



ST. IGNATIUS PARISH
CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
UNDER THE CARE OF THE JESUITS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

How Rejoice?

Dear Parishioners:

Victor Hugo was the 19th-century French author of *Les Misérables*. His book became the subsequent dramatic production about the French Revolution and the many people who dared start it. Hugo once observed: "An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come." Jesus' time has come. John's message becomes more urgent. "Make straight the way of the Lord."

This is *Gaudete* Sunday, the Latin word for "rejoice." Rejoicing is the thread that weaves through all of today's readings. The rose candle in the Advent wreath and the rose chasuble of the presider witness the mood of rejoicing in the liturgy. Yet in light of the engulfing gloom of 2020 and all its catastrophes, is rejoicing now even possible?

One reason for rejoicing was Saturday's feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Mexican brothers and sisters remembered this most important date in 1561 when Mary appeared to Juan Diego, leaving an image of herself on his cloak. She appeared as a native Mexican maiden, shining with the light of the moon and the stars and the sun, and wearing a traditional sash around her waist, a sign of pregnancy. Mary's care for the poor – the native Mexicans oppressed by Spanish rulers – and for us today is a reason to rejoice. But does it make rejoicing any easier?

Today's gospel focuses on John the Baptist, the most powerful preacher of his day. He held no regular job in the synagogue but conducted an open-air church on the banks of the Jordan. He drew crowds from all walks of life. They came away feeling inspired and challenged. Listen to him – he holds the key to rejoicing.

John's message was simple: "The Messiah is coming, and you have to get ready for him." The Temple leaders were supposed to prepare the Jewish people for God's anointed. Yet the people who came down to the river had long since given up on their religious leaders. If they found hope in John's challenge, so can today's hearers.



The word had gotten around: Listen to this man John. He knows what he is talking about. He does not settle for pious platitudes or legalistic scolding. He is tuned in to God, and he has a program that is going to take you somewhere.

Unlike some contemporary evangelists, John did not settle for an hour of preaching that momentarily charged up the assembly but never got down to the nitty-gritty. John told them they had to get their lives in order. He did not settle for generalities, either.

*Mass now Suspended
For in person Mass
All recorded Masses are posted
On our YouTube channel
The link is on our website
www.sipdx.org*

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page:

When the people asked him what they should do, he told them to share their clothes with those who had none. He told tax collectors not to extort more than the fixed rate. He even told soldiers to stop bullying people and not to fatten up their paycheck.

And John did not settle for words. His ritual was dramatic: confess your sins, walk into the river, be submerged and come back up ready for a whole new life. It was not supposed to be a harmless bit of religiosity. It was the beginning of a journey toward a whole new way of life.

Everyone has valleys and hills in their lives. For some, the valleys are called laziness, selfishness, and irresponsibility. The valleys are resentments, spreading false rumors, or treating others with suspicion and distrust. Some of the hills are called addictions, dishonesty, or taking advantage of others. Our challenge is to face up to our faults and failings, admit them to ourselves and to God, and resolve to do something about them.

These challenges are difficult, but we are not alone. God in the person of Jesus is on the way to help. We are not encouraged merely to be *optimistic* (focusing only on the positives while ignoring the negatives). To reclaim a joyful heart, our challenge is to *hope* (trust the promise that companionship with Jesus empowers us to remain joyful even while suffering from the price that love costs).

John was a great preacher, not because he had a new doctrine or a new approach, but because he told people what they knew deep down in their hearts. Some were so touched by him that they wondered if John might be the Messiah. But he told them it was not about him – but about someone far greater than they could imagine.

As the kids say in the back seat, “Are we there yet?” No, but the end of the highway is coming up soon. The Advent season for preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ is swiftly passing away. If you want to move beyond the isolation of the pandemic and the gloom of your heartbreak and worry, listen how to keep rejoicing, listen to John.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

ADVENT OFFERING FROM LOYOLA PRESS

Advent A to Z E-Mail Series | Loyola Press suggested Advent link:

<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/virtual-posadas/>
<http://ignatiansolidarity.net/advent-simplicity-challenge/>
<http://www.rebekahgienapp.com/diverse-christmas-childrens-books/>



CHRISTMAS MASSES



*Sunday, Christmas Masses and Jan 1ST
will continue to be available on our Youtube channel at
St Ignatius Parish-Portland*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6GMqYI3YZlDr39IjRVi8w>

MASS READINGS

Mass Readings for Dec 13, 2020

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
1Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass Readings for Dec 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING: EMBRACING TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND RESTORATION

Description: This program helps participants tell the truth about our collective history of racism and violence, that we might seek real restoration with God and one another. This program explains the historical context behind the wide racial inequalities we face today. Though this program focuses specifically on African slaves and their descendants, this program will open participants' eyes to patterns of injustice that affect other people of color across the nation as well.

Goals:

1. Learn about the history of racial injustice in the U.S., so that we might better understand and more effectively eradicate modern-day racial injustice
2. Learn how faith communities responded to racial injustice in the past, so that we might learn from their mistakes and successes
3. Learn from the faith and spiritual wisdom of those who endured injustice and stood for freedom
4. Develop practical tools for seeking racial justice in our local communities our nation

Sessions Include

Prayer and Reflection, Discussion of Reading, Faith Integration, Videos and Group Activities, Spiritual Practices, Guest Speaker.

Cost: Registration has already been paid with a donation.

Books: (Approximately \$37 + shipping; e-books are less)

1. Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: American's Legacy of Enduring Injury & Healing by Dr. Joy Degruy
2. The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism by Jemar Tisby
3. 40 Days of Prayer by Cheri Mills

Pertinent Dates:

December 3rd, 7:30PM: Informational meeting. Please contact Jack Patrizio jackpatrizio@aol.com
(The Dec 3 meeting and the program meetings are all virtual via ZOOM)

Session Dates:

Week of January 4 - Week of March 8, 2021. Exact time and date will be determined by group consensus.

Link to the Faith & Racial Healing Program for additional information.

<https://justfaith.org/faith-and-racial-healing-embracing-truth-justice-and-restoration/>

CHRISTMAS "VISIO DIVINA" PRAYER

Join us for a shared Christmas prayer

Sat, Jan. 2nd via Zoom

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

We will offer several pieces of art for prayerful contemplation. Similar to the practice of lectio divina, you are invited to open your heart to God's Spirit as you ponder the emotions and thoughts that the art evokes in you. In this method, you will use your eyes and heart to perceive God's Word through the art presented.

Register on the St. Ignatius Website at

<https://www.sipdx.org/retreat-sign-up-arise>

Presented by: Women, Arise! Ministry

Donations gratefully accepted. Donate via the St. Ignatius Realm app under "misc." and include a memo to direct your donation or send a check to St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

Art: Argentina Nativity



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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

I G N I T E

Last in this Series, **TONIGHT Sunday December 13th 2020 at 6pm** Come and join in as we discuss St. Martin de Porres/Pray Always. Check the IGNITE webpage at www.sipdx.org/ignite

Contact Grace to be put on the email list at: gbyrd@sipdx.org

WEEKLY RACIAL JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION

Pope Francis, the first pope from the New World, has a more expansive view of what we call the Western world than his predecessors. He organized a major ecclesial summit on the Amazon region in South America, and his concern with capitalism and racism, while these issues are not unknown in Europe or Asia, seems pointed at the American manifestations of these ills.

We can see this in Francis' new book, Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future, published Dec. 1, as he weighs in on the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as controversial topics such as military spending, abortion, police violence, the treatment of migrants and refugees, protest movements and the role of women. Article by Thomas Reese, on NCR online read more: <https://www.ncronline.org/news/justice/signs-times/popese-new-book-speaks-americans-racism-immigration-and-gender-equity>

FAMILY LIFE

Children's Liturgy – Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

**Special request - If you can change the name of the Zoom screen to your child/children's names, it helps our leaders!* Check out website for the zoom link and password!

<https://www.sipdx.org/family-life>

Mom's Groups meets every Sunday during Advent from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Dec. 13, 20 – Advent – we will meet weekly for a reflection from The Living Nativity by Larry Peacock. To join the meeting or our email list, contact bschaller@sipdx.org. All are welcome!

GIVING TREE 2020–THROUGHOUT ADVENT

Advent Giving Tree Options

Tens for Teens In Foster care: <https://www.frugallivingnw.com/ten-for-teens-foster-care-gift-card-drive/>

Kino Border Initiative: <https://www.kinoborderinitiative.org/give/>

School Operating expenses during pandemic: <https://onrealm.org/sipdx/-/give/now>

Parish Ministry during pandemic: <https://onrealm.org/sipdx/-/give/now>



KUDOS & DID YOU KNOW?

Kudos: Grace and Joseph for the IGNITE series!

Did you know?: We have a YouTube channel? [St Ignatius Parish-Portland - YouTube](#)

DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep in your prayers

Monday Dec 14

† Louie Pieretti

Tuesday Dec 15

† Jim Conyard, SJ

Wednesday Dec 16

Rita Pilarsk

Thursday Dec 17

† Ana Dvorak

Friday Dec 18

† Jim Emig



ST IGNATIUS SCHOOL

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man."
Pope Francis, Twitter, 21 Dec 3013



Greetings St. Ignatius Parishioners: Last week, I announced my resignation as principal, effective January 1, 2021. I want to assure you of my robust health and well-being. I have been in discernment over my future path for many months. After an incredibly challenging fall, a significant gift from the School Foundation and the St. Ignatius' Got Talent fundraiser have ensured financial viability of the school. This makes it possible for me to step away.

Kathleen Downing (2nd grade teacher, Vice Principal, alumna, and school parent), will serve as interim with the support of staff. In addition to hiring a new principal to serve in 2021-22 the focus will be on regaining our pre-COVID enrollment with a target of 260 students, including a full preschool. I know we can count on you to help spread the word about the unique opportunity available to children in our care.

There are incredible strengths in this small school: it is a community of excellence and Catholic formation here in our parish that draws others because of its social justice stance and lived charism of both the Holy Names Srs. and the Jesuits. There is wonderful talent and heart in the teaching community as well as depth and grace in the families with whom we partner. The children are incredibly bright lights in our world with their curiosity, humor, and joy.



For over 100 years, YOU have stewarded this remarkable institution. Thank you for making a difference...because you have. Many of you are alumni or part of a family with multiple generations who studied here. Today, the School Foundation, under the leadership of Sue Schweitzer, and the School Advisory Commission, led by Morgan Moore, are hard-working advocates and partners for the future of this school. The strategic leadership is in great hands.

Thank you for the support and kindness over these past years. I am truly grateful.
Blessings during Advent!
Kelli Clark, Principal

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

"Many thanks to Traci Kienberger and the Scouts Venture Crew, Troop & Pack of 351 for collecting **1,733 lbs** of canned food for the St. Ignatius St. Vincent de Paul pantry during their annual Scouting for Food drive. The need couldn't be greater and more appreciated. *Also: the pantry is in need of paper bags with HANDLES. Donations can be brought to the parish office. Thanks.*"

Thank You!

*Here are ways you can support
Our ministry
This Christmas season.*

Online

1. Click the  button on our church website:

www.sipdx.org

2. Enter amount you want to give, select a fund,
And enter your email address.

3. Click GIVE and enter your payment method to
Complete the transaction

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