

St. Ignatius Catholic Church

3400 S.E. 43rd Avenue, Portland Oregon 97206

Dear Students and Parents,

Fall 2016

We look forward to journeying together in faith this upcoming year as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation! This packet is meant to provide important information about the various aspects of the program before we begin official preparation at the Confirmation Welcome for students and parents on Sunday, October 23rd from 12-1:30 PM at the Loyola Jesuit Center (3220 SE 43rd Ave, Portland).

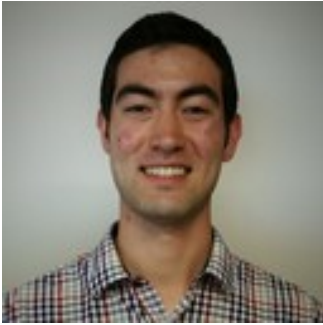
Confirmation Candidates:

We're excited to get to know you and explore how your faith will continue to grow throughout your life! Years ago you participated in the first two sacraments of initiation: Baptism and First Eucharist. Your Confirmation this spring will be the final sacrament of initiation, celebrating that you are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and empowered to live your faith in service to God, your neighbors, and all of creation. Please take a moment to read about three important aspects of preparing for St. Ignatius' Confirmation Program:

- 1) Confirmation Bio:** In order to welcome students from a variety of high schools, we're inviting you to submit a brief "Confirmation Bio" by **October 16th**. Each Confirmation Candidate will bring something different to the preparation process, and we want to give you the opportunity to share your interests as we begin to get to know one another. Take time in the coming weeks to write 3-4 sentences that will serve as an introduction to your fellow Confirmation Candidates. You might consider sharing:

- Where did you grow up?
- Where are you going to high school and what grade will you be in this year?
- What subjects, extracurricular activities, or music do you enjoy?
- Is there an aspect of your faith that's important to you or that you're curious to learn more about during Confirmation?

You'll see bios from some of this year's Confirmation leaders on the next page – feel free to share something similar or use your own creativity! Email your brief bio and with a photo of yourself that you would like to share with the Confirmation group to jingman@sidpx.org by **Sunday, October 16th**.



My name is **Tyler Wagner** and I serve as the St. Ignatius Fellow focusing on ecojustice initiatives and youth ministry at St. Ignatius Church. I spent most of my childhood in Eugene, Oregon, playing sports, reading everything I could get my hands on and spending time in the beautiful Oregon outdoors with my family, especially hiking (which I did reluctantly) and skiing (which I did enthusiastically). I chose St. Paul Miki as my Confirmation saint when I was confirmed all the way back in 2008. I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2015 with a degree in Environmental Sciences and spent this past year as a Jesuit Volunteer here in Portland working on food justice and food access in the Portland Metro area.



My name is **Ange Toku** and I'm a senior at La Salle Prep. I was born in Togo, a small country in West Africa, but I have lived here in Portland for over 10 years so this has really been where I've grown up. I've always loved sports, both playing them and watching them, and while I play basketball and do track & field at La Salle, I've also swam and played soccer in the past. If I'm not practicing or working out, and sometimes even while I'm doing that, you will probably find me listening to music from Kanye, Beyonce, and J. Cole among a bunch of other artists. I look forward to seeing your transformation as you go through this process and more importantly, how you come to understand how and why your faith fits into your life.



My name is **Jess Ingman** and I serve as a Pastoral Associate at St. Ignatius parish, coordinating our faith formation ministries and supporting our ecological justice efforts. I grew up in Billings, Montana, and I'm the oldest child with four younger brothers. I spent most of my high school years trying to keep up with homework, enjoying sports (soccer, volleyball, tennis), and playing violin. When I was confirmed in 2001, I chose St. John the Apostle and my favorite part of our preparation was engaging in direct service. Between college and graduate school at Notre Dame, I participated in a year of service in Chicago with Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. These days I enjoy raising chickens with my husband Mark, biking, and drinking good coffee.

- 2) Confirmation Sessions and Events:** This year we will spend time exploring our Catholic faith and learning about how we can put it into practice. We will gather on **designated Sundays from 9 – 10:15 AM** in the Xavier Room of Dillon Hall and then attend the 10:30 AM Mass as a Confirmation group. Please see the attached St. Ignatius Confirmation Schedule to review session dates and other important events. As you consider your other commitments in the upcoming year, please plan on only one session absence due to extracurricular activities. We are excited to have an overnight **Confirmation Retreat February 11-12th** as well as a Confirmation group service project with **Rebuilding Together Portland on April 29th**. You'll notice that some aspects of our preparation

(Leading the Community in Prayer and Serving with the St. Ignatius Community) have two options so that you can choose the best date for your schedule.

3) Confirmation Sponsor: An important part of preparation involves the support of a Confirmation Sponsor, and we encourage you to begin talking with your family now about who you are thinking of asking to serve in this role. Take time to reflect on the adults in your life who you see as a role model in how they live their faith. You might consider your godparent, an aunt or uncle, a friend's parent, a coach, a mentor, a teacher, or a parishioner at St. Ignatius. As you think of potential sponsors, we invite you to reflect on these questions:

- Is this person willing to support me during Confirmation preparation and in my lifetime journey of faith?
- Is this person a Confirmed Catholic and active in their parish community?
- Do I feel comfortable sharing questions I have about my life and faith with this person?

All Candidates are asked to identify and invite their Confirmation Sponsor by Christmas 2016 so that they can make time to connect with them at least twice before being Confirmed in May. Contact Jess Ingman if you have difficulty in choosing a sponsor – there are many adults at St. Ignatius parish that would be honored to serve in this role.

A Note for Parents:

This year of preparation for the youth invites all of us – family members, catechists, Confirmation sponsors, parish staff, and the St. Ignatius Parish community – to deepen our appreciation of how the sacraments help us live our faith. We invite you to make this period of sacramental formation a time for your whole family to become more aware of God's presence in your lives.

The Confirmation Candidates will be learning about the **Ignatian Examen** this year as we explore different forms of Catholic prayer. The Examen helps us review our day in the presence of God, and we invite parents to learn about St. Ignatius' prayer practice as well. Loyola Press has recently released a wonderful prayer book and app called *Reimagining the Examen* by Mark Thibodeaux, SJ. The simple and free app offers flexible and adaptable versions of the Examen that you can try. The app is available on iTunes or Google Play, and the parish also has hard copies of the book available as well. Learn more at <http://reimaginingexamen.ignatianspirituality.com/>

We are also very grateful to have Beth Schaller now serving as our Family Life Coordinator, and we invite you to consider joining us for **Family Faith Nights this fall**. They will be held on the Sunday evenings of September 25, October 23, and November 6 from 4:30-7:00 PM in Dillon Hall. We gather for a combination of fun and social time, a shared meal, and faith formation. Contact Beth with further questions at bschaller@sipdx.org or by phone at 503.777.1491, Ext 236.

The Confirmation registration deadline is Sunday, October 16, and we encourage families to register as early as possible. We ask families to contribute a \$100 Registration Fee per student to help cover the cost of books, materials, and the overnight retreat. Please let us know if the fees are a financial hardship for your family or if you would like to pay over the course of the coming year.

Complete Confirmation Registration Material Checklist – Due Sunday, October 16, 2016:

- Confirmation Registration Form
- Emergency Information Form
- Photo Release Form
- \$100 Registration Fee
- Confirmation Bio (emailed to jingman@sipdx.org)

We look forward to gathering with you soon for the **Confirmation Welcome with Lunch and Orientation for Students and Parents on Sunday, October 23rd from 12-1:30 PM at the Loyola Jesuit Center (3220 SE 43rd Ave, Portland)**. If you have additional questions about the Confirmation program, please contact Jess Ingman at jingman@sipdx.org or 503-777-1491, extension 238.

Sincerely,

Jess Ingman, Tyler Wagner, Ange Toku and the St. Ignatius Confirmation Team