



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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Longing

Dear Parishioners:

On this last Sunday of Advent, King David has a bit of a “housing crisis” in today’s first reading from Samuel. He is back from the wars, living in luxury while the “Ark of God” is in a portable container. David has returned the Ark to Jerusalem in a great procession. Jerusalem is now the holy city because of this holy presence.

David begins thinking that he ought to build a temple to celebrate this holy presence. There is a significant word-play embedded in this reading. David talks about “house” in terms of a building -- and the Lord speaks of “house” in terms of “descendants” of David. God scoffs at the poverty of David to build an appropriate dwelling for the God who cannot be contained. God is not localized or limited. In a prophetic twist, then, the “House of David” is not a building, but is a family line that will bring forth a special personal presence. The “house” is to be the family through the ages who will bring forth a special person (the Messiah) to take up residence in the world -- and form *us* into his house.

The Gospel is the familiar narrative of how this Holy Presence begins to take shape within the body of a young woman. The tent of her womb becomes the new Holy of Holies. Mary has a most human response to the invitation: she is troubled and frightened. As with most of the other “call narratives” in scripture, Mary has the perfect excuse. She is not married. The visitor has the perfect solution to her excuse. God will do something that involves faith. A bit of news helps her faith -- that her elderly cousin is going to have a child as well. Mary’s response to all this is a kind of, “Well, if Elizabeth can, then so can I, by the favor of God.”



*Sunday & Christmas Masses
 will continue to be available on our
 Youtube channel at
 St Ignatius Parish-Portland*
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6GMqY13YZIDr391jRVi8w>

*The link is also on our website
www.sipdx.org*



The messenger shares with Mary the name and mission of this child-to-be. He will be from the “House of David.” He will be “Joshua” or “The One Who Saves.” His kingdom will never end, which fulfills the prophesy of Nathan in the first reading. The stage is then set. All the ancient prophetic roads have led directly to Nazareth.

When Jesus arrived the first time, he was the culmination of everything that went before him. But when he died, he did not retire – he resurrected. He kept on living. He is living now. He will live until he comes again. And he is still incorporating all things human unto himself.

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page:

The future Jesus will incorporate in himself all the splendor, goodness, and tragedy of humankind from the day of his ascension until the end of time. The coming Christ will include in his person the courage of soldiers, the grief of widows, and the holiness of the saints. He will encompass the artistry of Shakespeare, Michelangelo and Mozart.

The experience of the once and future Christ will also include the horror of the holocaust, the genocides of Stalin and Cambodia and Rwanda, the annihilation of Hiroshima, terrorist attacks, torture, starvation, and war. Nothing human is alien to the Risen Jesus. As Athanasius wrote, anything that Christ does not include in his own future coming cannot be saved in us.

Ronald Rolheiser, in his book **The Holy Longing**, reflects how the Incarnation was not a 33 year event that took place 2000 years ago. It is an ongoing mystery in which we are called to participate as Christians. In a very real way, we are called to put "flesh" to our prayers of "Your will be done." We are called to be the comforter of those afflicted by Covid-19, the support for the lonely, and the lover of the despised.

As you approach the celebration of the Incarnation, I invite you to consider how you can, right now, bring Christ to the world in whatever you are doing. Like Mary, how can you partner with God to long for Christ to come into the world? What will it take for the Holy Spirit to come upon you, and the power of the Most High overshadow you, and empower you to welcome Christ's body here on earth?

This last Sunday of Advent is not too late to do your Christmas-grace shopping. You could pray for a holy emptiness -- as was the heart and womb of the "first church," Mary. As you look forward to celebrate these coming days, pray in your life that there will be room in a stable even if there is none in the inn.

In today's Gospel, Mary learns that she will give birth to the Son of God. It will be Mary's privilege to look upon her newborn child, and be the first to kiss the perfect flesh of the face of God. Pray to join her in her holy longing.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

WEEKLY RACIAL JUSTICE RECOMMENDATION

Be Someone Who Makes a Difference! Join a CRS Chapter!

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is building a network of CRS Chapters nationwide to mobilize Catholics to end global poverty. CRS Chapters advance CRS's mission to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas through meaningful action.

What is a CRS Chapter? A movement for social justice! For more information:

<https://www.crs.org/get-involved/chapter-member-resources>

MASS READINGS

Mass Readings for Dec 20, 2020

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

Mass Readings for Dec 27, 2020

Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

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

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

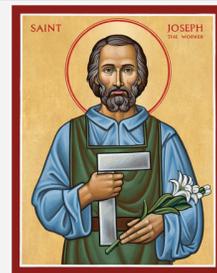
Add me to the Email list to pray

POPE FRANCIS DECLARES "YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH"

Pope Francis declares 'Year of St. Joseph' starting Dec. 8
The Pope also shared a prayer to St. Joseph:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



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. 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!

Sacramental Preparation for First Communion in 2021

Students preparing for First Communion this winter and spring will receive the home-study schedule. Our supply distribution and introductory Zoom meeting will take place on Sat, Jan. 9.

JANUARY 1, 2020 SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS

We are making these suggestions for the January 1 Mass:

St. Ignatius in San Francisco, CA - 10 a.m. P.D.T.

Link: <https://www.stignatiussf.org/>

St Cecilia of Boston

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8lxwFqd6vSksl8VQOSnocA>



KUDOS & DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ St Ignatius School Foundation for their leadership and support of the mission of the school.
- ⇒ To Kelli Clark for her years of faithful service, and blessings as she moves on to her next journey.



DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS



Please keep in your prayers

Monday	Dec 21	† Tomi Tomlin
Tuesday	Dec 22	† Molly Benson
Wednesday	Dec 23	† Jim Emig
Thursday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Friday	Dec 25	Christmas

Rejoice and Be Glad!

And please join us for the **St. Ignatius School Christmas Sing-Along!**

Thursday, December 17th
Pre-show – 6:30PM
Christmas Program – 7:00PM
Streaming on our Parish YouTube Channel!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL6GMqYI3YZIDr39IjRVi8tw>

Direct Link: <https://youtu.be/Df2tUE4Rz14>

YEAR END DONATIONS—TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In case you did not know, there is a \$300 TAX DEDUCTION AVAILABLE FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS With only a few weeks left in 2020, we want to remind you about the new “above-the-line” charitable deduction of up to \$300 for charitable contributions made in cash.

In other words, those taxpayers who take the standard deduction (instead of itemizing) can now receive a \$300 tax deduction for donations to eligible non-profit organizations. (Previously, there was no donation tax break available for those who took the standard deduction.)

Donations must be made prior to December 31, 2020 to be eligible. You may drop a check off through the Office mailbox for the CHURCH or SCHOOL anytime **before Dec. 31, 2020** or donate online..... See below:

Online Donation

1. Click the  button on our church website opening page: 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.

Checks may be mailed to **3400 SE 43rd Ave. Portland, Oregon 97206**

2020 STATEMENTS..... HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please help us to save on paper, stamps and other expenses included in a large Tax statement mailing.....

Please sign in to your REALM account before the end of 2020! All parishioners that have donated to our church will have an account already, you will just need to connect with it. Set up at: onrealm.org/sipdx Contact Patty for help if needed– office@sipdx.org.

Year End **tax statements of giving** for the 2020 year will be available **ONLINE** after Jan 15th until tax day....sign on so you may access your statement!! Those needing a paper copy mailed out, please contact the office with a request.



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