



# ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

August 18, 2019

## Set the Earth on Fire

Dear Parishioners:

As Augustine once wrote, “To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek God, the greatest adventure; to find God, the greatest human achievement.” Is this what Jesus had in mind when he says in today’s gospel, *I have come to set the world on fire?*

Picture a blazing bonfire outside St. Ignatius church. Young and old surround it. With the Paschal candle held high, everyone enters the ritual of this sacred night. The Paschal candle is lit from the blazing fire.

The assembly follows the Paschal candle carrying their own unlit candles. A voice intones “Christ our light!” All respond, “Thanks be to God.” The flame from the large candle is shared, and gradually the light spreads as the large candle moves further up the aisle. Reaching the front of the church, there is a final intonation “Christ our Light!” The church now blazes with candles lit from the one candle lit from that enormous bonfire. *I have come to set the world on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.*

Cosmologists say that at the dawn of creation was the Big Bang, an explosion of fire and creative energy. Fire is a primordial element. Without the glowing hot furnace of our sun, life on earth could not survive. The very interior of our planet is a molten mass of fiery magma that comes to the surface through volcanoes. Fire creates and cleanses as well as destroys. Yet before anything else to exist, there must first be fire.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus reflected on their interaction with the Stranger. “Were not our hearts burning within us?” Their lives caught fire as Jesus explained his mission. They were never the same again.

At your baptism, your godparents received for you a candle burning with a flame from the Paschal candle. “Receive the Light of Christ. Keep it burning brightly until the Lord comes to meet you in the life of God.”

Jesus knew the power of the divine fire burning within him. Jesus identified his mission as a great baptism of fire. This baptism would include fire’s cleansing and destructive qualities as well as fire’s creative and light-bearing power. The fire of the Spirit in Jesus burned away sin’s destructive effects – clearing the way for the human family’s new era of grace.

It’s clear that people need the light and warmth of the fire of the sun to nurture life and to cleanse from what destroys life. Yet you cannot look directly at the sun – you need a lens to protect you from the sun’s overwhelming light. Jesus is that lens for believers.

Jesus explains how the fire he is casting on the earth will have various outcomes. Not everyone will accept the fire of his message. To approach the searing sun of Gospel grace, you need the lens of Jesus. Some cannot accept what they see through Jesus, and go their own way. There will be division – the fire of the Gospel will divide members of the same household.

### Today’s Readings:

Jeremiah	38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews	12:1-4
Luke	12:49-53

### Next Sunday’s Readings:

Isaiah	66:18-21
Hebrews	12:5-7, 11-13
Luke	13:22-30

*Preaching Next Sunday:*

*Fr. Craig Boly, SJ*

*Reflection: Grace Byrd*

### 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 >>>

Consider today’s complex tensions within families and communities, and between political parties and nations. Simple courtesy and respectful dialogue seem to be the casualties of our contentious political and religious discourse. Now more than ever, Christ’s fire of forbearance and respect need to blaze in you.

Although peace and promises of peace are certainly part of Jesus’ message, today’s readings make it clear that there can be no peace without struggle, and no salvation without suffering.

Recall that Jesus is on his path to Jerusalem, to his final hour. Jesus has been teaching what discipleship involves. It requires looking straight ahead, forsaking even family obligations. It means seeing all persons, no matter how lowly, as worthy and capable of love. It involves listening and sharing hospitality. It requires trust in God’s goodness. It is demanding, requiring total devotion and the surrender of money and possessions. It means sharing resources with those in need. It means being always watchful, always ready, always “slave” to the Master. It is not easy.

In his *Celebration* commentary for this Sunday, deacon Ross Beaudoin quoted the Jesuit paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin: “Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And then, for the second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.”

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

**Volunteer Service and Welcoming Spiritual Community for Older Adults! Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps** (JV EnCorps) is now accepting applications for 2019-20! JV EnCorps, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates rewarding opportunities for service, community and spiritual formation for adults 50 and better who are committed to social and ecological justice. During the ten month program year, group participants meet monthly for fellowship, reflection and to explore the values of community, spirituality, simple living and social & ecological justice. JV Encorps is an inclusive community, welcoming all faiths and spiritual traditions. **Priority application deadline: August 31st.** Opening Retreat in September. For more information, contact Karen: [kbeal@jvcnorthwest.org](mailto:kbeal@jvcnorthwest.org) or visit: [www.jvencorps.org](http://www.jvencorps.org)

**Registration is OPEN**

Our 2019-2020 Sacramental Preparation program for **First Reconciliation and First Eucharist** starts in Sept. Children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older are eligible. Our Family of Faith Program is also accepting registrations and meets monthly starting in September. This program is for the whole family. For more information, visit our website or email [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org).

**IGNITE—Coming this Fall**



Is the Holy Spirit calling you to a deeper Catholic Faith experience? This fall we invite you to a Sunday night series: “IGNITE,” where we will explore what it means to “find God in all things” as we dive into the lives of the Saints and the mystics while reveling in the music and the history of the mass. Facilitated by Joseph and Grace Byrd, this class will meet you where you are, whether you are new to the Catholic faith or a seasoned traveler. Contact [gbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:gbyrd@sipdx.org) or [jbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:jbyrd@sipdx.org) for information.



**Save the date for the John Scott Memorial Golf Tournament Sept. 21, 2019**

**Mass Intentions**

Monday	Aug 19	Carole Schaffer
Tuesday	Aug 20	† Gil Florentino
Wednesday	Aug 21	† Benancia Serna
Thursday	Aug 22	Carole Schaffer
Friday	Aug 23	† Jim Emig



**+ Blood Drive today between 9am & 2pm in the Blood Mobile**

**Online Community** By now you should have received your postcard in the mail or email invitation! Here it is again, just in case you have not signed in yet.....our goal is to have everyone sign in as soon as possible!! **THANK YOU!**



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connected at  
St. Ignatius*

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Everyone in our church gets a unique profile. Your profile contains everything you want people in our church to know about you. Your profile also enables you to join a group, RSVP to events, track your giving, update your contact information, change family details, set notification preferences, or add a photo.

Visit the link below and begin connecting with your parish family.

[www.onrealm.org/sipdx](http://www.onrealm.org/sipdx)



The smartphone app is called "Connect - Our Church Community" and is available for free download in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

If you have any questions, contact Patty Frangipani at 503-777-1491 or email [office@sipdx.org](mailto:office@sipdx.org) and *To learn more about the parish, visit [www.sipdx.org](http://www.sipdx.org)*

**Parish Office**  
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**Pastor Fr Craig Boly, SJ**  
[cboly@sipdx.org](mailto:cboly@sipdx.org) ext. 231

**Fr. Dan Sullivan, SJ**  
[dsullivan@sipdx.org](mailto:dsullivan@sipdx.org) ext. 224

**Pastoral Council**  
**Co-Chair- James Nguyen**  
[james@dragonberryproduce.com](mailto:james@dragonberryproduce.com)

**Co-Chair - Joyce Keane**  
[joyce.sipdx@gmail.com](mailto: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)**

Come to the RCIA Open House on **September 12<sup>th</sup>**, 7-8 in the dining room of the Parish office. RCIA is not just for people who know they are ready to become Catholic. It is for anyone who is currently in the process of discerning the direction of their faith journey, or for anyone who would like to understand more fully what it means to be Catholic in a Jesuit parish. If you feel even slightly drawn to participate, then it is for you. The Open House will be a time for food and fellowship, a time to ask questions, a time to register if you would like, and a time to meet others who have decided to participate in RCIA this year. If you already know that you would like to register for RCIA, then forms are available in the vestibule or on our website. Questions? Contact Grace Byrd: [gbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:gbyrd@sipdx.org)



**Seeking Parish Sponsors** One of the blessings of our faith is witnessing those who are choosing to dive into it for the first time. The RCIA process is a time where candidates are invited into a deeper awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. Please prayerfully consider accompanying these RCIA candidates as they discern their call into the Catholic Church as a parish sponsor. Your role as a parish sponsor would be to: 1) Attend all IGNITE classes on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays from 6-7:15 PM. 2) Share your own faith experience within the class during times of reflection. 3) Possibly pair up with one particular candidate as spiritual companions. 4) Attend masses that involve the RCIA candidates, e.g. the rites, the scrutinies, and the Easter Vigil. 5) Pray for all RCIA candidates throughout the RCIA process. Please talk to Grace if you are interested in participating in this ministry. [gbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:gbyrd@sipdx.org)

**Volunteer for Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Are you interested in this vibrant ministry? Join next year's Children's Liturgy team for a rewarding way to share the gospel. The commitment is one Sunday per month during the 10:30 a.m. mass from Sept-May. contact: [eskelds@gmail.com](mailto:eskelds@gmail.com) or [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org). The Group is also located on <https://onrealm.org/sipdx/Groups/> (online community)



- ◆ Did you know...Confirmed Catholics can still be a part of RCIA/IGNITE?
- ◆ Did you know that the donut ministry at St. Ignatius involves hundreds of parishioners every single week from all walks of life and that this very ministry craves your help? Did you know that the best way to keep kids in church is to allow them to take ownership and be involved? Consider helping with donuts as a family!

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