Today at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass, 18 men and women will participate in the Rite of Welcome and Entrance into the Catechumenate, marking the end of the inquiry phase of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). During Advent the next phase of this journey will begin for these adults – preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Emir Senturk, author of this week’s reflection, participated in this Rite last year.

As a child, the unknown would leave me petrified – a blind alley, a dark room, or even a quiet house would send my heart racing. Although I still have problems with the dark, I have since graduated to face other iterations of the unknown, either directly or through those nearest to me: a lost job, a lost home, the specter of serious illness, the death or suffering of a loved one, having to start over in a new city, or to live and work thousands of miles away from one’s family. These are but a few examples, and there are doubtless many more. In acknowledging our limitations as humans, it is difficult to ignore how fragile we are when we accede that we cannot see what is in store for us, when we don’t know what lies ahead in our lives and in those of our loved ones.

I’ve always been open about my view of the unknown and its effects on me, no matter the number of times I have confronted it. I have often derived comfort when I’ve spoken on the subject by reassuring myself (and others) that these fears and anxieties are shared across members of my community and others. Several years ago, however, I ran out of words. If life were a book, I had just turned a blank page. For the first time, I became blind in the face of hardship. As I tried to keep things together, I would crumble at the thought that I was just another person in one big, crowded, unpredictable world.

One evening, I found myself sitting in a pew, gazing up at a face and a symbol that had been following me since as far back as my memory allowed. I wasn’t brought up with religion, and I had hardly spent much time in a church. But I felt that I had never needed God more. The next evening, I came back. And the evening after that, I came back again. A pattern started to develop (which was unusual for a man who had been raised a skeptic!), and as part of that pattern I committed myself to learning more about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From the day I set foot in St. Ignatius Loyola to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, it was clear that I had found my place. It could not have come at a better time, and the parish community could not have been more welcoming. As one version of me faded, a new one took its place. During these months, I contemplated what I saw as people received Holy Communion and I reflected on my past observations of the Sacraments of Matrimony and the Anointing of the Sick with open eyes. Guided in my learning and blessed with the camaraderie of my fellow catechumens (those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist), I was baptized at the Easter Vigil and commenced my life as a Catholic.

Each day is still an unknown, as much to me as to any other person. Merely to wake up in good health of body and mind is a gift. Try as we might, we can’t anticipate everything life sends our way. We’re never quite as ready as we’d like to be to face that daunting task, to accept that new challenge, to make that needed sacrifice. All of these things tend to come too soon, and very often when we least expect them. But with each darkness that precedes daybreak, I think about the question asked me during the Rite of Welcome: “Emir, what do you ask of God’s Church?”

My response today is the same as it was then – Peace through Christ. I pray that the Peace I asked for then never ceases to find its way into every member of this community and to every place where Christ’s followers are gathered.

Emir Senturk
Parishioner of St. Ignatius Loyola Church
RCIA Class of 2012
SVDP Christmas Angel Project continues. Details at right.

SVdp Annual Toy Drive and Advent Food Drive. Details at right.

Wallace Hall Family Christmas Pageant Organizational Meeting. 12:00 Noon. Details on page 3.

Advent Lessons and Carols. 4:00 PM. Church. Details on page 3.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
Christmas Themes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: An art slide lecture presented by Rev. Terrence Dempsey, S.J. 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!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5th
Daily Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM: Time for Reflection. The Daily Mass on the Wednesdays of Advent will offer a few moments to reflect quietly upon the readings of the day (in lieu of a homily). Enjoy a few moments of quiet time during the busy Advent season.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. All are welcome!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6th
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 sabinaft@verizon.net

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mass of Anticipation: Friday, December 7th – 5:30 PM Church
December 8th: Masses at 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM Wallace Hall

SVDP CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT Continues This Weekend!
Participants can select angel cards that are available at the Parish House while the supply lasts.
Gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December 9th.
Thank you for being an angel to someone in need!

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE
SVdp is sponsoring a toy drive to benefit the children of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island.
Please bring new, unwrapped toys, games, or books to our Parish House at 980 Park Avenue by Thursday, December 6th.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Many New Yorkers depend upon food pantries to ensure that their families will not go hungry.

Week 1
(Dec. 2nd – Dec. 8th):
- rice, pasta, or oatmeal

Week 2
(Dec. 9th – 15th):
- spaghetti, tomato sauce, or soup

Week 3
(Dec. 16th – 20th):
- cereal or canned vegetables

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent
SVdp will be accepting donations of food for the Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.
Donations can be brought to the Narthex on Sundays or to the Parish House during the week.

Double the voices….double the fun!
Join us as Boomers & Beyond and 40s & Fabulous get together for our annual Christmas Caroling event at the Lott Assisted Living Facility and the Cardinal Cooke Center. We will celebrate the holiday afterwards with an informal get together at a nearby restaurant.

Date: Sunday, Dec. 9th Time: 1:45 PM (revised time!)
Place: Lott Assisted Living Residence – 5th Avenue (between 107th and 108th Sts.)
**MUSIC**

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**
Sunday, December 2nd at 4:00 PM  
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J., Presider  
The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola  
conducted by K. Scott Warren  
Nancianne Parrella, organ

| Howells | A spotless rose  
Praetorius | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Spencer | Nova, nova  
| Beibl | Ave Maria  
Martinson | There is no rose  
Poulenc | Salut, Dame Sainte  
Schütz | Deutches Magnificat  
|           | E’er Blooming  
Rutter | In dulci jubilo  
Yon | Gesu Bambino  
Warren, arr. | Lo, How a Rose  
Weber | Die rose, die von mir geschaffen  
|           | Nova nova  
|           | A spotless Rose  
|           | A rose that never blooms  
Wright | O Holy Night  

**Seasonal carols for all to sing.**  
Free will offering. No tickets.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH**  
Second Sunday of Advent

**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**

| Byrd | Mass for Four Voices: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei  
Palestrina | Fuit homo missus a Deo  
Warren, arr. | Gloria  
Howells | A spotless rose  
Praetorius | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Spencer | Nova, nova  
| Beibl | Ave Maria  
Martinson | There is no rose  
Poulenc | Salut, Dame Sainte  
Schütz | Deutches Magnificat  
|           | E’er Blooming  
Warren, arr. | Lo, How a Rose  
Rutter | In dulci jubilo  
Yon | Gesu Bambino  
|           | A Spotless Rose  
|           | O Holy Night  

**Tickets:** $50 general  
$20 student/senior rush (subject to availability the day of the concert)

Gloria!  
The Annual Christmas Concerts  
Sundays, December 9th and 16th  
at 3:00 PM  
Choirs and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola  
K. Scott Warren, Maureen Haley, Robert Reuter,  
and Michael Sheetz, conductors  
Nancianne Parrella, organ  
Margery Fitts, harp  
| Byrd | Mass for Four Voices: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei  
Palestrina | Fuit homo missus a Deo  
Warren, arr. | Gloria  
Howells | A spotless rose  
Praetorius | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Spencer | Nova, nova  
| Beibl | Ave Maria  
Martinson | There is no rose  
Poulenc | Salut, Dame Sainte  
Schütz | Deutches Magnificat  
|           | E’er Blooming  
Warren, arr. | Lo, How a Rose  
Rutter | In dulci jubilo  
Yon | Gesu Bambino  
|           | A Spotless Rose  
|           | O Holy Night  

**Tickets:** $50 general  
$20 student/senior rush (subject to availability the day of the concert)

At the center of this year’s beloved annual Christmas concerts is a stunning choral spectacle: John Rutter’s Gloria, a brassy and extroverted masterwork by one of Great Britain’s most beloved living composers.

**General tickets are available in the Parish House, online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.**

**ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**
Sunday, December 2nd at 4:00 PM  
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J., Presider  
The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola  
conducted by K. Scott Warren  
Nancianne Parrella, organ

| Howells | A spotless rose  
Praetorius | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland  
Spencer | Nova, nova  
| Beibl | Ave Maria  
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Poulenc | Salut, Dame Sainte  
Schütz | Deutches Magnificat  
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Warren, arr. | Lo, How a Rose  
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**General tickets are available in the Parish House, online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.**

**3rd ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**
hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults  
at the IYA Sunday Social  
December 9th  
8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

**Calling All IYA Knitters & Crocheters!**
Come join other Young Adults for socializing and making knitwear for charity. Join us Wednesday, December 12th from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parish House Conference Room.

**WALLACE HALL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**
Sunday, December 16th  
immediately following the 11:00 AM Family Mass

**Organizational Meeting:**
Sunday, December 2nd at 12:00 noon. Wallace Hall.

**Rehearsal:**
Sunday, December 9th at 12:00 noon. Wallace Hall.

**Dress Rehearsal:**
Sunday, December 16th at 9:30 AM. Wallace Hall.

Please contact Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House (212-288-3588) with any questions.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR**
Sunday, December 2nd in McKinnon Hall  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Fair offers decorations, housewares, greenery, ornaments, religious items, and many other possibilities for gift giving. Also featured will be a Secret Santa Shop for the children and a booth of fun activities hosted by our Brownie and Girl Scout Troops.

**3rd ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**
hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults  
at the IYA Sunday Social  
December 9th  
8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

All parishioners are welcome.  
Bring a sampling of your homemade cookies to swap with others!

**To participate:**
BAKE your favorite Christmas cookies. (If you’re not a baker, you may bring high quality holiday-themed cookies from a bakery.)  
While it doesn’t matter how many cookies you bring, we recommend bringing at least 2 dozen cookies (24). However many you bake, make sure to count them, because that’s how many cookies you get to take home.

BRING your treats to Wallace Hall on Sunday, December 9th, after the 7:30 PM Mass. We’ll provide a platter on which you can arrange your cookies.  
Make sure to bring your treats in a container you can also use for carrying your new cookies home.

Optional: Bring printouts of your recipe(s) to share with others.

EXCHANGE your cookies. After you’ve arranged your own cookies, gather the same amount of cookies from the table to take home. Then enjoy our Christmas Social, also in Wallace Hall.

Please note that if you bring cookies, you must take cookies home.  
If you are interested in donating baked goods for the Christmas Social, please contact Consuelo at consuelo.a.martinez@gmail.com

**Calling All IYA Knitters & Crocheters!**
Come join other Young Adults for socializing and making knitwear for charity. Join us Wednesday, December 12th from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parish House Conference Room.

**Email molly.nora@gmail.com**
with questions or to join the email list.  
All skill levels are welcome.
**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, December 3rd**  
(St. Francis Xavier)  
Zephaniah 3:9-10, 14-20  Psalm 86  Matthew 28:16-20  
8:30  MEM  Gregorio Dizon  
12:10  MEM  Margaret Gallagher  
5:30  MEM  Dolorita Wallace Moore  

**Tuesday, December 4th**  
(St. John Damascene)  
8:30  MEM  Andrew Embiricos  
12:10  MEM  Max Petschek  
5:30  MEM  George Caruso  

**Wednesday, December 5th**  
(1st Wednesday of Advent)  
Isaiah 25:6-10a  Psalm 23  Matthew 15:29-37  
8:30  MEM  Caroline Choix  
12:10  MEM  Charles Wolf  
5:30  MEM  Susan Gelsomino Corseri  

**Thursday, December 6th**  
(St. Nicholas)  
Isaiah 26:1-6  Psalm 118  Matthew 7:21, 24-27  
8:30  MEM  Ellyn S. Coyne  
12:10  MEM  Richard Washington Plover  
5:30  MEM  Sr. Frances Smith, S.C.  

**Friday, December 7th**  
(St. Ambrose)  
8:30  MEM  Winifred di Salvio  
12:10  MEM  Deceased Members of the McLoughlin & Scanlon Families  

**Saturday, December 8th**  
(Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)  
Genesis 3:9-15, 20  Psalm 98  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12  Luke 1:26-38  

**Sunday, December 9th**  
(2nd Sunday of Advent)  
Baruch 5:1-9  Psalm 126  
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  Luke 3:1-6  

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**From the Archdiocese: An Advent Reflection for the Year of Faith**  
The beginning of Advent calls us to a renewal of our understanding of The Paschal Mystery. Recently Catholic theologians met with their Orthodox counterparts to discuss the manner in which we celebrate it, especially on Sundays.  
In a joint statement they asked us to recognize “the theological significance of Sunday…[in]…rebalancing our lives. For Christians, Sunday is a special day consecrated to the service and the worship of God.” Historically, this has always been true but “as we look at our fellow Christians and our society, we observe that everyone is short of time and stressed. One reason is that many of us have forgotten the meaning of Sunday and with it the practices that regularly renewed our relationships and lives…Sunday has become less a day of worship and family and more like an ordinary work day. Sunday is more than just the first day of the week. It is the ultimate day of new beginnings.”

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**NOVEMBER SACRAMENTS**

**Weddings**
- Vincent M. Amabile and Nicolle L. Jobst
- Edward B. Droesch and Mary Colleen Hines
- Daniel Ki Hong and Tevia M. Segovia-Sanchez
- Andrew T. Rehring and Lauren M. HARKINS
- David Alan Stockel and Jacqueline Michele Polce

**Baptisms**
- Izabella Amano
- Riley Leahy Bell
- Genevieve Valentina Buck
- Isabelle Elise Bustros
- Colleen Murphy Collins
- Sheamus Christopher Eylward
- Eden Rose Fenske
- Zoe Ann Giampà
- Natalie Joy Hitzmann
- McKenna Adelaide Kelsey
- Mara Kennedy Mitchell
- Ryan Thomas Mitchell
- Kaila Grace Ord
- Ian Joseph Oruc
- John Walker Pike
- Richard Peter Turadek

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**ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK Education News**

Local Boards comprised of laity and clergy in parishes across the Archdiocese of New York have completed their preliminary evaluations of the current status and long-term viability of the regionalized elementary schools in their respective regions. Based on this review, 26 elementary schools and one high school were identified as “at-risk” of closing in June 2013.

In the next step of this process, pastors and principals of the at-risk elementary schools will be invited to meet with members of the local Board or Reconfiguration Committee in their region to discuss the combination of factors that led the school to be selected and review next steps. Additional information is available at www.adnyeducation.org

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**Advent/Christmas Prayer Booklet**

Based on the writings of the late Bishop Kenneth Untener, this booklet offers daily reflections throughout the Advent/Christmas season. Available at the Parish House while supply lasts. Cost: $1
Christmas Themes at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

An art slide lecture presented by
Rev. Terrence Dempsey, S.J.

Monday, December 3rd
at 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

This lecture is free and open to the public.

Rev. Terrence Dempsey, S.J., is the May O’Rourke Jay Endowed Chair in Art History and Religion and the founding Director of the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO. He has curated over 55 exhibitions, including 40 exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art.

It is a pleasure to welcome back Fr. Dempsey to St. Ignatius Loyola, where his previous art slide lectures have included The Wounded Body of Christ and the Modern Social Conscience and The Crucifixion in Art History.

Adapting Buddhist Meditation Practices to Christian Spirituality

A Presentation and Book Signing by Susan Stabile

Tuesday, December 11th
at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Book signing will follow the lecture.
Copies of Dr. Stabile's book will be available for sale that evening.

Drawing from her recently published book, Growing in Love and Wisdom: Tibetan Buddhist Sources for Christian Meditation, Dr. Susan Stabile will explore some of the common values and understandings that underlie Christianity and Buddhism and talk about how interreligious engagement can offer mutual enrichment for people of both traditions.

Raised as a Catholic, Susan Stabile devoted 20 years of her life to practicing Buddhism and was ordained as a Tibetan Buddhist nun before returning to Catholicism in 2001.

Dr. Stabile is a spiritual director and retreat leader and spent several years as a member of the adjunct ministerial staff at St. Ignatius Loyola Retreat House in Manhasset.

She is also the Robert and Marion Short Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of St. Thomas (Minneapolis) School of Law.

Advent 2012: Watching for Christ Along the Ignatian Way

Since September we have been exploring what it means to be an Ignatian parish. The focus of our Ignatian Way celebration has been directed to prayer, service, and community. As we reflect upon the past three months we see numerous examples of each, including:

- The Celebration of Our Parish Ministries
- Fr. Witt’s reflections on his visit to Ignatian sites in Spain
- Great Themes of the Bible classes
- The Hour Children Collection
- The inaugural 2012-13 Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert
- Meeting Christ in Prayer
- SVdP Walk for the Poor
- Compassionate Care for the Sick
- Liturgy of Anointing
- Hurricane Sandy clothing drive
- The Spirituality of St. Ignatius (First Lecture of Three)

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Although the season is short, it affords many opportunities for prayer, service, and community here at St. Ignatius Loyola, including:

- Art and spirituality lectures (details below)
- The SVdP Christmas Angel project, Christmas toy collection, and food drive
- The annual Ignatian Young Adult Cookie Exchange (open to all ages)
- The Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation (Monday, December 17th)
- An Advent Lessons and Carols service
- The annual Christmas Concerts
- Grammar School and Wallace Hall Christmas Pageants

This December we invite you to experience Advent through the lens of The Ignatian Way as we watch for Christ through prayer, service, and community.

Additional details can be found in our Advent brochure available in the Narthex, Parish House, and on our website.
Call and Response: How American Catholic Sisters Shaped the Church Since Vatican II. Presented by the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture. Thursday, December 11th, 6:00 PM. Fordham University, Pope Auditorium, 113 West 60th Street. Free and open to the public. Catholic sisters have exercised a dramatic influence for generations, building a vast parochial school system, pioneering higher education for women, and founding hospitals and social services. In the 1960s they expanded beyond these ministries, embracing social activism and missionary work, exploring fresh currents in spirituality and theology, and championing human dignity and rights. How has the sisters’ ministry changed the face of the Church in recent decades? Where are they called today?

RSVP: CRCevent@fordham.edu or 212-636-7347. Visit www.fordham.edu/ReligCulture

The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York. To enter, couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of New York. The longest married couple(s) will be honored on Sunday, February 10th at St. Patrick’s Cathedral at the 10:15 AM Mass. A reception will follow.

For further information or reservations contact Izabella Nagle at 646-794-3190 or izabella.nagle@archny.org.


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: 9:30 AM Mass (all ages)
11:00 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass (ages 3-5 only)

Centering Prayer:
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Confessions:
5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment.
In lieu of a communal penance service during Advent, confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation: Monday, December 17th, 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

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 the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.