



St. Ignatius Catholic Church

OREGON'S JESUIT PARISH

3400 SE 43rd Ave. Portland, OR 97206 - 503 777 1491 - office@sipdx.org - www.sipdx.org

December 21, 2025 - **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM
10:30 AM
7:00 PM
Adoration 6:15 - 6:45 PM
before 7:00 PM Sunday Mass
Weekday (M-F) 8:00 AM
at LJC - La Storta Chapel

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3:30–4:30 PM, or
by appointment 503 -777-1491

Giving



Mass Intensions

Mon, December 22
† Raymond Koudossou
Tue, December 23
Healing of Bang Ngoc Hoang
Wed, December 24
Christmas Eve
Thu, December 25
Christmas Day
Fri, December 26
Healing of Bang Ngoc Hoang

Wisdom from the Pews

It was the week before Christmas and I was looking forward to flying to Spokane and celebrating the holidays with my family. While there, I wanted to look up some old friends, spend some quality time with my parents and siblings, and get some much-needed rest from my teaching job. I also wanted to visit my uncle, a priest who lived at Jesuit House on the Gonzaga University Campus. He had terminal cancer and so it was imperative that I see him soon.

He was happy to see me and we visited as we used to do. He appeared able bodied and even jovial. Except for a yellowish pallor to his skin, I might not have known that he had cancer. In the course of our conversation, he told me that he was having trouble sleeping because he had such terrible back pain. He was not quite sure what to do about it. I made a mental note of this and decided I would look for a mattress-sized heating pad for him while I was Christmas shopping downtown. Surely that would help him. J. C. Penny's had the heating pad I needed so I made my purchase and headed back to Gonzaga. This time, though, I would not be able to stop and visit but instead, would have to drop the package off and have someone give it to him.

I rang the bell and a kindly old priest came to the door. I told him that I wanted to drop off an electric mattress pad for my uncle and would he please give it to him? He agreed to make sure my uncle got the heating pad. I thanked him and then left.

A couple of hours later, I realized that

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24



I had not heard from my uncle. Surely he would have called to say that he had received the blanket. I then decided to call him. When he heard that I had given the package to the kindly old priest, he said "Oh no! He has Alzheimer's! I will need to enlist some people to help me find it."

About an hour later, my uncle called back. "We found the package," he said. The kindly old priest had taken the blanket into the Jesuit House Chapel and there, nestled it in the hay of the manger and laid it to rest at the feet of the Baby Jesus.

The following year, on May 19, 1998, my uncle passed away. I will never forget his kindly ways, his prayerfulness, his courage, and the story he gave me to share with others. And I will always remember the humble little priest whose first thought was to leave a warm blanket at the feet of the Baby Jesus. The priest's actions prompted me to ask myself this question: What gift shall I lay at the feet of Jesus?

Marsha Ripple attends the 10:30 AM Mass at St. Ignatius.

Have you enjoyed reading the weekly Wisdom from the Pews? Then this is a your chance to join other parishioners who have shared their faith journey as it relates to the weekend readings.

Contact Joseph Byrd with any questions at jbyrd@sipdx.org or please consider registering to write your Wisdom from the Pews at: <https://bit.ly/wisdomfromthepews>

ST. IGNATIUS AVENT CALENDAR

WEEK 4

LOVE



21

Light Angel's
Candle & pray
for love



22

Watch A Christmas
Carol (family
friendly options
are Mickey's
Christmas Carol
or The Muppet
Christmas Carol)
What is the
symbolism of the
children under
the second spirit's
robe?

23

Pray for refugees
with the Holy
Family as they flee
to Egypt
(Matthew 2:13-23)
Imagine a
conversation with
Mary or Joseph as
you walk alongside
them. [https://bible.
usccb.org/bible/
matthew/2](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/2)

24

Celebrate the
birth of Jesus
at Mass



25

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2025
4 PM & 8 PM

Christmas Day

Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025
8 AM & 10 AM



**Feast of the Holy Family
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Saturday Vigil, Dec. 27, 2025
5 PM

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025
8 AM & 10:30 AM (NO 7 PM Mass)

Joyfully Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

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Pastoral Council Chair

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Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

I write this reflection knowing that many of you will read it on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas falls on Thursday this year so it's not too early for me to wish you, **Merry Christmas!**

The message of the angels to shepherds, in the fields of Bethlehem, is still Good News for all those who can hear it and give it a place in their hearts, their lives, and their world. ***"For today, in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."***

Mary Oliver, in her poem "Mysteries, Yes," names what this Christmas event is all about. "Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood." So: what mysteries will you and your family and friends celebrate this Christmas? Will you celebrate the fact that God in Christ is Emmanuel (God-with-us) in people and experiences we do not fully understand? Will you celebrate that God in Jesus has saved us? Saved us from despair by being hope. Saved us from darkness by being light. Saved us from death by being life. Saved us from isolation by inviting us into community. Mysteries are meant to be pondered. During this Christmas Season, may we all find time to ponder the incredible gift that God in Christ saves us.

If you do set aside time to ponder on these mysteries, you may want to light a candle. Poet and civil rights leader Howard Thurman recommends that we light candles this Christmas:

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,

Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

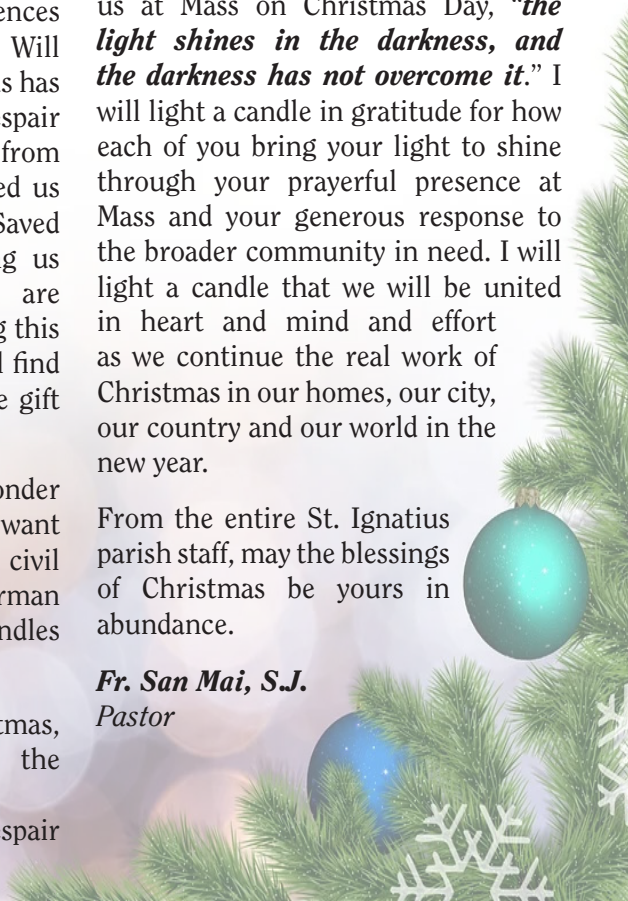
To make music in the heart.

This Christmas I will light a candle to acknowledge how God is with us in this St. Ignatius community. I will light a candle because Christ the Light has come to the world and as the evangelist John reminds us at Mass on Christmas Day, ***"the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*** I will light a candle in gratitude for how each of you bring your light to shine through your prayerful presence at Mass and your generous response to the broader community in need. I will light a candle that we will be united in heart and mind and effort as we continue the real work of Christmas in our homes, our city, our country and our world in the new year.

From the entire St. Ignatius parish staff, may the blessings of Christmas be yours in abundance.

Fr. San Mai, S.J.

Pastor



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

UNDER ONE ROOF - Fundraising Campaign



For years, Dillon Hall has been the gathering place for parish assemblies, school events, and student activities. Its roof now requires urgent replacement to preserve this vital space that unites our community.

Our fundraising goal is \$250,000, and your contribution will help us complete this essential project.

Please consider supporting us by scanning the QR code or making a [donation online](#) ("Under One Roof" Fund). Thank you for your generosity!

Planned Giving



For several decades, St. Ignatius has been here in SE Portland serving people in faith, educating the young with hope, and engaging the world with the love of Christ and the Good News of the Gospel in the Jesuit tradition. Please prayerfully consider including the parish in your estate plans to help us sustain this mission for future generations.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving options at St. Ignatius Parish, please see the "[Ways to Give](#)" page on our website or [contact Fr. San.](#)

Make a Year-end Donation to St. Ignatius Parish!

"Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." (Colossians 1:12)

If you are age 73 or older, the IRS requires you to take required minimum distributions each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts. A qualified charitable donation (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity such as St. Ignatius Parish. As 2025 draws to a close, please consider making a year-end donation to help us maintain and care for our beautiful church. A charitable IRA rollover is an easy way to make a gift to St. Ignatius Parish to help us grow our endowment.

You can directly transfer any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA and pay no income tax on the distribution, while making a charitable donation to our parish.

- You must be 70^{1/2} or older.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to St. Ignatius.

Please check with your tax or financial advisor to see if this type of gift is right for you. If you need help with this transfer or have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Church tithing	Actual	Budget	% of Goal
November 24-30, 2025	9,865	10,445	94%
Month of November	49,454	52,225	95%
Year-to-Date	206,408	585,000	35%

Christmas Flower Donations

If you would like to honor your loved ones with a Christmas flower donation, envelopes are available at the tables. Each name will be placed on a flower displayed in our church as a tribute of love and remembrance.

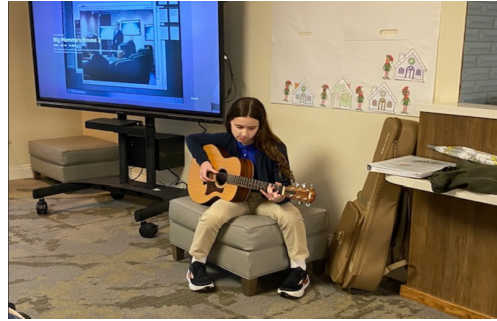


ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

We welcomed many grandparents and special friends to see the final rehearsal of our Christmas Program this past Thursday morning. The students' artwork adorned the evening's programs creating a special memento. Mr. Mackenzie and the students knocked it out of the park again this year with yet another fabulous Christmas Program! The student renditions of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and "The Peace Round" were particularly touching. What a joy to celebrate the Advent season together!



The Advent season has come alive in our school as students learn, serve, and grow in faith. Our second graders delighted us as a choir of singing elves, while our fifth graders created a beautiful Jesse Tree in our school's entry. Meanwhile, our sixth graders shared the warmth of the season by singing Christmas carols for the residents at Courtyard Mt. Tabor. As we turn our hearts toward the coming of Christ in our midst, may we recognize the many blessings around us and celebrate the peace and hope He brings. Wishing you and your families a season filled with Christ's light and love.



School Office

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www.sispdx.org

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Carol Pausz

cpausz@sispdx.org

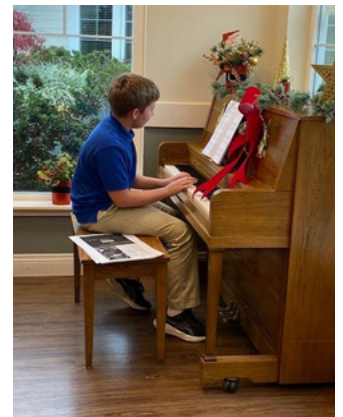
Ext 246

School Secretary

Julie Frangipani

jfrangipani@sispdx.org

Ext 233



Please consider St. Ignatius School for any last minute tax deductible donations which may be made through [Realm](http://www.realm.com) or with a check dropped off at the parish offices.

We are closed for Christmas break through January 4, 2026. We wish you all a blessed, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ***"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you,"*** – Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Carol Pausz
Principal



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