The Healing Touch of Christ

Each year, the Church gives us the season of Lent to prepare ourselves for the joyful celebration of Easter. Over the centuries, the themes of this forty day period have remained amazingly consistent: renewal, change, turning to Christ, starting over. The very term “Lent” comes from an Old English word meaning spring, which gives a clear indication of the newness to which we are called during this annual observance.

While the general themes are perennial, however, each Lenten season carries its own distinct character. We enter the season at a particular moment in time, which brings its own unique challenges and concerns. The needs of our world, our nation, our families, and our own hearts are different this year from last year, and from every other year. Such is the beauty and the tragedy of life: we are in a state of constant change. So the renewal that the Lord is holding out for us this year is unique to our historical moment.

As we take a moment to step back and gain perspective, it is abundantly clear that we are living through difficult times, surrounded on many sides by brokenness and pain. On the world stage, we are witness to the horrific massacre of hundreds of civilians in Syria, rioting on the streets of Greece, and mounting concern over rising tension between Israel and Iran. Nationally, in this election year, we are assaulted by bitter political advertising that only promises to worsen in the months ahead, and as people of faith, we are deeply concerned about guaranteeing proper religious freedom, which many believe to be under attack. In the Church, we continue to suffer under growing divides of ideologies and of convictions about what makes for effective leadership. And in our personal lives, we may face all manner of wounds: sickness, broken relationships, unemployment, failures of various types.

Given all of this brokenness and pain, there is a crying need for healing. This year, the arrival of the Lenten season brings with it a longing for wholeness and reconciliation like never before. Each level of our common and individual lives seems to be fraught with injury. So we have chosen for our Parish theme this Lent, *The Healing Touch of Christ*. This will afford us the opportunity to direct our traditional Lenten prayers in a timely way.

I envision two directions that such prayer may take. The first is entreating the Lord to bring about the healing that is needed. As with all of those in need of healing who encounter Jesus in the gospels (the lepers, the paralytics, the blind, the deaf, the woman with the hemorrhage), we dare to come before him and beg him to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. For many of us, this may be the primary “turning” that is needed this Lent; turning away from denial or self-sufficiency, honestly laying bare our wounds and the wounds of the world, and placing our trust in both Jesus’ desire to heal, and his power to bring about such healing. We do well to spend much time in this mode of petitionary prayer.

The second direction is more oriented to action. Having identified situations, places, or people that need healing, we reach out in service. In this way, our Lenten prayer becomes a participation in the healing touch of Christ. As St. Teresa of Avila famously remarked, “Christ has no body now but yours; no hands, no feet on earth but yours.” If we take seriously the need for healing, we do well to supplement our mental prayer with concrete action on behalf of others. Through the Parish’s outreach activities, including the Lenten Cross Project, a wide variety of opportunities for service are available, as well as any number of healing activities you may be inspired to take up on your own.

This Lent, I encourage you to both heal and be healed. Praying and working together, this upcoming season has the potential to be one of renewal and healing for each of us individually, as well as for the Parish, the nation, and the world. And in this way, it will serve as a wonderful preparation for Easter.

Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19th
Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults (follows the 7:30 PM Mass).
All young adults (ages 21-39) are welcome.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
Presidents’ Day. The Parish House will be closed. One Mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 8:30 AM. There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st
Spiritual Community Reading Group. 7:15 PM.
Wallace Hall. This meeting will be led by Fr. James Martin, S.J. Details at right.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
IYA Knitting/Crocheting Group. 7:00 PM. Conference Room.
Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd
Scripture Reflections Group. 7:00 PM.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24th-26th
Shelter Weekend. Shelter Volunteers Urgently Needed!
We are in great need of volunteers to stay overnight with our shelter guests. The shelter runs every other weekend (Friday-Saturday-Sunday) from November through April. We serve 12 women each evening. For more details, and to volunteer, please contact Chris Halem at chrishalem@yahoo.com or 917-494-7301.

February 22nd
Ash Wednesday
Lent begins
Masses: 8:30 AM
12:10 PM (organ/cantor)
5:30 PM (organ/cantor)
7:30 PM (organ/cantor/choirs)
Ashes will be distributed at all Masses
4:00 PM in Wallace Hall:
Ash Wednesday Service for children and families, led by Joanne Cunneen.
(Adults must remain with their children at this service.)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
On Saturday, February 25th, Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., President of Fairfield University, will be the presider at the 5:30 PM Mass.
We welcome Father von Arx and all of the members of the Fairfield University Community who will be joining us at this Mass.

THIS WEEKEND:
Lenten Cross Registrations Continue
Details on page 5

SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY READING GROUP
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 21st at 7:15 PM in Wallace Hall
In preparation for this meeting, please read Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life, by Fr. James Martin, S.J.

Fr. Martin has kindly agreed to lead the discussion.
For additional information, contact Chris Carney at ccarney123@gmail.com or 914-316-3068.
New members are always welcome!

Mander Organ Recital
Series presents
Organ Plus!
NANCIANNE PARRELLA
Associate Organist
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola
with Jorge Ávila, violin
Victoria Drake, harp
and Arthur Fiacco, cello
Sunday, March 4th at 4:00 PM
Featuring original works and transcriptions for organ, harp, and cello by Franck, Bloch, Vierne, Duruflé, Mahler, and more.
Tickets are $20, or $15 for students and seniors, and are available in the Parish House, online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.
Meeting Christ in Prayer
Wednesdays, February 29th to April 25th
Morning Session: 9:30 – 11:00 AM
Evening Session: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Parish Lounge

“Meeting Christ in Prayer” is an eight week program of spiritual renewal based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. It is a fresh opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ, to grow in knowledge and understanding of Him, to imitate His love, and to renew one’s participation in His risen life. Each weekly gathering includes a guided meditation, faith-sharing, and orientation for the prayer of the following week. Open to both beginners in the spiritual journey and those committed to a prayer life for years, the commitment of participants is daily personal prayer of 30 minutes and an “examen,” or review of the day, in the evening.

Suggested scale for offering: $30 – $50 to cover materials.

To register, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

Lenten Prayer Resources
Pray as You Go
http://www.pray-as-you-go.org
Pray-as-you-go is a daily prayer session designed for use on your iPod or other portable MP3 player.

3-Minute Retreats
http://www.loyolapress.com/
3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm
Take a short prayer break right at your computer.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH
Please note the change in Mass times on Easter Sunday:
7:30 AM - Organ/Cantor
9:00 AM - Organ/Cantor
10:30 AM - Organ/Cantor/Choirs/Brass
11:00 AM (Wallace Hall Family Mass)
   Piano/Choirs
NOON (Solemn) - Organ/Cantor/
   Choirs/Brass
7:30 PM - Organ/Cantor

IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS
SUNDAY SOCIALS SCHEDULE
The IYA hosts socials for young adults (ages 21-39) in Wallace Hall from September through June following the Sunday evening 7:30 PM Mass.

Next Sunday Social:
February 19th

To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, please sign up for our email list at http://tinyurl.com/IgnatianYoungAdults and follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC)”

IYA Lenten Reflection Group

WHAT IS IT?
A reflection group for young adults in their 20’s and 30’s who can commit to regularly attending to share experiences about our relationship with God and gratefully and openly listen to one another. We will be reflecting on Henri Nouwen’s book Show Me The Way.

WHEN IS IT?
The group will meet each Sunday during Lent (February 26th - March 25th) from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge.

HOW CAN I JOIN?
If you are interested in participating, RSVP by February 20, 2012 by calling the Parish House at 212-288-3588 or emailing Fr. SooHoo, S.J. at soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org

Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com. Please bring the book to the first meeting.

New! IYA Knitting & Crocheting Group
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 22nd
7:00 – 9:00 PM
in the Conference Room

All IYAs are welcome to join us as we craft for charity. Meetings are held on Wednesdays once or twice each month. All skill levels are welcome. If you have questions or would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Molly at molly.nora@gmail.com

Lenten Retreat
Meeting Christ in Prayer
"Meeting Christ in Prayer" is an eight week program of spiritual renewal based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. It is a fresh opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ, to grow in knowledge and understanding of Him, to imitate His love, and to renew one's participation in His risen life. Each weekly gathering includes a guided meditation, faith-sharing, and orientation for the prayer of the following week. Open to both beginners in the spiritual journey and those committed to a prayer life for years, the commitment of participants is daily personal prayer of 30 minutes and an “examen,” or review of the day, in the evening.

Suggested scale for offering: $30 – $50 to cover materials.

To register, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org
We pray for the faithful departed
Robert Rondinelli
May he rest in the peace of the Risen Lord

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, February 20th
(7th Monday in Ordinary Time)
James 3:13-18     Psalm 19    Mark 9:14-29
8:30   MEM
Rev. John McDonald, S.J.

Tuesday, February 21st
(St. Peter Damian)
James 4:1-10     Psalm 55    Mark 9:30-37
8:30   MEM    Marguerite McDermott
12:10   MEM    Lord Edward Dunsany
5:30   MEM    George Caruso

Wednesday, February 22nd
(Asc Wednesday)
Joel 2:12-18     Psalm 51
2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2    Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM,
5:30 PM, and 7:30 PM
No Special Intentions

Thursday, February 23rd
(St. Polycarp)
8:30   MEM    Marguerite McDermott
12:10   MEM    Lena Merriam
5:30   MEM    Evelyn Bagwell

Friday, February 24th
(Friday after Ash Wednesday)
Isaiah 58:1-9a     Psalm 51    Matthew 9:14-15
8:30   MEM    John B., John A., & Elizabeth A. Rooney
12:10   MEM    Marguerite McDermott
5:30   MEM    Celeste Shack

Saturday, February 25th
(Saturday after Ash Wednesday)
Isaiah 58:9b-14     Psalm 86    Luke 5:27-32
8:30   MEM    Dr. Emil Wittek

Sunday, February 26th
(First Sunday of Lent)
Genesis 9:8-15     Psalm 25
1 Peter 3:18-22     Mark 1:12-15

Adult Confirmation Class
Tuesday evenings
March 13th - April 24th

Adult parishioners of St. Ignatius who have received First Eucharist but who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation can register for a course in preparation for the sacrament to be conferred here on Wednesday evening, April 25th, at 5:30 PM.

The course will begin on Tuesday evening, March 13th at 7:15 PM and will continue for seven consecutive Tuesday evenings, concluding on Tuesday, April 24th.

Attendance at all the sessions is required. Enrollment is limited. There may be room for a few already confirmed parishioners who seek some updating in Catholicism.

Interested adults should contact Fr. Bergen at the Parish House (212-288-3588).

Now Available at the Parish House:
SIX MINUTE
REFLECTIONS
FOR LENT

A small booklet of prayers and reflections for the Lenten Season is available at the Parish House. Based on the writings of the late Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, these booklets have been well received in past years. The goal is to find six minutes of quiet time each day during Lent and work through the booklet one day at a time.

Cost: $1.00

SCROLL STUDY

Fr. Robert O’Brien, S.J., of the Murray-Weigel Jesuit Community, will be offering reflections on the Sunday Scripture readings for the six weeks of Lent. Father O’Brien is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at LeMoyne College.

This Week:
Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM
in the Conference Room:
Invitation to Faith: Jesus, Satan, Crowd

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**LENTEN REGULATIONS**

During the Season of Lent, the Church urges all the Faithful to reflect a spirit of penance in their daily life through performing acts of fast and abstinence.

**Fasting** requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two other smaller meals may be taken during the day to maintain physical strength, but these two meals together should not equal a full meal in quantity. Fasting obliges all those who have reached the age of 18 and continues to oblige until age 59. Those not specifically obliged to fast are encouraged to join in the discipline of fasting to the extent that they are able.

**Abstinence** prohibits individuals from eating meat on a particular day. Abstinence obliges all those who have reached the age of 14 and continues to oblige throughout their entire life. Those not specifically obliged to abstain from eating meat are encouraged to join in this discipline to the extent that they are able.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fast and abstinence**.

Fridays in Lent are days of **abstinence**.

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**LENTEN CROSS PROJECT**

Registrations continue this weekend.

Instead of *giving something up* for Lent we invite you to *take something on* by committing to an act of service, advocacy, or prayer. Through next weekend, participants can review a list of suggested activities and commit to an action at sign-up tables in the Narthex after Mass. Participants will write their commitment on tags that will be attached to ribbons. These ribbons will be displayed on a large cross that will remain in the Narthex throughout Lent.

*We also need volunteers to help us:*

- Process the registration forms and send emails to volunteers and coordinators
- Staff the Lenten Cross tables for 15 minutes after any of the weekend Masses on 25th-26th.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email *lentencross@gmail.com* or sign up at the tables in the Narthex. Thank you.

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**LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

It is estimated that 1.5 million New Yorkers rely on soup kitchens and food pantries. Food insecurity is an on-going struggle for many families and individuals.

Throughout Lent, SVDp will be accepting donations of food for the Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

The items requested each week are listed below:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1 (Feb. 26th – Mar. 3rd)</th>
<th>Week 4 (Mar. 18th – 24th)</th>
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<tr>
<td>pasta, rice</td>
<td>canned fruits, cereal</td>
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<tr>
<td>tomato or spaghetti sauce, or Chef Boyardee canned meals</td>
<td>canned vegetables, beans</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3 (Mar. 11th – 17th)</th>
<th>Week 6 (Apr. 1st – 4th)</th>
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<tr>
<td>canned tuna or chicken, canned soup</td>
<td>rice, tomato sauce, bread</td>
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*Donations can be brought to the Parish House. Thank you for remembering those in need this Lenten Season.*

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**THANK YOU!**

In late January, there was an overwhelming response by parishioners to *Feeding Our Neighbors*, the Archdiocesan food drive.

The Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great was the recipient. St. Gregory also gratefully received our donations during the SVDp Advent food drive.

A note of thanks from Msgr. Michael Crimmins, Pastor of St. Gregory the Great, appears below:

Dear Father Witt,

On behalf of our parishioners and neighbors, I want to express our sincere gratitude for the tremendous generosity of your parish.

Both during the Advent season and this past January, our food programs have been the very fortunate recipients of your food donations. With your parish’s assistance, we have been able to feed our neighbors at both our food pantry and soup kitchen, never having to turn anyone away for lack of food.

Please express our gratitude to your parishioners and advise them that they will always be in our prayers.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Michael Crimmins
Pastor
Lenten Vespers 2012. The spirituality and theology coming to the Church from Africa and Latin America expand our vision of the universal Church. In this Vesper series, through psalmody, music, and preaching, Corpus Christi will reflect on the witness of the Church in Africa and Latin America.

Sunday, February 26th at 4:00 PM: The Woman Clothed with the Sun – Inspiration and the Emerging Church. Speaker: Dr. Natalia Imperatori-Lee, Manhattan College. Corpus Christi Church, 529 West 121st Street.

For more information, visit www.corpus-christi-nyc.org

Look at the World: Benefit Concert for the Ministries of The Actors’ Chapel. Monday, February 20th at 7:30 PM. St. Malachy’s, The Actors’ Chapel, 239 West 49th Street (between Broadway and 8th Avenue). The St. Malachy’s Festival Choir will present 200 singers in an eclectic program of sacred and secular choral music as well as music from the Great American Songbook. A wine and cheese reception will follow the concert. VIP Sanctuary Ticket: $100, Sanctuary Ticket: $50, West Chapel Ticket: $25. For more information and tickets contact the church office at 212-489-1340 or visit www.actorschapel.org

Paul Elie Speaks on Dorothy Day. Thursday, March 8th at 7:00 PM. Mary Chapel, Church of St. Francis Xavier, 55 West 15 Street. Paul Elie is the author of The Life You Save May Be Your Own, the story of Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, Flannery O’Connor, and Walker Percy, American Catholics who penned books out of their search for God. This is the second in a series of three talks being sponsored by the Lay Spirituality Program of the Church of St. Francis Xavier. Suggested donation: $15. Please email layspirits@gmail.com or call 212-627-2100 x216.

Weekday Masses Monday–Friday
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM and 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM Fr. von Arx
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Witt
9:30 AM Fr. Witt
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Ugo
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.

Eucharistic Adoration: First Saturdays at 9:00 AM in the Lady Chapel.

Centering Prayer: Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Confections: 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.