

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**      **OCTOBER 3, 2021**      **TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



## On the Sanctity of Life and Covenant Marriage

Dear Parishioners:

October's theme is always respect for life – the sanctity of life in all its dimensions. The whole month of October also honors devotion to the Blessed Mother through the rosary. Pray the rosary as a way of committing yourself to respect life from womb to tomb.

While meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, keep in mind the sacredness of life and intercede for those who suffer from disrespect. Pray about a different life issue each week: protection of unborn life, adoption, capital punishment, homelessness and hunger, health care reform, euthanasia, assisted suicide, gun control, or nuclear proliferation. As your fingers slip through the beads, pray Blessed Mary's help to transform your heart and move you to action. When you are through praying, follow the Spirit in making your response. Your response may be as simple as writing a letter, or as complex as organizing a referendum to provide shelter for the homeless or initiate immigration reform. The rosary honors Mary this month as we ask her to help us protect and cherish all life.

In today's gospel, Jesus says "no divorce." As a covenant people, we are invited to reflect on what Jesus means when he says, "no divorce." You notice that the Pharisees in Mark's gospel come to Jesus because they want to trick Him. They want him to approve of divorce.

Instead of discussing divorce, Jesus talks about marriage. He asks, where does marriage come from? It comes from God. God the creator scoops up mud out of the *river silt*, (in Hebrew the word is *Ahadama*) from which he makes the first *Ahadam*. Then God gives the first human creature the responsibility of naming all of the other creatures. What does that tell us? It tells us that the human person is built for *intimacy*. For the Hebrew people, when you name something, you have a relationship of belonging to what you name. In the creation story, after all the naming is done, the one with the heart for belonging doesn't have a partner, and cries out, "Oh God, where is the one for me?"

We know the story, how God answers that cry. Out of a deep sleep, the rib of the *adam* is taken to symbolize the unity of man and woman. In their wonderful and erotic

Continued on next page

### WEEKEND MASS

Saturday Vigil  
at 5:00 PM

Sunday at 8:00 AM  
Sunday at 10:30 AM  
Sunday at 7:30 PM

### WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday & Thursday  
At 12:00 PM



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays -  
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

OR by appointment  
503-777-1491

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE:

differences, the man and the woman belong together. The *adam* cries, "At last here is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh." When the two come together as husband and wife, they are no longer two – but one partnership of unique belonging. This intimacy creates and expresses the unique bond of belonging called covenant love. This covenant love is identical to the covenant love God has for those first married partners.

The love that God has for the man and the woman is meant to be shared. Why? Because they are created in the image of God – in the image of the One who is intimate Love. As married partners, we are meant to discover the reality of God through the care and protection that spouses have for one another. And since they are no longer two, but one, what God has joined together, we must not divide. What God joins together is meant to form a covenant. This understanding of covenant forms the backdrop for Jesus saying "no divorce."

Our fundamental identity as humans is to be a covenant people. God establishes a covenant with each of us at baptism. God says, "I love you, and give you the mission to learn how to love God with your whole heart, and your neighbor as yourself." Baptism thus is the sacrament of identity. **Who am I?** *God's beloved.* **What is my mission?** *To learn how to love.* **Who will help me learn how to love?** *My helpmate, my spouse, my covenant partner.* It is thus that marriage mirrors God's offer of faithful love. The ideal of marriage is the relationship that reveals divine love through the partners' love for one another.

The marriage covenant puts us into a social contract with each other. This covenant means that we belong to each other. This belonging to one another forms the basis of the sacrament of marriage. When a man and a woman make their marriage promise, it is sacred and it is permanent and it has social dimensions.

Their promise has a social dimension. It says to others in the body of Christ, "*we newlyweds now belong to this community in a new way. . . because our love will be generative. When the children come along, please help us raise the children. We need you to stand by us in our good times and our bad times. And we pledge back to you, in covenant love, that we will stand with you in all the struggles and joys of the community's path together.*"

Right in the middle of this wonderful idealism about marriage, we hear Jesus say, no divorce. It's chilling to hear *no divorce*. Why? Because we know that some relationships fail, that some partners are not partners at all and do not belong together. Some relationships are not an example of a good human relationship, much less a vessel to carry the divine covenant love of God between spouses.

We know the frailty of the human heart. Just about every relationship begins with the wonderful idealism that this is going to last forever. Most everyone thinks it's for better (*it won't be worse*). And when the demands of intimacy hit some people, what happens is that they are unable to live the fidelity, to live the intimacy that is at the heart of covenant.

We know many people who try mightily – it's not for lack of effort that a relationship doesn't work. The hard truth is, for some the covenant simply is not present. Their relationship does not reflect *divine* faithful love. It isn't even a healthy *human* relationship. So, what do we do? Jesus says no divorce, so what do we do?

In next week's bulletin, I want to reflect about the difference between "*annulment*" (the process of recognizing that there is no covenant present in a relationship) and "*divorce*" (the abandonment of a relationship where a covenant is present) – and why Jesus means that this understanding of *divorce* as abandoning a covenant is what he forbids.

**Fr. Craig Boly, S.J., Pastor**

## MASS READINGS

### Mass Readings for Oct 3, 2021

Genesis 2:18-24

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

### Mass Readings for Oct 10, 2021

Wisdom 7:7-11

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30

## ST IGNATIUS SCHOOL

As we head into October, our school year theme, "Love is shown more in deeds than in words," a quote from St. Ignatius of Loyola is evident in the way our students interact with each other and their environment. Just this week, I saw a 5th grader pick up lunch garbage that wasn't his as the class headed into the building after lunch recess. I witnessed second graders taking turns pouring paint respectfully onto paper plates for their art project. I was impressed by our 7th and 8th graders as they organized themselves in preparation for presentations from our local Catholic high schools. Our 8th graders took pride in caring for our school grounds with some weeding and trash clean-up in our play spaces. The first graders helped each other carry in their bag of play equipment after recess. Our students are continually showing love for their school in deeds and words.



So much learning is happening in our school. The 8th graders designed balloon powered carts in science. Our 7th graders gave presentations about the places in the world they researched. Our sixth graders are learning to write

thesis statements. The 5th graders studied food chains. The 4th graders are learning about the geographical regions of Oregon. The third graders are busy learning to write in cursive and creating artistic works with their names. Our second graders are enjoying reading and studying Henry and Mudge, a classic children's story. Our first graders are creating fall scenes and enjoying the children's classic story, The Kissing Hand. And our kindergarten students are studying the seasons and weather changes. May we all take the time to admire the brilliant colors in God's creation all around us.

Carol Pausz  
Principal



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## WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

"Courage, daughter." (Matt. 9:22)

*The Healing of the Woman with a Flow of Blood (Mark 5:22-34), 2017.*

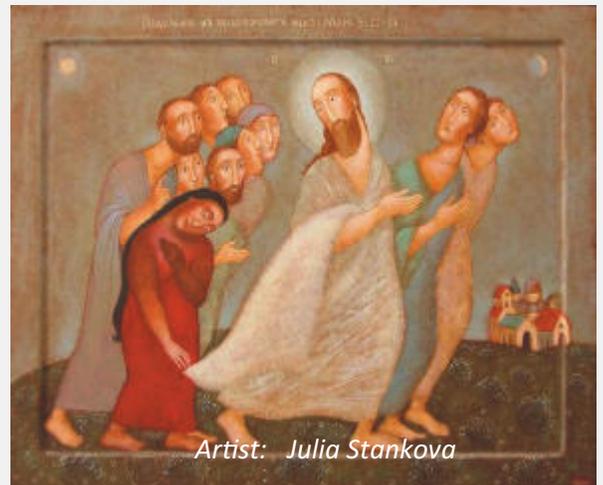
Has your strength left you? Draw near to Christ.

**Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 via Zoom**  
10am – 1pm

**Presenters: Tara Ludwig (Faber Institute) & Ana Guizado**

Register online at <https://www.sipdx.org/retreat-sign-up-arise>

Questions? Contact Beth Schaller at [bschaller@sipdx.org](mailto:bschaller@sipdx.org) Suggested donation of \$20 gratefully accepted. Donate via the St. Ignatius website under "misc." and include a memo to direct your donation or send a check to St. Ignatius Catholic Church, attn: Beth Schaller. Presented by: Women, Arise! Ministry – a ministry for women,



Artist: Julia Stankova

## DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS



*Please keep in your prayers*

Monday	Oct 4	† Anna Mosey
Tuesday	Oct 5	† Jim Emig
Wednesday	Oct 6	† Mother Marie Rose
Thursday	Oct 7	† John Scott
Friday	Oct 8	† Mary Bastasch

## FEASTE OF THE NATIVITY



Dear friends of the Feaste of the Nativity,

Happy first weeks of school – at least, here at St. Ignatius. Here’s a quick note to say that:

- To those that volunteered already, I have your name in my book! Very grateful for your willingness to help make the Feaste a reality.
  - This week, we’ll be finalizing the “what” and the “where.” We will be turning the grounds around the church and the parish office into a Medieval Village. Nancy Ocks, our formidable Events coordinator at the parish, and my right-hand helper in this, is helping me plot out our stations and activities
  - After that, I will be contacting each of you to say “Here’s what you’ll do --- and where you’ll do it!” Quite a few of us will have multiple roles; helping here and there, while being dedicated to a particular spot or activity. I’ll be working with you to make sure it’s a good fit – because we’re going to have a lot of fun
  - We're taking applications for Exhibitors and Food Vendors, too, and those can be found on our website at <https://www.sipdx.org/feasteofthenativity> or picked up at the office. We're coordinating what kind of food we'll have available, so that we don't repeat ourselves and have pizza and pizza and then more pizza (which honestly would be fine by me, but probably not the best for the Feaste!)
- So – tell your friends and your neighbors! Recruit whoever you can to come help us (and send them my way). Signs will go in the ground and up on the doors and walls of campus this afternoon, and here is a poster/flier for you to share. Send it to all your friends!

More info very soon, with more specifics. But for now, pray for us as we all work to get the Feaste on its feet.

I will announce some in-person and some Zoom meetings very soon to talk through what the Feaste will be, and to have some fun making it all come to life.

### The Feaste of the Nativity

Sponsor a Candle or a King! -- Supporting the Feaste of the Nativity 2021 Saturday, December 11 from 10am to 4pm \* Pageants in the Church at 1pm and 3pm



sponsors

Candle	\$20	Wise Man	\$300
Angel	\$100	Wise Woman	\$500
Donkey	\$150	King	\$1000
Jester	\$200	The Holy Family	\$5000
Shepherdess	\$250	The Star of Bethlehem	\$7500



So – tell your friends and your neighbors! Recruit whoever you can to come help us (and send them my way). Signs will go in the ground and up on the doors and walls of campus this afternoon, and here is a poster/flier for you to share. Send it to all your friends! information, contact:

Joseph Byrd at [jbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:jbyrd@sipdx.org) or 503-777-1491, ext 238

## PARISH STAFF

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Mon –Thurs 9am-3pm

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## PASTORAL COUNCIL

### Pastoral Council Members:

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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](mailto:prayerchain@sipdx.org)

In the subject line please include either:

*Asking for prayers*

OR

*Add me to the Email list to pray*

## IGNITE - CONTINUES OCT 10TH AT 6PM



October 10th - Blessed are Those Who Mourn - Mary Oliver  
October 24th - Blessed are the Meek - Oscar Romero  
November 14th - Contemplative Conversation  
November 28th - Action Activity - Love Thy Neighbor  
December 12th - Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst For Righteousness - Contemplating the Incarnation

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

**Meeting ID: 833 9062 2228**

**Passcode: IGNITE**

**To get updates for location details for all our meetings, get on our our mailing list, contact Grace ([gbyrd@sipdx.org](mailto:gbyrd@sipdx.org)).**



The Graduate Support Department at St. Andrew Nativity School is looking for volunteers to help with our Nativity Scholars College and Career Coaching Program. The program matches current seniors with coaches who assist with exploration of post-secondary options, college research, SAT/ACT test planning, college applications, financial aid, and the post-secondary transition. An ideal coach would have a background in education, a commitment to confidentiality, and some experience working with adolescents from low-income and/or first-generation families. If you are interested in applying or would like more information, please reach out to Caroline McDonald at [cmcdonald@nativityportland.org](mailto:cmcdonald@nativityportland.org) **Coach Application:** <https://forms.gle/z9ByVnM4XiVQ7JyP6>

## VOLUNTEER FOR SACRISTAN OR LECTOR

"Looking for sacristans and lectors for the Sunday Contemplative Mass. If you are new to this ministry, our Coordinator of Liturgy, Sarah Faux, will meet with you to train you. We are also looking for ushers for the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Contemplative Mass. Please contact Sarah Faux at [sfaux@sipdx.org](mailto:sfaux@sipdx.org) if you are interested in any of these ministries. Thank you!"



## 10TH ANNUAL CHAMPIONS OF FAITH VIRTUAL BENEFIT

In Support of CYO/Camp Howard

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021  
7:00PM-8:00PM (PST)

PRE-SHOW BEGINS AT 6:30PM (PST)





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