



ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

February 4, 2018

Job and Suffering

Dear Parishioners:

Today's passage from Job was the first reading at my Dad's funeral. He was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor in 1968, and died two years later in May 1970. He was only 57 years old. There were plenty of times during those two years that he felt overwhelmed, but he struggled valiantly always with hopes of a cure. Dad would frequently list his plans for when he would be well again. I would drive each weekend from Seattle Prep, where I was teaching as a regent, to visit him in Portland. The last time I talked with him, he squeezed my hand and could only whisper, "I'll see you next weekend." He died that night.

Today's readings reflect on suffering. The burdens of family calamity and illness crushed Job. Paul describes the heartache his ministry cost him. The gospel shows Jesus healing Peter's mother-in-law and all the townspeople who came to his house at the end of the Sabbath to be cured. Jesus is compassionate with those who suffer.

Jesus returns sick people to health but offers no explanation for why people suffer. And every single person Jesus cured from illness eventually died. So it seems today's state of the question is how to be present in life even when you are suffering. If Jesus does not save us from dying, what does it mean to look to him when we suffer?

Job reflects that everyone is apportioned a certain kind of life and length of time to live. In the last verse, he addresses God. He reminds God that his life is as delicate as a breath. Job hints that God can prevent this suffering; he is asking for God's help. Does God's help mean elimination of suffering, or somehow to help us find meaning even in suffering?

Mark shows the compassion of Jesus in the miracle stories. First, Jesus heals the mother of Peter's wife. The gesture of Christ "lifting her up" symbolizes the healing from unbelief that comes even now from anticipating life with the Risen Christ. Her act of serving her family after being cured is the pattern of Christian ministry. The gift of restored health is not an end in itself, but is a gift to be given back to God in service of others.

Jesus of Nazareth no longer physically walks among us healing and teaching. But when people bring their sorrows and suffering to God in prayer, and to the healing ministry of the church in confession and the anointing of the sick, they still find Christ's compassion. Some people find the miracle of a return to full physical health. Others continue to suffer their cancer or paralysis or mental illness, but with a difference. Instead of their illness robbing them of hope, their very diminishment brings them to the joy that comes from finding a fuller companionship with the Risen Lord.

The Risen Jesus sometimes cures, yet always heals from the unbelief that doubts God's goodness and from the discouragement that drives sufferers to the isolation of self-absorption. My Dad prayed early and often for the miracle of a complete cure. He underwent all the experimental medical procedures that might bring about the miracle. He never gave up wanting full health, yet he also trusted the promises for fullness of life at the end of life's journey. Even when his last days brought painful discomfort, he radiated peace. How can you be a Fighter and a Truster-in-Providence at the same time? By the offer of close companionship that Jesus gives to those who suffer most. The two dispositions are not incompatible. In my view, working to regain health and trusting in what God gives are two sides of the same coin.

The main blessing of the Christian faith is that someone went before us. The heart of Jesus was broken by people he cured who then got sick again, or by people he forgave who then sinned again. When enemies scorned him and friends abandoned him, they broke his heart. But those sufferings paled when compared to his heartbreak as he was dying.

On the cross, Jesus turned to God and said, "What happened to my life? How is it ending so differently than I expected? Why did I not establish your kingdom? My heart is broken, except for you, O God." But God did not say anything. Continued next page >>>

Today's Readings:

Job	7:1-7, 6-7
1 Corinthians	9:16-19, 22-23
Mark	1:29-39

Next Sunday's Readings:

Leviticus	13:1-2, 44-46
1 Corinthians	10:31-11:1
Mark	1:40-45

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr. Couture

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 in 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

So Jesus said: "O God, why have you abandoned me? But if you will not fix my situation, if you will not justify my life, then Father, into your hands I commend my broken heart."

You and I die the same way. For some, death comes as a consolation for lives too broken to mend. For others, the suffering of a broken heart seems only to find a respite in death. We can cry, "Why me?" or we can turn to God, as Jesus did in his own prayer. After discussing our problems with God, maybe crying or shouting in anger, our strength to deal with them one at a time will grow.

I have been urging several parishioners to pray for a miracle to the Jesuit Fr. Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991) so he can be canonized. If you receive a miracle, let me know so we can go to Rome and have Pope Francis recognize the sanctity of the 28th Superior General of the Society of Jesus. Remember, a miracle of return to health does not depend on what you deserve or earn or bargain for from our compassionate God. Miracles are reminders of the deepest meaning: "that long or short life, sickness or health are the horizons in which to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord in this life, and to be happy with God in the next life" (St. Ignatius of Loyola).

Things may get better or they may not. But whatever happens, the Risen Jesus accompanies us with compassion. And the Risen Christ awaits the fulfillment of our deepest hope: the promise of joyful communion in the life of God.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.

Welcome Matt Wangler, our new Encore Fellow!

2018 promises to be a year of thoughtful discernment. The Parish staff welcomed a Social Venture Partner "Encore Fellow" on February 1st. Encore Fellows are retired executives and managers in business and industry who offer nonprofits and faith-based organizations a year of part-time consulting services. Matt Wangler, who retired from Intel, will be joining the staff as a business and finance consultant and project manager. He will be assessing our parish's business and financial model and recommending best practices for the administration of the parish. He will be the project manager of a number of tasks, including support for a capital campaign capacity study, pastoral council board development, and development of the parish and school finance councils. Matt is Catholic and is Jesuit educated, making him a wonderful match for our parish. The pastoral council and pastoral staff pray that Matt's work will help ground our parish's mission and vision in a financially stable structure. Our plan is to build on our identity as a Jesuit parish, so that financial stability and security will open the door to re-imagining our parish, both church and school, to become a center for Jesuit and Holy Names spirituality, social justice, and elementary education.



Thank you for your participation in Catholic Schools Week!

We welcomed new families to our two Open Houses and it was wonderful to see the joy with which students shared their school experience and led tours. Thank you to all the families that helped make these events a success. The interest in our Pre-school and Kindergarten programs is especially strong this year. If your family is interested in a spot for next fall, please contact the office as soon as possible to ensure there is space. Need based financial aid is available for kindergarten. Please contact the school office if you have questions. Registration Packets will go out February 9 and need to be returned by March 1st.

Inigo was the baptismal name of St. Ignatius and references who he was as a child. Two people have generously stepped forward to sponsor all or part of a tuition for a child to attend St. Ignatius School and help start our very first Inigo of Loyola Scholarship Circle. We are looking for a total of 10 people who will ensure attendance for a child who's family is unable to pay anything. If you feel deeply the mission of our Catholic schools to educate children in the faith, please contact Kelli Clark for details: kclark@sipdx.org.

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>

Square Cash

Want an easier online giving option? Just look for "Square Cash" (with the Green dollar sign) in your mobile app store, install it, and create your account. Our "cashtag" is: **\$sipdxorg**. Please include your name or Church ID so we may give you credit for the donation. Thank you! If you have any questions please contact Patty at 503-777-1491 or office@sipdx.org

Mass Intentions

Monday	February 5 †	Dominic Tung Ngoc Truong
Tuesday	February 6 †	Therese Karen Lee Cook Love
Wednesday	February 7 †	Greg Hulbert
Thursday	February 8	Our Blessed Mother
Friday	February 9 †	Amelia

The Faber Institute

The Faber Institute invites you to join the Night School for Deeper Learning on Tuesday, February 20th from 5:30 - 7:00PM at St. Thomas More Catholic Church (3525 SW Patton Rd). The Night School is an adventurous exercise of depth and reflectivity led by Fr. Rick Ganz. The featured guest for the February class is Plotinus the philosopher. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.faberinstitute.com/events.

Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend

This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2018 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. If you have not already done so, please complete your pledge card, indicating your gift to our Catholic Church in Western Oregon. Thank you!

Clean Energy Jobs and Faith-Based Advocacy

Thank you to the 130+ people who signed onto the Clean Energy Jobs bill post-cards. We will continue to have these available in the vestibule to sign and drop off until February 11th. You can also get involved by joining us at the **Clean Energy Jobs Lobby Day on Monday, February 12th** at the State Capitol from 9AM-4PM. Please email Tyler (twagner@sipdx.org) to RSVP and join carpools to Salem.

Nursery Co-op Begins Again

Jacqueline Carpenter has graciously stepped up to coordinate our nursery program. She will be scheduling volunteers to help her in the nursery on a regular basis. Adults and high school students are invited to assist in the nursery. Thank you, Jacqueline. You can reach her at jcarpenterhieb@gmail.com.

Baby Brunch

Sunday, Feb. 11th from 9:15-10:15AM in Dillon Hall. If you have a child recently baptized, or 2 years or younger, please join us to meet other families with young children. The whole family is welcome! Hosted by the Mom's group. Please RSVP to Beth Schaller at bschaller@sipdx.org. (If you are interested in bringing a breakfast dish to share, please also share that with Beth)

Italian Dinner Volunteers Needed For Feb. 18th

We need many volunteers to make this a successful event so please mark your calendars! We need servers, dishwashers, set-up, clean-up helpers, etc. If you haven't volunteered before, please consider it as it is a fun, heart-warming experience. If you've volunteered in the past, thank you and welcome back! Volunteer forms will be available in the vestibule in the upcoming weeks. Also, please mark your calendars to help us roll meatballs and enjoy a fellowship lunch on Friday, Feb. 16th. Thank you!

Send Father John Warm Wishes

Thank you to all those asking about Father John, he is doing well and taking care of his health. If you have a card or message you'd like to send to Father John, please drop it off at the parish office and it will be mailed to him. Thank you!

Senior Day Out

St Peters has invited us to join them for a day trip to Spirit Mountain on Tuesday, February 6th. You must be at St. Peter's off Foster by 8AM for loading. You may park in their parking area. Address: 5905 SE 87th. Please call Beverly McNulty; 503-659-2574 for details & to register.

Women's Club Meeting

The women's Club will meet on Feb. 9th at 7PM in the parish center dining room. Please BYO drinks/munchies to share. Please bring something for St. V de Paul if you wish. Questions: Nancy 503-659-9473, or Sharon 971-340-7525.

Kinship Cooking: Tacos Dorados

Learn how to make tacos dorados and pico de gallo salsa on Sunday, February 25th from 12-2PM in the St. Ignatius Cafeteria Kitchen. We'll prepare and enjoy the meal together, and you'll be able to take the recipe and some food home with you afterwards! Sign up on the bulletin board in the vestibule or by emailing Tyler Wagner (twagner@sipdx.org) by February 20th. All are welcome and a \$5-10 donation to help cover ingredients is suggested. Open gym is available for children.

Parish Office

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Pastor Fr Craig Boly, SJ
cboly@sipdx.org ext. 231

Parochial Vicar
Fr John Ridgway, SJ
jridgway@sipdx.org ext. 229

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