



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

November 24, 2019

Christ the King of the Universe

Dear Parishioners:

The story of Jesus as King is not about a selection but a rejection. Our King is jeered, not cheered; blasphemed, not blessed; ridiculed, not rejoiced over. Our King does not take his ease on a triumphant throne, but hangs on a crude and cruel cross. He wears no royal robe, but only a tattered loincloth. His crown is not of priceless jewels but of piercing thorns, and in his hand is not a kingly scepter, but a nail that tears his flesh and bone.

Our King's court is not composed of loyal lords and ladies, but of a hostile, mocking crowd. He is the king who serves others. He is the king who dies so others can live. He is the king who is ridiculed and scorned. Most repugnant of all, he is the *powerless sovereign*. Dying on the throne of his cross, three times people taunt him because he does not save himself. "You, a savior?" they jeer. "Then save yourself." Soldiers with their sour wine goad him, "Aren't you a real king? Save yourself." Even a criminal curls his lip: "I thought you were supposed to be a Messiah. Prove it."

Consider this. As opposed to every other king, Jesus is unguarded. He disavows the protection of armies of angels. He rejects self-defense. He abjures force. This is a "king?" No, we are tempted to reply, *this is a scandal*. This is a stumbling block.

But – it we deny Christ's title as *king*, we deny the earth-shaking revolution of his realm. The *King as crucified* is also the secret key to Christ's unique story. There is no one else like him in the annals of human history. No cult or culture could dream up a reversal so preposterous. The paradox is this: *Jesus reveals the power of God by abandoning the power to save himself in order to save us.*

The mystery of the cross is difficult to accept. Even you and I who are devoted to Jesus can end up ignoring the awful truth of *Christ's* sovereignty. His kingship is a challenge to the desires of every tribe or nation that ever aspired after ascendancy. More baffling yet, the utterly innocent One completely accepts the condemnation of utter guilt. One of the criminals crucified with him saw and embraced this startling truth – and he was saved. "We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we've done. But this man has done nothing wrong."

I have to admit, the way I would have Jesus be king would lead to an abuse of power. As Pope John Paul has observed, the power of this world leads to a culture of death. It takes millions of selfish choices to create this culture of death. It will take millions of unselfish choices to create a culture of life. Pope Francis extends salvation to include care of this world and the earth.

Christ dismantles this world's use of power. Christ undoes the triangle of greed, violence, and retribution. In Christ there is no envy, jealousy, or lust for power. The innocent King, who executes no one, is himself executed. He seeks no vengeance. In all of human history, Christ the King is the only sovereign to embody such principles.

Jesus is the only king who saves us from our restless wish to dominate others. How does he save us? By being true – with absolute fidelity – to the one rule of his kingdom – love of one's neighbor lived to the very end.

Today's Readings:

2 Samuel	5:1-3
Colossians	1:12-20
Luke	23:35-43

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah	2:1-5
Romans	13:11-14
Matthew	24:37-44

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr Craig Boly, 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

Continued next page >>>

When you and I acknowledge Christ as God and King, we accept the reversal of the violence that dominates our world. Here is the poignant truth. The only way a non-violent deity can signal *his* existence to the human race is to accept *our* free choice to drive him out by violence. In the way Jesus is King, he is truly original, truly exceptional – he is the divine challenge to a world that imagines kingship to be domination of others.

What difference does it make for us to celebrate Christ as King of the Universe in 2019? It is that Jesus claims the whole human family as his own through the sign of the cross. I invite us to pledge ourselves to the Kingdom of Christ once again – by replacing the culture of violence with the culture of forgiveness. Then, you and I will hear one day the same consoling words of forgiveness as Jesus uttered from the throne of his cross, “I assure you, this day you will be with me in paradise.”

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A THANKSGIVING DAY MASS CELEBRATION
ON NOVEMBER 28TH AT 10:00 AM IN THE CHURCH**



Heating in the Church... We are installing a new boiler and radiant baseboard heat system in the church. This system will be replacing the old 1950's boiler and terminating the existing radiant floor heat system. As you all know, the original radiant floor heat system has been failing for years causing water to leak up through the floor. This new system is 70% installed but we are waiting for the baseboard units to arrive so it can be complete the work. We should have the new system up and running and heating up the church before Thanksgiving.

Advent Festival – Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019

Enjoy soup, wreath-making, and gingerbread houses as we kick off the Advent season together from **11:45-1:00 p.m.** It’s fun for the whole family! Advent wreath candles and rings will be available for purchase and greenery will be provided. If you would like to bring a soup to share or supplies for our gingerbread houses, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4DAFAA28A1FA7-2019>



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 1st and February 8th are SE neighborhood tree plantings to consider joining. <https://friendsoftrees.org/event-calendar/>

MASS INTENTIONS

✝	FOR THE WEEK		
	Monday	Nov 25	Joseph King Family
	Tuesday	Nov 26	† Hickey-Knisley
	Wednesday	Nov 27	† Roger Van Dyke
	Thursday	Nov 28	Thanksgiving
	Friday	Nov 29	† Jim Emig





IGNITE Nov. 24th from 6-7:15 PM

SCHOOL NEWS

“To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything He has given us - and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from Him. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.”

-THOMAS MERTON

The St. Ignatius School community experiences a tremendous grace in the way we care for each other, the children, our campus and our community. As we celebrate this season of Thanksgiving:

-Thank you to each of you who shape the life of a child by caring for them with kindness, love and joy. We are so grateful for each of you and your many gifts that you share with us!

-Thank you for your support at our Bourbon Street Benefit. We were grateful to gross \$80,000, including a paddle raise of \$26,000 for the playground. This brings our playground fundraising to just over \$100K! Thank you to our chairs, Kristin Romaine and Sarah Trester, development director, Rose Malouf and the many volunteers who made it possible. Blessings!

-Congratulations to Ericka Skeldon and the Turkey Bingo crew for a record breaking event in both number of participants and in benefit to the school. Thank you for the hard work, and for what is always an incredible community event! (If you are reading this on Sat., please join us across the parking lot!)

DON'T MISS: Grandparent and Special Friends morning at 10 a.m. on December 19. Hosted by the Parent Association, there will be special treats and classrooms will be open to visit your special child after the morning Christmas concert. If you are a parishioner who would like to join us, please call the school office and we will arrange a host!

Many blessings on your time with family this holiday season. Peace –

Kelli Clark

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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

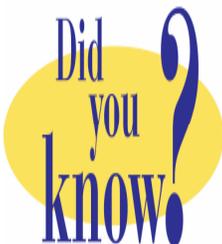


THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CD, "YULETIDE JOURNEY," WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE ADVENT FESTIVAL ON DECEMBER 1

LOOKING AHEAD:

CALL 503-777-1491 FOR DETAILS

Thanksgiving Day Mass	Nov 28	10:00AM
Advent Festival	Dec 01	11:45AM—1:00PM
Advent Penance Service	Dec 09	7:00PM
Christmas Program-School	Dec 19	10:00AM (rehearsal-open) & 7PM
CHRISTMAS EVE	Dec 24	4:00PM, 7:30PM & 10:30PM
CHRISTMAS DAY	Dec 25	10:00AM (only)
Peace Mass	Jan 1	10:00AM (Holy Day)



- On November 11th, Forty-two 3rd and 4th graders, under the direction of St. Ignatius School music teacher Joe Mackenzie, sang and recorded a new version of the Hail, Mary for this year's Christmas CD, "Yuletide Journey."
- The boiler repair on the school was completed on Tuesday afternoon in time for school on Wednesday

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