And On Earth, Peace

The great hosts of angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.” Do we believe this heavenly pronouncement? Do we really hope for peace on earth, peace among us as religions and nations?

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of the Child of Peace. Around the world, men, women, and children will mark this day with gift-giving and celebration. People and cultures everywhere will hear again the song of hope and will look to the Christ Child.

According to St. Luke, unlettered, unwashed shepherds were the first to look. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.” The message of hope emerges among the least significant, among those who could never have imagined that they would be forever remembered in human history. Like them, we are invited in the relative obscurity of our own lives to behold the wonder of God in our midst and to proclaim his message of glory and peace.

In St. Matthew’s Gospel, it is not shepherds who come looking to the Child but wise men, people of considerable resources and learning, international travelers who know the stars. The gifts they choose to bring indicate their hope. Gold, a costly stone, speaks of the preciousness of the Child; frankincense, a blessed aromatic, signifies his sacredness; myrrh, a curative ointment, points to his healing gifts. Preciousness, sacredness, healing: this is what the magi seek, this is what they come to adore. Peace on earth will come when these gifts are universally acknowledged. Like the wise men, we are invited to do our part in bearing such gifts and in honoring the Child who embodies their meaning. In doing so, we give glory to God and we foster peace.

As we look to the Child at Christmas, we remember our own children and the children of our families and friends, wherever they may be. We remember their struggles and joys, their delights and their fears. We love them, and deep within our hearts we pray that through our good example and teaching, they may grow strong in the peace that Christ longs to give. We also remember our brothers and sisters here and around the world, acknowledging our interconnection, remembering that all are born of God. We honor their preciousness, their sacredness, and the deep wellsprings of life and healing that are planted within each and every person. Particularly at Christmas we pray that whatever distances or differences separate us are overcome. Keeping our eyes on the Christ Child, who shows us what is at the heart of every man, woman, and child, we are empowered to see our brothers and sisters with new eyes.

In a recent interview, Pope Francis was asked about the meaning of Christmas. He replied, “God has always sought out his people, led them, looked after them, and promised always to be close to them. The Book of Deuteronomy says that God walks with us; he takes us by the hand as a father does his child. This is a beautiful thing. Christmas is God’s meeting his people.”

Building on Pope Francis’ lead, I encourage us to consider Christmas this year from a larger perspective. Our local and family traditions are extremely important. We rely on them each year to ground us and to give shape to our expressions of joy. But the event we celebrate pulls in the entire world. The arrival of the Christ Child is nothing less than God’s meeting his people in the flesh, offering his hand, coming so close that he can be cradled and touched. Unlettered or wise, child or adult, native or foreign born, all are God’s people. And whether Christian or not, all may benefit from this great act of God’s care, especially when those of us who believe make it our business to include in our prayers and outreach those who do not believe as we do.

The peace we long for will come when our oneness as God’s people is recognized the world over. May we have the grace this Christmas to widen our perspective, to consider our brothers and sisters across the globe, and to extend our goodwill universally. In doing so we will play our own small part in bringing about peace, and we will truly join our voices to those of the angels as we sing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.”

Have a blessed Christmas.

Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor
**Christmas Eve**
**Tuesday, December 24th**
4:00 PM **Family Mass I**
with Children's Choirs and Wallace Hall Choir
Fr. Witt, Presider
Doors open at 3:15 PM    Prelude begins at 3:45 PM

6:00 PM **Family Mass II**
with the Parish Community Choir & harp
Fr. Ugo, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM    Prelude begins at 5:45 PM

8:00 PM **Vigil Mass of Christmas**
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Feely, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM    Prelude begins at 7:45 PM

**Midnight Mass**
Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Witt, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM    Prelude begins at 11:15 PM

**Christmas Day**
**Wednesday, December 25th**
9:30 AM **Mass**
Fr. Judge, Presider

11:00 AM **Solemn Mass**
Fr. Bergen, Presider
(The Parish House will be closed)

**New Year's Eve**
**Tuesday, December 31st**
Daily Masses at 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM
5:30 PM **Vigil Mass in the Church**

**New Year's Day**
**Wednesday, January 1st**
**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**
One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM in the Church
(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.
Sunday Socials Fall 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. To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC).”

* See page 5 for details on the special 7:30 PM Mass to be celebrated by Cardinal Dolan on January 12th.

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

IYA Women of Faith

What role does faith play in your life? The IYA Faith & Spirituality committee is looking for women in their 20s & 30s to participate in a women’s fellowship group that would meet once a month. This group will focus on finding the balance between work and faith and how to center yourself by using Ignatian spiritual exercises.

If interested, please send an email by December 29th to FaithIYA@gmail.com

IYA 40s

We are the St. Ignatius Loyola ministry for parishioners in their 40s (those in their late 30s and early 50s are also welcome). We organize spiritual, service and social activities, and events that support a deeper understanding of our faith as well as building community and a deeper connection with one another.

Please join us for our upcoming events:

- Friday, Jan. 10th – Potluck Wine, Cheese & ‘80s Music Social
- Friday, Jan. 24th to Sunday, Jan. 26th – Retreat at Jogues Retreat House, Cornwall, NY
- Speaker Series: Ignatian Spirituality (Open to the Entire Parish)

Upcoming events include Ignatian Prayer, Finding God in All Things, and Discernment in a Nutshell

To join our mailing list and learn more about our upcoming events, please email Ignatian40s@gmail.com

Ignatian Young Adults

Sunday Social Dates:
Dec. 29 and Jan. 12* & 26

Wednesdays
January 8th and 22nd
7:30 PM in the Conference Room

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 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

Lay Ministers’ Enrichment Program

Saturday, January 25th

All Lay Ministers at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola are invited to attend.
Details to follow...

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. Cost: $1

Thank You!

On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, thank you for your incredible support of our Advent food and toy drives and Christmas Angel collection.

Last Saturday, members of SVdP braved the snowy weather to sort and pack the brightly wrapped gifts contributed to our annual Christmas Angel drive. Your generous efforts will benefit parishioners of The Most Holy Redeemer Church in the East Village and The Church of the Ascension on West 107th Street.

Visit stignatiusloyola.org to view a gallery of images from the Christmas Angel and Toy Drive collections.

Teresa Abruzzo
President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Lawrence O’Toole Conference
With our sincere gratitude

$500 and above
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen E. Bepler
Odessa and Bill Bourne
In Memory of Chan Kok Hung
Elizabeth A. Coleman
Dudley and Michael Del Balso
Kevin and Paula Flaherty
Mary A. Flannery
In Memory of Peter A. Gloo
Michael G. Halloran
Sarah W. Johnson
Lisa Knobel
Stephen C. Koval and Celeste M. Sant'Angelo
Julie McGee
The Miller-Murphy Family
J. Stephanie Nam
Carla Pehowski
In Loving Memory of Edward V. Sheerin
The Siddiqui Family
Trudy, Kit, Marein, Anne and Michael Sullivan
Gary Talarico and Linda Filardi
In Memory of Dorothy and Hugh Toumey
In Memory of Marian Vinocour—Vinocour McKeever Family
In Loving Memory of Dr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Wattiker
In Memory of Ethel and Michael Francis White
In Loving Memory of Monsignor Edward F. Wojtycha
Dr. Eugene G. Zappi
Giro and Elina Zullo

$100 and above
In Thanksgiving for a Miracle
Anonymous (2)
In Memory of Richard Adams
Barbara E. Alkiewicz
Colleen and Bill Ambrose
In Honor of Philip Anderson
Mary Ashcroft Donoso
In Memory of Joseph Baratta
Dr. and Mrs. C. Wayne Bardin
The Barnett Family
Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Baumann
John Belmonte
John and Paula Bendall
Marilyn Black
Marissa and Richard Blackett
Marlene Brommund
Nancy and Jim Buckman
John Butler
Robert L. Cahill
Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Barbara J. Charles
In Memory of Margaret Ciccarelli and Silvio Reale
Susan and Peter Collins
Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Cryan
John and Ann Marie Curtin
In Loving Memory of John P. Curtin
Ms. Catherine De Vido
In Memory of Tripp Tate Diedrichs
The DiFio-Guth Family
William S. Dinger
Barbara Donsky
The Droesch Family
Katharine and John Drummond
Drs. William and Elizabeth Duggan
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Entwistle
Mrs. Peggy Feiner
In Memory of Anthony and Assunta Fiorella
In Memory of Dorothy and Harold Fitzgibbon
John and Marianne Fouhey
Beverly and Steve Friedman
In Loving Memory of John and Alice Fullam
Armando and Marti Gallardo and Family
Albert and Maria Gardini
Theresa Gartner
In Memory of George T. Gearty, Jr. and Georgie A. Gearty
Vincent Q. and Mary Ann Giffuni
Kathleen M. Goldner
In Loving Memory of William P. Gregg
Deirdre and Dominic Gurney
Maeve Gyenes
Leonora Halligan
Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Harkins
Sachiko Hashimoto and Justin Zaglio
Mary Nugent Henninger and Family
In Loving Memory of Wolfgang A. Herz
Bill and Mary Herzog
Margaret P. High
Sophia Hudson and Daniel Riley
Ann Hunt and Ed Menninger
John and Laura Ivan
Diane-Marie Johnston and Stephen Spruiell
Kimberly and Kevin Jovanovic
Jean Junker-Schmidt
In Memory of Adam and Sophie Jurumbo
Kathleen and Richard Kearns
For Kate and John Kelleher
In Loving Memory of Daniel F. Kelly
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter A. Kernan
Anne Marie Kunz
Betty and Bob La Blanc
Mary Claire and Christopher Lagno
In Memory of Regina F. and Francis E. Le Veness
Chris, Gabbie and Kevin Lee
Beth Loftus
In Loving Memory of Marie and Peter Lomenzo
Kathryn J. Lyons
Alice Maloney
Margaret Maruschak
In Memory of Michael and Margaret McCaffrey
In Memory of Virginia M. McCarthy
Kevin and Ruth McCoy
Kristen McDonald
Donald and Kristen McDonough
Mr. and Mrs. John McGoldrick
Gerald M. Meistrell
Doreen Mole-West and Michael Fishtein
In Memory of Helen Morgan
Catherine Morgan
In Loving Memory of Melvin L. Moss
Moy and Chan Families
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Moyer
Sean Mullen
In Loving Memory of John P. Murphy
Thomas and Lisa Newell
Richard Nye Foundation
Atsuko Obata
Francis J. O’Brien and Thomas Fazio
Ralph and Jane O’Connell
Beth and Dennis O’Connor
In Memory of Marcella and James O’Malley
O’Neill Family
Sally and Michael Orr
Anna Maria Palmer
Marcelle Parent
Lisa Parrilli
Martha Pascual
The Pastore Family
Bart and Donna Pisella
Richard and Angelika Reilly
In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Rutherfurd
Andrew R. Sackin in memory of Sean McNulty
Noelle Savage Abraham
Suzanne O’N. Scanlan
Barbara and Bill Serpe
The Skarzynski Family
Zee and Damir S. Skerl
Diana Skerl and Michael Karakasians
The Skolnik Family
George Spera and Jane Ginsburg
In Memory of Dr. Stanley Stilwell
In Loving Memory of my father, Joseph Streier
In Memory of Janet Sughrue
Shane and Sarah Tinkle
Mary A. and Judith E. Vaughn Williams
Virginia Verwaal
Francesca and Jerry Vittoria
K. Scott Warren with gratitude for the choirs of St. Ignatius Loyola
Kathleen L. Werner
Thomas and Carmen Whalen
Elizabeth and George Williamson
Bob and Karin Wiseman
In Loving Memory of John J. Wright
Mashiho Yuasa

We are also grateful for donations received after December 16, 2013.
Merry Christmas!


MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, January 12th
Cardinal Dolan will be celebrating the 7:30 PM Mass and attending the Ignatian Young Adults Social. All are welcome!

We pray for the faithful departed
Veronica Armstrong
May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 23rd
(4th Monday of Advent)
8:30 MEM Eileen Sullivan
12:10 MEM Mary Moynahan
5:30 MEM Raymond J. Feerick

Tuesday, December 24th
(4th Tuesday 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

Wednesday, December 25th
(Nativity of the Lord)

Thursday, December 26th
(St. Stephen)
8:30 MEM Dr. Emil Wittek
12:10 MEM Irene Shwarlto
5:30 MEM Frieda Meiert

Friday, December 27th
(St. John)
1 John 1:1–4 Psalm 97 John 20:1a, 2–8
8:30 MEM Lillian Z. Draper
12:10 MEM Dymphna Collins O’Dea
5:30 MEM William Wallace

Saturday, December 28th
(The Holy Innocents)
1 John 1:5–2:2 Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13–18
8:30 MEM Carroll Hayes

Sunday, December 29th
(Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)
Sirach 3:2–7, 12–14 Psalm 128 Colossians 3:12–21

Interested in becoming Catholic? Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
New York Encounter: The Time of the Person. The Origins of a People. Friday, January 17th – Sunday, January 19th, 2014. Manhattan Center, 311 West 34th Street at 8th Avenue. A three-day cultural festival that will explore the intersection of faith and the public sphere of life through presentations, artistic performances, conferences, and exhibits. All events are open to the public, most events are free. For more information, visit newyorkencounter.org or call (646) 571-2341.

Men's Weekend Retreat, Thursday, January 23rd – Sunday, January 26th, 2014. Loyola House of Retreats, Morristown, NJ. Directed by Fr. Thomas R. Marciniak, S.J., Fordham University. The retreat will begin Thursday night following 7:00 PM dinner. Cost: $400 free will offering. To RSVP call 973-539-0740 and reference the group name “St. Ignatius New York – Men’s.” For additional information, contact Peter Riordan at 212-877-5134 or visit loyola.org

Gregorian University for a Day. Saturday, February 1st, 2014. Fordham University, Lincoln Center. Now you can get a feel of what happens in our classrooms in Rome right here in Manhattan. Instructors: Rev. George Coyne, S.J., Le Moyne College; Rev. Norman Tanner, S.J., Gregorian University; Dr. Pauline A. Viviano, Loyola University of Chicago; Professor Donna Orsuto, Gregorian University. Suggested donation: $200/person, $300/couple. Reservations are limited. For more information or to register for the Gregorian University for a Day, visit 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 9th 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, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10022; Attn: Izabella Nagle. Deadline for entries is January 17, 2014.

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

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.

Centering Prayer:
Mondays at 6:30 PM
There will be no Centering Prayer meeting on Monday, December 23rd. The next meeting is on Monday, December 30th.

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.

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