



# CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

980 PARK AVENUE AT 84TH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028 • (212) 288-3588

WWW.SAINTIGNATIUSLOYOLA.ORG

March 25, 2007  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

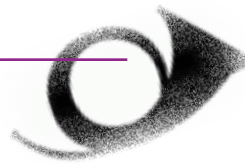
*Master, it is good that we are here!*

We are blessed at St Ignatius with good preaching! Three weeks ago the subject of the Gospel was the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor, that moment when Peter, John and James saw Jesus in dazzling white, speaking with Moses and Elijah. I was deeply moved by Fr. Bergen's homily that day. He said:

"All religion is rooted in religious experience; in the experience of mystery, of the beyond, of the real but unseen. It's the dimension of human life that we point to and say: 'There's more here than meets the eye.' The opposite of mystery is that other dimension of human existence that says: 'What you see is all there is.'"

The experience of the beyond, the experience of mystery or transcendence, might be wrapped up in some spectacular event, like a magnificent sunrise...[or] in some unspectacular event, like an encounter with an incredibly unselfish and heroic human being. In such events, spectacular or not, a curtain is drawn back for a brief moment, and we're given a peek, as it were, to the Other Side- and a glimpse of glory. And we cry out with Peter today: "Oh, how good it is for us to be here!"

Fr. Bergen went on to relate for us the deep significance of our coming together on Sundays, the Sabbath, for rest from the experience of the secular world, which seems to exist without this sense of wonder and awe- that very sense which we seek here as we gather to worship the Almighty. How good it is for us to be here! In reflection, I was struck by the value which music has in the world of the 'unseen'- as an art, it is capable of moving people so deeply, and yet one cannot see, touch or taste it. Even the symbols on a page of music are not in themselves the medium. Music is an unseen art, and this may give us a clue as to why it is so integral to our search for the transcendental experience. How wonderful that here at St Ignatius Loyola we have an extensive and spirited music program!



Fr. Bergen went further, expanding the notion of what it means for us to be here together: "More and more I have the conviction that here at Sunday Mass, if anywhere, we should find religious experience!- that here at Sunday Mass is the supreme moment of our week, a very critical moment in which something either happens or doesn't happen at all. Nothing I do as a priest all week long is more important than what I do in preparation to help something happen in this supreme moment of our week!"



He continued: "But I'm not so inflated as to think that the Sunday Liturgy depends on me, the priest. It also depends on you! You must bring something to Mass that helps turn it into a Mount Tabor experience that we're reluctant to leave. The altar servers, the lectors, the ministers of the Eucharist, the greeters, the singers who sing, and the instrumentalists who play- they all bring something uniquely important to Sunday Mass." And that something, he said, is a heart open to wonder and awe.

It is good for us to be here! I am grateful to be your Director of Music. And I am grateful that you, our parishioners, have made possible the growth of this music program. We now have 100 children enrolled in our children's choir program; nearly 75 volunteers in our adult music groups; one of the nation's most admired professional choirs; one of the great pipe organs of the world, and a music staff of deeply committed and creative individuals who share in a mutual pursuit of excellence and transcendence.

Your generous support of the Holy Week and Easter Music Fund makes it possible for this dynamic music program to continue. Together we will journey to that place where wonder and awe lift us from the ordinary into the extraordinary, and we will exclaim, "Oh, how good it is for us to be here!"

May God bless us on our journey,

**Kent Tritle,**  
Director of Music

**♪ Where's Philip?** Cantor Philip Anderson and choir member Katie Geissinger will be taking part in a new Broadway production, "Coram Boy," and will be out over the next several weeks. We wish them the best in this special project and look forward to having them back soon! Bruce Rameker, of the Choir of St. Ignatius, will be our cantor during Holy Week.

### ✠ NOTICE TO PARISHIONERS

You may have noticed that the Holy Water fonts in the Church are empty. The fonts are emptied during Lent to symbolize the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert and the 40 days Christ spent in the desert after his Baptism by John in the Jordan. Lent is the long Retreat of the Church, 40 days in the desert as it were, looking to the Resurrection at Easter. At the Easter Vigil, the new water is blessed and the fonts are filled.

✠ **LENTEN PROJECT** - This year's Lenten collection will benefit Little Sisters of the Poor. It began on Ash Wednesday and ends on April 12. You may leave your loose change (bills and checks are also welcome!) for Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House.



We Pray for the Faithful Departed  
**ROGER GILLEN, SR.**

May He Rest in the Peace of The Risen Lord  
(Roger Gillen's father)

## NURSERY NEWS

Saint Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery  
240 East 84 Street 212.734.6427

### *Our Amazing Animals!*

The Saint Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery not only encourages the children to develop awareness of themselves and those around them, but also aids in developing awareness of God's creation of the other creatures that share the planet with us. For the last few weeks the children were busy at work with canvases, acrylic paint and brushes creating wonderful animal masterpieces as part of their contribution for a special exhibit.



The purpose of this exhibit was to raise funds for the "Best Friends Animal Society." The children's work was showcased at the Leon Tovar Gallery located at 16 East 71 Street. The children viewed their creations during a field trip and the parents were invited to the gallery the same evening for the opportunity to view their child's art over wine and hors d'oeuvres.

The exhibit was a success. The children were happy to see their work up on display and the parents were excited and extremely impressed with the quality and beauty of the work. We, on our part, were more than happy with the work the children produced, and also grateful to the parents for their participation and cooperation.

It is a wonderful feeling to know that working together we can help those around us, especially those that can not help themselves. This fundraiser is a reminder that even our youngest can contribute to making our planet a better place.

### ✠ Notice from the NY Archdiocese

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2007 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, May 20, at 2PM. Please call the Parish House at St. Ignatius by May 3 to register.

✠ **CHRISM MASS - Tuesday, April 3, 5:30PM** Parishioners are invited to attend the Mass of the Chrism at St. Patrick's Cathedral.