



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

April 14, 2019 — Palm Sunday

What Does the Cross Mean?

On this Palm Sunday, the first followers of Jesus threw palms in his path as he entered Jerusalem. It is also Passion Sunday because it marks the beginning of the week we call “holy” – *holy* because in the divine alchemy, suffering mysteriously yields life that is beyond the reach of suffering.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the crowds were cheering. He was at the height of his popularity and success. Surely a new kingdom of power and might was at hand. But then it all collapsed in his unfair arrest, torture and execution on a cross. As we enter Holy Week 2019, what does the cross mean today?

One of the hottest moral issues of our day is the death penalty. Some say it is an effective deterrent to crime, a just punishment for criminals who do not deserve mercy, or a small solace for families whose loved one has been taken from them. Others say that modern prisons are sufficiently secure that we don’t need to execute death row inmates to protect society; or that the death penalty is not applied fairly across racial or age or class groups; or that it poorly models for our children how adults deal with ultimate conflict.

Proponents and opponents of the death penalty argue back and forth without much agreement. But one thing is clear. Even the most ardent advocates of capital punishment would not make it the focus of their worship. It would never occur to them to sing the praises of a guillotine or gallows or firing squad or electric chair or gas chamber or lethal injection. But that in effect is what we are doing as we begin Holy Week.

What is the explanation of this strange custom – that people around the world bow and worship before an instrument of death? This answer is this: the cross has long since ceased to be used as a means of execution, but it has become for Christians a symbol of our most cherished beliefs.

The cross is first a symbol of sin. The cross expresses the deepest problems of humanity: selfishness that wrecks character and destroys relationships. Sin is the evil that engenders war, the roots of poverty, or the reason for a policeman when you call 9-1-1. Sin was most clearly seen on Calvary. Sin took the loveliest life ever lived, beat it and nailed it to a cross. Every sin in effect builds a cross on which someone innocent will hang. And for twenty centuries, the cross symbolizes this tragic source of evil.

The cross is a symbol of salvation. Salvation means education – to escape ignorance. Salvation means doctors and medicine – to recover from sickness. It means jobs – to overcome idleness and poverty; it means family and friends – to solve loneliness. The cross symbolizes the awesome truth that behind human striving is an ultimate source of meaning -- a loving Father who cares, and understands, and forgives.

Finally, the cross symbolizes self-realization through self-sacrifice. In the University of Life (sometimes called the “School of Hard Knocks”), self-sacrifice is not an elective. It is a required course. Everyone has to take it. Inside every person lives a hero and a wolf. The wolf cares nothing for anything besides its own instincts. The hero finds joy through caring for others. Everyone faces the challenge daily: sacrifice self-concern in order to care for others, or abandon care for others in order to insure self-preservation. Which one will prevail? It depends on which one you feed.

Until Jesus was thirty years old, he was the carpenter of Nazareth. He could have stayed there and kept his convictions to himself. Had he chosen to do that, no one would have ever heard of him. But Jesus made the opposite choice. And since then, the cross has taken on a whole new world of

Continued next page >>>

Today’s Readings:

Isaiah	50:4-7
Philippians	2:6-11
Luke	22:14-23:56

Next Sunday’s Readings:

Acts	10:34a, 37-43
Colossians	3:1-4
John	20:1-9

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.

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

meaning.

The primary focus of the story of Holy Week is Jesus' love – and the suffering that is the consequence of his love. In the final irony, Jesus' cross is also his glory. Here anguish and exaltation unite. This is a paradox that defies explanation. Words are inadequate to describe the God who chooses to die like us so that we, a sinful people, can be freed from the finality of death. The glory of Jesus reveals the ultimate expression of love because he fully surrendered self-interest to endure the horror of the cross.

Some parishioners wonder how to accompany Jesus during this week. His suffering is so awful – the human instinct is to recoil from his pain and to come back next week for the joy of Easter. But the passion of Jesus continues today wherever people suffer. The passion of the Body of Christ is experienced in any violence, illness, or accident -- wherever the road people walk entails carrying a cross. To accompany Jesus in his passion is to accompany as well our contemporary sufferers in their agonies and loneliness.

This means that during Holy Week, you and I can include *our* anguish and grieving in our accompaniment of the agony of Jesus. This means that Jesus is with us in our anxiety, suffering with us when we taste the bitter gall of our powerlessness, discouragement and exhaustion. A huge reason to recall Christ's passion is to remember that *his suffering and death is not the last word on his destiny*. Nor is our suffering the last word on ours.

Let us walk with him these days as he reveals the meaning of our crosses -- the human and divine face of love.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor



ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

Gratitude: Thank you for supporting our students in their practice of **alms giving** through Lent. They will turn in their rice boxes this week and resources will buy food for Transition Projects. This is the 8th grade service commitment as they prepare and serve meals to the homeless each month. Truly we are blessed.

CONFERENCES: Thank you to all of our families who came for spring conferences. Truly, a strong home-school partnership is one of the strengths of St. Ignatius School.

JOG-A-THON: Students are fastening their capes, putting on their winged shoes and masks and turning into superheroes to raise resources for school programs. We hope you will help in the battle. If you would like to be connected to a student, please contact the school office: 503-774-5533.

SPRING PLANTS: The St. Ignatius Athletic Association (CYO) runs local athletic programs for kids. They have wonderful deals on spring bedding plants and all goes to support CYO. Forms are due on April 22nd and plants are available for pick-up on May 12. Please pick up forms in the school office or email stignatiuscyo@gmail.com.

**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/registration>

Blessings on This Holy Week-
Kelli Clark
Principal

Mass Intentions

Monday	April 15	† Severina Gayomali
Tuesday	April 16	† William MacGillivray
Wednesday	April 17	† Jim Emig
Thursday	April 18	Holy Thursday
Friday	April 19	Good Friday

Blessings to *you* on these final days of Lent!



Holy Thursday—7:00 PM

Good Friday—7:00 PM

Easter Vigil—8:30 PM

Easter Sunday Mass Times

8:00 AM

10:30 AM

7:30 PM Contemplative Mass

Enneagram & Marriage Workshop Sunday, Apr. 28th

Learn more about yourself, your spouse and your faith as we take a deeper dive into the enneagram. We'll explore lines of integration, disintegration and wings. Pre-reading will be offered so that our time can focus on panel, group and pair

discussions (with your spouse). Presenters: Joseph & Grace Byrd. Location: Moreland Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 1813 SE Bybee Blvd. 4:30-7:00 PM —\$10/couple. To register, email bschaller@sipdx.org.

Walk for Water – Sunday, April 28th

Join our St. Ignatius Team to walk for water at Laurelhurst Park from 1—3 PM. This is a great family-friendly event to help bring fresh water to communities around the world so that women and girls no longer need to spend their days walking for water but instead can go to school and find other employment. You can sign up to walk at <https://water1st.org/carry5/portland/>. Not able to make it? Consider a donation to our fundraising page. Just

\$85 provides a child with a toilet and water for life. Contact Beth Schaller with questions, bschaller@sipdx.org.

Join us for our annual Easter egg hunt on the parish lawn after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, April 21.

This year, on Holy Thursday, members of the High School Confirmation Class will be serving the St. Ignatius community by washing the feet of willing parishioners. Please prayerfully consider participating in the mass this Holy Thursday by receiving this blessing from our high school youth.

Earth Day in Music and Song

All people of faith are invited to an evening of music, song, candle lighting, and quiet reflection, drawing on Taizé, an ecumenical tradition from France. Friday, April 26, 7:30—9 PM at Eliot Chapel, SW 12th & Salmon. Featured artists are Michael Allen Harrison, Sky in the Road, PSU SECO Quintet, and Aurora Chorus. Donations requested for rental of space. RSVPs appreciated at Center for Earth Leadership, (503) 244-0026 or jeanne@earthleaders.org.

Pub Theology—April 25th

Calling all 20s and 30 somethings to join us at Mt. Tabor Brewing. Thursday, April 25th at 7 PM, our parish music director, Joseph Byrd will join us to lead a discussion, "Where Does God Meet you in Music?" Be prepared to test your music knowledge and offer a favorite song to dissect with the group.

Contact Gretchen Schissel, gschissel@sipdx.org, for more information.

Women in Theology—Lecture at St. Mary's Academy

Join to hear theologian, Dr. Jessica Coblentz, at SMA on Monday, April 15th at 7 PM. Register at www.stmaryspx.org/women-in-theology or for more information email coralynn.arrigotti@smapdx.org or call (503) 228-8306.

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james@dragonberryproduce.com

Co-Chair - Janice Harwood

jcharwoodster@gmail.com

A full list of staff & council

Members are located on

Our webpage at

www.sipdx.org

St. Ignatius Plant Sale for CYO

Purchase plants for the spring and summer and all of the proceeds will support the St. Ignatius Athletic Association (CYO). Orders forms must be submitted by April 22nd. You can find order forms in the vestibule or you can contact stignatiuscyo@sipdx.org. Turn order forms in at the St. Ignatius school or parish office with payment attached. **Make checks payable to St. Ignatius Athletic Association.** Please include your email and phone # on the order form. You can direct questions to listed email or call Michele McKay, (971) 400-1086.

Good Friday Walk of the Cross

Join April 19th for a half mile walk beginning at at Luther Memorial ([4800 NE 72nd Ave](#))—gather at 4:30 and begin at 5. Go through 14 "stations" that connect the pain and suffering of Jesus with the suffering endured by our sisters and brothers today. There will be a collection taken and donated to an organization doing valuable work. Some wheelchairs available for those who want to participate, but cannot walk. Contact Gabriel Triplett, gabet@stcharlespx.org.



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