Why Praise?

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to people of goodwill,” sang the angels to a bewildered group of shepherds on a Judean hillside on the first Christmas night. This opening line from Luke's Gospel is one of many Biblical texts that have become acclamations of praise routinely used in our liturgy. The rest of the Gloria as we have come to know it was composed during the fourth century in Greek, and was first used in the Byzantine Church during morning prayer. Translation into Latin and transference to the Roman rite is attributed to St. Hilary of Poitiers (c. 300-368), and by the 11th century, it had come to occupy its present place in the opening rite of the Mass. The practice of treating Advent as a penitential season started in the 12th century, and the Gloria was thereafter suspended during Advent, just as it is during Lent. This creates a conspicuous gap in the Mass, and its return on Christmas Eve is like that of an old friend. But this old friend, like much of the liturgy, runs the risk of being taken for granted out of familiarity and inattentiveness. Perhaps we would do ourselves a favor to ponder the existence of such a song, or any song of praise, for that matter.

Why do we praise God?

I’m probably not the only person to wonder why God “needs” our praise. Surely God's self-esteem is healthy enough without our input. Among the ancients, there was the understanding that we praise, thank, and bless the deities so they would keep the rain coming, produce a good harvest, and if they’re feeling generous, forestall impending doom. That’s an obvious answer, but not satisfying to our 21st century minds. Our premodern ancestors also understood the role of prayer and praise in moving us beyond the tiny circle of our individual triumphs and tragedies, widening our vision to include the community.

The world inhabited by our spiritual ancestors, the ancient Hebrews, was filled with cultures possessing highly developed systems of gods, goddesses, angels, demons, and spirits. Liturgies of varying complexity were created to acknowledge and honor these beings. The Hebrews, beginning with the covenant between God and Abraham, turned pre-modern spirituality on its head over the course of the next several centuries by introducing not just the concept of monotheism, but the idea that devotion to God should include love. Israel was commanded to make sacrifices to God, as did their neighbors to their own deities, and they were commanded to:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Fast-forward several hundred years, past the destruction of Herod’s Temple in 70 A.D., and we encounter an entirely different system of Jewish worship, not based on ritual sacrifices, but rather centered on the Tefilat HaAmidah, or “standing prayer,” consisting of three praises, thirteen petitions, and three prayers of thanks. The praises are as follows:

Avot—Acknowledgement that the God we praise is the God of our Biblical ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Gevurot—praise of God for mighty acts of power, including resurrection of the dead and healing of body, mind, and spirit.

Kedushah—Sanctification of God’s name, based on the song of the cherubim and seraphim in Isaiah’s vision: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts. The whole earth is full of his glory.”

According to the Amidah, we offer praise to God in response to God’s history of faithfulness, to God’s power, and perhaps most importantly, in response to who God is.

And at the center of praise, we find love.

One of the challenges of Ignatian spirituality is to find God in all things. When we are able to do this, we cultivate the deep empathy that Jesus had for all those he encountered. This is how the hungry are fed, the homeless given shelter, and the sick given the care they need. Worship and praise of God re-calibrates our hearts and minds by reminding us of our place in the cosmos. Yes, the Psalmist tells us that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, a little lower than the angels. But communal worship reminds us that we are all in this together. None of us is more or less important than anyone else. During this season of Advent, may our sense of community and love for God and each other become manifest so that on Christmas Eve, we may truly sing with one voice:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to people of goodwill!

K. Scott Warren
Director of Music Ministries

Please support the Advent and Christmas Liturgical Music Fund.
Details on page 4.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th
Third Sunday of Advent

SVdP Advent Food Drive:
Week 3. Details on page 5.

Wallace Hall Christmas Pageant
12:00 Noon.
All are welcome!

Gloria!
Annual Christmas Concert.
3:00 PM. Church.
Today’s concert is sold out.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th
Reconciliation Monday: Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of New York will be offering the Sacrament of Confession. Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

2012 CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24th

NEW TIME! 4:00 PM Family Mass I
with the Children’s Choirs
Fr. Marina, Presider
Doors open at 3:15 PM Prelude begins at 3:45 PM

NEW TIME! 6:00 PM Family Mass II
with the Parish Community Choir
Fr. Judge, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM Prelude begins at 5:45 PM

8:00 PM Mass Fr. Bergen, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM Prelude begins at 7:45 PM

Midnight Mass Fr. Witt, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM Prelude begins at 11:15 PM

Christmas Day
Tuesday, December 25th

9:30 AM Mass Fr. Nacciarone, Presider
11:00 AM Solemn Mass Fr. Witt, Presider
(The Parish House will be closed)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th
Ranger Rosary Ministry. 7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Supplies and instructions are provided. New members are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19th
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 20th
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

Wednesday, December 26th
One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM (The Parish House will be closed)

New Year’s Eve
Monday, December 31st

New Year’s Day
Tuesday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
New Year’s Day
Tuesday, January 1st
One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM (The Parish House will be closed)

A Gentle Reminder:
The Christmas Masses here in the Parish are unusually crowded, especially the 4:00 PM Family Mass and the Midnight Mass.

People will be seated as they arrive. In fairness to all, please do not attempt to save or hold seats for those who are expected later. The ushers have been instructed not to honor such arrangements.

Thank you for your cooperation!
This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday

Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year have taken their names from the first word in Latin of the Introit, the entrance antiphon at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is one of these.

The Introit for Gaudete Sunday, in both the Traditional Latin Mass and the Novus Ordo, is taken from Philippians 4:4-5: “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”).

During Advent, the priest normally wears purple vestments. But on Gaudete Sunday, having passed the midpoint of Advent, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments. The change in color provides us with encouragement to continue our spiritual preparation for Christmas. For this same reason, the third candle of the Advent wreath, first lit on Gaudete Sunday, is traditionally rose-colored.

Gaudete Sunday has a counterpart in Lent: Laetare Sunday.

The 2012 Annual Collection

The Annual Collection is our largest single effort each year to fund the parish’s day to day operations. Without this appeal, we would not be able to run programs or keep our facilities running. The goal this year is $480,000.

If you have not yet made a donation, there are several ways to do so: • by check • by credit card (please contact Pat Schneider at 646-981-2610) • via the St. Ignatius Online Giving Program. Visit www.stignatiusloyola.org and click on the Giving tab on the upper right. Thank you!

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 6th Rev. Ugo Nacciarone
January 20th Rev. Ugo Nacciarone

Christian Prayer
February 10th Rev. James Martin
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

SAVE THE DATE!

January 24th – 27th
Men’s Retreat
The Gift of Surrender: Yielding to a Loving God
St. Ignatius Retreat House Manhasset, NY
directed by Rev. Thomas R. Marciniak, S.J., Fordham University

The retreat begins Thursday evening with check-in at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. Retreatants are welcome to join the 4:00 PM Liturgy.

Cost: $390 pp private room
$345 pp semi-private; $330 pp commuter

For additional information, contact:
Carlos Cuartas cdcuartas@gmail.com
Peter Riordan pjriordan2001@yahoo.com

To register, contact Sandy Zaremba at 516-621-8300 x15 or s.zaremba@inisfada.net

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.

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)”

Sunday Social Dates:
Jan. 6 Feb. 3 Mar. 3
Feb. 17 Mar. 17

About.com: Catholicism
As we enter into the final period of preparation for Christmas, there is an opportunity on December 17th to examine our hearts and minds and cleanse our souls in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Last week we reflected on the first three commandments. The fourth through the tenth commandments refer to our love for neighbor. The first degree of love is justice: to give to our brothers and sisters with whom we share the earth that which they deserve. “Thou shalt not murder” calls upon all of us to respect life. The prioritization of marriage vows is of the greatest importance since in them the relationship of Christ with His Church is mirrored. One must realize that the commandment mandates us to respect the dignity of each human being particularly in view of their divine creation.

The seventh commandment tells us that part of respecting another is to recognize what they rightfully own. This pertains not only to material things but to ideas as well. Plagiarism is stealing. Perhaps the most serious element of taking what does not belong to us is covered by the eighth commandment. The stealing of one’s reputation causes hurt beyond calculation. The final two commandments utilize the word “covet.” The desires we nourish for the lives of others fail to appreciate God’s gifts to us. They make us reflect on only a part of other’s lives.

This brief examination of conscience is not exhaustive, but it is a start. Think about your observance of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. On Monday, December 17th, be assured the confessors will aid you in this most important preparation for Christmas.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th
Reconciliation Monday
Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish from 4:00 – 8:00 PM.

Please support the Advent and Christmas Liturgical Music Fund
This fund supports the liturgical music program throughout the year – our musicians, staff, music, robes, and maintenance of instruments. Contributions of $100 or more that are received by the end of today, Sunday, December 16th, will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship aids. Contributions of $500 or more will be featured in a separate section. Contribution forms are available in the Narthex and Parish House.

Thank you for your generous support of our music ministry!

We pray for the faithful departed:
Theodora Boskovic
Vincent Connelly
May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord

From the Archdiocese: A Reflection for December 17th, Reconciliation Monday

We announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 17th
(Third Monday of Advent)
Genesis 49:2, 8-10  Psalm 72  Matthew 1:1-17
8:30 MEM  John & Nora Reilly
12:10 MEM  Federica Hunter
5:30 MEM  Joseph Ceva

Tuesday, December 18th
(Third Tuesday of Advent)
Jeremiah 23:5-8  Psalm 72  Matthew 1:18-25
8:30 LVG  James Andrew Lintner
12:10 MEM  Thomas O’Reilly
5:30 MEM  Thomas McCarthy & Muriel Larsen

Wednesday, December 19th
(Third Wednesday of Advent)
8:30 MEM  Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10 MEM  Julia Kalman
5:30 MEM  Mary Damico

Thursday, December 20th
(Third Thursday of Advent)
8:30 MEM  Rose Bernabei
12:10 MEM  John H. McCooey
5:30 MEM  John Figge

Friday, December 21st
(Third Friday of Advent)
Song of Solomon 2:8-14  Psalm 33  Luke 1:39-45
8:30 MEM  Raymond J. Feerick
12:10 MEM  Sose & Mark Prekelezaj
5:30 MEM  Nathan Davidson

Saturday, December 22nd
(Third Saturday of Advent)
1 Samuel 1:24-28  1 Samuel 2  Luke 1:46-56
8:30 MEM  Eileen Sullivan

Sunday, December 23rd
(4th Sunday of Advent)
Micah 5:1-4a  Psalm 80
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.

This December we invite you to experience Advent through the lens of The Ignatian Way.

Additional details can be found in our Advent brochure available in the Narthex, Parish House, and on our website.

WALLACE HALL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 16th immediately following the 11:00 AM Family Mass
All are welcome as the children tell the story of our Lord's birth!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Throughout Advent SVdP has been accepting donations of food for the Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

Donations can be brought to the Parish House through this Thursday. Thank you!

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

Copies of the Christmas and Holiday Mass Schedule, which includes the listing of music being sung at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, are available in the Narthex, the Parish House, and at www.stignatiusloyola.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
For the Ministry of Hospitality at our Christmas and New Year’s Masses:

Monday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
- 4:00 PM Family Mass I
- 6:00 PM Family Mass II
- 8:00 PM Mass
- Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day – 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Monday, December 31st
New Year's Eve – 5:30 PM

Tuesday, January 1st
New Year's Day – 10:30 AM

A spirit of welcome and celebration is all that is required. For more information, contact Adele Gallo, head of the Hospitality Ministry, amdgallo@me.com or 516-528-4660.

Experienced Lectors are also needed at all of the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
Please contact Fr. Bergen at the Parish House if you are able to assist.

MUSIC

Gloria!
The Annual Christmas Concert
Today at 3:00 PM

Today’s Concert is sold out!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Hassler Missa super Dixit Maria: Kyrie, Sanctus
Hassler Dixit Maria Victoria Ave Maria

11:00 AM FAMILY MASS
with the Children’s Choir
arr. Rowley Sleep, My Baby

7:30 PM MASS
Come, O Long Expected Jesus
Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming
For over 100 years, Catholic Big Sisters and Big Brothers (CBSBB) has provided one-to-one mentoring services for the city's neediest children, ages 10-18. CBSBB's mentoring program focuses on strengthening the child's entire family, while training volunteers on how to be friends and guides to a young person in need. CBSBB currently has a waitlist of 60 children who are desperate for a mentor. There is no better gift than the gift of time. Please consider becoming a mentor today. Contact Ryan Sheppard at 212 475-3291 x203 or rsheppard@cbsbb.org

Gregorian University for a Day: Now you can get a feel of what happens in the classrooms of Rome here in Manhattan. Saturday, February 2nd, 2013. Fordham University, Lincoln Center. Instructors: Rev. Lloyd Baugh, S.J., Professor at the Gregorian University; Rev. Drew Christiansen, S.J., former editor-in-chief, America magazine; Rev. James Martin, S.J.; Professor Donna Orsuto, Professor at the Gregorian University; Rev. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B., CEO of Salt and Light Television. Suggested donation: $150/person, $250/couple. Reservations are limited. For more information or to register for the Gregorian University for a Day, visit: www.the-gregorian.com

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