The Most Wonderful Gift in All the World

We can receive gifts of all kinds. Some gifts are rather expensive and elaborate – like a new car or a diamond bracelet. Other gifts are simple and less complicated, like a small child handing a dandelion to a parent.

Everyone enjoys receiving a gift. We may try to suppress our excitement as we unwrap the gift – awkwardly, but the pleasure is written on our face. And there’s just as much delight when we watch a friend or loved one tackle the wrappings of a gift we have lovingly offered to show our affection.

This very human experience of gift giving and gift receiving is but a pale reflection of a central truth about God. The all-loving God does not give us SOMETHING, but instead shares an intimate part of God’s very own self. The Gift of the Holy Spirit is so utterly special.

Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus on the day of his baptism, just before he began his public ministry. A voice proclaimed, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

This Spirit remained with him as he made that lonely journey into the desert. As the second graders say in their own uncanny way, Jesus was preparing “to do his job.” And for that he needed the Spirit. As Jesus took up his “job,” the Spirit guided him in the selection of the apostles and as they moved from place to place. The Spirit was with Jesus as he healed the sick and comforted the sorrowing, as he dispelled the evil spirits and preached the nearness of the Kingdom and the love of his Father.

Shortly before his death, when Jesus was most aware of his leave taking, at that precise moment, he promised us a gift – a gift so special, he said, that it was good that he was leaving so that we could enjoy it even more. He gave this gift to the world with his last breath on the cross when, as reported in John’s gospel, Jesus handed over his spirit. The power of the Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, the same Spirit that Jesus gave again to the church gathered together on that first Pentecost Sunday when the Spirit appeared in the form of tongues of fire.

Interestingly, this most precious gift of the Spirit was given to those who probably didn’t deserve it and never anticipated the effect it would have on their lives. For the most part, they were either hiding in fear or confused about the future when the gift unexpectedly appeared, despite the forewarnings that it would most certainly be given. But the effect on them was the same, on that first Pentecost. They were no longer afraid and Peter rushed to the balcony, Luke reports, to reveal to the world what had happened to them. Their enthusiasm could no longer be contained. The gift that Jesus had given them was like a fire that no one could suppress. It was the same Spirit that had animated all that Jesus himself had done.

You and I received this gift of the Spirit at our baptism and in a special way at Confirmation when we completed what the Church calls the “Sacraments of Initiation.” It’s the same Spirit that the risen Lord gave to his disciples. So when you find yourself in your own “desert experience,” when you have to ask yourself how you will be able to persevere through some time of trial or resist a distressing temptation, know that you have that special gift of the Spirit. When people you love need the special care that you alone are called upon to offer, know that the power that Jesus demonstrated in his ministry is given as a gift. Know that when a truth that others have forgotten needs your special witness, the gift of the Spirit is empowering you to stand firm. Or when you, in the secret place of your own heart, must remain faithful in ways that no one else can understand, remember that this seemingly inexplicable fidelity is possible only through the gift that has always been with you. The appearance of the gift is always a surprise and unexpected. But it is, when all is said and done, the most wonderful gift in all the world, the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Joanne Cunneen
Director of Religious Education
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, MAY 28th
Memorial Day
The Parish House will be closed.
One Mass will be celebrated at
8:30 AM in the Lady Chapel.
There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

AUDITIONS FOR
CHILDREN’S AND
HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS
Are you interested in becoming a member of
the St. Ignatius Loyola Children’s or High School Choirs?
Auditions will be held on:
Monday, June 4th from 3:15 – 4:30 PM
Tuesday, June 5th from 3:15 – 4:30 PM
Parish House Meeting Room
(across from Reception)
Eligible children/teens
must be rising into the 1st – 12th grades.
No appointment or preparation is necessary.
Parents or caregivers should be present
to complete registration materials.
Questions? Contact Sara Murphy at
music@stignatiusloyola.org
or 212-288-3588.

Mander Organ Recital Series presents
KENT TRITLE
Director of Music,
St. John the Divine
Organist, New York Philharmonic
and
American Symphony Orchestra
Wednesday, June 6th
at 7:30 PM
Featuring works by
J. S. BACH  NICOLAS DE GRIGNY
DANIEL PINKHAM  CÉSAR FRANCK
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.

Interested in becoming Catholic?
Call 212-288-3588 or email
church@stignatiusloyola.org

ST. IGNATIUS
DAY NURSERY
Parishioner Admissions
Information Meeting
Hosted by Ms. Theodora Crist,
Executive Director
Wednesday, June 6th
6:30 – 7:30 PM in Wallace Hall
Parishioners are welcome to attend for a general overview
of the Day Nursery’s admission process.
RSVP to valentinm@ignatiusdn.org

Announced Masses and
Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, May 28th  (8th Monday in Ordinary Time)
1 Peter 1:3-9  Psalm 111  Mark 10:17-27
8:30 MEM  Min-Li (Michael) Lee

Tuesday, May 29th  (8th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)
1 Peter 1:10-16  Psalm 98  Mark 10:28-31
8:30 MEM  Rose Bernabei
12:10 MEM  Claire Cascella
5:30 MEM  Veronica Donadio

Wednesday, May 30th  (8th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)
1 Peter 1:18-25  Psalm 147  Mark 10:32-45
8:30 MEM  Jack Romita, Sr.
12:10 LVG  Eileen Egan
5:30 ANN  William Powers

Thursday, May 31st  (Visititation of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
8:30 MEM  Jane Evers
12:10 MEM  Sose Preklezaj
5:30 MEM  Living & Deceased Members
of the Wallace Family

Friday, June 1st  (St. Justin)
1 Peter 4:7-13  Psalm 96  Mark 11:11-26
8:30 MEM  Michael Savage
12:10 MEM  Americo Pelegrino
5:30 MEM  Pete Casella

Saturday, June 2nd  (St. Marcellinus & St. Peter)
Jude 17, 20b-25  Psalm 63  Mark 11:27-33
8:30 MEM  William J. Conroy

Sunday, June 3rd  (Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity)
Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40  Psalm 33
Romans 8:14-17  Matthew 28:16-20
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

EMERGENCY HEATING AND COOLING CAMPAIGN

Because of your generosity our thermometer is climbing!

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 currently stands at $1,532,500!

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 has been 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 Parish Ministry Council cordially invites St. Ignatius Parishioners active in Ministry to the Ministers’ Night Annual Supper Social Celebrating Our Call to Ministry Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00 PM Wallace Hall RSVP by Sunday, June 3rd: 212-288-3588 or church@stignatiusloyola.org Please leave both your name and your ministry. We look forward to sharing a meal together!

FROM THE PASTOR

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND...

An Information Meeting

Sunday, June 10th

hosted by

Rev. George Witt, S.J., Pastor

TOPIC: The Emergency Heating and Cooling Campaign

Location and Time: The Wallace Hall Stage, immediately following the 11:00 AM Masses.

The Meeting will last for approximately 30 minutes and will include information about
• the systems being installed
• an update on the construction process
• the need for the Campaign

A question and answer period will follow.

For more information, please contact Mary Reed, Director of Development, at 646-981-2632 or reedm@stignatiusloyola.org
The 2012 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal

The Stewardship Appeal supports many important ministries and programs. Your gifts are allocated towards religious education programs, youth ministries, local charities, the education of seminarians, retired clergy, and all of the services provided by the Archdiocese.

If you have not yet made your commitment to the Appeal, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time gift. Envelopes are available in the pews and in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

Gifts can also be made online at www.stewardshipappeal.org

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