Twenty-five adults were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil! This week, four of these adults share their unique stories.

- Maureen Fullam, Director
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

As we journey through life, we all have our joys and sorrows. Being part of the St. Ignatius Loyola community for many years has helped me share those joys and endure those sorrows. Through this faith-filled community, I have experienced God’s grace through the many who have embraced me and my family. I know that throughout my life, in good and bad times, God has been by my side, and it was time I embraced Him.

– Mary Hom

When I proposed to my Catholic fiancée, we agreed that religion can be the glue that keeps a family together. So I decided to explore Catholicism. Growing up my family had good values, but I was not raised with something to look toward as an embodiment of our values. Our parents were certainly role models and we loved them dearly. Divorce does, however, change how you look at things; after it became clear that their split would be permanent, something was definitely missing.

At St. Ignatius, I found that embodiment in Jesus Christ. He is the model for living. He teaches us how to love our spouse, children, neighbors, and even our enemies. Jesus and His Church provide the foundation on which my soon-to-be wife and I will build our family. I am thankful each day to God and my fiancée for leading me down this road, and look forward with great joy to the Sacrament of Marriage this fall…at St. Ignatius Loyola! – Jordan Lert

My spiritual quest began years ago. I was raised in Northern California by non-observant Jewish parents whose families intermarried with Christians at various junctions in the family tree. Ours was a secular home. I recall Santa Claus Christmases and Easter Bunny Easters with fondness. We had a devoutly Catholic nanny who lived with us for 22 years. She was my only exposure to a practicing religious person. Through the years, I struggled to find stability during turbulent times. While I always prayed to God, I felt that it was disrespectful to bother Him for small things. I walked a line between Jewish and Christian – always respectful, but never belonging. Ten years ago I married a “cradle Catholic” and agreed to raise my children in the faith. I was married in the Church and baptized my sons. They attended our church’s nursery school. My older son received his First Communion at St. Ignatius and my younger son will soon do the same.

Last year I decided I wanted to explore Catholicism. It started with my feeling that I no longer wanted to be “on the fence,” and the desire to belong to the same religion as my husband and children. The experience has transformed me. I realized how intense my longing to belong was and how much I yearned for a closer relationship with God. Through Jesus Christ, I am able to bridge the gap between a God who always felt very far from me despite my belief in His existence. I am now walking a spiritual path of learning and growing together in the Catholic religion with my sons. I want my family to have an active faith and a life full of tradition. In this quest, I am both student and teacher. Already I feel more secure in the world. I hope my faith will guide and sustain me and allow me to impart that gift to my children. – Amanda Elizabeth Holmén

Over the many years that I have sung in the volunteer choirs here at St. Ignatius, this wonderful Parish has become my church home. I have been inspired and nurtured by dear friendships, thoughtful and caring priests, and by the beauty of extraordinary music. Since September I have been taught and encouraged by the dedicated and generous members of the RCIA team. So, with my dear sponsor/godmother by my side, it was with joy that I received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion at the Easter Vigil, thus deepening my sense of home within this community. I feel so happy and privileged now to receive Communion with my fellow choir members and with the whole congregation. My heart is filled with gratitude for the many gifts I have received here, and I feel that I am in the right place for me, a place where I will be inspired to grow in faith and in love.

– Virginia Hoge Verwaal
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**MONDAY, MAY 14th**
Making Time: Late Nights, Bothering God, Art Lessons at All Hours. An Art Presentation by Rev. Michael Tunney, SJ. 7:00 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 5.

Ranger Rosary Ministry. 7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Supplies and instructions are provided. New members are welcome! To date, over 4000 rosaries have been made for soldiers, sailors, Marines, and Air Force personnel!

**WEDNESDAY, May 16th**
Ignatian Young Adult Knitting Group. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. Details on page 3.

**ASCENSION THURSDAY**
May 17th
Masses will be celebrated at 5:30 PM (anticipated Mass on Wednesday, May 16th) and at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM in the Church on Thursday, May 17th.

**THURSDAY, May 17th**

The Hour Children Project: A Talk by Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald. 7:00 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 5.

**Just published!**
**ACCIDENTAL AFRICAN BLESSINGS: A MEMOIR**
Associate Pastor Fr. Ugo Nacciarone, S.J., was missioned to Nigeria in 1967 and spent the next 40 years working in Africa. He returned to the United States in 2007. This book is a reflection of Fr. Ugo’s years in Africa.

To order a copy of **Accidental African Blessings**, visit www.amazon.com or www.bn.com

**On behalf of Pastor George Witt, S.J., and the Staff of Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, best wishes for a blessed Mother’s Day.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**
**Meeting Christ in Prayer: Reunion Gathering**
Wednesday, May 23rd
7:00 – 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

This gathering is open to all those who have participated at any time in the **Meeting Christ in Prayer Retreat**.

It will be an opportunity to renew and deepen your desire to continue “meeting Christ in prayer.”

RSVP to Sr. Kathryn King at kingk@saintignatiusloyola.org

**Thank you for your generosity now please remember us later!**
Remember St. Ignatius in Your Estate Plan.
Leave a legacy to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola by including a bequest in your will.

Please contact Mary Reed, Director of Development, at 212-288-3588 x632 or reedm@stignatiusloyola.org

**Ignatian Volunteer Corps Information Session**
Thursday, May 17th
11:15 AM – Noon
Parish Lounge

IVC is an organization of men and women who are retired from full-time work and want to use their talents to help others. Volunteers commit two days per week to working directly with those who are economically poor and marginalized or with organizations that address issues that affect the poor.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon at 201-618-6924 or emcmahon@ivcusa.org

**PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4**
**First Communion**

**Sunday: May 20th**

**11:00 AM**

Wallace Hall Family Mass

All of the boys and girls who made their First Holy Communion this spring are encouraged to wear their Communion suits and dresses to this Mass.

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**The Staff of the St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery cordially invites the members of the Parish Community to**

**A Night in Seville: The Annual Spring Benefit**

**Friday, May 18th**

7:00 PM to Midnight

The Central Park Boathouse

Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing, Raffle, Live and Silent Auction

For ticket information, please call 212-734-6427 x24.

Persons over 21 years of age are welcome.

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**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 you move or if your email address changes, please be sure to notify us so that we can update our records.

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**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

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**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: May 20th**

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)”

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**IYA Knitting & Crocheting Group**

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, May 16th

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

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**EATS & SWEETS**

The IYA Cookbook

Not your average church cookbook, **EATS & SWEETS** is a professionally-bound collection of appetizer and dessert recipes.

It’s a great resource for party planning, and supports our Parish too! Cost: $20

Available in the Parish House.

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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 information helps us to keep our database current, and cuts down on the cost of additional postage. Thanks!
Finding God in Unsettled Times: A Conference on Ignatian Spirituality

Friday, June 29th – Sunday, July 1st
Loyola University Maryland

Can we find God in unsettled times? And if so, how?

Ignatius lived in unsettled times. The world around him was experiencing wars, religious and ethnic persecutions, slavery, and plague. And Ignatius himself experienced the loss of loved ones, career upheaval, near-death illness, and the profound unsettledness that comes when one faces one’s own sinfulness. Centuries later we find ourselves in unsettled times that are different and yet much the same.

The Jesuit Collaborative invites you to learn about Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises, a time-tested way of finding God, and to journey with them as they seek to find God in unsettled times, in these times, at all times, always.

The Conference will offer a variety of workshops and keynote presentations.

Additional information can be found by visiting www.jesuit-collaborative.org

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

We have the privilege at St. Ignatius of welcoming many visitors and new parishioners. We especially welcome those who may be thinking of becoming Catholic.

If you feel attracted to the Catholic faith, we want you to know about a program at the Parish which will begin in September. A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray and to prepare for the Easter Sacraments. This process is also open to those Catholic adults who have not received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

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

Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, May 14th
(St. Matthias)
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Psalm 113 John 15:9-17
8:30 MEM Mae Rooney
12:10 MEM Thomas Gangemi
5:30 MEM Jane Murphy

Tuesday, May 15th
(St. Isidore)
Acts 16:22-34 Psalm 138 John 16:5-11
8:30 MEM Patrick Burke
12:10 MEM Jack O'Leary
5:30 MEM Sergio Jaquin Nieves

Wednesday, May 16th
(St. Andrew Bobola)
Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1 Psalm 148 John 16:12-15
8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly
12:10 MEM Eamon Tubridy
5:30 MEM Brian Robins

Thursday, May 17th
(Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord)
Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:17-23 Mark 16:15-20

Friday, May 18th
(St. John I)
8:30 MEM Jack Ronita
12:10 MEM Bessie & William Callahan
5:30 MEM Cono Pasqua

Saturday, May 19th
(Sixth Saturday of Easter)
8:30 MEM Anthony Implicito

Sunday, May 20th
(Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26 Psalm 103
1 John 4:11-16 John 17:11b-19
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

EMERGENCY HEATING AND COOLING CAMPAIGN!

We Are Halfway to Our Goal!

The heating and cooling systems which have served our church for over 50 and 35 years respectively are in desperate need of replacement. In order to address this urgent need, we must raise $2,400,000. A small group of generous parishioners pledged just under one million dollars to get the campaign underway. Several weeks ago the entire Parish was informed about the project. Our total now stands at $1,270,000!

Thank you to all those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, our Parish needs your help. This is an urgent matter, and we cannot meet our goal without your assistance. A letter was recently sent to all registered parishioners explaining the details of the project. Please take time to fill out the pledge card that accompanied the letter and return it to the church as soon as possible. Additional pledge cards are available at the Parish House.

The letter and pledge card can also be accessed by visiting our website, www.stignatiusloyola.org and clicking on the Emergency Heating and Cooling Campaign tab at upper right.

For additional details, please contact Mary Reed, Director of Development, at 212-288-3588 x632 or reedm@stignatiusloyola.org

The Hour Children Project:
A Talk by Sr. Tesa Fitzgerald, Executive Director
Hour Children
Thursday, May 17th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

Each year we look forward to the arrival of the Hour Children truck at St. Ignatius and the opportunity to donate gently used furniture, household goods, clothing, and toys to mothers and their children. But have you ever wondered about the story behind this amazing ministry? The program, begun 25 years ago by Sr. Tesa, is unique because it works with women and their children while the mothers are still incarcerated.

Come hear how Sr. Tesa has affected the lives of so many and how we, too, can effect change.

This talk is being jointly sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice and Ignatian Young Adults.

Making Time: Late Nights, Bothering God, Art Lessons at All Hours
An Art Presentation by Rev. Michael F. Tunney, SJ

Monday, May 14th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Join Fr. Michael Tunney, SJ, for an art presentation in which he offers a select tour through his works of recent years, linking the art and his own experience of prayer and reflection. It will respond to the classic Ignatian search for God in all things.

Rev. Michael F. Tunney, SJ, is the founding director of the Office of Mission & Identity at Canisius College, Professor of Fine Arts in the college’s studio art program he founded in 1995, and rector of the Canisius Jesuit Community. Rev. Tunney has an MFA in painting and MS in art history from Pratt Institute. His work has been exhibited at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Art Dialogue Gallery in Buffalo, as well as in Boston, New York City, Kansas City, and Montreal.

Photo by Michael Flecky, SJ
Third Annual Mass and Devotion to St. Dymphna, patroness of those suffering from emotional and psychological difficulties, autism, and Alzheimer’s disease. Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00 PM Cathedral of St. Patrick For those afflicted, and for families, friends, and members of the medical community. This healing Mass will include the communal rite of the anointing of the sick.

Contemplative Outreach of New York City presents Fr. William Meninger for three talks, May 18th-20th. Join Fr. Meninger on Friday evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday afternoon, as he explores Julian of Norwich, “Theological Background of Contemplative Prayer and Meditation,” and “The Process of Forgiveness and Centering Prayer.” Locations: Church of St. Luke in the Fields and St. Joseph’s Church in the West Village. This is a special opportunity to spend time, for one talk or for the whole weekend, with one of the original developers of Centering Prayer. For additional information and to order advance discounted tickets, visit www.cony.eventbrite.com or www.centeringprayerny.com

YOU’RE INVITED!
13th Annual Benefit Reception and Silent Auction for the Xavier Society for the Blind
Monday Evening, May 14th
5:30 – 8:00 PM
New York Athletic Club
7th Avenue and Central Park West
There will be drinks and hors d’oeuvres, the music of jazz guitarist Bill Wurtzel, and a silent auction.
Door Prizes – Raffle Prizes – and more!
Tickets (available at the door):
$125 per person ($50 of which is tax-deductible)
Visit www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org
Thank you for your support!

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