As we move into Christmas this year, the mood is decidedly somber. The senseless murder of the innocent children and adults in Newtown has shaken us deeply. The destruction wreaked by Hurricane Sandy has reminded us of how vulnerable we are. The continued economic instability of our nation has filled us with anxiety. This year, it can be difficult to feel the joy promised by the season.

Now more than ever, then, we need to focus on what we are truly celebrating, for the manufactured cheer that is normally served up at this time of year is woefully insufficient to supply us with the joy for which we long.

So we dig deeper. We move past what is superfluous and return to the core of the feast: the story of Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Only this has the power to move our hearts and to fill us with holy joy in the midst of such pain and instability. How? By reminding us that in our search for God, we need look no further than simple human experience. God has come in human form, so there is no experience we might have that God does not know already because he himself has undergone it.

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. And the circumstances of his birth reaffirm the fact that God came among us right in the midst of all that causes woe, including the efforts of another crazed man bent on the destruction of innocent life, King Herod. From the very beginning of his time on earth, Jesus was not exempt from any of the awful things that cause people to raise their eyes to heaven in wonder and confusion at the unpredictability and unfairness of life. He bore such things his entire life, never losing confidence in the tender love by which he was created and never failing to witness for us the ability to do likewise. The infant Jesus reveals to us a God of simple presence, humility, and love; a God willing to join us in all that it means to be human.

So if we accept the Christmas gospel, there can be no more room for an image of God as distant or indifferent to suffering; no more room for a God who needs to be unduly feared; no more room for a God who has left us on our own.

No, we are not exempt from loss, pain, or grief, but God is right there with us when we experience such things. This is the true source of our joy! God is with us even in the most difficult circumstances. The great Jesuit theologian, Karl Rahner, captures the meaning of Christmas this way: "And now God says to us what God has already said to the earth as a whole through his grace-filled birth: 'I am there. I am with you. Why will you not hear it? This reality I have sheltered safely and completely in the cold stable of your world. I am there. Even if you do not see me now, I am there.'"

The challenge this year, then, is to remain focused on his presence despite any inability to see it or to feel it readily, especially due to recent events. What this requires, I believe, is a contemplative stance. That is, time spent in prayerful attention to Jesus at his Nativity, and openness to receiving the joy God wants to give.

The encounter with the infant Jesus is one of quiet communication: gazing upon him in the manger, holding him, tenderly caring for his needs. This has always been its appeal. Unlike the events and teachings of his adult life, the story of Jesus' birth does not challenge us with difficult moral calculations or interpretations; it simply asks us to be present to him as we would to any baby.

This Christmas season, then, I encourage you to spend some time in quiet prayer with the infant Jesus. Allow his tender, vulnerable presence to speak to your heart. Cradle him in your arms. Whisper your hopes to him. Learn from him what God is like; how God has indeed been present to us all along, even when we have been unable to see him. And allow him to fill you with joy.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor
This Week at a Glance

The Parish House will be closed Tuesday, December 25th and Wednesday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

Friday – Sunday, December 28th – 30th
Shelter Weekend, Wallace Hall.
If you would like to volunteer, please contact Chris Halem at the Parish House.

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)

Can You Help?
Volunteers are needed for the Ministry of Hospitality

Hospitality is all about welcoming and acknowledging one another as members of our parish community. It embodies The Ignatian Way aspects of service and community. Act now. Sign up TODAY.

For more information, contact Adele Gallo, head of the Hospitality Ministry, amdgallo@me.com or 516-528-4660.

Prayer Suggestion...Pray-As-You-Go

Pray-As-You-Go brings together music, a passage of scripture, and questions for personal reflection in a 10-13 minute daily prayer session.

Visit www.pray-as-you-go.org/
Pray-As-You-Go is a work of the British Province of the Society of Jesus.

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
Daily Masses at 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM
5:30 PM Vigil Mass (Church)

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!

Please Open for Pages 3 and 4
THE 2012 ANNUAL COLLECTION

Thank you to those who have contributed to this appeal. The goal this year is $480,000. At present, the total stands at $305,067.

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!

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. Retreantants 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 pjrjordan2001@yahoo.com
To register, contact Sandy Zaremba at 516-621-8300 x15 or s.zaremba@inisfada.net

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 24th (Fourth Monday of Advent)
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89 Luke 1:67-79
8:30 MEM John B., John A., & Elizabeth A. Rooney

Tuesday, December 25th (Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord)

Wednesday, December 26th (St. Stephen)
8:30 MEM Frederick Bortolan

Thursday, December 27th (St. John)
1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97 John 20:1a, 2-8
8:30 MEM Dr. Emil Wittek
12:10 MEM Irene Skwarko
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, December 28th (Feast of the Holy Innocents)
1 John 1:5 – 2:2 Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13-18
8:30 MEM Margaret Sullivan
12:10 MEM Betty & Charles Erbeck
5:30 MEM Catherine Scanlon

Saturday, December 29th (St. Thomas Becket)
1 John 2:3-11 Psalm 96 Luke 2:22-35
8:30 LVG J. Vincent Roche

Sunday, December 30th (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph)
Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14 Psalm 128

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

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:
Jan. 6 Feb. 3 Mar. 3
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).”

SAVE THE DATE!

January 24th – 27th

Men’s Retreat
The Gift of Surrender: Yielding to a Loving God
St. Ignatius Retreat House
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Rev. Thomas R. Marciniak, S.J., Fordham University
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Carlos Cuartas cdcuartas@gmail.com
Peter Riordan pjrjordan2001@yahoo.com
To register, contact Sandy Zaremba at 516-621-8300 x15 or s.zaremba@inisfada.net

Facebook
With our sincere gratitude

$500 and above
Maryanne T. Barry
Kim and Steve Bepler
Elizabeth Coleman
Mary A. Flannery
In loving memory of Leo F. Gildea
In memory of Chan Kok Hung
Dennis A. Klejna
Tom and Nancy McCarthy
Julie McGee
Kevin McKeever and
Simone Vinocour McKeever
The Miller-Murphy Family
In honor of Walter F. Modrys, S.J.
In loving memory of Edward Sheerin
In memory of Dorothy and Hugh Toumey
K. Scott Warren in honor of the music staff
In loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Wattiker
In memory of
Ethel and Michael Francis White
In memory of Helen White
In loving memory of
Monsignor Edward F. Wojtycha
Monty Zullo

$100 and above
In loving memory of George B. Adams
In memory of Richard J. Adams
Barbara E. Alkiewicz
Colleen and Bill Ambrose
In honor of Philip Anderson
Joanna Anderson
Anonymous (3)
The Anzai family in loving memory of
Odino Benedetto
Amy and James Baker
C.W. and Beatrice Bardin
Mrs. Thomas Black
Marissa and Richard Blackett
Barbara Bracht-Donsky
Margret E. Brooks
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Buckman
Andy and Maryann Bugas
Robert L. Cahill
Mr. Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
In memory of Marie Casey
Barbara Charles
In loving memory of John P. Curtin
Charles and Susan D’Amico
The Daniel family in loving memory of
Marie and Peter Lomenzo
In memory of Nathan J. Davidson
Catherine De Vido
The Diflo-Guth Family
Mary Ashcroft Donoso
John and Katherine Drummond
Ken, Kristen, Milla and Arden Duca
James H. Duffy
The Dussich Family
Jean and John Entwistle
In loving memory of
Anthony and Assunta Fiorella
The William E. Fisher Family
In memory of
Dorothy and Harold Fitzgibbon
John and Marianne Fouhey
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Friedman
Dr. Christine Frissora and Dr. Scott Rodeo
In memory of Alice and John Fullam
In memory of George T. Gearty, Jr.
In memory of Georgia A. Gearty
Vincent Q. and Mary Ann Giffuni
Patricia S. Grant
In loving memory of William P. Gregg
Andrew and Maeve Gynes
Maureen T. Haley
Leonora Halligan
In memory of Carleton T. Halpin
In loving memory of
Gloria and George Hammarth
Mary Nugent Henninger and Family
In loving memory of Wolfgang A. Herz
In memory of Wolfgang Heretz
David and Patricia Hogan
Sophia Hudson and Daniel Riley
Ann Hunt and Ed Menninger
Ann and Edward Jamieson
Sarah W. Johnson
Kimberly and Kevin Jovanovic
Jean Junker-Schmidt
In memory of Adam and Sophie Jurumbo
Helen P. Katcher
Kathleen and Richard Kearns
In loving memory of Daniel F. Kelly
In memory of Leslie and
Walter Kernan
Lisa Knobel
Robert E. La Blanc
Dr. Frank P. Le Veness in memory of
Francis E. and Regina F. Le Veness
Loida Nicolas Lewis
In loving memory of Virginia Loscalzo
In loving memory of
Margaret and Frank Luciano
Kathryne J. Lyons
In loving memory of
Chester and Helen Malins
Margaret E. Maruschak
Kathleen McCormack
Donald and Kristin McDonough
Mr. and Mrs. John G. McGoldrick
Gerard M. Meistrell
Arabella C. Meyer
The Mills Family
Patricia C. Montgomerie
Catherine Morgan
In loving memory of Melvin L. Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Moyer
In memory of John P. Murnion
Thomas and Lisa Newell
Atsuko Obata
Francis J. O’Brien and Thomas Fazio
In loving memory of Jack O’Leary
Sally and Michael Orr
Joachim and Nancianne Parrella
Lisa Parrilli
Martha Pascual
Carla Peikowski
Mark and Regina Petillo
Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Propper De Callejon
Courtney and William Reidy
Richard and Angelica Reilly
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rodriguez
Mary Ann and Jack Routledge
In memory of
Alice and Winthrop Rutherfurd, Jr.
In memory of John Galea and
Marion and August Salony
Suzanne O’N Scanlan
Norma A. Scott
Bea Scott-Hansen
Barbara and William Serpe
Diana Skerl and Michael Karakasians
The Skolnik Family
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Jr.
George Spera and Jane Ginsburg
In memory of Dr. Stanley Stilwell
Trudy and Michael Sullivan
Judith E. and Mary A. Vaughn Williams
Virginia Verwaal
Jerry Vittoria
Chris Wagner and Family
In memory of Daniel and Rosemarie Ward
Kathleen L. Werner
Thomas and Carmen Whalen
Karin and Bob Wiseman
Mashiho Yuasa
Violetta, Sofia, Lucia and Teddy Zambetti
Drs. Laura and Eugene Zappi
Salvatore Zizza

We are also grateful for donations received after December 16, 2012.
Thank you to all those who participated in our Advent activities and watched for Christ along The Ignatian Way. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- The Music Department honored the quieter aspect of the season with an Advent Lessons and Carols service, followed by two sold out Christmas Concerts.
- The Society of St. Vincent de Paul collected hundreds of presents for the Christmas Angel project, as well as countless toys for St. Mary’s of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island, and many boxes of food for St. Gregory’s Food Pantry.
- Carols were sung to the residents of the Lott Facility and Cooke Center by members of Boomers & Beyond and 40s & Fabulous, and the Ignatian Young Adults hosted a Parish Cookie Exchange.

Watch for more opportunities to celebrate The Ignatian Way in 2013.

From the Archdiocese: A Christmas Reflection

As we look forward to the joy of the Christmas Season we meditate on the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his latest volume on the life of Jesus. He writes: “From the moment of His birth He belongs outside the realm of what is important and powerful in worldly terms. Yet it is this unimportant and powerless child that proves to be the truly powerful one, the one on whom ultimately everything depends. So one aspect of becoming a Christian is having to leave behind what everyone else thinks and wants, in order to enter the light of the truth of our being, and aided by that light to find the right path.”

The Church has taught us the truth of these words by placing three particular feasts during the Octave of Christmas. Immediately after the celebration of the Nativity we mark the feast of Saint Stephen. As deacon and martyr he courageously witnessed to the truth who is Christ and the sacrifice He undertook for the salvation of humankind. Saint John the Evangelist is an example from the time he was called by Christ to his final days when he called for us to love one another. The Feast of the Holy Innocents tells us that it is the childlike who will conquer and who are of greatest significance to God.

Let us enjoy all the aspects of this wonderful season, but let us never forget the cost of discipleship.

MUSIC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30th
Feast of the Holy Family
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
- Once in Royal David's city
- Angels, from the realms of glory
- It came upon a midnight clear
- Hark! The herald angels sing

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. Contribution forms are available in the Narthex and Parish House.

Thank you for your generous support of our music ministry!
After School Tutors Needed: The Little Sisters of
the Assumption Family Health Service is in great
need of caring, responsible after school tutors
to assist low-academic performing East Harlem
children (ages 7 – 12). Tutoring takes place at
the Center, 333 East 115th Street, once a week,
for 75 minutes. A variety of days and times are
available. For more information, please contact
the Volunteer Director: tought@lsafhs.org or call
646-672-0434. Visit www.littlesistersfamily.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

World Marriage Day, February 10th, 2013:
Longest Married Couple Search.
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

Mail entries to: Family Life+Respect Life
Office, 1011 First Avenue, NY, NY 10022;
Attn: Izabella Nagle.
Deadline for entries is January 30, 2013.

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.

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.