

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Are you missing some of your sacraments, such as First Communion or Confirmation? Our RCIA program runs September through April with classes taking place on Sunday mornings. Adult Confirmation classes are offered in the fall. Inquiry sessions are offered all year and take place the first Sunday of each month in the Parish Conference Room. Our next session is on August 5th at 10:30 am and will be on the "Role of Scripture in the Church." All are welcome, reservations are not needed. Questions: please email Misty at mjesse@sjf.org.

Movie Night- St. Ignacio de Loyola, July 31

On Tuesday, July 31st, 6:30-9:00 pm in Barrett Hall, the Devotional Ministries will be hosting an evening movie on Saint Ignacio de Loyola. The movie depicts the saint's futile efforts at the Battle of Pamplona, his struggles with depression and his experiences with the Inquisition. Refreshments will be available, bring your friends!

Reflecting on the Gospel John 6:1-15

This gospel account prepares us to reflect on the great mystery of Jesus himself as the Bread of Life and his self-giving that enables us to share in it. The challenge for us is far more than believing in Jesus' power to multiply loaves and fishes; the challenge is recognizing Jesus' self-giving as a sign of fulfillment and promise. As Christians we are to see our lives through the lens of God's lavish abundance. Do we?

It is easy for us to see and understand God's abundance in terms of the Eucharist we share each Sunday. However, we should not miss the other signs of God's abundance including the abundance of family and friends, a steady job, and the support and care of others. God's abundance is generous and surrounds us.

Stewardship Moment

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish: but what good are these for so many?" John 6:9

The miracle of the Loves and Fishes is the only miracle which is recorded six times in the Gospel. It carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. No gift is too small or insignificant.

Ignatius of Loyola, 1491—1556

Born in his family's ancestral Basque castle, Inigo Lopez de Loyola was a page in Castile and a soldier wounded in battle before he experienced a personal conversion that has had profound consequences for the church ever since. While convalescing, he read about Christ and the saints, made a long retreat at Manresa and journeyed to Jerusalem. He studied for 10 years in Barcelona and Paris, where he became Ignatius and was the center of like-minded men. They founded the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, to be active missionaries and meet the challenges of the Reformation. Ignatius, superior general of the new order, also wrote "Spiritual Exercises," which is still a popular guide. He is the patron saint of retreats and soldiers.

Pope Francis, a Jesuit, says the following about St. Ignatius: "St. Ignatius teaches us...especially, looking at the Crucified Christ, we feel that most human and most noble sentiment which is shame at not being able to measure up to him; we look at Christ's wisdom and our ignorance, at his omnipotence and our impotence, at his justice and our wickedness, at his goodness and our evil will. We should ask for the grace to be ashamed; shame that comes from the continuous conversation of mercy with him; shame that makes us blush before Jesus Christ; shame that attunes us to the heart of Christ who made himself sin for me; shame that harmonizes each heart through tears and accompanies us in the daily "sequel" of "my Lord." Pope Francis, homily, July 31, 2013.

Misty Jesse Director of Evangelization (310) 377-4573 x130 | mjesse@sjf.org