



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 22, 2019

What To Look For At Christmas

Dear Parishioners:

As Advent draws to a close, it's possible to anticipate Mary and the birth of the baby Jesus that you can overlook what a remarkably courageous figure Joseph was. Joseph provided an amazing example of discerning what God wants.

Joseph was courageous because his initial discernment to divorce Mary quietly would have kept him from the humiliation of parenting a child that wasn't his. Then he got new information in a dream. The dream told him that God's Spirit generated the baby, and that God wanted him to welcome Mary and the baby into his home. With this new information, he updated his discernment and took the riskier path of trusting God's preference. It was a choice that required courage because skeptics would discount its plausibility, and it would put him on the road to an unknown and dangerous future.

If you had a dream to do something that an angel commanded you to do, wouldn't you be tempted to wake up thanking heaven that the message was only a dream? Yet the Christmas story would have had quite a different outcome if Joseph had done the first century equivalent of dropping back and punting -- because Mary's situation seemed pretty crazy. Joseph clearly had an abundance of trust in God and in his young wife.

What can you learn from Joseph's response to his dream? Think of the times when God was calling you to do something important. Maybe it was about a relationship, a job, or a new opportunity or a costly fidelity. Take a few moments to reflect on your life, to reflect on a time when God has called you to do something that has made all the difference.

What might a Jesuit think of Joseph's discernment? One of the tenets of Ignatian discernment is to seek "the *magis*," the Latin for "more." Does this mean that Jesuits are never to be satisfied, always straining to do "more?" Actually, the "magis" that St. Ignatius sought was not "more work" or "more effort" or "more difficulty." The "more" that Ignatius wanted was "the greater good," as in a preference to impact influential people more than regular people; to help greater numbers rather than fewer; to undertake easier and less risky work rather than harder and more dangerous missions; (2) and to seek outcomes that have a more lasting benefit rather than only a momentary blessing. These are some of the principles that can affirm the choices that God wants you to make.

God promised that a child will be born whose life shows us how "God is with us." Who would have thought that a son of God would be conceived by an unwed mother, be homeless at birth, a refugee for years, tortured and crucified as a criminal, only to return to his friends after his resurrection?

Today's Readings:

Isaiah	7:10-14
Romans	1:1-7
Matthew	1:18-24

Next Sunday's Readings:

Sirach	3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians	3:12-21
Matthew	2:13-15, 19-23

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

Continued next page >>>

Jesus, born in scandal, would continue to scandalize. He would challenge the prevailing understanding of the Jewish law, break bread with sinners, touch the untouchables, invite tax collectors to dine with him, forgive a woman caught in adultery, and make claims that sounded like blasphemy. Matthew’s mention of the situation of Mary’s pregnancy is getting the world ready for a Messiah to scandalize people like us with his overwhelming compassion.

Matthew is saying that with the coming Christmas celebration, the human family will never be bereft of God’s presence, God’s limitless compassion. In our best and worst moments, God will be with us. That’s what Jesus is all about.

Matthew wrote in troubled times – just like ours: factions, political turbulence, searing divisions, and an uncertain future. Matthew remembers Joseph as a reminder to trust that God is in the makeshift manger. God is in his promises, God is in these scandals. God is Emmanuel, among us and one of us. The baby of Bethlehem will save us from our sins.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

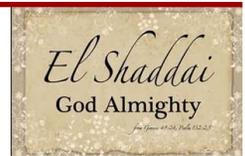
IGNITE 2020

January 12th – St. Ignatius/Proclamation of Faith
January 26th – Evagrius Ponticus/Lord’s Prayer
February 9th – St. Clare of Assisi/Agnus Dei
February 23rd – Dorothy Day/Concluding Rites



March 8th – Teresa of Avila/Corpus Christi Sequence
March 22nd – St. Maximilian Kolbe/Dies Irae Sequence
April 26th – Ignacio Ellacuria/Easter Sequence
May 10th – Thomas Merton/Pentecost Sequence

El Shaddai will have a 9-day Novena Mass at St Therese church this Dec 15-23rd 7pm. Our parishioners are free to attend.



Want to experience the gospel in a new way? Try attending **Children’s Liturgy**.

Our volunteer teachers say that seeing the gospel through the eyes of children has been transformative. We are serving large numbers of kids each week and this all-volunteer ministry is looking for 7 more adults to help us continue to serve our parish young ones. Assisting 1x/month during the 10:30 a.m. mass will enrich your life and doesn’t require any preparation. School families can enjoy fair-share hours for their service, too. Want to learn more? Contact Ericka Skeldon at eskeldon@gmail.com or Beth Schaller at bschaller@sipdx.org.



Sunday, January 5, 2020 * 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Join us for a potluck breakfast in Dillon Hall. Bring a favorite brunch dish to share (ethnic dishes, and vegan/GF options welcome!) At 9:45 a.m. an adult prayer reflection time will be offered and also a children’s epiphany story and activity in the Xavier Room next door. Questions? Contact Beth Schaller at bschaller@sipdx.org.

Christmas Festival of Lights-St Ignatius Sings on Dec. 30, 2019 at 5:15pm. Main reception: 503-254-7371
events@thegrotto.org

First Eucharist Classes begin on Sun Jan 5th, Participants will meet in the School for class while Adults & siblings attend the Epiphany Breakfast. Questions? bschaller@sipdx.org

MASS INTENTIONS

FOR THE WEEK



Monday	Dec 23	† Tristan Jimenez
Tuesday	Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Wednesday	Dec 25	Christmas day
Thursday	Dec 26	Hickey—Knisley family
Friday	Dec 27	† Jim Emig



In Thanksgiving for the Life of Ila Glenn

School News

Considering climate impact of the holidays continues to be a focus for our student leadership. **Today's tip for an Eco-friendly Christmas comes from Violet Walker, gr.8:** "Re-use colorful old newspapers or maps to wrap gifts." Thanks, Violet and the Eco-justice team!

Our community provided 117 gifts for children at the Community Transition School during our present drive this year. Thank you to all of our families for helping our kids make this important difference in the lives of other children during the holidays. Blessings.

And now the school is peaceful. The carols have been sung, the decorations done. The children are waiting with their families for the miracle of Christmas. And so it has been since the wise men, 2,000 years ago. To all the members of our parish: thank you for your care and generosity with forming the next generation of those who will follow our Christ, extending love and light into all the dark places. He is born!

We look forward to welcoming children back on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Continuing Peace and Hope in Advent – Blessings!
Kelli Clark, Principal

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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



The giving tree alcove is up in the church. We are supporting Embrace Oregon this year with welcome boxes and "tens for teens" gift cards for children in foster care. *Return gifts to the church by Jan 5, 2020.*

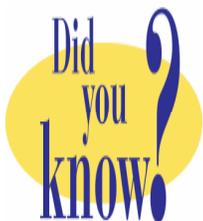
Vineyard retreats February 14-16 in Portland and March 27-29 near Medford. Financial assistance is available. For more information, call 541-942-2861 or email ProjectAurora@aol.com. www.Project-Aurora.org.
www.rachelsvineyard.org

LOOKING AHEAD:

CALL 503-777-1491 FOR DETAILS

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)
Epiphany Potluck	Jan 5	9:00AM in the Cafeteria

Annually St. Ignatius supports the **Saint Vincent De Paul food** pantry with delivery of Christmas food boxes throughout our community. This year we are planning on delivering 50 pre-packed food boxes, and are looking for volunteers to help pack the boxes, and also deliver them. We will be holding a box packing event on Saturday December 21, 2019 at 5:00pm, and a secondary packing event on **Sunday December 22, 2019 at 9:00am**. We will then deliver the boxes at 12:00pm following Mass. We are looking for volunteers that can either help pack the boxes (Saturday or Sunday), or deliver the boxes (Sunday). Signup sheets will be present in the back of the church, and at Dillon hall, and we encourage you to support, as time allows. If you have any questions please email Nathan Williams (nathanpw91@gmail.com).



- Parish Office is scheduled to be re-lamped using Energy Trust rebate
- 110 families have expressed the desire to be connected with their neighbors, even as far as Camas, WA and Damascus, OR.
- Parish School families provided Christmas packages for 117 children at Community Transition School. Blessings on your generosity!
- There were three St. Ignatius connections in the last issue of the Catholic Sentinel

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