



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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

APRIL 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

The Consolation of God's Mercy

Dear Parishioners:

On this "Divine Mercy Sunday" in this season of the pandemic 2021, where do you find consolation? One place to look is in today's gospel. Jesus appears to the frightened disciples and reveals that he is alive. He tells them not to be afraid, shows them his wounds to prove that it is really him, then commissions them to forgive sins. Later, Thomas doubts that Jesus rose from the dead. The Lord appears to him, shows him his wounds, and Thomas comes to believe.

One huge consolation is how the risen Jesus changed those terrified followers into courageous missionaries. Instead of yelling at them for deserting him, he offered them peace – and breathed his intrepid spirit into their trembling hearts. If you want proof of the resurrection, this is it: a bunch of cowards afraid for their lives suddenly testified for anyone to hear to an absurdity that would get them persecuted and derided and martyred – the absurdity that Jesus of Nazareth had survived crucifixion. And even crazier still, if you trusted in what Jesus taught, and tried to live out of his values, you too would survive the death of this body, and awake from the sleep of death to life in a transformed human body.

Some of the dearest people to me in life just can't believe this apparent absurdity. They wish they could, they see how much consolation this belief gives me – how trusting in Jesus as risen is the source of joy and peace. They tell me they would love to believe in a "communion of saints," that people could still commune with their departed family members and loved ones – and that we will be reunited with those who have died when we awake ourselves into the life of God after our own death. They just can't see beyond the evidence to the contrary – that dead people stay dead, and there's no possibility of consciousness without a body to support self-awareness.



There are all sorts of other difficulties for believing, of course. There is the doubting Thomas in each of us: for example, how can a mere human Jesus somehow embody in himself the infinite God of all creation? How can that little piece of unleavened bread be divinity in the palm of your hand? Or how can you risk forgiving enemies – it will only get you killed. They say that believing in Jesus as risen is a wonderful dream, but not practical to try to live out if you want some semblance of predictability and control in your life.

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 10:30 AM Mass: Mid-Morning Service –
Sign up online at sipdx.org (button on opening page,) or call leaving Name, Number in group, phone, & date.
You will get a confirmation before attending Mass.
(Thank you!)

TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 12:00 PM weekday Mass
in the church, *no sign up needed*

SATURDAY: Recorded Mass available online, the link is on our website: sipdx.org

RECONCILIATION, by appointment 503-777-1491

CONTACT US:

**St Ignatius Parish
3400 SE 43rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97206
Phone: 503-777-1491**

office@sipdx.org * www.sipdx.org

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page: And yet in the midst of these and similar difficulties for believing, I experience in praying an awareness that the same Spirit who accompanied Jesus of Nazareth also communicates with me as one friend to another. The communication is like looking at my dearest beloved's smiling face – who shows encouragement, affection, and appreciation without saying a word.

Another consolation in today's gospel -- to see the reconciling power of God unfold before our eyes. The disciples are reconciled with Jesus whom they deserted out of fear for their own lives. Thomas is reconciled with Jesus whom he refused to believe had been raised from the dead. Jesus welcomed them all, and commissioned them to help reconcile others with God. With the present world torn apart by racial intolerance and civil war, reconciliation may be our most needed Easter consolation.

Perhaps today's celebration of divine mercy means precisely the consolation of faith – a faith that comes to us through the words and witness of others. Thomas initially refused to accept the testimony of his companions. But when he does recognize his misapprehension, his proclamation of faith is especially profound. He does not merely declare that Jesus is the messiah of God. He cries out, "My Lord and my God."

A searching faith leads to deepening conversion. Along the way, faith encounters millions of difficulties. But a million difficulties do not add up to a single *doubt*. Strictly speaking, "a doubt" is a judgment that there is no intelligibility in a given experience. And yet life proves the truth that dwells within all sorts of paradoxes: *If I know one thing, it is that I know nothing; life is much too important than to be taken seriously; I can resist anything but temptation.* And in religious teaching: "my yoke is easy," yet "how difficult the road that leads to life"; "give to the one who asks," but "don't cast your pearls before swine;" "look before you leap" but "he who hesitates is lost; and "save your life by losing it for my sake."

Thomas doubted his closest friends about the best news possible: Jesus still alive. Why? Perhaps the crucifixion damaged his dreams so much that he feared believing anything again (to avoid disappointment?). It seems that losses of various types make people afraid to believe in God's living presence. Notice, when Christ appears to Thomas, he does not list his credentials, titles, accomplishments. He shows him his wounds. Christ revealed his identity by showing his wounds, that is, the price of love.

The world's wounds show us Christ still dying and rising. Whether it's the spa killings of Asian women in Atlanta, the grocery store shootings in Boulder, Colorado, or the on-going anguish of war in Syria, Yemen, and Myanmar, these wounds are a reminder that Christ is still dying in his mystical body. These wounds, our wounds, remind us that Christ wants to transform our death into life. But you are not the healer of souls, Christ is. Turn over to him your wounds and sadness about the unbelief of the world. In this consoling exchange, ask Christ to show divine mercy to believers and unbelievers alike.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

MASS READINGS

Mass Readings for April 11, 2021

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

1 John 5:1-6

John 20:19-31

Mass Readings for April 18, 2021

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19

1 John 2:1-5A

Luke 24:35-48



ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL



This week marks the final week we will have half days for our students. On Monday, we will all be in school for full days. Teachers are excited to have more time with their class, and students are excited about not having more online work in the afternoon! Please pray for the school community, that we can make this transition smoothly, and everyone can remain safe and healthy.

Registration continues and we are being inundated with new interested families. If you have been considering joining the school community, please do not wait any longer. Classes that were nowhere near full are now at capacity. Please call the school office if you would like to speak to someone about applying for next year.

Our Move-a-Thon is well under way. We are over halfway to our goal! Students are getting pledges and will complete different physical activities on Move-A-Thon BINGO Cards. Students will check off their activities daily during the school days we are holding our Move-A-Thon, April 12-16.

Our goal is that every St. Ignatius student participate in the Move-A-Thon and feel proud of their accomplishments. Our student-driven fundraiser is a big part of our school's fundraising plan and aims to raise \$30,000 to support things like: updated textbooks, science materials, playground/recess equipment, and library books.

This year we are using the Pledgestar site to solicit and collect pledges. If you would like to make a donation, please go to the following site to support our St. Ignatius Gators:

<https://pledgestar.com/stignatius/pledge/?LgAdGRVZegEBHXRWWXtURg-->



Kathleen Downing
Principal/2nd Grade
Teacher
kdowning@sipdx.org

RCIA

We celebrate with Raz, Meghan, Amber, Naomi, Sonia, and Stephen who received the Easter Sacraments this year at the Easter Vigil! Welcome to St. Ignatius!



DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers

Monday	Apr 12	Tammy McPherson
Tuesday	Apr 13	† Severina Gayomali
Wednesday	Apr 14	† Joseph D'Ambrosia
Thursday	Apr 15	Anthony McPherson
Friday	Apr 16	† Jim Emig

IGNITE



Go Forth and Set the World on Fire ~ April 11

This year in IGNITE we will explore prayer in the Catholic Tradition through music and the lives of Saints and Mystics. The invitation is simple:

COME -with an open heart to see what it is all about;

CONTEMPLATE -the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own life and experience;

CONNECT - to the Mass, the saints, the people of St. Ignatius, and your heart.

DATES: Apr 25

To Join our mailing list, contact Grace at gbyrd@sipdx.org

Come to one class, come to all - as you desire

All classes will take place from 6 - 7:15PM on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 882 2844 4763 * Passcode: 1491

WEEKLY JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION

21-Day Catholic Enviro Justice Challenge: April 23-May 16

Walk with other Catholics as we learn, pray, and take action for environmental justice this Earth Day.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites all people to act on behalf of creation. This call to action is grounded in the principle of integral ecology—the idea that environmental, social, political, and economic systems are interwoven—and sustained by a sense of wonder before the interconnected nature of all life.

Join the Ignatian Solidarity Network as we explore these connections through daily emails challenging us to:

- enter into the complex work of understanding the connections between environmental injustices that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), as well as low income communities;
- listen to and learn from the voices of environmental justice leaders from frontline communities;
- better understand the connections between current and historical environmental injustices;
- respond to the call to work towards a lived vision of a world in which all of God's creation can flourish.

Join us in taking the challenge:

<https://ignatiansolidarity.wufoo.com/forms/?formname=21day-catholic-environmental-justice-challenge&field416=ISN>

BUILDING A TEAM OF PARENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS

We are building a team of parents and volunteers who would be interested in helping plan and support activities for our St. Ignatius parish middle school students! We would love for you to be a part of this group! Your level of involvement is up to you! You can help plan, help organize an activity, or maybe even host an activity! Many hands make light work, so the more the merrier! If you would like to stay in the loop as we begin this adventure, send an email to Maria at maria.l.fuhrmann@gmail.com.

ST IGNATIUS SUNDAY MASS SIGN UP

(Sunday Mass Sign up must be received the Thursday before the Mass date by NOON. Thank You.) Sundays at 10:30am reserve a spot online www.sipdx.org or by calling the office. 503-777-1491

**WEEKDAY MASS WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY & THURSDAY AT 12:00 PM, no sign up required.**

REPORT SCAMS AND FRAUD

Report Scams and Fraud If you get a suspicious call, text or email (for example, requesting your bank account number, instructing you to buy a gift card or promising an expensive prize), or if you, a relative or a friend has given money or financial information to someone you now suspect was a scammer, call **877-908-3360**.

PARISH STAFF

Office Hours:
Mon–Thurs 9am-3pm
503-777-1491
OR
office@sipdx.org

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Co-Chair: Joyce Keane
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Norman Williams
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Abby Morales
ahfer75@gmail.com

Mike Moore Jr.
Mike.moorejr@gmail.com



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

FAMILY LIFE



Children's Liturgy – resumes April 11th through Pentecost (end of May) Happy Easter from the Children's Liturgy team! Our Children's Liturgy program has

creatively persevered this year and we are so grateful to our leaders, Nathan Williams, Michele Becker, and Angela & Nick Kockler. The program will continue through May and then take summer off. If you are interested in being part of our Children's ministry here at St. Ignatius, please contact bschaller@sipdx.org.

For the zoom information for CLW: <https://www.sipdx.org/family-life>

Family Life Spring Survey

How has COVID affected your family faith practice? What are your hopes for Vacation Bible School and fall family life programs? Please help us plan for family life by taking this short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/36JDV3J>

Your input is valuable and appreciated! **The deadline to complete the survey is this Saturday, April 10th.**

Mom's Group Zoom Schedule – Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m. during April & May

The Mom's group meets on Sundays via Zoom. Please note that our meeting time is adjusted to 9:00 a.m. the next two months. We welcome anyone for a one time visit or a regular presence. If you want to receive our regular Zoom links and updates, email Beth at bschaller@sipdx.org.

Our focus for the next series of meetings will be how parents can support faith formation at various ages and stages of life. Join us on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for friendly conversation and practical tips for your own family's faith development.

April 11 – Overview/intro

April 25 – Birth-3yrs

May 9 – Preschool years

May 25 – Primary School

June – Middle and High School years

There will be some short material provided each session to prompt discussion, but we can all contribute from our experience as parents and/or from our own childhood experiences, too.

Sacramental Preparation for First Communion – LAST YEAR & THIS YEAR

It's time to celebrate!! *Please pray for the 50 children celebrating their First Communion during the Easter season. Each week a group of children will celebrate this Sacrament at the 10:30 mass.*



First Communion celebrations – April 11th
*Samuel Dabbs, Samuel Danner,
Skye Littman, Evelyn Van Delden,
Micah Van Delden and John Hoang.*

Questions? Contact:
bschaller@sipdx.org

KUDOS & DID YOU KNOW?

- Fr. Billy for offering an extra chance to attend Easter mass - thank you!
- Did you know we have a NEW PRINCIPAL!! SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. SIPDX.ORG



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