



CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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

WWW.STIGNATIUSLOYOLA.ORG

“ Building a Community of Disciples ”

December 25, 2010

Feast of Christmas

God is With Us

I heard a true story the other day that captures for me the ambiguity of Christmas. A highly efficient administrative assistant, who just loves Christmas, was passing along to her boss a Christmas gift that had arrived for him. Discouraged by his constant griping about the season, and wanting to ward off anything that would disturb her own wide-eyed excitement, she handed him a short script along with the gift. “Here is how you are to respond,” she said, “rather than in your typical Scrooge-like manner.” “O, what a lovely Christmas gift,” it read, “How lucky I am that (insert name of giver) is so generous and thoughtful.”

Thankfully, they were both able to appreciate the humor of the situation and enjoyed a good laugh, just as I did when I heard the story. But it also got me thinking that the two predispositions represented by the administrative assistant and the boss are quite common at this time of year.

On the one hand, there are those who throw themselves headlong into Christmas planning. These are the people who expend tremendous energy shopping, baking, wrapping, decorating, and doing everything they can to get everything “just right.” They love the joy that is the focus of the season, and can be impatient with anything that threatens to diminish their enthusiasm.

“Life is hard enough all year long,” they reason, “Let’s put aside the difficulties and be happy.”

On the other hand, there are those whose response to the long wind-up to Christmas, with its focus on gifts, parties, and mirth is just the opposite. These are the people who wince at the thought of sending or receiving Christmas cards, who resent all the preparations taking place around them, and who bemoan what they perceive to be manufactured joy. “I’m a realist,” they reason, “There is too much suffering and pain in our world to give ourselves over to such contrived merriment.”

These are caricatures, to be sure, but if we look at our own lives, my guess is that most of us can identify with one or the other. Some revel in the season, and seek to shut out realities that are painful. Others keep their eyes fixed on what is painful, and do not enter the season at all.

What I want to suggest to you is that neither side gets it completely right, nor completely wrong. The true joy we long for at Christmas is found only in a healthy synthesis of the two, as is evidenced in the scriptural stories of Jesus’ birth, which contain elements of both overflowing wonder and delight as well as fear, disappointment, and hardship.

Notice the balance in the details. On the one side there is an abundance of fear in reaction to the angelic pronouncements, a gross lack of hospitality, and a dangerous escape into Egypt in the face of immediate persecution.

On the other side there is the glory of the Lord shining around the shepherds, the angels singing “Glory to God in the highest,” and the tender image of Mary cradling her newborn son.

So to the Scrooges, we must insist that there is cause for rejoicing. God is indeed with us, and you will miss this awesome reality as long as you keep your focus elsewhere. Jesus came into the world only at the “yes” of Mary, of Joseph, and of God, and he continues to come into the world only at the “yes” of each of us. We can neither perceive his presence, nor be his presence, as long as we remain cynical and grim.

And to the Christmas mavens, we must insist that our yeses only come in the midst of the hard realities of life. Jesus came into a broken world, in very difficult circumstances. There is no need to deny or avoid this truth. In fact, this is the real joy of the incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas and throughout the year: God is with us even in the midst of our trials.

My hope for all of you is that this Christmas is a time of joy, where gift-giving is heartfelt, where difficulties are recognized, honored, and healed, and where God’s presence is recognized in it all.

Have a blessed Christmas!

- Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

The Parish House will be closed
Saturday, December 25th and
Monday, December 27th in observance of the
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th: Feast of the Holy Family

NO 5:30 PM Vigil Mass

**Regular Sunday Mass Schedule: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM Solemn, 11:00 AM Wallace Hall, 7:30 PM**



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th

Scripture Reflections Group.

7:00 PM. Conference Room.

Led by Fr. Robert O'Brien, S.J., of the
St. Ignatius Jesuit Community.

All are welcome.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st

at 5:30 PM

Vigil Mass for January 1st, Solemnity
of Mary, Mother of God



SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st

at 11:00 AM

Mass for the Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God

Both Masses will be celebrated in the Church



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st -

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd.

Shelter Weekend. If you would like to
become a Shelter Volunteer, please contact
Pattie Hughes at the Parish House.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Hard copies of the latest **EM/Lector
Schedule** (December-February) and
the new **Liturgical Ministers' Hand-
book** are now available in the Sacristy and the Parish House.
Please pick up a copy at your earliest convenience.

ParishPay Many of our parishioners are
now using Parish Pay to
make automatic online gifts to St. Ignatius. By choosing
this option you will no longer need to receive monthly
envelopes in the mail. In addition, you can contribute
to our annual Parish collections, as well as Archdiocesan
special appeals. For further information, or to enroll in
the program, please visit our website at

www.stignatiusloyola.org

(click on About Us: Stewardship/Giving)

Merry Christmas!



Fr. George Witt, S.J.,
and the Parish Staff
of the
Church of
St. Ignatius Loyola
extend best wishes
for a
blessed Christmas.

New Year

New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31, 2010

8:30 AM and 12:10 PM Daily Masses

5:30 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2011

11:00 AM Mass



We pray for the
faithful departed
Dorothy Kenney
May she rest in the peace
of the Risen Lord

SAVE THE DATE!

LAY MINISTERS' ENRICHMENT

Baptism, Confirmation...Then What?

Saturday, January 29th

9:30 AM – 3:00 PM in Wallace Hall

Rev. Walter Modrys, S.J.

*Treasurer of the New York Province of the Society of
Jesus, Former Pastor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola*

All Lay Ministers are invited to attend this program.



You've notified your friends, you've
notified your credit cards, you've
notified your magazines. Please
don't forget to notify your church. This informa-
tion helps us to keep our database current, and
cuts down on the cost of additional postage.

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4



OF INTEREST



Have You Registered?

If St. Ignatius Loyola is where you regularly worship, we invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at: www.stignatiusloyola.org

Having your name in our records is the only way we can certify that you are a practicing Catholic. If your address or email address changes, please be sure to notify us so that we can update our records.



Pastoral Visits Available for Homebound and Ill Parishioners

Parishioners have been trained for the ministry of pastoral visiting to the homebound and chronically ill in our Parish.

If you are interested in having a visit arranged for yourself or for another person, please contact Sr. Kathryn King.

Sr. Kathryn can be reached at 212-288-3588 or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

For more information about this process, which is called the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**, contact **Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588** or email church@stignatiusloyola.org



Catholic Charities: Strengthening Families and Resolving Crises.

Each year more than 3,000 families are helped to stay together through services that prevent children from being placed in foster care, 4,000 families are given financial assistance in a crisis, and 26,000 are helped with social services and counseling – all by the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

To learn more, please visit the website: www.catholiccharitiesny.org



PRAYER SUGGESTION ... Sacred Space

We invite you to make a “Sacred Space” in your day and spend ten minutes in prayer, as you sit at your computer, with the help of on-screen guidance and scripture chosen specially every day. **Visit www.sacredspace.ie**

Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, December 27th

(St. John)

1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97 John 20:1a, 2-8
8:30 MEM Dr. Emil Wittek
12:10 MEM Michael McMahon Family
5:30 MEM William Wizeman, S.J.

Tuesday, December 28th

(Feast of the Holy Innocents)

1 John 1:5 – 2:2 Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13-18
8:30 MEM Roland Williams
12:10 MEM Peggy Cummins
5:30 MEM Inez Trujillo

Wednesday, December 29th

(St. Thomas Becket)

1 John 2:3-11 Psalm 96 Luke 2:22-35
8:30 MEM John Figue
12:10 MEM Antonio Mauricio Luzia
5:30 MEM Michael Conlon

Thursday, December 30th

(Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave)

1 John 2:12-17 Psalm 96 Luke 2:36-40
8:30 MEM Margaret Sullivan
12:10 MEM George Kohutka
5:30 MEM William Powers

Friday, December 31st

(St. Sylvester I)

1 John 2:18-21 Psalm 96 John 1:1-18
8:30 MEM Luke La Valle III
12:10 MEM James Joseph Fitzgerald
5:30 MEM Alexander Mezo

Saturday, January 1st

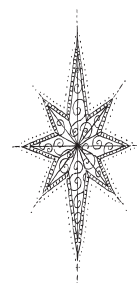
(Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin and Giving of the Name Jesus)

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 67 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Sunday, January 2nd

(Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord)

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72
 Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 Matthew 2:1-12



2010 Advent and Christmas Liturgical Music Fund Donors

(contributions of \$75 or more are listed)

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In memory of Richard J. Adams
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With gratitude to Philip Anderson
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The Barket Family
The Barnett Family
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In loving memory of Jack O'Leary
O'Neill Family
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In memory of Louis and Alda Parent
With gratitude to Nancianne Parrella
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With gratitude to Gregory Purnhagen
With gratitude to Bruce Rameker
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With gratitude to Robert Reuter
With gratitude to Rachel Rosales
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In memory of Alice and Winthrop Rutherford
Mary B. Safrai
Celeste Sant'Angelo and Stephen Koval
Noelle Savage Abraham
John J. Scott
Barbara and William Serpe
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Donna Signorelli
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Simons III
Diana Skerl and Michael Karakasians
The Skolnik Family
In memory of John Spano
With gratitude to Charles Perry Sprawls
Francesca Stanfill Nye
With gratitude to Michael Steinberger
With gratitude to Peter Stewart
Trudy and Michael Sullivan
Julie B. Sykes
With gratitude to Kathy Theil
Gladys Thomas
Sheila and Larry Toal
In memory of Dorothy and Hugh Toumey
In memory of Mary and Fred Trump
Ronald and Patricia Valonis and Family
Virginia Verwaal, with appreciation
to the music staff
The Vinocour McKeever Family
In loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Wattiker
Thomas and Carmen Whalen
In memory of Ethel and Frank White
Judith E. Williams and Mary A. Vaughn
Elizabeth and George Williamson
Karin and Bob Wiseman
In memory of William Wizeman, S.J.
In loving memory of
Monsignor Edward F. Wojtycha
Mashiho Yuasa
Ada G. Zambetti
Sofia, Lucia, Violetta and Teddy Zambetti
Patricia Zielinski
In memory of Carmelo and Gregoria Zizza
Zullo Family

COMING IN JANUARY



Ignatian Volunteer Corps Information Session

Thursday, January 6th. 10:30 - 11:45 AM. Parish Lounge.
IVC provides men and women, age 50 and over, the opportunity to serve the needs of those who are economically poor, to work for a more just society, and to grow spiritually by reflecting and praying in the Ignatian tradition.
For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon at 201-618-6924 or emcmahon@ivcusa.org



REGISTER NOW:

TAG, YOU'RE IT!

*An intergenerational evening with the
author of the ultimate caregiver handbook*

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

GAIL SHEEHY, *New York Times* best-selling author, will share insights from her latest book, *Passages in Caregiving: Turning Chaos Into Confidence*. Based on her own experience and research, caring for her husband, Ms. Sheehy is again shaping the national conversation on a vital issue. She will offer practical advice and suggest resources for those who are or will be unpaid caregivers to family and friends – one third of all Americans!

A book signing will follow the lecture.

Sponsored by: Emmaus Bereavement Ministry, Boomers & Beyond, and Ignatian Young Adults.

RSVP online to: gailsheehy@saintignatiusloyola.org
Enter "Gail Sheehy" on the subject line
Or call 212-288-3588 and enter x632

SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY READING GROUP

St. Ignatius Loyola Spiritual Community Reading Group is pleased to welcome

Fr. Jim Martin, S.J.

to its upcoming meeting:

**Tuesday, January 18th at 7:15 PM
in the Meeting Room.**

Fr. Martin will be joining the group for a discussion of his most recent book,
***The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything:
A Spirituality for Real Life.***

RSVP by Sunday, January 16th to Chris Carney
at ccarney123@gmail.com or 914-316-3068
or Meg Gottemoeller at megcorp@aol.com

New members are always welcome!



IGNATIAN TEENS

Saturday Service Opportunities

January 8th: *Xavier Food Pantry*

We will meet at 8:30 AM in the Parish House and go as a group by subway to St. Francis Xavier Church. We will return to the Parish House by 1:00 PM for pizza. **Register by Thursday, January 6th.**

January 15th: *Mercy Center*

We will meet at 8:30 AM at the Parish House and go as a group by subway to the Mercy Center in the Bronx. We will return to the Parish House as a group when our service is complete. **Register by Thursday, January 13th.**

**To register: call 212-288-3588 x610
or email: it@stignatiusloyola.org**

Chaperones are needed.

If you can assist, please call the number above.

IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Support the *Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act:*

Sunday, January 13th at 6:30 PM

Convent Baptist Church (145 Street and Convent Avenue)

Join ISJ to rally support for the **Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act**. If passed, businesses benefiting from a city-subsidized economic development project would be required to pay their workers a minimum wage of \$10 an hour (if benefits are provided) or \$11.50 an hour (if benefits are not provided). A crowd of 1,000 persons (clergy, community members, civic and labor leaders) is expected to make it clear that now is the time for a living wage for all New Yorkers.

If you would like to join the ISJ group at this rally, please e-mail ignatiansocialjustice@gmail.com

For additional information on the *Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act* please visit, www.livingwagennyc.org

**ISJ Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 26th
at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room.**



IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

FINDING GOD IN ART

Sense and the Sacred:

*Painting in the Age of Ignatius
and Beyond*

Saturday, January 15, 2011. 3:00 PM

Join Fr. Gregory Waldrop, a Jesuit art historian, for a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a discussion of Italian paintings from the 1500's to 1750. There will be a social afterwards in the museum's café.

We will meet at the entrance of the Met at 3:00 PM.

**For more information or to register, contact Fr. SooHoo
at soohoo@stignatiusloyola.org or 212-288-3588.**





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Nativity in the World from Naples to New York: An exhibition of rare creche figures, each a work of art, from the Neapolitan tradition. December 14, 2010 - January 21, 2011 from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM. Italian Cultural Institute, 686 Park Avenue (at 68th Street).

Torturing the Mind: U.S. Involvement in Psychological Torture. Sponsored by the Metro NY Religious Campaign Against Torture and featuring a panel of dynamic speakers from the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Bellevue/NYU Program for the Survivors of Torture, and the Unitarian Universalist Office of the U.N. Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00 PM. Pre-lecture reception at 6:30 PM. All Souls Unitarian Church, 1157 Lexington Avenue (between 79th and 80th). Free of charge.

For additional information, contact
Rev. Mark Hallinan, S.J., at 212-774-5500
or saynototorture@gmail.com

Weekend Stay, Special Rate: Come to Bethany Spirituality Center in Highland Mills, NY, on January 7th-9th or February 11th-13th. Bethany offers private rooms, delicious meals, opportunity for participation in community prayer and liturgy, quiet space, and use of the facilities. The suggested offering is \$127.50/pp for a weekend that includes all meals, beginning with 5:30 PM dinner on Friday and closing with 12:00 PM lunch on Sunday.

Visit the website at
www.bethanyspiritualitycenter.org
or call the office at (845) 460-3061.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Joanne Cunneen
Kathryn King, F.S.P.

Associate Pastors

Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. James L. Dugan, S.J.
Rev. Ugo R. Nacciarone, S.J.
Rev. Anthony P. SooHoo, S.J.

Assisting Priests (Sunday)

Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. Stephen Katsouras, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Music Ministries

Kent Tritle, *Director*
Renée Anne Louprette
Nancianne Parrella
Robert Reuter
Mary Huff
Michael Sheetz
Philip Anderson
Erin Acheson, *Administrator*
Staff information: on the website
at music/music staff

Assistant to the Pastor

Diane M. Boyle

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Schneider

Director of Facilities

Czeslaw "Chester" Ciupinski

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses Monday-Friday

8:30AM, 12:10PM and 5:30PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Fr. Ugo

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. SooHoo

9:30 AM Fr. Dugan

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Ugo

Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. SooHoo

7:30 PM Fr. Ugo

Religious Education for Children

Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S. Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School

Ms. Mary Larkin, M.S. Ed.
Principal

48 East 84th Street

New York, NY 10028

(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery

Ms. Theodora Crist, M.S.

Executive Director

240 East 84th Street

New York, NY 10028

(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass and
the 11:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall.

Centering Prayer:

Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Confessions: 5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment. Communal Penance Services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

Baptisms: Please call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults: Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages: The Bride or Groom should call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick: Please contact the Parish House between 9:00 AM-9:00 PM.

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org