The God of Mystery

This time of year is pre-eminently a season for Church mysteries. Last Sunday, we celebrated Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the fledgling Church. Ten days before that, we commemorated the Ascension and the return of the glorified Christ to the Father. Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity, and next Sunday Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. In a world where what is clear, logical, and scientifically verifiable is supremely prized, Christians celebrate wonder and give thanks for mystery.

In Christian theology, “mystery” does not mean that something is unintelligible or meaningless. On the contrary, mystery is something that is shot through with meaning and so defies being fully grasped. All of us have experienced mystery at certain privileged moments in our life. That moment might be an encounter with a person of heroic goodness, or a breath-taking sunset, or the birth of your child. An experience of mystery has us saying and believing that “there is more here than meets the eye.” It is altogether different from the more common experience that “what you see is what you get.”

The Christian religion is replete with mystery and so somewhat like an iceberg – seven-eighths of it beneath the surface! The tip of the iceberg, the visible eighth, is the earthly life of Jesus. The Gospels are the privileged look into that life. But the life of Jesus is only the tip of a far greater mystery – the deep mystery of God. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians speaks of the “vast resources of power” that are always surging just below the surface of the visible.

There is so much about our faith that makes one stop and say, like Mary at the Annunciation, “I don’t understand. How could this be? What does it mean?” Church theologians and Church Councils have been doing their best through the centuries to communicate meaning. But still, after their work is done, what we are left with is the seven-eighths of the iceberg that is the mystery of God. And to think we can grasp our religious beliefs with total clarity is to move into a kind of idolatry. We can begin to worship our particular faith formulations and understandings about God, not God Himself.

In the eleventh century, there was a serious dispute in the Church over the Trinity. The burning issue at the time was: Does the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father and the Son? Or does the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father through the Son? It seems hard to believe that such an abstruse question could become a major reason for the great schism in the Church which split the West from the East, Rome from Constantinople – a split that persists to this day.

The reality is that we always have a very limited and imperfect comprehension of God and the ways of God. Not long ago at Mass, we heard St. Paul say in his letter to the Romans: “How deep are the riches and wisdom of God! How inscrutable his judgments! How unsearchable his ways!” Where we know this certainly applies is to the mystery of suffering and evil in the world that Jesus alludes to in many parts of the Gospel. The disciples in those first galloping days of the Church understood this. They accepted in faith what they couldn’t clearly understand. And they acted out of its power – the power coming from the vast invisible part of the iceberg. And the Church took off like a rocket!

You and I need to be less concerned about having clear and full explanations to all our religious questions. We have to become more and more comfortable with uncertainty, with ambiguity, and with mystery. We have to become more trusting in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit to the Church – a presence that has allowed the Church to survive and to grow these past 2,000 years – despite all the scandals, the mistakes, and the schisms that have had the potential to reduce the Church to a footnote in history. We have to have faith in the enormous power of God, always at work for our good, beneath the visible tip of the iceberg.

Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Associate Pastor
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, JUNE 4th
Children’s Choir Auditions. 3:15 – 4:30 PM. Meeting Room. Details on page 3.

Ranger Rosary Ministry. 7:00 PM. Parish Lounge. 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!

TUESDAY, JUNE 5th
Children’s Choir Auditions. 3:15 – 4:30 PM. Meeting Room. Details on page 3.

Ministers’ Night Annual Supper Social. 7:00 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 5.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. All are welcome.

Organ Recital: Kent Tritle. 7:30 PM. Church. Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7th

Come one, Come all to the ANNUAL STREET FAIR!
Friday, June 8th, 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Saint Ignatius Loyola School invites the Parish to its Annual Street Fair, taking place on Friday, June 8th. 84th street will be closed to allow Fair-goers to enjoy games, rides, and food – both on the street and in McKinnon Hall.

Tickets can be purchased in McKinnon Hall upon arrival. It is a rain or shine event, so make plans to start next weekend with some family fun!

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Information Session Thursday, June 7th 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

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

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4
Boomers & Beyond cordially invites you to an Interparish Liturgy concelebrated by the Pastors of the Upper East Side Catholic Parishes.

Wednesday, June 20th, 7:00 PM
Church of St. Stephen of Hungary
414 East 82nd Street

A reception will follow.

RSVP by Monday, June 18th:
BoomersandBeyond.eastside@gmail.com (preferred) or call 646-241-1332.

www.boomersandbeyondnyc.com
Announced Masses and Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday, June 4th
(9th Monday in Ordinary Time)
2 Peter 1:2-7      Psalm 91     Mark 12:1-12
8:30  MEM            Luis Velasquez
12:10 MEM           Fernando Feria
5:30  MEM           George Caruso

Tuesday, June 5th
(St. Boniface)
2 Peter 3:12-15a, 17-18     Psalm 90     Mark 12:13-17
8:30  MEM        John Figge
12:10 MEM      The Meehan Family
5:30  MEM      Jacinta Fernandez

Wednesday, June 6th
(St. Norbert)
2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12     Psalm 123     Mark 12:18-27
8:30  MEM        The Choix & Gordon Families
12:10 MEM    David Wicks
5:30  ANN        Bill Wanago

Thursday, June 7th
(9th Thursday in Ordinary Time)
2 Timothy 2:8-15     Psalm 25     Mark 12:28-34
8:30  MEM        Bernard Joseph Brille
12:10 MEM      Ramona Jimenez Rodriguez
5:30  MEM        Sr. Frances Smith, S.C.

Friday, June 8th
(9th Friday in Ordinary Time)
2 Timothy 3:10-17     Psalm 119     Mark 12:35-37
8:30  MEM        Kay Carolyn Calcagnini
12:10 MEM     Edward Viator
5:30  MEM     Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Saturday, June 9th
(St. Ephrem & Bl. Joseph de Anchieta)
2 Timothy 4:1-8     Psalm 71     Mark 12:38-44
8:30  MEM        Rose & Olive O’Neill

Sunday, June 10th
(Solemnity of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ)
Exodus 24:3-8     Psalm 116
Hebrews 9:11-15     Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Weddings
Michael T. Byrne and Heather E. Shea
Joseph Charles Perry and Cindy Perez
Stephen Joseph Rich and Terri Ann Minogue
Joseph J. Z. Sclafani and Barbara Juarez Rodriguez
Edward Vincent Zilnicki and Raquel Margarita Canadas

Baptisms
James Edmund Bannerman          Cillian Michael O’Brien
Andinia Dayanary Carrion         Jacqueline Victoria
Sophia Anne Faustin              Okasmaa
Liam Brian Foley                 Liam Johan O’Malley
Allison Sinclair Hart            Rose Catherine O’Rourke
Reagan Elizabeth Hart            Emily Luz Rojas
Jack Alexander Janus             Manfredo Harrison Rossi
John Willard Jedlicka           Catherine Lorayne Villar
Penelope Sophia Juarez           Claire Marina Willburn
Amelia Margot Lacher             Carolina Marta Zepeda
Lila Ann Mangus                  Fernando Zepeda
Eloise Lily Nazar                Katherine Zepeda
De Jancourt                      Reese Barbara Zicare

First Holy Communion
66 students from Saint Ignatius Loyola School
and 115 students from the Saint Ignatius Loyola
Interparish Religious Education Program
received the Sacrament.
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

EMERGENCY HEATING AND COOLING CAMPAIGN

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.

Our total currently stands at $1,580,150.

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.

Pledge cards are available in the Narthex and at the Parish House.

Complete information about the campaign, including a 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
Eucharistic Ministers needed. Mount Sinai Hospital is in need of Eucharistic Ministers to visit the Catholic patients in the hospital. Days and hours are flexible. If you can volunteer a few hours a week please contact Julia Catrain at 212-241-5280 or Rev. Francis at friroot@gmail.com

New York Catholic Center Blood Drive. Wednesday, June 6th, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM. 1011 First Avenue, 9th Floor Cafeteria. To schedule an appointment, email Maryteresa.McKenna@archny.org or call 646-794-3077. Walk-ins are welcome!

Catholic Charities is recruiting a team to participate in the 2012 ING New York City Marathon. Team Catholic Charities NY runners will raise funds for the St. Nicholas Project, a program that provides critical social services for families in need in the New York Archdiocese. St. Nicholas Project services include nutritious meals, job readiness training, housing assistance, and immigration and refugee resettlement counseling. To learn more about the St. Nicholas Project and Team Catholic Charities NY, visit CatholicCharitiesNY.org/marathon. Inquiries may be directed to TeamCathCharitiesNY@archny.org

PARISH STAFF

Music Ministries
Scott Warren, Director
Nancianne Parrella
Robert Reuter
Michael Sheetz
Philip Anderson
Sara Murphy, Administrator
Staff information: on the website at music/music staff

Director of Development
Mary Reed

Assistant to the Pastor
Diane M. Boyle

Administrative Assistant
Patricia Schneider

Director of Facilities/Events Coordinator
Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski

Treasurer
Fernando Castro

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. Bergen
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Witt
9:30 AM Fr. Witt
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Dugan
7:30 PM Fr. Dugan

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

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.