



*Growing leaders who turn  
FAITH into ACTION.*

## MARCH, 2018

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 1- Re-enrollment opens for existing students

March 5- Family Night Out at Panera (Eagle Rd), 4-8pm (bring flyer so 20% of proceeds go to SI)

March 10- Gray Wolf Night w/ Idaho Steelheads

March 13- HSA Meeting; 7pm; Commons

March 14- Enrollment deadline for tuition contracts/fees for existing students

March 15- Safe Environment Training at 9am (TBD)

March 21- Faith in Action Fair, 2:30-3:30pm at SI

March 21- Safe Enviro Training at 5:30pm (TBD)

March 26- SVdP Service for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders

March 26-30- Spring Break; No School!

April 1- Happy Easter

April 2- Easter Monday; No School!

### PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear St. Ignatius Catholic School Community,

This Lent, the staff and students at St. Ignatius Catholic School are focusing on a token Jesuit phrase: "Finding God in all things". St. Ignatius of Loyola used this phrase frequently, inspiring the founders of our school to incorporate the words into the summative statement of our Mission.

Each Monday morning during Lent, the students and staff gather in the Commons for Lenten prayer. We sing together, pray, listen to the Gospel, and reflect on the meaning of the Gospel stories leading up to Christ's death on the cross. Each week we are also focusing on one or two of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and how this relates to Christ's teaching on earth. Not surprisingly, these themes correlate perfectly.

Then, on Friday afternoon, the school gathers again in the same place to pray the Examen together. The Examen is a prayer popularized by St. Ignatius. His purpose was to teach us how to notice the patterns of God working throughout our day. By reflecting back towards the events of our day, we begin to notice the big and small ways that God is reaching out to us. We begin to recognize that God is beside us in ways we didn't realize before.

It has been enlightening to guide our students through this prayer. After the first week's Examen, I asked students to share what stood out about their reflection- where they saw God. One student said, "I noticed God in my mom smiling at me as we had breakfast"—a reminder that even the simple moments can be full of the divine. What was interesting was to notice the students' responses as we prayed subsequent weeks. God began to appear in the troubling times as well. "I noticed God when I was feeling anxious," explained one student. "I saw God when my friends reached out to someone who was feeling alone".

The Examen is often referred to as an exercise. It is not a straight shot beam to God, but a habit that has to be practiced. Like lifting weights or running, we get better the more we exercise over time. What a beautiful experience to watch our students deepen their own spirituality this Lent by learning to recognize the simple, yet profound truth... that God is beside us in each moment of our day.

Andi Kane, Principal, St. Ignatius Catholic School

*Academic Excellence • Faith Formation • Social Justice • Service • Strength of Community*

**Faculty:** Gisele Bodine

**Hometown:** Bozeman, MT

**Background:** Mrs. Bodine has a degree in Elementary Education and has taught Kindergarten, First grade and Preschool.

**Family:** Mrs. Bodine has a wonderful husband of 23 years, and is a proud mother of three awesome children! Her oldest son is a Sophomore at WSU and her middle son is a Senior at Bishop Kelly and her daughter is a Sophomore at Bishop Kelly. When their family is together they love boating, camping and skiing.

## FOCUS ON FACULTY MEET GISELE BODINE, PRE-SCHOOL

**How did you end up in Boise?** *"After my husband finished serving 21 years in the Air Force, we wanted to get back closer to family. My sister-in-law mentioned moving to Boise and even though that was not on our radar, we decided to come for a visit. It took one time to see what Boise had to offer and we were sold! Boise Bound it was!"*

**What part of education are you most passionate about?** *"I am most passionate about developing the whole child. It is important for me to make sure I am not only teaching the academic competent but teaching kindness, love, compassion and service to others as well!"*

**Why did you become a teacher?** *"I always knew I was going to become a teacher, even as a little girl. There was never a doubt that I was supposed to be in the classroom teaching and leading children. I became a teacher because I love watching children grow into their better selves and helping to ensure they get off to the best start in life! Oh, and let's not forget that it's just a great way to spend the day. The true excitement, humor, attitude and wonder that children can bring throughout the day is priceless!"*

**What is something you do to make your students feel special?** *"One thing I like to do to make my students feel special is to let them know how very thankful I am that they are in my class and how awesome I think they are!"*

Dear St. Ignatius Families,

It's been almost one month since we celebrated our school and community at *Ignite the Night*, our second annual dinner and auction and our biggest fundraiser of the year. The evening was a resounding success! It's remarkable how our community came together to produce this truly outstanding event. Equally as noteworthy was the outpouring of generosity from our guests who attended the event. While we don't yet have the final numbers, all indications are that we raised a net profit of approximately \$140,000.00!!! The funds raised will go directly to the school to help offset operating costs so that the cost of tuition can remain low. I can't thank enough all of the volunteers, donors and guests who contributed to the resounding success of this event. We truly are a blessed community.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup>! As I mentioned in last month's article, we will be accepting nominations for the HSA offices of President-elect, Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. Nomination forms will be available next week both in the weekly Tuesday communication as well as in a separate email invitation. The nomination period will run from 03/06-03/12. If you are considering running for a position with the Home and School Association next school year, I strongly encourage you contact an HSA Board Member to learn more about the roles and responsibilities of an HSA Officer.

Remember, the HSA plays a fundamental part in both your experience as a parent at St. Ignatius as well as that of your children. We work not only as the primary fundraising vehicle for the school but also to support and grow the St. Ignatius culture and community. We depend on the leadership and commitment of passionate parents who want to make a difference in our school. What better way to get involved than to join the HSA Board?

If you are curious to learn more about the upcoming HSA officer vacancies or if you have any other suggestions or questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brightest Blessings,  
Hillary Smith  
St. Ignatius HSA President  
[hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org](mailto:hsa@stignatiusmeridian.org)

## SUPPORT SERVICES SEGMENT

### A message from Mrs. Z:

During Lent, it is always my goal to spend significantly more time in reflection and prayer. Some years I am more successful than others. This year, it was also my goal to tackle a stack of books that I have accumulated on various spiritual topics that were pressing matters at the time I clicked the 'order now' button on Amazon, but have since collected dust because I have not made the time to dive in.

A couple of weeks ago, I finally made the time to read one of the books, which was a recommendation from Father Len that I'm sure many of you read as well. It is a book that contains several true stories of incredible acts of forgiveness. Reading it caused me to reflect upon the importance of forgiveness, not only from a spiritual perspective, but from a mental and physical health perspective as well.

St. Paul says in Ephesians 4:31-32, "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Spiritually, it is our duty to forgive others in the same way we are forgiven, and this is communicated in the Bible in countless ways. We cannot pour out our lives in love for others the way God intended if our hearts are filled with hatred, anger, bitterness, or pain.

As is the case with spiritual health, forgiveness is also vital to our physical and mental health. Research has shown that people who do not forgive, but rather hold on to anger/bitterness/pain, are prone to increased physical and mental health issues such as high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems, impaired immune systems, chronic pain, anxiety, and depression. Being intentional in practicing forgiveness will decrease negative symptoms and improve overall health and ability to experience peace, joy, and fulfillment in life.

Despite its benefits to us, it is important to acknowledge that offering forgiveness can be extremely difficult for us imperfect humans. It can be even more difficult to model forgiveness for our children, which by the way, is the most effective way to teach them this important virtue. We can talk about forgiving others all day long, but if we do not show our kids a willingness to forgive others, to forgive them freely, and to ask for forgiveness ourselves, they will be less likely to learn.

In looking more deeply at this topic, I found the following reminders to be especially helpful:

- Forgiveness is an act of will and love rather than an emotion. Our emotions may need some time to catch up with the act of forgiveness, and that's okay.
- Forgiving someone does not mean that you are condoning or excusing what was done. Forgiving someone does mean though, that you do not continue to hold what was done against the other person. True forgiveness means not continually bringing up the past.
- Reconciliation and forgiveness are not the same. Repentance is necessary for reconciliation, but not for forgiveness. As he was dying on the cross, Jesus forgave people who had not repented and perhaps never did repent. We are expected to forgive in the same way.
- Forgiveness means letting go of the desire to be right or to seek revenge/reparation. In order to achieve the peace forgiveness has to offer, we must give up our expectations for the way we think the other person should make it right.
- Perspective is so important. I talk to students in my office all the time about the importance of getting out of their own brains and being curious about what is happening in others' brains. There are many different ways to see the same problem or situation and we must attempt to look through others' eyes with empathy and compassion.
- Once you forgive someone, it is important to shift your thoughts and focus to the positive. Reliving and/or dwelling on the negative experience will not allow you to fully forgive and experience the positive spiritual, physical, and mental health benefits forgiveness has to offer.

"He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart." -St. Faustina

## **THIS MONTH AT ST. IGNATIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL-**

February was a great month of festivities at St. Ignatius Catholic School! We began new traditions as we celebrated our first Catholic Schools Week- celebrating our parish, our students, our vocations, our nation, and our community! We had a great week—from dress up days to assemblies to teacher flash mobs—it was a week of great fun. We finished the week off with Ignite the Night which provided us with a great chance to bring our parents and community members into the celebration of our wonderful Catholic school!

## **UPCOMING-**

We have some exciting school events coming up this spring to showcase some of the awesome things happening here at St. Ignatius Catholic School! Please mark your calendars for the following opportunities to see how our students shine!

Our **Faith in Action Fair** is **March 21st** from **2:30-3:30pm**. Our students have been busy working on social justice projects during this season of Lent. Students will be presenting their amazing works in a visual format throughout the school during our Faith in Action Fair. (Think of it like a science fair but with service projects!) We invite our entire community to join us to see what great things our students accomplished this Lent and how our students are turning their faith into action!

**Grandparents Day-** On **April 12** from **9:15-11:15** students will be inviting their grandparents or another significant adult in their life to come visit St. Ignatius Catholic School. We will be hosting a reception, students will be able to give grandparents a tour of the school, and they will join us to celebrate Mass. More information/sign-ups will follow but please mark this date and spread the word!

**Spring Art Soiree-** Join us on **April 14, 6:30-8:30pm** to for a fun evening showcasing the amazing visual arts programs happening at St. Ignatius. This will be an art showcase and we will be auctioning off one gorgeous art project from each class in our school. You can find more details on the events page of our website but it will be a great evening to showcase how we are growing creativity at St. Ignatius Catholic School.

Our **Spring Music Program** will be held on **April 24<sup>th</sup>** at **6:30-7:30pm** at St. Ignatius. This program will include performances from students in Grades 4-6, Music Elective Students grades 5-8, The Howlers (Zero Hour Choir), and the Dance Elective Students!

## **ENROLLMENT FOR 2018-2019-**

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 academic year begins this month! Existing families will receive an email with instructions on re-enrollment. As specified in your re-enrollment email, families must pay fees for next year and pay any currently due amounts from this school year prior to March 14 to guarantee a spot in our enrollment for the 2018-2019 academic year as we will begin filling spots from our waiting list after that deadline.

If you are a parishioner who is interested in enrolling a new student or a current school family that plans to be adding a new student to our school, please make sure that you have submitted a pre-registration form for your new student BEFORE April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to receive priority on our waiting list.



Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.

# CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. Ignatius Catholic  
School

January 28- February 3







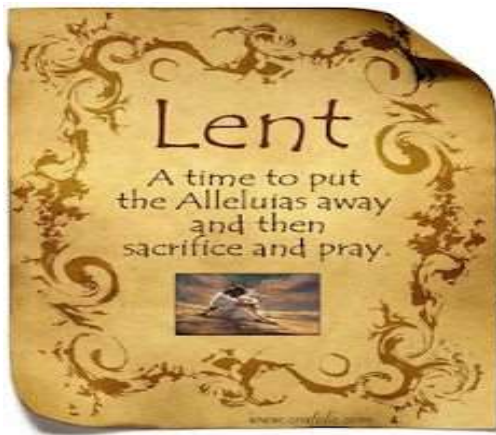












## FAMILIES ON FIRE

At Holy Apostles Catholic Church and St. Ignatius Catholic School, we are constantly reminding our students and children that God is all around us- in everything we do and in all we celebrate. We remind our students and youth to look for God in all things, and find ways to see and encounter God in both special and common ways. We would like to start partnering with families to offer ideas that might help you infuse faith into more aspects of your daily lives, routines, and celebrations.

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## REFLECTION: MARCH-SACRIFICE

By now, we are all well aware about observing the season of Lent. We hopefully have found things to take out of our lives and things to add into our lives too! If not, there is still time to make some changes to make the most out of this Liturgical season. This whole month can be appropriately used to help deepen our understanding of sacrifice. Sacrificing is not always an action intentionally chosen. As parents and caretakers, there are certain sacrifices which come naturally. When we learn how to sacrifice, our wills become stronger and thus allowing for better knowledge of Eternity. Let us ponder on the most meaningful Sacrifice, Jesus' Crucifixion and use it as a guide for sacrificial love. Below are some ideas to share the faith and live it at home.

1. Story Time: St. Patrick's Day, on March 17<sup>th</sup> is one of the most celebrated holidays around the world. But how well do we know its Catholic roots? There are many resources online that tell the true story of Saint Patrick and his sacrifices made to evangelize Ireland. As a family prepare and share a meal with the colors of the Irish flag (green, white, and orange) being incorporated. Read and talk about St. Patrick's own conversion story!
2. Prayer Time: Lent is a great opportunity to place our attention on the Stations of the Cross and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary. Every Friday of Lent, Holy Apostles has the Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Try to participate as a family as many times as possible. The Stations have a powerful way for us to walk the Way of the Cross with Jesus. The Catholic Church, as a whole, prays the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays and Fridays. Put aside about 20 minutes to pray and meditate together on Tuesdays and or Fridays on these mysteries which express sacrifice. Family Rosary guides can be purchased or found for free online.
3. Simple Reminders: Sacraments are a wonderful visual reminder of God's love for us. Reconciliation is a major highlight for Lent. The hours of Reconciliation services are extended in regards to the season. Pick a time and go as a family! Place the Act of Contrition prayer (can be found online) on the fridge or someplace the whole family can see it daily and practice saying it.
4. Friends in High Places: March 19<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary. Talk about sacrificing! As the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph did a lot to follow God's will and put his family first. Make a list of traits and characteristics St. Joseph had as he lead the Holy Family. Find a prayer and or picture of him to place on the dining table and invite him into the domestic church!

*"Sacrifice without love is pain" Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Three cheers for Ignite the Night!  
What a great evening it was for our entire community!

A HUGE thank you to the co-chairs- Audrey Dalley and Mary Adcox- and all of the committee chairs who worked for months to make this event a huge success. Thank you to all the thoughtful and generous volunteers who worked so hard before, during, and after the event. We are so blessed to have so many families that are so committed to the success of our program and who are willing to do the hard work to make it all possible.

Thank you also to all those who attended and donated to the event as well. Your generosity allows us to help make a St. Ignatius education accessible to so many families. Every student that attends St. Ignatius benefits from your generosity. Your financial gifts "bridge the gap" between the actual cost to educate a student at St. Ignatius and the amount of tuition paid for each student.

Thank you all for your contributions and for helping give the gift of a Catholic education to over 400 students in our community!

St. Ignatius Catholic School  
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Meridian ID 83646  
208-888-4759

[www.stignatiusmeridian.org](http://www.stignatiusmeridian.org)

Connect with us!  
Facebook: [stignatiuscatholicschool](https://www.facebook.com/stignatiuscatholicschool)  
Twitter: [@stignatiusid](https://twitter.com/stignatiusid)  
Instagram: [st.ignatiusmeridian](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusmeridian)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strength of community is one of the cornerstone philosophies of St. Ignatius Catholic School community! A vibrant community gives children strong roots to grow and develop. We encourage all families to participate in our many social, service and volunteer endeavors to help us build and strengthen the St. Ignatius family.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

We are offering 2 Safe Environment trainings this month. We will be hosting a Safe Environment training on **March 15** at **9am** and **March 21** at **5:30pm** (location TBD depending on number of people attending). Please email [ksmith@stignatiusmeridian.org](mailto:ksmith@stignatiusmeridian.org) if you would like to attend. There is a \$30 fee associated with this training which covers the cost of the required background check.

### SVDP DINNER SERVICE

Any students 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade, please join us to help with the dinner service at SVdP on **March 26** from 5-8pm. More information and sign up is <https://signup.com/group/976612102086>

### FAMILY NIGHT OUT- STEELHEADS

Our Welcoming/Hospitality Team is hosting a Night out with The Idaho Steelheads on **March 10th**. It will be a fun night to meet up with other Gray Wolf families. See the Events page of our website for information on how to purchase tickets!

### FAMILY NIGHT OUT- PANERA

HSA is hosting a Family Night Out at Panera Bread, Eagle Road Location, on **March 5**, 4-8pm. Enjoy a great night out with other Gray Wolves and a night off from cooking. 20% of proceeds come back to St. Ignatius if you show the flyer found on the "Events" tab of our website!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join us on **April 14, 6:30-8:30pm** to for a fun evening showcasing the amazing visual arts programs happening at St. Ignatius. This will be an art showcase and we will be auctioning off one gorgeous art project from each class in our school. More details to come!

# THE SPRING SOIREE 4.14.18

### St. Ignatius School Mission

*St. Ignatius is a Christ-centered Catholic school committed to the Ignatian traditions of academic excellence and teaching students to live their Catholic faith through service and the promotion of justice. Our community - school, families, parish - seeks to inspire students to reach their potential, to act with initiative and integrity, and to engage the world as a place where God can be found in all things.*