



ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

December 30, 2018

Happy New Year 2019

Dear Parishioners:

On this Holy Family weekend, my family celebrates my Mom's 99th birthday. Please join me in thanking God for all the blessings our mothers bring to our families through their generosity, hard work and humor.

Today's passage from Luke is the only canonical story of Jesus' boyhood. Apocryphal works tell other stories that seem fanciful – such as the child Jesus raising a dead bird back to life, or warning other children of impending accidents.

Luke models his story about the boyhood of Jesus on the birth of Samuel. Samuel's mother Hannah dedicates him to the Lord from before his birth. The priest Eli raises him in the temple. "The child Samuel grew up, and increased in favor with both God and men" (1 Samuel 1:3-7). It was in the temple that Samuel came to understand his calling. Luke uses this story from the Old Testament to connect that tradition with the New Testament. As hearers of this connection, we do not need to know the story of Samuel to understand the story of Jesus' boyhood, but it serves to show that Jesus is in continuity with the Jewish expectations for something good to come.

The context of this story is the holy family's return from the celebration of the Passover. Women could observe the Passover but were not required to. Men who lived within twenty miles of Jerusalem were required to attend the Passover annually, and men who lived beyond twenty miles were expected to attend at least once in their lifetimes. That Mary and Joseph made this trip annually manifests their deep piety. The trip from Nazareth to Jerusalem is about sixty miles as the crow flies – and even further by road. It would require several days journey each way in addition to a week in Jerusalem for the ceremonies. This kind of trip would require an investment of time and money, so it was a significant devotion for Mary and Joseph to undertake each year.

At the age of twelve, Jesus would still be considered a boy and not obligated to keep the Jewish festivals until he turned thirteen. Given that his parents attended every year, it's assumed that Jesus had made this journey before. People traveled in caravans, and usually men traveled in one area and women in another. It is therefore not unusual that Mary and Joseph did not notice that Jesus was missing until they were almost a day out – approximately twenty miles. It took them another full day to retrace their steps.

Any parent can imagine the worry and exasperation and probably a little humiliation that Mary and Joseph experienced. It's not known whether their return trip constitutes part of the three days, or if they searched Jerusalem for three days before finding him. But there he was sitting in the Temple. Remember that teachers would sit when teaching. But Jesus was not teaching, he was asking questions and listening. They were all amazed to hear such penetrating questions and reflections from a twelve-year-old boy.

Luke establishes that even as a child, Jesus demonstrated the promise that would blossom into real wisdom and authority. Jesus amazed his hearers with his wisdom – but Mary and Joseph are astonished at his apparent lack of consideration for their feelings. Jesus speaks for the first time in Luke's gospel and says, "Why were you looking for me?" (v. 49). Later at the open tomb, the angel will ask the same question – "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" (25:4). The texts in both cases uses the same Greek word for "look." In both passages, there is the sense that Jesus embodies a deeper reality than anyone around him can understand.

The next question, "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" reveals the central purpose of this story. It is to acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God. The question of Jesus is more a gentle interrogatory than an impertinent response. It shows more the innocent surprise

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Today's Readings:

Samuel	1:20-22, 24-28
John	3:1-2, 21-24
Luke	2:41-52

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah	60:1-6
Ephesians	3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew	2:1-12

Preaching Next Sunday:
Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.

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

of a twelve-year-old than a rebuke to his parents. That is clear when Jesus returns home with docility and filial respect.

Of course this confuses Mary his mother – and as usual she ponders everything in her mind and heart. This passage closes with the statement echoing Samuel that Jesus “grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men” (v. 52). Which is to say that he matured in all of the dimensions of a well-balanced person. Wisdom goes beyond understanding and knowledge of what’s going on. “Stature” implies both physical growth and spiritual depth. And “divine favor” signifies both the relationship with God and with the whole human enterprise.

I thank God that Jesus was raised in a human family – that he fully embraced the human condition. The whole point of the Christmas season is that Jesus had to grow up and learn about life and God just as we do.

As we are about to welcome the New Year this Tuesday, it is fitting to think about New Year’s resolutions. One resolution is to be more passionate like Jesus about doing what God wants. To put it another way, this New Year invites you to another stage in life, to a deeper degree of conversion, to a challenge of closer companionship with Jesus. Will you be holier at the end of 2019 than you have been at the end of this year?

My hope is that accepting the challenge to use our time well is our first and most profound New Year’s resolution.

Fr. Craig Boly, S.J.
Pastor



ST. IGNATIUS SCHOOL

Again, we thank you for choosing Catholic education in the Jesuit and Holy Names traditions for your children. It is our privilege to aid in their formation. As you connect with friends and family over the holidays, please share your experiences with others who would value this unique experience. We look forward to welcoming them as we move toward our Open House in January.

If you know people who would like to make an end of year tax deductible gift to support programs and tuition assistance at the school or the endowment for the future of the school, know that even a small gift will make a difference. You can learn more about our programs and read our appeal letter on the school website: sipdx.org or from the attached flyer. Please consider sharing the flyer through your social media networks and engage your whole circle in the mission of St. Ignatius School. We would be so grateful.

School will reopen on Tuesday, January 2.

We wish you a peaceful and joyful Christmas and many blessings in the year to come.

Peace,
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](http://www.sipdx.org/registration)

First Friday, anointing at Mass

Please come to the First Friday anointing Mass held every First Friday of the month.



Next Anointing Mass is on January 4, 2019.

Reception in the cafeteria following.

Mass Intentions

Monday	December 31	New Years Eve
Tuesday	January 1	Solemnity of Mary
Wednesday	January 2	† Cordelia Odilo
Thursday	January 3	† Donatus Alia
Friday	January 4	† Bettee Frank

Blessing to you and your family in the New Year!

Peace Mass—January 1, 2019



New Year's Day 10:00AM
(Refugee Ministry) —Holy Day Mass
Dan Sullivan, S.J. presiding

Parish Office
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Fr. Dan Sullivan, SJ
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Pastoral Council

Co-Chair- James Nguyen
james@dragonberryproduce.com

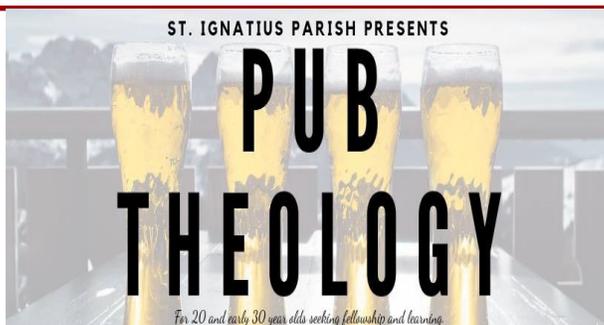
Co-Chair - Janice Harwood
jcharwoodster@gmail.com

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

Senior Day Out—Tuesday, January 9th

Join the senior ministry for their monthly mass & luncheon. Mass will be at 12:15 at the Loyola Jesuit Center with a meal & sharing to follow. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to Judi Van Cleave at 503-234-1147 prior to day of event. If you can help with picking up or taking home, that would be greatly appreciated!

**Young Adult Pub
Theology—
Thursday, January
24th at
Mt Tabor Brewing
124 SE 11th Ave, Port-
land, Oregon 97214**



Join other young adults for fellowship and learning on various topics in relation to religion and faith. These gatherings are hosted at Mt Tabor Brewing Taproom on the fourth Thursday of every month. St. Ignatius Church welcomes you. See you there!

Beverages available for purchase. Outside food allowed in. Call Gretchen for info. 503-777-1491 x227 or gschissel@sipdx.org



Two Great Community events coming up, save the date:

- ◆ The 84th Italian Dinner **February 17, 2019** noon till 6pm.
- ◆ Novena of Grace **March 4 through 12th** 8am & 7pm Masses

Mater Dei Radio Event

Mater Dei Radio celebrates 30 years of broadcasting with two exciting nights featuring EWTN's Dr. David Anders. Equip yourself for 2019! Don't miss Dr. Anders' "*How the Catholic Church Saved My Marriage*" on **Friday, January 18** at St. Anthony Church in Tigard, and **Saturday, January 19** at Queen of Peace Church in Salem. Tickets are free, but very limited. Get yours now at MaterDeiRadio.com.

Happy New Year & Thank You



★ NEW ★
YEAR



The close of a year, and the start of a new, offers a natural reflective space. As St. Ignatius staff reflects on 2018 and looks ahead to 2019, we encounter much gratitude and hope.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Parishioners, school members and affiliates, and all those in between for the time and support given that makes our parish flourish into the Jesuit Parish we are today.

We see the God within you all and feel the joy and excitement brought forth for the future of our spiritual home. Blessings on your New Year.