Why Do Christians Love Sport?

A thletes from around the world have gathered at Sochi, Russia for the 22nd Olympic Winter Games and millions around the globe will gather around their televisions, computers, iPads, or iPhones to watch. Although the first ancient Olympic Games can be traced back to 776 BC, archeological fragments indicate that the date may be several centuries earlier! The original Olympic Games were staged on the plains of Olympia, a site of natural and mystical beauty, amid imposing temples, elaborate shrines, and sporting facilities. They were linked to the religious festivals of Zeus, with a secular character that showed the physical qualities and accomplishments of young people, and were conducted to foster good relations among the cities of Greece. The spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire, which challenged the worship of Greek Gods, resulted in a decree to ban “pagan cults” by Emperor Theodosius in 393 AD. No Olympic Games were held again until 1896 when the Modern Olympic Games were inaugurated.

During the time of Jesus, in the land ruled by the Roman Empire, games were part of the culture. St. Paul acknowledges how popular these sporting events were. In his letters to individuals and Churches, he urges Christian leaders to stay fit physically and, more importantly, spiritually. He assumes that his audience has knowledge of these sporting events through images of running a race, boxing, and training properly for an athletic contest. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) He speaks about pressing toward a goal, not for the crown but for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:14) He refers to the obstacles that those engaging in sport deal with in their pursuit of excellence. “You were running well, who prevented you from obeying the truth?” he asks.

One of the most interesting parallels is the first Christian martyrs. Both the ancient Olympians and Christians were taken into an open place of contest before spectators (Coliseum), stripped naked, and then forced to identify themselves individually before the crowd. The Olympians, seeking the victory as an individual, were eager to speak their names before all. “I am ___.” Christians, on the other hand, identified themselves by saying, “I am a Christian!,” thus proclaiming their goal of seeking the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.

The struggle within Christianity to foster physical activity without developing a cult of the body like the ancient Greeks lasted for centuries. The revived Olympian Charter in 1896 recognized the Christian values of equality, fraternity, and fair play. The mission of the Games proclaimed that participating was (and is) a greater value than winning.

Many of us non-Olympians have wonderful memories of participating in sports programs in our parishes or the Catholic Youth Organization. But it wasn’t until Vatican II, in the “Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World,” that the role of leisure and sports was officially identified as central to the development of the human person. Who can forget the photos of Pope John Paul II skiing and hiking? What Pope in modern history dared construct a swimming pool within the Papal Palace? And, more recently, who did not warm to the enthusiasm of Pope Francis’ lifelong support of the San Lorenzo Soccer Club in Buenos Aires, Argentina when he recently received the team on his birthday and renewed his membership in the club?

So why do we Christians love sport? Because intuitively we grasp that there is a deep coherence between the values we learn in sport and those of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We embrace the value of the dignity and uniqueness of every human person (who is an image and likeness of God), and the responsibility to develop and use her/his abilities, including the physical. We embrace the values of discipline and sacrifice. We embrace the values of integrity, dealing with adversity, and formation for community and service. Sport aids us in the shift from “me” to “we.”

Finally, participating in sport requires both facing the deceits and darknesses of culture and discerning choices through the exercise of one’s freedom. Saying “no” to the pressure of winning-at-all-costs requires courage and strength of character.

As we watch the Olympics in Sochi, we can be mindful of the powerful opportunity sports bring to human and Christian development. The Games remind us of the fact that being a good woman or man requires participating in something bigger than oneself.

- Sr. Kathryn King, FSP
Pastoral Associate
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th**
Presidents’ Day.
*The Parish House will be closed.*
One Mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 8:30 AM. There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18th**
Meeting Christ in Prayer. 9:30 AM.
*Hoefner Lounge.* Details on page 3.

Adult Confirmation Class. 7:15 PM.
*Meeting Room.* See details at right.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th**
Ignatian Young Adults Knitting Group.
7:30 PM. *Conference Room.*
Details on page 3.

Meeting Christ in Prayer. 9:30 AM.
*Hoefner Lounge.* Details on page 3.

**RANGER ROSARY MINISTRY**

10,176 ROSARIES (AND COUNTING)!
Last week the Rosary Rangers reached a milestone when they passed the 10,000 mark and completed their 10,176th rosary.

The Ranger Rosary ministry, which started at St. Ignatius in August 2009, meets twice a month to make rosaries for Catholics who are serving in the armed services. These combat rosaries are constructed from materials with no metal parts that might reflect light or make a rattling noise.

If you are interested in joining, the next Ranger Rosary meeting is **Monday, February 24th at 7:00 PM** in the Meeting Room. New members are always welcome!

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**
Saturday, March 8th at 12:10 PM
For those those who are seriously ill, elderly, disabled, facing surgery, or who are afflicted with any other condition of physical, mental, or spiritual suffering.

**FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the *Ignatian Way* Dinner on February 8th. Coming as it did at the close of the Archdiocesan *Feeding Our Neighbors* food drive, it was a wonderful opportunity to blend the *Ignatian Way* components of prayer, service, and community. We shared a wonderful meal – including many homemade desserts – and listened to an eloquent and heartfelt presentation by Maureen Albert, coordinator of the Community Food Pantry at St. Gregory the Great.

You will be happy to know that over the course of the *Feeding Our Neighbors* drive, 43 crates of food were donated by the Parish and delivered to St. Gregory’s.

God bless you for your continued support of our Parish!

Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor

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**Adult Confirmation Class**

**Tuesday evenings, February 18th – April 1st**

Adult parishioners of St. Ignatius who have received First Eucharist but who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation can register for a course in preparation for the sacrament to be conferred here on Thursday, April 3rd, at 5:30 PM.

The course will begin on Tuesday, February 18th, at 7:15 PM and will continue for seven consecutive **Tuesday evenings**, concluding on Tuesday, April 1st.

Attendance at all the sessions is required.
Enrollment is limited.

Interested adults should contact Fr. Bergen at 212-288-3588.

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**The Cardinal’s Annual Appeal**

Sharing God’s Gifts

As stewards and Disciples of Christ, we recognize that all of the goods and riches in our life are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God’s generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in the service of others.

Please share your gifts and make a donation to the 2014 Cardinal’s Annual Appeal.

Gifts can be made online at [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org)
MEETING CHRIST IN PRAYER

Morning Sessions:
Tuesdays, February 18th – April 8th
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Evening Sessions:
Wednesdays, February 19th – April 9th
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

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?
Weekly meetings are 90 minutes long and include group prayer and guided meditation. The cost of the program is a sliding scale of $30-$50 and covers all materials. Scholarships are available.

For information and/or to register for Meeting Christ in Prayer, please contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House or email kingk@saintignatiusloyola.org

Ignatian 40s Speaker Series:
Ignatian Spirituality

Ignatian 40s invites all parishioners to its second Annual Speaker Series led by the pastoral staff of St. Ignatius and external speakers.

Part 1 — Ignatian Spirituality
Sunday, March 9th
Ignatian Contemplation — Jesus & Me
Presenter: Fr. Ugo Nacciarone, S.J., Associate Pastor
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

Part 2 — Catholic Faith in Everyday Life
Sunday, March 23rd
Ignatian Spirituality & Sport
Presenter: Mr. Dennis Baker, S.J.,
Jesuit Scholastic of the New York Province

Sunday, April 6th
Health Care Ethics: Finding God Beyond the Bedrails
Presenter: Fr. Dan O’Hare, S.J., Ethicist
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Sunday, April 27th
Ignatian Spirituality & Politics
Presenter: Fr. Matt Malone, S.J., Editor-in-Chief, America

Sunday, June 8th
Natural Law & Sexual Ethics
Presenter: Fr. Thomas Feely, S.J., Associate Pastor
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

All sessions will be held in Wallace Hall from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

Email ignatian40s@gmail.com to register.

IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday Socials Winter Schedule
The Sunday Socials are held in Wallace Hall
at 8:30 PM, following the 7:30 PM Mass. They are hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults. All young adults (ages 21-39) are welcome.

Upcoming Sunday Social:
February 23rd

IYA Lenten Reflection Group
Sundays from March 9th – April 13th
6:00 – 7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge

A sharing group for young adults in their 20s & 30s
A reflection group for young adults to share experiences about their relationship with God and gratefully and openly listen to one another.

This year we will gather to reflect on Richard Rohr’s book Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent.
Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com.
Please bring the book to the first meeting.

Meeting Dates
March 9 March 16 March 23 April 6 April 13

To register, email faithiya@gmail.com by Saturday, March 1st.

IYA Knitting Group
All IYAs are welcome to join us as we craft for charity.
If you have questions or would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Amy at amybalbierz@gmail.com

Wednesday, February 19th
7:30 PM in the Conference Room

Praying with Yoga
with Jesuit Scholastic Bobby Karle, S.J.
For Young Adults in Their 20s & 30s
Learn how the practice of yoga can deepen your spiritual life and relationship with God, and enrich your Christian faith.
Participants should wear comfortable clothing appropriate for yoga. If you have a yoga mat, bring it to the sessions.

Sundays
March 9th April 13th May 11th
6:00 PM–7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge

$10 donation requested.
All proceeds will benefit a charitable cause.
For information and registration, email bobbykarle@gmail.com
MUSIC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS

Bridge  Adagio
Harris  Behold, the tabernacle of God
Schütz  Lobe den Herren, meine Seele
Brahms  Prelude in G minor

7:30 PM MASS

Bridge  Adagio
Bullard  God in Mine Eternity
J.S. Bach  Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 553 Little 8

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, February 17th (6th Monday in Ordinary Time)
James 1:11–11  Psalm 119  Mark 8:11–13
8:30  MEM  Connie Alexander

Tuesday, February 18th (6th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)
James 1:12–18  Psalm 94  Mark 8:14–21
8:30  MEM  Mae Rooney
12:10  MEM  Willie O'Shaugnessy
5:30  MEM  Jean Carbone Clinton

Wednesday, February 19th (6th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)
James 1:19–27  Psalm 15  Mark 8:22–26
8:30  MEM  Giovannimaria Rainaldi
12:10  MEM  Nilda Santiago
5:30  MEM  Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Thursday, February 20th (6th Thursday in Ordinary Time)
James 2:1–9  Psalm 34  Mark 8:27–33
8:30  MEM  John & Margaret Reilly
12:10  MEM  Christopher Singleton
5:30  MEM  Joanna Bokina

Friday, February 21st (6th Friday in Ordinary Time)
James 2:14–24, 26  Psalm 112  Mark 8:34–9:1
8:30  MEM  Julia Quigley
12:10  MEM  James Huber
5:30  MEM  Nathan Davidson

Saturday, February 22nd (The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle)
1 Peter 5:1–4  Psalm 23  Matthew 16:13–19
8:30  MEM  Charles Regan

Sunday, February 23rd (7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18  Psalm 103
1 Corinthians 3:16–23  Matthew 5:38–48

Annual Golden Wedding Mass Celebration
Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary anytime during 2014 are invited to attend one of the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass Celebrations with Cardinal Dolan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Sunday, June 14th and Monday, June 15th at 2:00 PM.

Pre-registration is required.
To register, contact Diane Boyle at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x618 or boyled@stignatiusloyola.org) by Tuesday, May 27th.

Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office

Recommended Reading:

SIX MINUTE REFLECTIONS FOR LENT
Based on the writings of the late Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, these booklets have been well received in past years. The goal is to find six minutes of quiet time each day during Lent and work through the booklet one day at a time. Cost: $1.00

Also Available:

The Living Gospel: Daily Devotions for Lent
For Lenten prayer this year, we are recommending a small booklet by Sister Theresa Rickard, O.P.

Each daily devotion offers a prayer, a pertinent reflection on the gospel reading for the day, and a specific challenge for ongoing spiritual growth. Available at the Parish House while supplies last. Cost: $2.00

SPRAY RESOURCES

Pray as You Go
http://wwwpray-as-you-go.org
Pray as you go is a daily prayer session designed for use on your iPod or other portable MP3 player.

3-Minute Retreats
http://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm
Take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

We pray for the faithful departed
Mary Jo Casey
Gerard Majella
May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

To notify your friends, you’ve notified your credit cards, you’ve notified your magazines.

Please don’t forget to notify your church!
Contemplative Leaders in Action (CLA) present

Joy in the Spiritual Life with
Rev. James Martin, S.J.: A Special Fundraiser for CLA

Wednesday, February 26th
Wallace Hall

Doors open 6:30 PM/Reception begins at 7:00 PM
Followed by the Speaking Program

Pope Francis is an apostle of joy. But how can we non-popes incorporate such virtues as joy, humor, and laughter into our own personal spiritual lives?

– Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Tickets:
Individual Tickets – $100
Members of CLA Cohorts 2012 & 2013 – $50

For more information and/or to purchase tickets, visit http://jesuit-collaborative.org/CLANYFundraiser

CLA is a program of the Jesuit Collaborative

Coming in March...

LENTEN CROSS
Parishioners are invited to commit to a positive act of service, advocacy, or prayer during the Lenten Season.
Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice

Ready to try a 500-year-old workout regimen with proven results?

The Jesuit Collaborative invites you to share the gift of Ignatian spirituality and the opportunity to meet interesting people who are ready to further develop their spiritual lives.

Just like exercise for the physical body, St. Ignatius believed that we need spiritual exercise, as well. We invite you to find God in all things through our rewarding and unique programs.

Please visit us at www.jesuitcollaborative.org or email pmcdonough@jesuitcollaborative.org

NEW PARISHIONERS
We welcome new parishioners and invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at stignatiusloyola.org

Registration is our only means of certifying membership in the Parish.

Interested in becoming Catholic? Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org

THE FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE LECTURE SERIES

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVENESS: A TUG OF WAR IN TODAY’S CHURCH

Monday, March 24th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Presented by
Peter Steinfels, Founding co-director of the Center on Religion and Culture, Fordham University

Among the divisions afflicting the Church today is the one between Catholics primarily concerned about strengthening Catholic identity and those primarily concerned about embracing those who have been marginalized.

How can this genuine conflict be overcome?

Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice

The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series presents

ANDREW HENDERSON
Director of Music & Organist
Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 PM

Join us in March for...

Organ Plus! — Organist Nancianne Parella with Jorge Ávila, violin
Victoria Drake, harp
Arthur Fiacco, cello

Sunday, March 16th at 3:00 PM
All Tickets for Organ Recitals: $20
Call 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ticket ordering.

Tickets can also be purchased at www.smssconcerts.org
The 8th Annual Liturgy & Brunch for Catholic Teachers in Public Schools. Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Catechetical Office. Saturday, February 22nd, 9:00 AM. The Riverview Caterers, One Warburton Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Join active and retired Catholic teachers in public schools from across the Archdiocese of New York for this opportunity to deepen your appreciation of your ministry as a teacher, share with colleagues, and pray and reflect upon Jesus' connection with each of us. Mass celebrated by Bishop Gerald T. Walsh, D.D.V.G. Keynote by author and religious educator Gaynell Cronin on “Planting Seeds of Hope: Acorns & Oak Trees.” Suggested donation: $25. For more information, contact Helen Doon at 212-371-1011, x 2822.

Retreat with Sr. Kathleen Deignan, CND: sponsored by Pax Christi Metro New York. The retreat theme is “Pax Christ/i/Pax Terra: Thomas Merton & Thomas Berry in Dialogue on Making Peace with Earth.” Friday, February 28th – Sunday, March 2nd. St. Joseph's Renewal Center in Brentwood, Long Island. Sr. Kathleen is Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Iona Spirituality Institute at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. Cost: $250; Commuter: $220; Saturday only: $125. Limited scholarships may be available. Registration deadline: Wednesday, February 19th or until all spaces are filled. For more information or to register, email info@nypaxchristi.org or 212-420-0250.

St. Francis Resume Clinic. Sponsored by the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Friday, March 7th. Private sessions to assist unemployed individuals, as well as others facing possible layoffs, or considering a career transition. Volunteers will be assisting participants in updating/editing their resumes. Call 212-736-8500, x357 for an individual appointment. Participants should email a rough draft to resume@stfrancisnyc.org. Because of the preparation work that is necessary, no walk-ins can be accepted.

The Parish Staff

**Pastor**
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.

**Associate Pastors**
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Rev. Ugo R. Nacciarone, S.J.

**Pastoral Associates**
Joanne Cunneen
Kathryn King, F.S.P.

**Assisting Priests (Sunday)**
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.
Rev. Anthony P. Soohoo, S.J.

**Music Ministries**
Scott Warren, Director
Nancianne Parrella
Robert Reuter
Michael Sheetz
Maureen Haley
Philip Anderson
Sara Murphy, Administrator

**Assistant to the Pastor**
Diane M. Boyle

**Administrative Assistant**
Patricia Schneider

**Communications Coordinator**
Elizabeth O'Sullivan

**Director of Facilities**
Czeslaw “Chester” Ciupinski

**Asst. to the Director of Facilities**
Caroline Fernandes

**Treasurer**
Fernando Castro

Religious Education for Children
Joanne Cunneen, M.A., M.S.
Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, Principal
M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)
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.

Centering Prayer:
Mondays 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 the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

**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. Martin
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Bergen
9:30 AM Fr. Martin
Wallace Hall: 11:00 AM Fr. Ugo
Solemn: 11:00 AM Fr. Feely
7:30 PM Fr. Feely

Catholic Extension is a national fundraising organization committed to building and strengthening Catholic faith communities in the poorest regions of the United States. Visit catholicextension.org to learn more.

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org