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CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL
UNDER THE CARE OF THE JESUITS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Transfiguration: But Do You Trust God?

Dear Parishioners:

The Novena of Grace in honor of St. Frances Xavier begins this Thursday, March 4. It is the moment for God's wonderful Spirit to stir up and nourish the holy story of our lives. Sign up to attend in person at noon, or tune in online through our website at 7:00 PM and ask for what you most deeply desire.



Scripture for this second weekend of Lent remembers Abraham taking his son Isaac to offer sacrifice, and Jesus bringing his closest friends Peter, James and John to pray on a mountain. These passages are relevant for hearers today. Like the protagonists in these stories, you face the same question: *can you trust God?*

Recently I spoke with a parishioner (I'll call "Bart") – who has been experiencing a lot of anxiety because a co-worker began spreading some lies about him. Bart's anxiety was giving him insomnia, and as he lay awake, his mind kept imagining what others might think and how his reputation would be damaged. I know him to be a person of maturity and strong character, and believed his claim of innocence.

Bart and I agreed that everyone's world has two parts: the part you control with your virtuous choices; and the part that comes at you from other people's choices. And he agreed that there wasn't a whole lot he could do if another chose to be hurtful. But that recognition didn't help his insomnia, or stop his mind from revving about the unfairness and futility of his situation.

SUNDAY 10:30 AM Mass: *Mid-Morning Service* – Sign up online at sipdx.org (button on opening page,) or call leaving Name, Number in group, phone, & date. You will get a confirmation number before attending Mass. (Thank you!)

TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 12:00 PM weekday Mass in the church, *no sign up needed*

SATURDAY: Recorded Mass available online, the link is on our website: sipdx.org

RECONCILIATION, by appointment 503-777-1491

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Bart asked me if I thought he was too thin-skinned. I didn't think so, since part of his maturity is his empathy when others are suffering. Furthermore, reputation is important. A person's reputation is precious because it signals to others such values as trustworthiness and respectability. No, I didn't think he lacked freedom when it came to what others think. But I did have another question: *do you think that your authenticity will protect you from evil,* from what Shakespeare called "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (Hamlet, III,i)?

After Bart thought about it, he realized that he had an implicit agreement with God: *if I am good, you God will keep me safe.* Of course, life doesn't work that way. People have written books about when bad things happen to good people. And this leads me to today's scripture,

Continued on next page

PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Continued from front page: and a spiritual question for Bart and everyone else beginning Lent: *do you believe that everything comes from the hand of God?*

It's easy to trust that good things come from God . . . say an answer to your prayer for return to health, or renewal of a broken relationship. But what about the hurtful choices that others make that impact a reputation – as in Bart's case. Does that come from God? This is a fundamental question of the spiritual life: is God present in everything, working even in the wicked choices that hurt you? Does God respect human freedom so much as not to interfere to protect innocent people from damaging choices?

How you answer this question can make the difference between insomnia and a good night's sleep. Why?

Because the person of faith trusts that God in fact is present in *every* moment of life – not just in the happy times. As Fr. Arrupe used to say, "Not a leaf falls from a tree without the permission of God" (Mt. 10:29).

And God is not simply present in every moment, but laboring to bring renewal out of brokenness, restoration out of loss, and finally, life out of death. Bart's question is not why he's enduring slander, why he feels so threatened by attacks on his reputation, or even why it's happening to him at all. His question is, *how do I discover God present in this brutality – acting as companion, teacher, and guide?*

In other words, don't spend lots of energy to analyze evil's cause. Instead, see the damaging situation or disappointment or loss as a new chance to trust God anew – as Abraham did, as Jesus did when he came down from the mountain. This does not mean passive acceptance – rather, it means resisting evil with God's help.

What about us? Isn't it true that if you believe that God is good and will keep his promises, life's tests are not as cruel or arbitrary as first appear? The story of Abraham concerns more than Isaac's death. It is about the death of us all – and our willingness to embrace the death in every now.

The question of today's scripture is this: In the light of our mortality, is God good? And will God keep his promises? Abraham is our father in faith because he embodies the final expression of faith that all of us must make. We all face mortality's ultimate sacrifice. We all stand before the terrible relinquishment of everything we hold most dear.

And amazingly, God himself has done the same thing – accompanied Jesus in his self-surrender. "This is my beloved Son," he says of Jesus. God's only begotten child, one of our own kin, has gone through our passages – even the passage of death. And come out alive on the other side of life in God.

Bart saw his spiritual challenge as turning to God especially in evil times. God's Spirit is in fact with you – the project is to pray to discover *how* and *where*. As Lent continues, our prayer is to experience a deeper trust in God.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor

ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL

2021 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Thank you to those who responded. If you have not yet completed your card, please prayerfully make your pledge and mail it **directly to the Pastoral Center** in the enclosed envelope. We would like your participation in showing our support of Archbishop Sample and the Catholic Church in western Oregon. You can watch the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/494074125/52d80b2ff8>

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the 2021 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Every gift means so much!

If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment card located in the church or office and mail it directly to the Pastoral Center in the enclosed envelope **or go directly to** <https://advance.archdpx.org/aboutaca> to give online in the coming days. We would like 100% participation in showing our support of Archbishop Sample and our Catholic Church in western Oregon.

MASS READINGS

Mass Readings for Feb 28, 2021
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

Mass Readings for Mar 7, 2021
Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

NOVENA OF GRACE MARCH 4-12, 2021

Beauty and Brokenness: Blessed by a Novena of Grace March 4-12

Join us for the Novena of Grace during this most unusual year. Billy Biegler, SJ will pre-
side and present, with additional reflections
throughout the nine days from Joseph and
Grace Byrd, Jeanette Grimaldi, Dan Beseau,
Kevin Jeans Gail and Sue Brent, Beth Schaller,
Jim Peck, and Fernando Serna.

In-person Masses every day at Noon, except
Sunday, March 7 at 10:30am
Video recording will be available at 7:00pm
each evening for virtual attendees via the St.
Ignatius YouTube channel, and through
www.novenaofgrace.com



Sign up to attend: **(Use the Mass sign up button at sidx.org on the opening page or call the office 503-777-1491)**

Due to the pandemic, we won't have a blessing ritual with crosses at the conclusion of Mass. Rather, an alternative blessing prayer will be given by Fr. Billy as he sends us forth each day.

ST IGNATIUS SUNDAY MASS SIGN UP

Limited Attendance at Mass Beginning Feb 21st: We are very excited to offer in-person Mass to St. Ignatius parishioners! We are working with guidance from the Archdiocese and honoring the recommendations of health officials. The pandemic situation continues to change, so it's possible the system we are developing may also change in the coming weeks. Thank you so much for your patience and cooperation during this time.

- Please wear a mask, this is required for entry.
- Don't attend Mass if you're sick or believe you've been exposed to COVID-19.
- Families from the same household may sit together as a group.
- Please maintain social distancing and keep your group at least 6 feet from others while at Mass.
- The faithful are still dispensed from their Holy Day obligation, so attendance is not required.

(Sign up must be received the Thursday before the Mass date by NOON. Thank you!)

- 1) **Sign up button may be found on our website, there is a link on the opening page at the TOP. >>**

You will be asked to fill in your:

Name, Number of family to attend, email and phone.

And choose a Sunday Mass date (10:30 AM)

OR

- 2) **You may call 503-777-1491 x 221 and leave a message with your**

Name, Number of family, and phone.

And choose a Sunday Mass date (10:30 AM)



**WEEKDAY MASS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY & THURSDAY AT 12:00 PM,
no sign up required.**

JOB OPENING

Administrative Assistant needed:

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Portland is accepting applications for Parish Administrative Assistant. This position is for 32 hours a week with benefits. Please send applications and resume to Fr. Chrispine at frchrispine@olspdx.org before 3/20/2021. Please check the website of the Archdiocese of Portland for complete job description and more details (www.archdpdx.org/jobs).

The fourth grade joined us on campus this week. It is amazing how much the kids have grown. Remember, we haven't seen most of our students in person since March 13, 2020! The building feels more alive each week. Next week we will add 5th graders!

We celebrated the 100th day of school this past week. The 100th day is a big deal to our younger students. Someone asked me why the kindergarten, first, and second grades make such a celebration of this day. The number 100 is something abstract that in the younger grades is made concrete. The class makes crowns or posters with 100 stickers, crafts, and complete math activities all centering around the number 100. It's always a fun day!

We are beginning to screen our incoming students for next year. We have dozens of students we will spend some time getting to know, and we hope they will join us next fall. Please continue to spread the word about our school. While we cannot do in-person tours right now, we are still scheduling Zoom meetings where questions can be answered and prospective families can get a sense of what our school is about and all we have to offer.



Kathleen Downing
St. Ignatius Parish School
Second Grade Teacher/Vice Principal
kdowning@sipdx.org
503-774-5533

SCHOOL



LENT PRETZEL

The pretzel is a very ancient bakery item, which traditionally was eaten only during Lent. It appeared each year on Ash Wednesday and disappeared on Good Friday. It goes back at least to the fifth century: there is a Roman manuscript in the Vatican Library dating from that period which shows a Lenten pretzel. As to the shape: It is made in the form of two arms crossed in prayer. The word *bracellae*, "little arms," became in German *Bretzel*, then *Pretzel*. These early Christians ate no dairy products in Lent, so the pretzel was made only of flour, salt and water: It was as simple as it could be.



1 tablespoon honey or sugar
1-1/2 cups lukewarm water (100-110 F)
1 envelope active dry yeast
1 teaspoon salt
4 cups flour
1 egg, beaten
Coarse or kosher salt

Add the honey to the water; sprinkle in the yeast and stir until dissolved. Add 1 teaspoon salt. Blend in the flour and knead the dough until smooth.

Cut the dough into pieces. Roll them into ropes and twist into pretzel shapes. You can make small pretzels with thin ropes, or large ones with fat ropes, but remember that to cook at the same rate, your pretzels need to be all the same size.

Place the pretzels on lightly greased cookie sheets. Brush them with beaten egg. Sprinkle with coarse salt.

Bake at 425 F for 12 to 15 minutes, until the pretzels are golden brown.
(Excerpt from A Lent Sourcebook, LTP)

PARISH STAFF

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Our parish has an email based prayer chain you can submit prayers or sign up to pray for other's intentions, just email to prayerchain@sipdx.org

In the subject line please include either:

Asking for prayers

OR

Add me to the Email list to pray

FAMILY LIFE

Black History Month: Black Saints and Martyrs

Lent is a great time to expand our knowledge of our rich and diverse spiritual heritage. Check out this great introduction to several of our Black brethren in the communion of saints: [Black Catholic Saints and Martyrs \(catholicmom.com\)](http://catholicmom.com)

Children's Liturgy – Sunday, Feb. 28th at 10:30 a.m.

*Special request - If you can change the name of the Zoom screen to your child/children's names, it helps our leaders! Our Children's Liturgy program is being offered this year by Nathan Williams, Michele Becker and Angela & Nick Kockler each Sunday from 10:30-11:00 a.m. It's recommended for ages 5-10, but all are welcome.

Mom's Groups Zoom Schedule – Sundays during Lent from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

The Mom's group meets weekly during Lent from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Sundays via Zoom. We welcome anyone for a one time visit or a regular presence. If you want to receive our regular Zoom links and updates, email Beth at bschaller@sipdx.org. Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28 - during LENT we will use LTP's "Give us this Day" booklet to pray the morning liturgy of the hours

Sacramental Preparation for First Communion – LAST YEAR & THIS YEAR

This week home-study students will cover Chapter 6. Please read the chapter and use the activities as needed. Students from last year are welcome to use our home-study schedule to review the material at home, too.

Here is our upcoming schedule:

- Feb 28 – Session 7 home-study
- Mar 7 – Prep for First Reconciliation (home-study group only)
- Mar 13 – First Reconciliation Celebration – 10am at St. Ignatius Church (home study group only)
- Mar 21 – banners and cards for prayer partners are due at the Church (2020 & 2021 classes)
- Apr 10 – "Breaking Bread" shared ritual (2020 & 2021 classes)

First Communion celebrations – April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16

IMPORTANT: Be sure that you have signed up your child for a First Communion mass in April or May. May 16th is already filled. We want to make sure that all our families are signed up before the masses are filled with other guests. You can use this link if you have not yet signed up: <https://www.sipdx.org/mass-sign-up> Masses will be removed from the sign-up when they become filled. If you are having trouble signing up or have other questions or concerns preventing you at this time, please let me know.

IGNITE

Go Forth and Set the World on Fire ~ Mar 14th

This year in IGNITE we will explore prayer in the Catholic Tradition through music and the lives of Saints and Mystics. The invitation is simple:

COME -with an open heart to see what it is all about

CONTEMPLATE -the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own life and experience.

CONNECT - to the Mass, the saints, the people of St. Ignatius, and your heart.

DATES: Mar 14, Mar 28, Apr 11, Apr 25

Come to one class, come to all - as you desire All classes will take place from 6 - 7:15PM on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 882 2844 4763 * Passcode: 1491

DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep in your prayers

Monday	Mar 01	Bona Venture Oh & family
Tuesday	Mar 02	Claire Marie Dripps
Wednesday	Mar 03	† Jim Emig
Thursday	Mar 04	Novena of Grace
Friday	Mar 05	Novena of Grace





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