



ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA PARISH

A Catholic Community Animated By:
Gratitude, Generosity, and Love

“Grateful for our Past – Hopeful in our Future”

"Love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than by words."

Saint Ignatius Loyola
(The Spiritual Exercises)

As Catholics, we are united in the same true faith, sacrifice, and sacraments. As a Jesuit parish, we are called to help nurture “men and women for others” with gratitude, passion, and humility. In the vision of St. Ignatius, we seek to “find God in all things” in collaboration with each other. ***We are a Jesuit family.***

As the only Jesuit parish in the Sacramento Diocese, St. Ignatius Loyola Parish has been the spiritual home to families in the Sacramento region and beyond for over 60 years. Here, we celebrate sacraments, educate our youth, and bring comfort during times of loss to over 2,100 families. And most importantly, we rejoice in the fabric of our faith – the Eucharist.

CENTURIES OF TRADITION: THE SOCIETY OF JESUS

Founded nearly six centuries ago by the soldier Ignatius Loyola, the Society of Jesus is a Roman Catholic order of priests and brothers commonly referred to as “the Jesuits.” Noted for their educational, missionary, and charitable works, the Jesuits have been regarded as one of the leading forces in modernizing the Church. At the foundation of the order, the Jesuits take three vows – poverty, chastity and obedience – and a fourth vow of obedience specifically in service to the universal Church.

Today, the Jesuits are the largest religious order in the Catholic Church with over 17,000 priests and brothers. Through the varied vocations of pastor, teacher, chaplain, doctor, lawyer, and astronomer, Jesuits seek to care for the whole person: body, mind, and soul.

Dedicated to the “greater glory of God” and the good of all humanity, Jesuits work collaboratively with all who share their values, particularly laypersons. ***To the Jesuits, the laity is the extended Jesuit family.***

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA PARISH: OUR HISTORY

In the early 1950s the bordering parishes of St. Philomenes and Our Lady of the Assumption were overflowing with Catholic families. Recognizing the opportunity to serve more disciples in the growing rural area, Bishop Armstrong purchased 20 acres off Arden Way with the intention of creating a new parish. As plans developed over the next four years, the vacant acres were referred to as Bishop Armstrong Park.

Even with the teeming rural parishes, the Diocese of Sacramento was not immune to a shortage of priests. Determined to serve the growing families, Bishop Armstrong invited the Jesuit Provincial to share their missionary, educational, and charitable practices to build, what is known today as, St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish and School.

Arriving in 1954 to an eager community of Catholic worshippers were pastor Fr. Fred Cosgrove, S.J. and Assistant Pastor, Fr. Joseph Keane, S.J. In a warehouse located at the corner of Arden Way and Watt Avenue, with a borrowed altar and chairs, Fr. Cosgrove celebrated the first Mass at the newly created parish on March 7, 1954. Grateful for a place to call home, parishioners affectionately christened their new church “the barn.”

Parish Mission Statement

The St. Ignatius Loyola Parish is a Roman Catholic Community of the Diocese of Sacramento. Called for mission by Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, and grounded in Ignatian spiritual tradition, the parish proclaims the good news in word and worship and witnesses in daily life to the gospel values of service, justice, peace, and love.

In the tradition of St. Ignatius, Fr. Cosgrove organized his new extended Jesuit family into a building and fundraising committee – the Holy Name Society. Influenced by the teachings of Ignatius, this fledgling group of “believers,” determined the parish’s first priority to be education. Inspired by the Jesuit charism, the Holy Name Society recruited additional volunteers to walk the bordering neighborhoods to solicit help in building a much-needed Catholic elementary school. Their efforts were rewarded in July 1954 when construction of the new school commenced that resulted in two wings, one of which was used as the temporary church.

By 1956, St. Ignatius Loyola Parish grew to an impressive 1,100 registered families. As the parish and school continued to grow exponentially, additional school, social, and meeting spaces were in high demand. Renovations to two donated Air Force barracks created Xavier Hall, the first multi-purpose building, which was used for classrooms, school lunches, parish meetings, and social gatherings – and Campion Center, a convent for the Holy Names Sisters who operated the school until the first lay principal and Advisory Council was formed in the fall of 1976.

THE FRUIT OF LABOR: OUR PARISH TODAY

Although St. Ignatius is still home to many of our founding families, it is rapidly changing from a parish that once epitomized the 1950s. As a dynamic and thriving community, St. Ignatius is becoming a parish that reflects the reality of 21st Century America.

“Above all, remember that God looks for solid virtues in us, such as patience, humility, obedience, abnegation of your own will - that is, the good will to serve Him and our neighbor in Him. His providence allows us other devotions only insofar as He sees that they are useful to us.”

Saint Ignatius Loyola

In response to the unprecedented growth of our Jesuit family, ministries continue to be formed to strengthen parishioners’ faith and offer opportunities of service as disciples of Christ. These ministries include:

Catechetical Ministries		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Education Fall/Winter Sessions • RCIA for Adults • Baptism Preparation • First Eucharist Preparation • RCIA for Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation Preparation Adult/Junior High • Religious Education Program for Children • Children’s Liturgy of the Word • Hearts on Fire • Young Adult Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholics Come Home/ Remembering Church • Marriage Prep/Annulments • Lenten Programs • Spiritual Development & Direction • S.E.E.L. – Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life
Liturgical Ministries		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar Society • Communion Ministers • Consolation Ministry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar Servers • Lectors • Sacristans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music • Wedding Coordinators • Hospitality Environment
Mission and Outreach Ministries		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent & Lent Faith in Action: Feed-a-Family and Stop Hunger Now • Ecumenical and Interreligious Ministry • Martha Ministry • Communion to Homebound Xavier Ministry, Legion of Mary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing God’s Bounty • Elderly Visitation Ministry • Health Ministry • Thomas Edison Language Institute (TELI) Tutoring • Stitches4Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Assistance • Partnerships • Respect Life • Sister Parish and Sister University • Social Concerns

“Jesuit education involves the head (knowledge), the heart (compassion), and the hand (service).”

Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.
29th General of the Society of Jesus

THE FOUNDING TRADITION: OUR PARISH SCHOOL

St. Ignatius School has come a long way from its humble beginning as a dream in the hearts of the parish founders. Remaining true to its founding vision – ***of a school united in faith, action, integrity, thought, and health*** – St. Ignatius School has graduated more than 2,700 men and women for others and serves as the single largest parish ministry. Most recently referred to as “the flagship, Catholic, elementary school of the Diocese of Sacramento,” St. Ignatius is the first school of choice for many alumni families.

St. Ignatius School has continued to prosper under the leadership of its Pastors, Advisory Council, lay administrators, teachers, and staff members – all dedicated to the cause and calling of Catholic education. As a vibrant Catholic school for more than six decades, St. Ignatius has seen second and third generations of students educated in the Catholic faith. Students and parents report a high level of satisfaction with their school experience in annual surveys and interviews. Student performance on standardized tests also indicates that a majority of students are performing at proficient or advanced levels. In addition to academic achievements, St. Ignatius students put their faith in action through ongoing community service and immersion trips locally and abroad. ***This service, coupled with impressive academic success, contributes to 100 percent of all eighth graders being accepted into the high school of their choice.***

Parish School Mission Statement

St. Ignatius Parish School is a Roman Catholic Elementary School that actively strives to teach as Jesus taught. In the tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the educational processes of St. Ignatius School are committed to developing students of faith, action, integrity, thought, and health. Grounded in Ignatian spiritual tradition that integrates the shared faith and values into the life and culture of the community, St. Ignatius Parish School provides a comprehensive Catholic educational experience for all its families.

In 2009, St. Ignatius School opened a much-anticipated preschool that welcomes the opportunity to share the Catholic faith and Jesuit charism with the youngest of parishioners. Today, the school remains in the forefront of exemplary academics having won the Diocese of Sacramento Academic Decathlon consecutively over the last seven years. In 2010, St. Ignatius earned the distinguished title of Catholic School, Academic Decathlon State Champion. The students of St. Ignatius continue to place among the top schools locally, regionally, and statewide.

Remaining true to the Jesuit charism of “mind, body and soul,” St. Ignatius fields athletic teams in a wide-variety of disciplines and consistently achieves championship titles. And perhaps of greater importance, the students and families provide over 20,000 volunteer hours annually living the Jesuit tradition... *to be “men and women for others.”*

OUR COMMUNITY’S CHALLENGE: THE NEXT SIXTY YEARS

Several generations ago, our founding families had a vision and a mission for a church, school, and faith community. These dedicated Catholics, many of whom have second and third generations of their families still active in St. Ignatius, gave a remarkable and inspirational gift to those of us who worship here today.

However, even with a thriving parish and school, our St. Ignatius' community is not immune to today's challenges. Although the staff and parishioners have dutifully maintained the facilities, most structures have long outlived their useful life span, cannot accommodate technological enhancements, and are inadequate to serve the growing needs of our children – *who are our hope for the future.*

With the exception of the Parish Center that was dedicated in 1989, all other buildings and facilities were constructed nearly 60 years ago, prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This means that many areas within St. Ignatius are not accessible to parishioners and guests with disabilities, creating not only a liability for the parish, but also an environment that is not in keeping with the founding tradition of an inclusive and welcoming Catholic community.

Based on assessments from architectural, structural, electrical, and other construction-related experts, the advanced age of these structures makes them noncompliant with current building codes and not suitable for simple maintenance or repairs. There is a critical need for facility improvements if we are to sustain and grow our parish community.

THE PARISH

Meeting Spaces

Our vibrant, growing, and involved parish community has been hampered by limited and inadequate meeting space that often discourages parishioners from becoming or remaining involved.

Currently, all ministry and parish oversight meetings take place in the living room of the old rectory, in a school classroom, or in the Garden Room in the Parish Center. The configuration of these outdated spaces accounts for costly energy bills, does not provide the infrastructure for the use of modern technology, and lacks the privacy required for confidential subject matter.

Parish Offices

The 60-year old Campion Center, former home of the parish ministries offices, has been deemed unsafe and effectively condemned. Mold, asbestos and a deteriorating roof forced our parish priests to relocate off parish grounds in order to repurpose the rectory into office and meeting space. Since 2009, our office area includes navigating narrow, dimly lit hallways, a laundry room, a busy kitchen, and signs instructing visitors to "watch your step." Staff is cramped, storage for recordkeeping is scarce, and parishioners in need are often shuffled from office to office in search of a quiet, private place to consult with staff or religious. Although somewhat maintained, this former residence does not provide the business environment for a modern and welcoming parish office.

Parishioner Gathering Space

The moderate weather of Sacramento lends itself to an outdoor gathering space where parishioners can linger and visit after liturgies. Currently, families are asked to interrupt the natural flow of conversation and walk across parish grounds to the Parish Center to participate in social and community events.

Our parish community has long dreamed of a gathering space just outside of the main entrance to the church. Here, parishioners and visitors can comfortably gather after Masses, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

THE SCHOOL

Our school, the place where many new or prospective families create their first impression is cramped, uninviting, noncompliant with current building capacity codes, and unequal to the academic standards it provides. Sadly, however, some people will not even consider St. Ignatius Parish School because of the outdated facilities and unsecure school entrance. After easily accessing the Administrative Office off of Arden Way, a short walk around the campus highlights the original 1950s construction – cracked, broken, and in need of replacement.

In addition to the security risks that administrative staff must diligently monitor, the 930 square-foot classrooms with single-paned windows lack basic energy efficiencies from lighting to temperature control and are not conducive to modern teaching styles. Today’s teaching methods call for frequent use of “pod learning,” where students come together in small groups to fully engage in the learning process. Although, school faculty and staff have been creative in using every existing space, classroom size and availability is inadequate to meet the current academic programs. Existing Algebra I students are without a designated classroom to meet and once a week are forced to sit on the floor in the library for instruction. Overall classroom space is woefully inadequate for keeping pace with the ever-increasing curriculum demands.

Science and Technology

To provide children with a 21st Century education and compete with other Catholic, private, and public schools, St. Ignatius must maintain its technology infrastructure. Our students are expected to learn to use technology in elementary school in order to be successful in secondary school and ultimately competitive in college and beyond.

In addition to technological improvements, science classrooms require updating to meet current academic standards. Secondary schools and colleges have increased science requirements to include textbook and laboratory settings. Without appropriate and up-to-date science labs, St. Ignatius is unable to effectively prepare both upper and lower grade students with the foundation to explore and learn the current scientific standards, ultimately hindering their future academic success.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE OUR FUTURE

We have been provided the opportunity to address our parish needs through the Diocesan ONE Campaign. Every parish within the diocese is asked to do their part to support five critical objectives in the Bishop’s strategic plan, including:

1. Strengthening Catholic education;
2. Increasing youth and young adult ministry programs;
3. Caring for our retired priests;
4. Enhancing Catholic communications technologies; and
5. Supporting the vital social service ministries of the Diocese of Sacramento.

Although every parish has been assigned a goal for the ONE Campaign, the diocese understands that some parishes may have particular funding needs to achieve their own parish goals and have provided the option of a combined campaign.

An \$8.5 million Campaign: “Grateful for our Past – Hopeful in our Future”

For well over a year, the parish and school leadership have been considering and evaluating just how best to address the numerous facility needs presented by both the parish and the school.

To better address these needs, St. Ignatius Parish and School is conducting a feasibility study to garner insights from the parish community on plans to relocate the parish offices to the front of the property, provide appropriate parish meeting spaces, create an outside gathering area, completely rebuild the school, and relocate the school’s administrative offices and the main school entrance to the back of the property. Additionally, 100 percent of all new facilities will be ADA compliant and accessible to all parishioners and guests.

While construction costs are still being finalized, this campaign is projected to include:

- \$1.2 million to build a new Pastoral Center and outdoor gathering area
 - *The current parish offices will be relocated to the front of the property, facing Arden Way. The new Pastoral Center will include space for all ministerial offices, several varied-sized conference rooms, and workrooms for volunteers and special projects. The overall configuration of the Center will be a welcoming, business like setting conducive to the needs of a modern parish.*
 - *Adjacent to the large, multi-purpose, meeting room, a patio area will be created. This much-anticipated space will be used after Masses, parish celebrations, and other liturgical events and will provide additional space for parishioners to come together in joy and sorrow.*
 - *All new facilities will be 100 percent ADA compliant*
- \$6.5 million to build a 31,951 square-foot, new school
 - *The school will be completely replaced with new, up-to-date classrooms, and both upper and lower grade science labs. While technology is an ever-increasingly important part of our lives, the new school facility will house a state-of-the-art Technology Center to help prepare our students for secondary school, college and beyond. Classroom space will be increased to accommodate differing and innovative teaching styles and methods.*
 - *Security concerns will be addressed by relocating the school administrative offices to the rear of the property while providing for administrative and faculty workrooms.*
- \$854,000 to support the Diocesan ONE Campaign.

Whether an issue of faith, a love of family, an appreciation for tradition, a desire to leave a legacy for future generations, or a combination of these factors, the feasibility study will determine whether there is sufficient support to fund these needs through a comprehensive fundraising effort.

If the results of our study indicate that we cannot raise the resources necessary to complete all phases of the updated Master Site Plan, the parish and school leadership are prepared to outline a phased-approach that will better align with parish finances.

If the results are positive, individuals, corporations, and foundations will be invited to partner with St. Ignatius Parish and School to support advancing their vital vision of creating a ***Jesuit parish uniting hearts and minds in the spirit of Jesus Christ.***

Gifts can be pledged over a five-year period. All donors will be recognized and naming opportunities will also be available for larger gifts. Legacy gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, bequests, and other planned gifts are also welcome.

We invite you to join us by continuing the legacy of St. Ignatius' founders. Your gift will benefit countless generations of families, children, and individuals, and make it possible to expand and enhance St. Ignatius' Parish and School ministries today and into the future.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give what he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Together, we can ensure that the sacrifices of our great grandparents, grandparents, and parents are preserved. Proverbs reminds us that "where there is no vision, the people perish." Grateful for our past and hopeful in our future, we look forward to realizing the vision together – St. Ignatius Parish and School for the next 60 years and beyond.

To learn more about St. Ignatius Loyola Parish and School, visit www.stignatiussac.org