



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 5, 2019

Does God Actually Love *You*?

God's love for all people is a comforting thought in a broad and general sort of way. But when you get down to specific cases, it is hard to square it with reality. For example, when Helen Keller was just nineteen months old, an illness took her hearing and sight. Did God love that little girl? And what about people born with disabilities or afflicted by illness or wounded by accidents?

Or what about the extreme cases -- monsters on the world stage like a Hitler? He masterminded the slaughter of six million Jews. Did God love Adolf Hitler? Why should he? How could he? But the tradition believes that God loves even Hitler.

And finally the really important question, what about you? You've heard it every time you come to Church -- "God loves you." Do you experience it? If so, how do you show it?

People I know who have difficulty believing that God cares about them have one of two dispositions,: the first is that some feel *insignificant*: a speck of dust in the cosmos. A blink of time and you disappear from the world stage, as Walter Scott wrote, "unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

The other disposition is that some feel *unworthy*. Some experience the shame of past misconduct. Some feel unattractive or useless or undeserving of blessings. Whatever the cause, people can hear the phrase "God loves you," and not actually believe it means them.

Today's Gospel was written by John, who five times in the narrative called himself "the disciple Jesus loved." Five times. What do you suppose he experienced in order to say that? He simply was overwhelmed that Jesus actually cared for him -- and he never got over it. He found the love of Jesus to be personal, unconditionally accepting, and reliably trustworthy. That relationship made such an impression on him that it became his identity -- "the one Jesus loved."

The gospel story focuses on Peter -- the group's natural leader, the one who most bitterly disappointed Jesus. The betrayal of Judas was one thing, the denial by Peter was quite another. Peter had bragged how he was willing to die for Jesus -- but when it came time for him to act on his beliefs, he failed miserably

Imagine how Peter felt to see Jesus again. Don't you think Peter would have wondered how Jesus would feel about him. Was that going through Peter's mind when he jumped in the water and swam toward Jesus?

Now imagine how relieved Peter is to see Jesus cooking a little breakfast. Can't you just see Peter being a little tentative as he approaches the warmth of the fire. Then Jesus says literally "Come and break your fast." It is an invitation to come and eat, not simply food for the body, but communion with Christ for the spirit.

Then Jesus takes Peter aside and asks him the direct question, "Do you love me?" Imagine what is going on in Peter: remorse that he's disappointed Jesus by his denial, yet gratitude that he gets the chance to say how he loves him.

Just as Peter denied Christ three times, he Continued next page >>>

Today's Readings:

Acts	5:27-32, 40b-41
Revelation	5:11-14
John	21:1-19

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts	13:43-52
Revelation	7:9, 14b-17
John	10:27-30

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

is given the chance to pledge his love three times. And even more important, he is given the chance to hear the forgiveness of Jesus when Jesus entrusts to Peter the task of nourishing others.

What about you? Jesus invites you to the banquet of life once again today. The Risen Jesus invites you to communion with him, and asks, "Do you love me?" Do you love me in that parent who has disappointed you? In that child who has disobeyed you? In that neighbor who drives you crazy? Do you love me -- in that business associate who has cheated you, in that spouse who has neglected you, or in that friend who has broken your heart? Jesus asks today whether you are holding others hostage to your hurt, whether you are willing to forgive as he forgives, whether you are willing to move on in your life and nourish others.

This is a great challenge. Far more difficult than saying words -- it is a challenge to act on your beliefs. It is the challenge not only to reply to the Risen Jesus with words, "Of course I love you" -- but also to reply with deeds -- "of course I will nourish others."

Today, the Risen Jesus asks you, "Do you love me?" Your answer will be revealed in how you treat others. Your response will disclose whether you experience God as actually loving you first. On this weekend when Bishop Peter Smith confirms our high schoolers, and our second graders receive their First Communion, rejoice in all the ways that God in fact loves us.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor



ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

As we tread the same path, let us extend a hand to one another to surmount the difficulties that present themselves.

-Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher,
foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the St. Ignatius students and alumnae who are deepening their faith journey by participating in the sacraments this weekend. To all First Eucharist recipients, including 12 students from St. Ignatius School, and all high school students undergoing Confirmation, including 16 St. Ignatius alumnae: we are so happy to walk with you into your new life. Blessings, always....

Tomorrow, Monday, May 6, kicks off **Teacher Appreciation Week**. In addition to our own wonderful teachers, we remember and honor those who came 110 years ago in 1908:

- the Jesuit fathers who prioritized having a Catholic school for children as part of their community and mission as they established our parish;
- the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who said yes to partnership with them for the next 107 years and who taught so well that we are still inspired by their work.

We are grateful to you and honored to be stewards of your legacy.

**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>

Blessings on your Easter-
Kelli Clark
Principal

Mass Intentions

Monday	May 6	† Dominic Tung Ngoc Truong
Tuesday	May 7	† Therese Karen Lee Cook Love
Wednesday	May 8	† Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	May 9	† Amelia
Friday	May 10	† Jim Emig

“Every flower is a soul blossoming in nature.” – Gerard De Nerval

Mom’s Group Meetup

St. Ignatius Mom’s Group celebrates its 3rd Anniversary on Mother’s Day. All moms are invited to join us from 9:15-10:15 AM on Sunday, May 12th to enjoy some treats, meet other wonderful moms in our community and hear about some of our upcoming topics for the coming year.

Become a Volunteer Financial Coach for Save First Financial Wellness at Catholic Charities

The Financial Coaching Program of Save First Financial at Catholic Charities is working to address the struggle with financial instability among adults by teaching our clients about financial literacy as well as how the basics of finance can be applied to their lives in a positive manner. We welcome volunteers of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds and do not require that volunteers have prior financial knowledge. A volunteer in our program will receive training and can expect to work with clients to identify and make plans to reach financial goals. Please consider joining our volunteer team, and experience the rewarding opportunity of helping someone improve their financial life. Contact Katie Earley: 503-688-2575 or kearley@ccoregon.org

Married Singles Lifestyle

The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped 10’s of 1000’s of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels of marital distress from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on June 21-23, 2010, call 1-503-225-9191 or visit <http://www.helpourmarriage.org/>

Parish Office

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Pastoral Council

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james@dragonberryproduce.com

Co-Chair - Janice Harwood

jcharwoodster@gmail.com

A full list of staff & council members is located on our webpage at www.sipdx.org/parish-staff



Many Thanks!

Thank you for your generous support of last week’s Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Together we’ve helped strengthen the Church at home and ensure that the Gospel spreads across the United States. If you missed the appeal, it’s not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click on the “How to Give” link on the left.

History Heroes—Tuesday, May 14th

Formerly known as Senior Day Out, History Heroes is St. Ignatius’ senior ministry that meets monthly for mass & a luncheon. Join their group for mass at 12:15 at the Loyola Jesuit Center with a meal & sharing to follow. Everyone is welcome! Please RSVP to Judi Van Cleave at 503-234-1147 prior to day of event.

Come Learn About SEEL

Would you like to know more about the *Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL)*? If so, please join the SEEL team in the Bradley Room of the Parish Center on May 13, 7 PM. If you have questions, please call Janet Buck at 503-951-8682.



Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life

Women’s Group

Women’s group will meet Friday, May 10th in the parish office dining room from 7 PM to 9 PM. All ages welcome. Contact Sharon at 971-340-7525 or Nancy at 503-659-9473 for more information.

Join us at any mass the weekend of May 18th and May 19th to contemplate God’s creation and our relationship with it. We will pray together using an Ignatian Ecological Examen.



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