



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

May 6, 2018

The Friendship of Jesus

Dear Parishioners:

Have you ever had a best friend? It is one of life's great gifts. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of having chosen and befriended all who have remained with him. When Jesus offers us his friendship, it is part of a chain of love that begins with his Father. God the Father pours out the self-gift that is Jesus, who offers friendship to all.

Jesus teaches us to keep the chain of love unbroken. He tells us to pay the love forward to others, and to befriend them in the way he has befriended us. He speaks of this as a "commandment." Such a commandment seems odd. How can you be commanded to "love" another person? Isn't love supposed to be a free choice?

In biblical parlance, "love" is not about the feelings you have for another. Rather, love designates deeds of caring kindness that communicate that others are part of the chosen community of the friends of God. We are commanded to act this way toward others, no matter how we might feel about them, whether or not they reciprocate the love offered.

Jesus showed the kind of love he commanded when he washed his disciples' feet. He did not skip Peter and Judas. He explains this service as the greatest kind of love: the willingness to lay down one's life for one's friends. This is not an obligatory service, such as a slave is required to render. The love of friendship is freely chosen self-surrender.

The most challenging part of this kind of love is that friends of Jesus are asked to embrace not only beloved community members, but especially those to whom they are not naturally drawn. When this seems a humanly impossible task, Jesus assures his disciples that when they ask God in his name, God will provide the needed grace.

The farewell discourse in the Gospel of John reveals the identity of Jesus. The first images about him are those of the vine, the living water and the bread of life. In today's passage, Jesus is presented as one with the authority to initiate new commandments.

Jesus replaces Moses, giving a new "law," a new commandment. The giving of commandments is a divine prerogative. In the Exodus story, Moses first "received," and only later "gave" the law. But Jesus initiates, of his own authority, a new command: "Love one another, as I have loved you."

The originality of this commandment is less in the values expressed, after all, the injunction to love others is found in the Hebrew scriptures. Its newness is in Jesus' assuming God's role as the originator of commandments.

The love referred to is agape (self-surrender), one of several Greek terms for love. It refers specifically to the kind of love characteristic of the believing community, not the love that desires union with the beloved (eros or erotic love), or the love of siblings (adelphos or brotherly love). This love is the Spirit. This love is the air Christians breathe. It is the human experience of God's life manifested in community. It is one of the features that marks the continuing real presence of the Risen One.

Today's epistle from John interprets the gospel. It describes the very essence of God as love. This love was revealed in Christ's death for sinners. Christian love flows from sharing God's very own life of love through communion with the Risen Christ.

Today's Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11b-19

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr. Boly

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
Communion Service: Saturday 8:00AM
Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30-4:30PM
or by appointment with a priest

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The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles focuses on the Spirit, who animates divine love. The Roman soldier Cornelius represents the Gentiles who enter Christianity through Peter’s initiative. Peter stands for foundational Christianity and affirms that God has no partiality. Divine love knows no skin color, gender, or religion. It is not stopped by national boundaries. Its desire is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, teach the illiterate, and empower the destitute.

The household of Cornelius receives the Spirit in a “little Pentecost,” with people praising God in tongues. This prayer most likely was not an intelligible language, but a rhythmic and lilting flow of syllables that externalizes deep inner awareness of the Spirit’s presence.

Peter recognizes that in every nation, whoever fears God and acts uprightly is acceptable to God. The “fear” about which Peter speaks is not cringing before God, who has the power to destroy you. Rather, it is to become enthralled with awe before the Holy One whose immense love is beyond comprehension. Such feeling of awe inspires the response of acting “uprightly”, that is, in right relation toward the Creator and all creation.

Next weekend the church will celebrate the Lord’s Ascension. It is also Mother’s Day so Emily Gumper will offer a mom’s reflection at all of the Masses. My classmate Fr. John Mossi S.J. from the new Jesuits West Province will also be on hand to represent the province’s advancement office and our appreciation for our mothers.

This is the season of the outpouring of divine blessings. Our newly baptized community members gave the gift of their horticultural service to refurbish the garden at the front of the church plaza on 43rd and SE Powell. Last weekend our second graders received their First Communion. This first weekend of May is a reminder that the whole month belongs to our Mother Mary and praying the rosary. As Pope Francis says in his latest letter, “Rejoice and Be Glad,” we are all called to be saints. Let us live in the joy of our call to sanctity.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.

A Note from the Principal

Becoming Global Citizens: Last week we asked our students how they would like to learn alongside kids in other countries, like Wales, Sweden or Croatia. There was an enthusiastic “yes!” and that is just what 3rd and 8th grade students will do next year. St. Ignatius School has been awarded a three year grant to participate in the Global Partnership Program for international collaboration through the JDO Foundation. This is an incredible opportunity for students and teachers to use technology in real time to learn and work with partners across the world. Congratulations to Mrs. Jost, Mrs. Wimer and Mrs. McDermott for their vision to bring incredible depth to our kids and ensure they are good global citizens. Check out the great video at <https://www.jdofoundation.org/>

With Heavy Hearts: We will say good-bye at the end of the year to our 5th grade teacher, Sadie Villanova, who is moving back to Seattle with family over the summer. Mrs. Villanova has been a joyful, engaged presence in our community this year and she will be missed. Please hold our search process in prayer and use your networks to get the word out so the next right person will join our remarkable community in the mission of St. Ignatius School.

Kelli Clark
Principal

**A warm
welcome to
all our guests.**

**We are so happy you are here
to celebrate with us!**

New to St. Ignatius Parish?
Register by dropping a
“Welcome” card in the offering
basket with your information, or
visit us online at
<http://www.sipdx.org/registration>

Thank you for your Support

Thank you for your generous support of last week’s Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Your contributions will help strengthen the Church at home and ensure that the Gospel is spread across the United States. If you missed the appeal, it’s not too late to give! Just visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click on the “How to Give” link on the left.

Mass Intentions

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| Monday | May 7 | Jim Emig |
| Tuesday | May 8 † | Nile Ned Gobel |
| Wednesday | May 9 † | Salvatore Nipitella |
| Thursday | May 10 | Our Blessed Mother |
| Friday | May 11† | Carmel Conway |

Welcome Fr. John Mossi, S.J.!

Next week on Mother's Day, Fr. Mossi will be visiting St. Ignatius. Fr. John Mossi, SJ, serves as Director of Benefactor Relations of the Jesuits West Province. Born and raised in San Francisco, he entered the Jesuits in 1962 and was ordained in 1973. He initially ministered at Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Santa Barbara, then facilitated retreats for seven years at the Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos. After earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from CUA, he taught classes in Pastoral Counseling, Catholicism and Christian Spirituality at Gonzaga University in Spokane from 1991 to 2008. Frs. John and Craig are classmates. This is Fr. John's first visit to St. Ignatius Parish., so please warmly welcome him. In 2019, Fr. John will lead an April in Paris Pilgrimage. If you like French art, culture and cuisine, please consider joining this memorable tour.



Parish Office
503-777-1491
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Pastor Fr Craig Boly, SJ
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Pastoral Council

Co-Chair- Joyce Keane
keanejm@earthlink.net

Co-Chair—Kevin Jeans-Gail

**A full list of staff & council
Members are located on
Our webpage at
www.sipdx.org**

Women's Club Meeting: May 11th

The Women's Club meeting will be May 11th at 7PM in the parish center dining room. Please BYO drinks, a munchie to share, and something for St. Vincent de Paul if you wish to do so. We always have fun, so please come join us! We are open to all ladies, parish or school! Questions: Sharon 971-340-7525.

Spring Service Opportunities at St. Ignatius

Connect with other parishioners and your neighborhood communities by participating in our spring service opportunities. On Saturday, May 19th we will be working with Depave at Mt. Hood Community College. On Saturday, June 2nd we will participate in a work party to remove invasive species at Tideman Johnson Natural Area. More information and sign up sheets can be found in the vestibule or email Tyler Wagner at twager@sipdx.org

Senior's Day Out: May 15th

The last meeting of Senior Day out until September will be on May 15th. We will be having a Salad Pot Luck with a main dish furnished. Mass at 12:15. Please bring a nice size, favorite salad to share. Enjoy our Fun, Friendship & Fellowship. Beth Schaller with share what ", Embrace Oregon" boxes program is and how we can support these children. Please RSVP: Judi Van Cleave; 503-234-1147 or judi_vc@yahoo.com

Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL) Information Night

Do you desire to deepen your prayer life and grow in your relationship with God? Are you considering making the Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL)? Join the SEEL team leaders for an Information Night on Monday, May 14, at 7 PM at the Loyola Jesuit Center. It is an opportunity to discern if the retreat is right for you and the leaders will answer your questions about making the retreat. For more information, Please visit our website: seelportland.org or call Janet Buck at 503-951- 8682. Applications are now being accepted for 2018-19.

St. Ignatius' International Celebration: Sunday, May 20th

On Sunday, May 20th, St. Ignatius will commemorate the return of our International Celebration! Join us for a global Mass for Pentecost at 10:30 AM with petitions read in different languages, followed by our celebration potluck in Dillon Hall. There will be food, games and activities, and entertainment for the whole family! Plan ahead to prepare a favorite dish and if you have traditional attire, it's time to show it off!! We are also looking for individuals or groups who have talents that showcase their cultural heritage. All singers, dancers, poets, or performers are encouraged to share their talents and traditions with the St. Ignatius community. If you have questions, please contact Caroline Earnest at cearnest@sipdx.org. Join us as we celebrate the richness of our Parish Community.

Tibbetts House Training: Sunday, June 10th

Catholic Charities will be hosting a volunteer training on Sunday, June 10th after the 10:30 mass here at St. Ignatius. They will discuss the resettlement process and the different roles volunteers can participate in. Volunteers interested in participating with the ministry of the Tibbetts House are required to attend training by Catholic Charities and complete their background check. For more information, email Caroline Earnest at cearnest@sipdx.org

Bike More Challenge

St. Ignatius invites you to join the "Bike More Challenge" lasting throughout the month of May as we strive for everyone to do a little more biking for work and play, to be healthy, and to reduce your carbon footprint! Go to our parish website, click on the link for the "Bike More Challenge" and register with the "St Ignatius Church" team.

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