



# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

3400 SE 43rd Avenue \* Portland, OR 97206 \* 503-777-1491 \* www.sipdx.org

November 10, 2019

## What About Your Body in Heaven?

Dear Parishioners:

As we celebrate Veterans Day weekend, we appreciate our men and women in uniform who have served us and preserved our freedoms of assembly, speech, and religious practice. We honor their dedication and courage, and thank God for them when their sacrifice has cost them the full measure of their devotion.

Did you hear about the skeptic who confronted the Jesuit? The agnostic said, “If you really believe what you preach, then I give you this challenge. Drink this poison here, and if you don’t die, I’ll believe.” The Jesuit replied, “I have a better plan. You drink the poison, and I’ll raise you from the dead.”

November begins with memories of those who have died – great saints on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and ancestors awaiting their entry into full communion with God on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. November is the month to consider our mortality – and what awaits us beyond the grave.

This weekend’s readings narrate two beliefs about the afterlife. Many people recite the creed and proclaim, “I believe in the resurrection of the dead,” and really intend what Plato meant, “I believe in the immortality of the soul.” But that is assuredly *not* the Christian belief.

The first Christian belief is not that the soul, apart from the body, still lives. No, the Christian tradition believes that the whole embodied person lives on. Who and what you are now, as an embodied person, will live on. Just as Jesus’ resurrection entailed the entire Jesus as risen with a glorified body that could eat and invite his disciples to touch, so like Jesus, the total “you” will be raised up, not just your soul.

This total sense of embodiment is the bedrock of the Catholic religion. The three major embodiments of the Christian faith structure the liturgical year: Christmas (when God takes our flesh); Eucharist (“my Body given for you”); and Easter (the raising of Jesus as the victory over death and limitation). These all deal with the body, Christ’s and yours.

The second belief about the afterlife is the trust that God is faithful, that God’s promises are true. It is critical to grasp that God is Emmanuel, “God is with us.” This is the name given to Jesus at his birth. After his death and resurrection, Jesus promises “I am with you always, even to the end of time.” And he adds, “So do not be afraid. I go to prepare a place for you.” These promises resonate with your human spirit.

Why? Because deep down your hankering is not simply to survive, but to find permanence and completion in an ever-changing world. God promises to love and cherish you, and to be with you beyond the grave. Having created you, God is simply unwilling to let you go – ever. Remember that.

Otherwise, if you lose this insight or forget these promises, the focus shifts to yourself – and you get endlessly caught up in conundrums that have no satisfactory resolution simply because no one knows. Self-concern when it comes to the afterlife misses the point: that resurrection is not about you – it’s about God and God’s unimaginably beautiful fulfillment God longs to work in you. God promises never to abandon you. God will work out the logistics.

### Today’s Readings:

2 Maccabees	7:1-2, 9-14
2 Thessalonians	2:16-35
Luke	20:27-28

### Next Sunday’s Readings:

Malachi	3:19-20a
2 Thessalonians	3:7-12
Luke	21:5-19

*Preaching Next Sunday:*  
*Fr. Dan Sullivan, 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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Even Jesus does not explain much about the afterlife – except to say that it will be different from expectations, a dimension beyond your comprehension. When the Sadducees bring up the absurd story of seven brothers and one wife, Jesus simply tells them they are misguided. The afterlife does not require marriage and children to insure the continuation of the human family because extinction is no longer possible. People will be *like* angels (not “angels” who have no body – but *like angels* in that your entire focus will be on the ecstasy of communion with the Divine).

Just five hundred years ago, your ancestors did not imagine an artificial heart or television or computer. In a similar mode, the lowly caterpillar could not imagine in its wildest dreams that it would fly as a gorgeously colored butterfly. Jesus is saying: forget your categories, your assumptions, your preconceptions. Heaven is beyond time, beyond sensory experience, beyond the longings of the human heart. Relating directly with God is so completely beyond your present thinking, so spectacularly full and rich that no questions fit, no answers could be fully understood.

In **Once Upon a Gospel**, William Bausch summarizes today’s readings from Luke. When heaven is the topic, it really comes down to this: believe firmly that Jesus washes you clean from sin, wants everyone to be saved, and loves you even when you can’t quite accept him. When you trust that God’s love is permanent and indestructible, your curiosities about heaven will take care of themselves. Just be prepared to be surprised at answers you never had questions for.

As we contemplate our own death during November, let us make this prayer from the Mexican tradition of the *Dia de los Muertos* our own:

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I accept from your hands whatever kind of death it may please you to send me, with all its pains, trials and sorrows, in reparation for my sins, for the souls in purgatory, for the conversion of sinners, for all who will die today, and for your greater glory. Amen.

**Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.**  
**Pastor**

**The Faber Institute** invites you to join the Night School for Deeper Learning on Tuesday, November 12th from 5:30-7:00PM at the Loyola Jesuit Center. The Night School is an adventurous exercise of depth and reflectivity. This month's classes will lead by Bill Zuelke on the topic of Ignatius of Loyola. Bill is a Spiritual Director, life coach, and an associate staff member of SoulFormation. For more information and to RSVP, visit [www.faberinstitute.com/events](http://www.faberinstitute.com/events).

**ECOJUSTICE**—I invite you to bring your family and friends to plant trees – neighborhood street trees and natural area seedlings -- on a Saturday morning (8:30 AM to 12:30 PM) between October and April . No experience is necessary. Just come prepared for the weather. Then share a hot and hearty soup potluck at the end. Over several seasons, this has proven to be a **St. Ignatius eco-justice activity** that no one has ever regretted. Check out the website with calendar dates for various tree plantings. February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> are SE neighborhood tree plantings to consider joining. <http://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/>

**Jingle & Mingle Craft Bazaar**

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:00pm - 6:30pm, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 1:00pm St. Joseph the Worker Church, 2310 SE 148<sup>th</sup>.

**Mater Dei Radio Fall Sharathon 2019** Mater Dei Radio celebrates 30 years of broadcasting with its **Fall Sharathon 2019, November 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**. The event is dedicated to Our Lady of Grace with the theme, “*Thirty Years of Grace*”. **KBVM 88.3 FM**

**BLOOD DRIVE**—Remember to sign up for the **November 17th Blood drive**. 9am-2pm in our Gymnasium [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time)



**MASS INTENTIONS**

	<b>FOR THE WEEK</b>		
	Monday	Nov 18	Brian Frangipani
	Tuesday	Nov 19	† John Walton
	Wednesday	Nov 20	† Sharry Smull
	Thursday	Nov 21	† Kenny Bibles
	Friday	Nov 22	† 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>**

**SCHOOL NEWS**

While the stores are pushing ahead into Christmas, I find I am trying to slow down and enjoy the waning fall and the reflective time that autumn brings. I hope you can find time to breathe the fall air, take a walk with someone you love or throw a football with a child. Next week school families may have an opportunity to do just that: the school will be closed all day on Monday (observance of Veteran’s Day) and Tuesday as extensive and urgent boiler repair is done.

Conferences were powerful for families this week as teachers, students and parents came together in a strong partnership to review progress and set goals. And there were so many beautiful, small celebrations! Thank you to all who participated. We are, indeed, better together.

Finally, the One and Only **TURKEY BINGO** is here! Please join us on Saturday, Nov. 23, for an opportunity to win your holiday bird (including vegetarian options)! Nearly \$2000 is available in raffle prizes and chances are just \$10 each. Reserve tickets are \$30 and include food, beer and wine. Come have fun with us (adults only) and do a great thing for St. Ignatius School! More information at [www.sispdx.org](http://www.sispdx.org) or in the school office.

Blessings on your week –  
Kelli Clark  
Principal

*“Teach us to give and not count the cost.”  
St. Ignatius of Loyola  
In gratitude to all of our military Veterans in honor of their lives and service: we are grateful.*

**Church Office**  
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**Pastor Fr Craig Boly, SJ**  
cboly@sipdx.org ext. 231

**Fr. Dan Sullivan, SJ**  
dsullivan@sipdx.org ext. 224

**Pastoral Council**  
**Co-Chair- James Nguyen**  
james@dragonberryproduce.com

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

A full list of staff & council members is located on our webpage at [www.sipdx.org/parish-staff](http://www.sipdx.org/parish-staff)

**CCHD** Next week our special collection will support the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development**. More than 46 million people in the United States live in poverty today. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address obstacles as they work to make permanent and positive changes for their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [www.usccb.org/cchd/collection](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/collection).

<u>UPCOMING EVENTS:</u>	CALL 503-777-1491 FOR DETAILS	
Turkey Bingo	Nov 23	6:30PM (doors open 5:30PM)
Thanksgiving Day Mass	Nov 28	10:00AM
Advent Festival	Dec 01	11:45AM—1:00PM
Advent Penance Service	Dec 09	7:00PM

**VOLUNTEER** needed to help deliver bread from the Grand Central Bakery to the Women’s Transition Shelter. Take about two hours, and one **Friday** a month. We need one volunteer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weeks of the months. If you like to help contact Jim Mumby at 503-519-8991, or [mums.the.word@centurylink.net](mailto:mums.the.word@centurylink.net)



**~Women’s Advent Retreat – Dec. 7, 2019** Join us for a day of reflection during Advent. This is a retreat *for women, led by women*. All women are welcome. Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 \*\*\*

Loyola Jesuit Center from 9am-4pm \$20 suggested donation, includes lunch **REGISTRATION FORM IN VESTIBULE**

**Women's Club**  
Next event is Nov. 30th, Wine & Canvas painting, as they teach us how to be artists! More info to follow.  
Questions, call Nancy 503-659-9473, or Sharon at 971-340-7525.



- ◆ A Neighborhood Survey & information update was mailed to parishioners on October 30, 2019. This survey is also available on our website opening page and will be in the pews this Sunday!
- ◆ Please return the survey to the Sunday basket or the parish office.

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