Baptism: Enlivening the Church

Each one of the gospels attributes a lot of importance to the baptism of Jesus. Clearly the tradition the evangelists inherited taught that something very profound had happened to Jesus in the waters of the River Jordan. The story of Jesus’ baptism could not be ignored, but each evangelist has his own way of incorporating the event into his gospel. Luke uses his typical stylistic devise when he describes Jesus at prayer as the setting for the voice from heaven and the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove. In Luke’s gospel, whenever Jesus is at prayer, something important is about to take place.

But what exactly happened to Jesus that was so important? Christian doctrine insists that Jesus was without sin, so Jesus did not experience a conversion or reconciliation – which was in fact the main purpose of John’s baptism. Rather, Luke emphasizes the role of the Spirit. At his baptism Jesus is “inspired” and confirmed in his identity as “Son of God.” The result is that the Spirit is the motivating force in Jesus’ life, leading him into the desert and then returning him to the synagogue of Nazareth where Jesus proclaims how the action of the Spirit has taken over his life. For Luke, the ministry of Jesus, what he does for the rest of his life, is all traceable to the moment of baptism and the inspiration of the Spirit.

From its very beginning the Church has looked upon baptism as the fundamental event in the life of the Christian disciple. Undoubtedly this continuing emphasis on baptism goes back to the gospel story of Jesus and the effect of baptism on Jesus’ own life. Here in our own parish of St. Ignatius, I am privileged to spend an important part of my ministry on the sacrament of baptism. I prepare the parents of infant children who request to have their children baptized. One Saturday morning every month I present the Church’s teaching on baptism and the wonderful experience these parents will share with their child and family.

I tell these parents how important it is not to be overly distracted by all the circumstances that usually surround a child’s baptism: the family negotiations and social arrangements and the party following. No, the real significance of the event is much more profound and hopefully determinative for the life of their child. For now their child is stamped with a new identity as a son or daughter of God and called to live a life under the power of the Spirit.

Of course, this new reality can take shape in the life of a child only if the parents embrace their true mission as the first educators of their child in the life of faith. So I really spend most of my time talking to adults about the meaning baptism must have for them. And it all goes back to the experience of Jesus himself at his own baptism.

The ceremony of baptism captures well the deeper meaning I want to share with parents. Immediately after the pouring of water over their child, the priest will anoint their child with sacred chrism speaking these words, “As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his sacred people.” This has always struck me as bold and daring words for the liturgy to draw such a close parallel between Christ’s vocation (as proclaimed at his own baptism) with the vocation of the newly baptized Christian. The words express the privilege we share to be so closely associated with the Lord. But also they are intimidating words, because how are we to be agents of sanctification in our world, or proclaimers of the good news, or agents working to usher in the kingdom of God? The answer, of course, lies in the Spirit whose power is at work in us.

All this is a perennial truth in the teaching of the Church. But somehow I think these words have never been more true in the experience of Christians than it is now. For hardly ever has there been a time when the responsibility for the full action of the Church in the world has been more dependent on the initiatives and actions of lay men and women. The baptismal experience that ushered in the ministry of Jesus is now more than ever the experience that energizes our Church.

Joaanne Cunneen
Director of Religious Education
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th
40s & Fabulous Monthly Social.
8:30 – 10:00 PM. Parish Lounge.
Details on page 3

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.
All are welcome.

Ignotian Social Justice. Screening of Gasland, a film that explores fracking. 7:00 PM. Parish Lounge.
All are welcome.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17th
Thursday Morning Prayer Group.
9:30 – 11:00 AM. Parish House. Open to those who have made the Meeting Christ in Prayer Retreat.
For information and registration, contact Sabina Fila at sabinafila@verizon.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20th
On January 20th the Wallace Hall Family Mass will be take place in McKinnon Hall (Grammar School – 48 East 84th Street).
There will be no Coffee Hour.

Feeding Our Neighbors:
Archdiocesan-Wide Food Campaign
The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola will be participating in the food drive scheduled from Sunday, January 27th through Sunday, February 3rd. All donations will go to the Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

Also... Join Fr. Witt, Members of the Parish Staff, and Members of Our Parish Ministries for The Ignatian Way Dinner:
Feeding the Hungry, Feeding Our Souls
Saturday, February 2nd in Wallace Hall immediately following the 5:30 PM Mass.
Maureen Albert, head of the St. Gregory’s Community Food Pantry, will present a short talk about how the food we donate gets to those in need.
As we prepare to enter the Lenten Season, this will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a Parish Community to share a meal and learn a little more about the work being done at St. Gregory’s.
Dinner will consist of meatless lasagna, salad, and beverages. Can you contribute a dessert? Please let us know when you RSVP.
Families are encouraged to attend!
RSVP to silsupper@gmail.com or 212-288-3588 by Monday, January 28th. Space is limited!
Free will offering.

Inner-City Scholarship Fund
For generations, Catholic schools have served boys and girls in the poorest areas of New York City. Inner-City Scholarship Fund, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1971, provides tuition assistance to students from low-income families who wish to attend Catholic schools within the Archdiocese of New York’s inner-city, thus making a values-based Catholic education a viable choice for all children.

On Sunday morning, January 27th, representatives from Inner-City Scholarship Fund will be visiting St. Ignatius Loyola Parish to provide information about how you can make a tangible difference for the children who are suffering the greatest educational disadvantage.

You can also visit www.icsf-nyc.org or call Kelvin Gentles at (646) 794-3328 to learn more about Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

IRA Charitable Rollover is Back for 2012-2013
Did you know that you can once again make a gift to the parish from your IRA and avoid paying taxes on your withdrawal?
If you make the gift before February 1, 2013, you can elect to have that distribution counted retroactively for the 2012 tax year.
To learn more, visit our website or call Fernando Castro, Treasurer, at the Parish House: 212-288-3588.

Catholic Schools Week:
January 27th – February 3rd
Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of Catholic elementary and secondary schools and the important role they play in providing a values-added education for America’s young people.

Grammar School Tour:
Sunday, January 27th
In recognition of Catholic Schools Week, parishioners are invited to take a tour of our Grammar School immediately following the 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, and 11:00 AM Masses on Sunday, January 27th.
The Grammar School is located at 48 East 84th Street.
MUSIC

Calling All Singers!

The volunteer choirs – Parish Community Choir, Canticum Sacrum and Wallace Hall Music Group – are looking for new members. Details and schedule information can be found in the Volunteer Choirs brochure in the Narthex, Wallace Hall literature rack, Parish House reception area, and online at www.stignatiusloyola.org

Be a part of the wonderful music you hear each Sunday!

For more information, or to schedule an audition, contact the Music Office at 212-288-3588 x612 or email music@stignatiusloyola.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20th
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Monteverdi Cantate domino
Marenzio Tribus miraculis
11:00 AM FAMILY MASS
Handel Flute sonata

Organ Concert:
Nigel Potts
Organist and Choirmaster at Christ & Saint Stephens Episcopal Church in New York City

Sunday, February 3rd
3:00 PM
Nigel Potts is an active international recitalist, recording artist, well-known exponent of orchestral transcription, and a respected champion of 19th and 20th century British organ music.

Tickets: $20 general, $10 student/senior rush
Visit www.smssconcerts.org for tickets and information.

IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday Socials
Winter 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.

Sunday Social Dates:  
Feb. 3  Mar. 3  Apr. 14  
Feb. 17  Mar. 17

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).”

Our Catholic Faith

40s & Fabulous invites all parishioners to its Speaker Series: Our Catholic Faith.

40s & Fabulous has launched its first Speaker Series: Our Catholic Faith. Using the framework of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is hoped that this series will deepen our understanding of our Catholic Faith and its practical applications in today’s complex world.

Upcoming:
Life in Christ (Moral Teachings of the Catholic Church)  
January 20th    Rev. Ugo Nacciarone
Christian Prayer  
February 10th    TBA
February 24th    Sr. Kathryn King
Wrap-up and Reflections  
April 14th    Rev. George Witt

All sessions will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Parish House

Register your interest at 40sandfabulous@gmail.com

Monthly Social

Sunday, January 13th
8:30 – 10:00 PM (after the 7:30 PM Mass) in the Parish House

Please email 40sandfabulous@gmail.com for more information.

We welcome all parishioners in their 40s, as well as those in their late 30s and early 50s.

We currently have 212 members and we look forward to meeting you!
Women’s Lenten Retreat:  
*In the Desert with Jesus*  
Friday – Sunday,  
March 8th – 10th  
St. Ignatius Loyola Retreat House (Inisfada)  
Manhasset, NY  
**Presenter:** Dr. Susan Stabile

Dr. Stabile is a law professor, spiritual director, retreat director, mother, wife, and author of the recently published book, *Growing in Love and Wisdom: Tibetan Buddhist Sources for Christian Meditation.*

**Cost:** $300 private room. $250 semi private.  
Room with private bath – $50 extra.  
**This is an opportunity for a final retreat before Inisfada closes on June 1st!**

For information or registration, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House: kingk@saintignatiusloyola.org  
$100 deposit is due by February 15th.

Please make checks out to *St. Ignatius Loyola Church* and indicate “Women’s Retreat.”  
Final payment will be made to the retreat house on arrival.

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**Men’s Retreat January 24th – 27th**  
St. Ignatius Retreat House  
Manhasset, NY  
**directed by**  
Rev. Thomas R. Marciniak, S.J., Fordham University

**For additional information, contact:**  
Carlos Cuartas cduartas@gmail.com  
Peter Riordan pjriondan2001@yahoo.com

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Last month the Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
at St. Ignatius Loyola sponsored its annual Christmas  
Toy Drive. The donations were sent to  
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island.  
A letter of thanks from Fr. Mark Hallinan,  
Pastor of St. Mary’s, was recently received by Fr. Witt:

Dear Father Witt,  
I am writing to express my thanks to the parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola for their extraordinarily generous response to the toy drive for St. Mary of the Assumption Church.  
Your parishioners not only provided a remarkable number of toys, but also a great diversity. This made it much easier for us to distribute these toys among the many families in need during the holiday season.  
All of our parishioners at St. Mary’s are grateful to your parishioners for their generosity. The parishioners of St. Ignatius touched the hearts of many this holiday season. I hope they appreciate what it means for our people to feel the warmth and care that these gifts convey.

Blessings to the community of St. Ignatius Loyola in the New Year!  
Warmest regards,  
Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.  
Pastor

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**Looking for a way to serve the Parish?**  
Consider joining the New Parishioners’ Committee.  
The Committee’s mission is to welcome new members of the parish to our faith community.  
Whether you have been a member of St. Ignatius for a short time, or for many years, consider extending the hand of friendship to our new members.

**For more information,**  
call the Parish House at 212-288-3588.

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**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, January 14th**  
(1st Monday in Ordinary Time)  
Hebrews 1:1-6  
Psalm 97  
Mark 1:14-20

8:30 MEM  
Charles Yerich

12:10 MEM  
James Cardinal

5:30 MEM  
Evelyne Scott-Hansen Simond

**Tuesday, January 15th**  
(1st Tuesday in Ordinary Time)  
Hebrews 2:5-12  
Psalm 8  
Mark 1:21-28

8:30 MEM  
Dolores Gomez Fox

12:10 MEM  
Jack O’Leary

5:30 MEM  
Jorge Molina

**Wednesday, January 16th**  
(1st Wednesday in Ordinary Time)  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Psalm 105  
Mark 1:29-39

8:30 MEM  
Peg O’Brien

12:10 MEM  
Nuria Masana-Miro

5:30 MEM  
John Castillo

**Thursday, January 17th**  
(St. Anthony)  
Hebrews 3:7-14  
Psalm 95  
Mark 1:40-45

8:30 MEM  
Rose Bernabei

12:10 MEM  
Rosalie Riordan

5:30 MEM  
William Carroll

**Friday, January 18th**  
(1st Friday in Ordinary Time)  
Hebrews 4:1-5, 11  
Psalm 78  
Mark 2:1-12

8:30 MEM  
Mary Richardson Kennedy

12:10 LVG  
Rosemarie Nardiello

5:30 MEM  
Jean Auriana

**Saturday, January 19th**  
(1st Saturday in Ordinary Time)  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Psalm 19  
Mark 2:13-17

8:30 MEM  
Catherine Joyce

**Sunday, January 20th**  
(Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)  
Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 96

1 Corinthians 12:4-11  
John 2:1-11

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Dear Father Witt,  
I am writing to express my thanks to the parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola for their extraordinarily generous response to the toy drive for St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

Your parishioners not only provided a remarkable number of toys, but also a great diversity. This made it much easier for us to distribute these toys among the many families in need during the holiday season.

All of our parishioners at St. Mary's are grateful to your parishioners for their generosity. The parishioners of St. Ignatius touched the hearts of many this holiday season. I hope they appreciate what it means for our people to feel the warmth and care that these gifts convey.

Blessings to the community of St. Ignatius Loyola in the New Year!

Warmest regards,  
Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.  
Pastor
LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT

Winter Program

The Power of Invitation:
Friendship and Ministry with Christ

with
Fr. Joseph Marina, S.J.
Associate Pastor, Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

Saturday, January 26th
Wallace Hall   9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

This day of reflection will focus on the call of discipleship and the gift of friendship with Christ as invitations to draw closer to God's love. We will explore the dynamics of call and reply through our own stories and those of some notable disciples in the history of Christianity.

Continental breakfast and lunch to be provided. Space is limited. Registration closes on Monday, January 21st. Please register online at http://january2013enrichment.eventbrite.com

Meeting Christ In Prayer

Morning Sessions: Tuesdays, February 5th to April 2nd, 9:30 – 11:00 AM
Evening Sessions: Wednesdays, February 6th to April 3rd, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
(No sessions during Holy Week. Both sessions conclude on Wednesday evening, April 3rd, with a liturgy and reception.)

Meeting Christ In Prayer is an interactive 8 week guided prayer experience for small groups. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, it introduces participants to various ways of praying and provides an opportunity to support one another through faith sharing.

What does it offer?
Meeting Christ In Prayer combines 8 weekly group meetings with daily prayer and reflection exercises that are completed individually between each gathering. Weekly meetings are 90 minutes long and include group prayer, guided meditation, small group faith sharing, and an orientation for the following week’s prayer or prayer techniques. The cost of the program is a sliding scale of $30-$50 and covers all materials. Scholarships are available. See the website for further details.

For information or registration, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@saintignatiusloyola.org

Emmaus Bereavement Support Group

Tuesdays, January 22nd to March 19th
7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parish Lounge

A six session education and support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one at least three months prior to the start of the program. The group is facilitated by two bereavement professionals. The six sessions are held over a period of nine weeks in order to give the participants time to absorb the material. Registration is required.

For information or registration, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@saintignatiusloyola.org

LENTEN RETREAT

The Spirituality of St. Ignatius:

Part 2: Ignatian Contemplation as a Method of Prayer

Presented by Joan Cavanagh, Associate Director of Campus Ministry, Fordham University
Monday, January 28th – 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

Ignatian spirituality emerges from the intimate presence of God in the world and the felt knowledge of God’s movement in our lives. It is a pathway to deeper prayer, good decisions guided by spiritual discernment, and an active Christian life of service to others.

This spirituality has formed the bedrock of Jesuit formation since the very beginning of the Society of Jesus. In the present day, it has become a source of grace and inspiration for millions of people around the world.

Join us for part two of a three-part seminar, designed in concert with our parish’s celebration of The Ignatian Way, as we explore contemplation as a method of prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Part 3  April 10th, 2013:
Rules for the Discernment of Spirits
Michael Boughton, S.J., Formation Assistant for Maryland-New England-New York Provinces
Restless Heart: The Confessions of Augustine. Directed by Christian Duguay, this film uses a historic backdrop to tell the true story of Augustine of Hippo, one of the Catholic Church’s most beloved and well-known saints. Wednesday, January 16th, 12:00 PM and 6:30 PM. Church of St. Francis of Assisi, 135 West 31st Street. Tickets: $10.00 at Main Desk or online at www.stfrancisnyc.org. Call 212-736-8500 x365 for more information.

March for Life in Washington, D.C.: Friday, January 25th. A Manhattan bus (sponsored by the Archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office) will leave from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 457 West 51st Street. Mass at 6:15 AM/Depart 7:00 AM. Total cost for the trip: $50. If you are not able to make the trip, please consider making a donation so that others can attend. For further information and to register, call Sr. Shirley at 212-371-1011x3195 or sr.shirleyann@archny.org

Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, Pilgrims and Prophets of Peace: A Readers’ Theatre-Style Play, written and presented by Sharon Halsey-Hoover and David Hoover. The production brings to life two of the most important and inspiring spiritual teachers of the last century. Sponsored by Pax Christi Metro New York. Sunday, January 27th, 2:30 PM. St. Joseph’s Greenwich Village Church, Sixth Avenue and Washington Place. All seats are $30 ($25 with a 2013 PCMNY Membership Card). For more information or to purchase tickets, contact: info@nypaxchristi.org or 212-420-0250.

HOPE 2013, The NYC Street Survey: On Monday, January 28th, the NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Help is needed to survey streets, parks, subways, and other public spaces to estimate the number of people living unsheltered in our city. Anyone 18 years of age or older committed to helping the homeless of New York City is encouraged to volunteer. Training will be provided on the night of the survey. For more information or to register to volunteer, visit www.nyc.gov/dhs or call 311.