:** Friday 7:00AM  
**Anointing Mass:** First Friday 8:00AM  
**First Saturday Mass:** 8:00AM  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 3:30-4:30PM  
 or by appointment with a priest

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Since wood was rare in Palestine, it is possible that they were stone workers, men involved in the construction of buildings such as the theater in Sepphoris, which was built in first century A.D.

Another similarity is religious practice. They were a Jewish family – people who understood their family as embedded in a covenant community, who lived according to the scriptures and practices of Israel. Boys were named after Israeli heroes (Jesus is Greek for Joshua). That meant that their relationships with one another were as important as their relationship with God. As Sirach says, when you relate reverently to any person, you are reverencing God.

A final connection with family is that Jesus looked at the community of his followers as forming a new kind of kinship bond. Remember when Jesus was told that his mother and brothers were outside, wishing to speak with him, he replied “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Stretching out his hand toward his disciples he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother” (Mt 11:46-50).

In effect, Jesus was saying that his group of disciples (eventually called “church” after Easter) was a community with bonds deeper than blood. What might sound at first as a dismissal of his family of origin was in fact a huge compliment to them. This new kind of group formed by faith in the heavenly Father was an even more intimate kind of kinship with Jesus. Jesus’ own human experience of family with Mary, Joseph, and their extended family may have inspired him to use kinship language for what was to become a worldwide church. When St. Paul calls his fellow Christians “brothers and sisters,” he is drawing on what he has learned from the traditions about Jesus.

Vatican II extends this insight when the Council called the Christian family the “domestic church.” If, for Jesus, the community of church is a new kind of family, then your own family can be understood as a kind of church. It’s not about buildings or rituals. It has everything to do with making the church community a place of belonging that is safe and loving. History shows that the early church grew so rapidly because the “Jesus people” lived like family, caring for one another. This attracted people from across the Roman Empire, Jews and gentiles alike. And after all this time, we as church are still learning how to live such demanding intimacy.

As you celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, think of one quality in each of your family members that you cherish, write those qualities down, then read them to one another in your family at the end of dinner tonight. It might be the best present of the Christmas season.

Craig Boly, S.J.  
Pastor

**IGNITE 2020**

January 12th – St. Ignatius/Proclamation of Faith  
January 26th – Evagrius Ponticus/Lord’s Prayer  
February 9th – St. Clare of Assisi/Agnus Dei  
February 23rd – Dorothy Day/Concluding Rites



March 8th – Teresa of Avila/Corpus Christi Sequence  
March 22nd – St. Maximilian Kolbe/Dies Irae Sequence  
April 26th – Ignacio Ellacuría/Easter Sequence  
May 10th – Thomas Merton/Pentecost Sequence

**Sacramental Preparation**



**First Eucharist** begins on Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Classes are resuming for the winter and spring and the children will meet on Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Classroom. Children must be in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or older. If you have not registered, go online to our website to download the paperwork and turn it in to the parish office. Questions? Contact Beth Schaller at [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org).

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

	Monday	Dec 30	† Ralph Vitale
	Tuesday	Dec 31	† Molly Benson
	Wednesday	Jan 01	† Solemnity of Mary
	Thursday	Jan 02	† Thelma Raymond
	Friday	Jan 03	† Jim Emig

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

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

**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/about>**

Peace, Hope & Love in the New Year!

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6-8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 29  
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james@dragonberryproduce.com

Co-Chair - Joyce Keane  
joyce.sipdx@gmail.com

A full list of staff & council members is located on our webpage at

Want to experience the gospel in a new way? Try attending **Children's Liturgy**. Our volunteer teachers say that seeing the gospel through the eyes of children has been transformative. We are serving large numbers of kids each week and this all-volunteer ministry is looking for 7 more adults to help us continue to serve our parish young ones. Assisting 1x/month during the 10:30 a.m. mass will enrich your life and doesn't require any preparation. School families can enjoy fair-share hours for their service, too. Want to learn more? Contact Ericka Skeldon at [eskeldon@gmail.com](mailto:eskeldon@gmail.com) or Beth Schaller at [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org).

Sunday, January 5, 2020 \* 9:00-10:15 a.m.

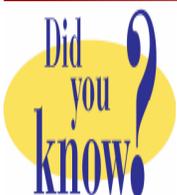
Join us for a potluck breakfast in Dillon Hall. Bring a favorite brunch dish to share (ethnic dishes, and vegan/GF options welcome!) At 9:45 a.m. an adult prayer reflection time will be offered and also a children's epiphany story and activity in the Xavier Room next door. Questions? Contact Beth Schaller at [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org).



LOOKING AHEAD:

CALL 503-777-1491 FOR DETAILS

CHRISTMAS EVE	Dec 24	4:00PM, 7:30PM & 10:30PM
CHRISTMAS DAY	Dec 25	10:00AM (only)
Solemnity of Mary Mass	Jan 1	10:00AM (Holy Day)
First Friday Anointing Mass	Jan 3	8:00AM
First Saturday Mass	Jan 4	8:00AM
Baptism Class	Jan 5	11:45AM Parish Center
Epiphany Potluck	Jan 5	9:00AM in the Cafeteria



- ◆ REALM is where you go to find your 2019 Tax amounts after the 15th of January 2020!!
- ◆ The giving tree alcove is up in the church. We are supporting Embrace Oregon this year with welcome boxes and "tens for teens" gift cards for children in foster care. Return gifts to the church by Jan 5, 2020.
- ◆ Office has been re-keyed, and all lights will be re-lamped using the Energy Trust rebate.
- ◆ Fr. Boly's mother Queen Frances ('38) will be 100 years old on Dec. 27, the same day that Katie Hennessey will be 29 again).

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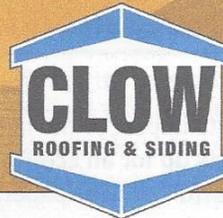
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