The Gift of Deepened Faith

Today at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass, 19 men and women will participate in the Rite of Welcome and Entrance into the Catechumenate, which marks the end of the Inquiry Phase of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and the beginning of the preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. I vividly recall the enthusiasm and anticipation that my fellow candidates and I felt one year ago as we affirmed our desires before the church in preparation for the journey of conversion. As part of the Rite, each candidate is asked before the St. Ignatius congregation, “What do you ask of God’s Church?” I responded, “Deepened faith and unity for my family.”

I was raised a Presbyterian but have been attending Mass at St. Ignatius for 12 years, starting when my wife and I were dating. We participated in marriage preparation through St. Ignatius, had each of our three sons baptized here, and are blessed to have them attend the St. Ignatius Day Nursery and Grammar School.

While I was completely supportive of raising our family within the Church, I could not help but feel that at some point we would not truly be unified if I was not of the same faith. Family unity with respect to religion is important to me and is what initially drew me to becoming Catholic. Last fall my eldest son started second grade, an important year for him in the Church — he would receive his First Holy Communion in addition to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I could not think of a better time for me to become a fully participating Catholic.

Looking back at the conversion experience that culminated with Holy Week and the Easter Vigil, it is the gift of deepened faith that truly surpassed my expectations. While I was a Christian, my relationship with God and Jesus Christ was not something that I had dedicated meaningful energy to outside of the walls of the church.

In my first steps towards developing that connection, I began praying more on my own, praying more with my family, and I began talking to God and thinking more about Him and Jesus as I lived each day.

I found myself thanking God for the special moments in my everyday life — an unexpected moment of kindness between my sons or a beautiful sunrise during a brisk morning run in Central Park — and asking Him for guidance with challenges big and small. While I had not necessarily expected a spiritual journey, I was open to it. I am so thankful for the RCIA team. Their knowledge, passion, enthusiasm, and willingness to share their own experiences played a critical role in my openness to a spiritual journey towards deepened faith.

As I reflect on my year of conversion, I also think about the love and support that I felt from the St. Ignatius community, from the Parish, as well as relationships developed through the Grammar School and the Day Nursery. I was encouraged by others who had committed to the Church as adults, buoyed by their excitement and enthusiasm as they spoke about their own conversion experiences and how they showed their support for my journey. I truly felt God’s embrace all around me, culminating at the moving Easter Vigil liturgy.

Deepened faith and unity for my family continues to encapsulate so much of what I seek from the Church. My family looks forward to another exciting year in the Church as our second son prepares for his First Holy Communion next spring. I realize RCIA was just the beginning of my new life as a Catholic, but what an important and amazing beginning it was. St. Ignatius is a special community and I feel truly blessed to be a part of it.

– Arjay Jensen
Parishioner of St. Ignatius Loyola Church
RCIA Class of 2013
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Second Sunday of Advent

Special Collection This Weekend
The annual collection for the retired women and men religious of the New York Archdiocese will be taken at all Masses this weekend. Proceeds will help to defray the cost of providing care for those who have given their lives in the service of the Church, administering and staffing Archdiocesan schools and hospitals.

Gift deadline for the SVDP Christmas Angel Project. Please bring all donations to the Parish House.

SVDP Annual Toy Drive and Advent Food Drive continue. Details on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11th
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.

Ignatian Young Adults Knitting Group.
7:30 PM. Conference Room.
Details on page 3.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Saint Ignatius Loyola Grammar School extends a cordial invitation to join us at our

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR
Today, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM McKinnon Hall
Offered at the Fair are decorations, housewares, greenery, ornaments, religious items, and many other things perfect for gift giving. There will also be fun seasonal activities hosted by our Brownie and Girl Scout Troops.

NEXT WEEKEND:
PRE-NATAL BLESSING
A special Pre-Natal Blessing will be offered to expectant families at all Masses next weekend, December 14th-15th. As we draw near to the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, we encourage those families about to experience the miracle of birth or adoption to join us for this special blessing.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th
RECONCILIATION MONDAY
All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, December 16th.

Confessions will be heard from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
This will be followed by our
PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE at 7:00 PM
Many priests will be available for Confession.

For your convenience...
To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the QR Code at left with your smartphone’s camera.
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 or games to the Parish House by Monday, December 16th.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Many New Yorkers depend upon food pantries to ensure that their families will not go hungry. Throughout the first three weeks of Advent, SVdP will be accepting donations of food for the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

Week 2
(Dec. 8th – 14th):
canned fruit, canned soup, or tuna fish

Week 3
(Dec. 15th – 21st):
canned vegetables, cereal, or oatmeal

Donations can be brought to the Narthex on Sundays or to the Parish House during the week.

Thank you for remembering those in need.

Praying with Yoga

with Jesuit Scholastic Bobby Karle, S.J.

For Young Adults in Their 20s and 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
December 22nd January 12th February 9th March 9th April 13th May 11th
6:00–7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge

$10 donation requested. All proceeds will benefit a charitable cause.

For information and registration, email bobbykarle@gmail.com

BOOMERS & BEYOND

IGNATIAN 40s

Double the voices, double the fun!

Calling all Boomers & Beyonders and Ignatian 40s for our annual Christmas Caroling event at the Lott Assisted Living Residence.

You don’t have to be a super soprano or terrific tenor, just someone who wants to join with us in sharing some Christmas joy through song and perhaps stop at a local spot for a snack and drink afterwards.

Date: Sunday, December 15th  Time: 1:30 PM
Place: Lott Assisted Living Residence — 5th Avenue (between 107th and 108th Streets)
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 9th
(Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
8:30  MEM    Mae Rooney
12:10  MEM    Christopher Begley
5:30  ANN    Catherine Scanlon

Tuesday, December 10th
(2nd Tuesday of Advent)
Isaiah 40:1–11    Psalm 96    Matthew 18:12–14
8:30  MEM    Eduardo Vacas
12:10  MEM    Valentino Mazzia
5:30  MEM    The Clancy Family

Wednesday, December 11th
(2nd Wednesday of Advent)
Isaiah 40:25–31    Psalm 103    Matthew 11:28–30
8:30  MEM    Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10  MEM    Jane Saladino
5:30  MEM    Frieda Meiert

Thursday, December 12th
(Our Lady of Guadalupe)
8:30  MEM    Judith Zapparelli
12:10  LVG    Frances Bunce
5:30  MEM    Charles Wolff

Friday, December 13th
(St. Lucy)
Isaiah 48:17–19   Psalm 1   Matthew 11:16–19
8:30  MEM    Michael J. DeSola
12:10  MEM    Landelina Nardelli
5:30  MEM    The Gunning Family

Saturday, December 14th
(St. John of the Cross)
Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11    Psalm 80   Matthew 17:9a, 10–13
8:30  MEM    William & Ann Reilly

Sunday, December 15th
(3rd Sunday of Advent)
Isaiah 35:1–6a, 10   Psalm 146
James 5:7–10   Matthew 11:2–11

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

Shelter Volunteers Needed!

Next Shelter Weekend:
Friday, December 20th to Sunday, December 22nd

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Women’s Shelter needs set-up and stay-over volunteers every other weekend through April. Both men and women are invited to assist.

To volunteer, please leave a message for Teresa Abruzzo at the Parish House or email svdp.shelter980@gmail.com
Have you made your donation to the Annual Appeal?

Our goal is $600,000 and at present the total stands at $197,881. We are deeply grateful for the donations that have come in and for those that continue to arrive daily.

If you have not yet made a contribution and are considering your year-end charitable giving, we encourage you to include the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Thank you and God bless you!

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DECEMBER AT SACRED MUSIC IN A SACRED SPACE

SOLD OUT

A Chanticleer Christmas in New York

Today at 4:00 PM

&

Tomorrow at 7:00 PM

A Chanticleer Christmas celebrates the mystery and wonder of Christmas with an elegant blend of traditional carols, medieval and Renaissance sacred works, and new holiday gems.

A Child is Born — Annual Christmas Concerts

Sunday, December 15th at 3:00 PM & Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 PM

Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Parish Community Choir & Children’s Choirs
K. Scott Warren, Maureen Haley, Robert Reuter & Michael Sheetz, conductors
Nancianne Parrella, organ
Ann Wazelle, soprano; Kate Maroney, mezzo soprano; Philip Anderson, tenor

Tickets (For December 18th only):
$75 preferred, $60 general, $50 reduced

Opening with Ralph Vaughan Williams’ beloved Fantasia on Greensleeves, and culminating with favorites from the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah, our Christmas concerts will inspire you and your family during the height of New York City’s dazzling holiday season.

Tickets can be purchased online at smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

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3rd ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults at the IYA Sunday Social

December 15th 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

All parishioners are welcome.

Bring 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.)

We recommend bringing 2 dozen cookies (24), but any amount is fine as long as you bring that many home!

BRING your treats to Wallace Hall on Sunday, December 15th, before or after the 7:30 PM Mass. Please bring your treats in a container you can reuse for carrying your new cookies home.

Make sure to bring your treats in a container you can also use for carrying your new cookies home.

EXCHANGE your cookies. Count how many cookies you brought and collect the same number of cookies from the table to take home.

All are welcome to stay for our Christmas Social, also in Wallace Hall!

Please note that if you bring cookies, you must also take cookies home. If you are interested in donating baked goods for the Christmas Social or have any questions about the event, please contact Colleen at colleen.murrett@gmail.com

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HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

• 4:00 PM Family Mass I • 6:00 PM Family Mass II
• 8:00 PM Mass of Christmas • Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day • 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM

If you are available, please email liturgicalministers@stignatiusloyola.org to let us know at which Mass you can assist.

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ADVENT 2013: Copies of our Advent Brochure are available in the Narthex, at the Parish House, and online at stignatiusloyola.org
The Advent-Magic of Meditation, Saturday, December 14th, 12:30 PM. The Church of the Epiphany, 239 East 21st Street. Discover the meditative practice of Anthony deMello, S.J. as outlined in Sadhana: A Way to God, Christian Exercises in Eastern Form. Come away for a few hours during this busy Advent season to “find rest in The Lord.” Facilitator: Desmond Towey, Trustee, DeMello Stroud Spirituality Center. To register, call 917-859-1701 or email DemelloStroud@aol.com

What Are You Waiting For? An Advent lunch & prayer experience for women ages 18-35 years old. Sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of New York. Sunday, December 15th, 1:00 PM. Available at the Parish House while supplies last. Cost: $1

St. Aloysius School Holiday Celebration, Wednesday, December 11th, 6:00 PM. Regis High School. 55 East 84th Street. Come and learn about St. Aloysius School on this festive evening as we celebrate the holidays. Featuring a performance by St. Aloysius students. Tickets: $10 for St. Aloysius parents and for alumni who are under 21 years old ($20 at the door), $25 for Junior level (under 35 years old) and alumni who are 21 years old and over ($35 at the door), and $50 for attendees over 35 years old ($60 at the door). Cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. To purchase tickets, visit https://supportstalosiusschool.thankyou4caring.org/pages/2013-holiday-celebration.

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

Children’s Liturgy of the Word: Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass and the 11:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall.

Confessions:
5:00 PM Saturday or by appointment. Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 16th, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This will be followed by our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 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 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

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