He Dwells Among Us

St. Ignatius Loyola’s classic text, The Spiritual Exercises, leads a person by a series of imaginative meditations through the life of Christ. And Ignatius asks the retreatant to begin before the earthly life of Jesus even began.

In one of the loveliest of his meditations, St. Ignatius asks us to imagine the Holy Trinity in heaven. Looking down, they gaze upon all of humanity and see men and women greatly diverse in dress and behavior: “some white and others black, some at peace and others at war, some weeping and others laughing, some healthy and others sick, some being born and others dying...”

In their compassion, they decide that the second person of the Trinity should become human. “And thus when the fullness of time had come, they send the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady,” writes Ignatius. Christmas marks the time when God, out of compassion, became human, or, as the Gospel of John has it, “pitched his tent among us.”

Today the Holy Trinity watches over a world that would be virtually unrecognizable to the men and women in first-century Palestine. Just in the past decade, technological advances have enabled millions, at least in the West, to enjoy better health, increased educational opportunities and other unforeseen advantages. The place of women and minorities continues to improve in our country.

But the Holy Trinity also sees a world surprisingly similar to that of first-century Palestine, a world with “some weeping.” Jesus was born into a violent time. Today terrorism, its complex roots maddeningly confusing, frightens millions. Likewise, the poor in Jesus’ day were, as today, powerless, marginalized and disenfranchised. Even St. Joseph was not exempt from financial woes. Like Palestinian peasant farmers, as the Rev. John Meier, a noted Scripture scholar, points out, he led a “precarious existence, sometimes at subsistence level.” How similar this is to our world this Christmas, when the poor are still marginalized and millions of middle-class Americans fear for their future in the wake of the frightening collapse of the financial markets.

Into such a place came Jesus: a world riven with differences between rich and poor, facing the threat of violence and, like that world, hoping for salvation. To enter this world, Jesus was born into the Holy Family, each of whose members offers a distinctive lesson for believers during Christmas — especially for those facing hard times, financial or otherwise.

Again we turn to Joseph, who is often relegated to second-class status in the Nativity scenes. A “righteous” man, as the Gospel of Matthew has it, Joseph shoulders the confusing task God has given him. Not only is he asked to accept the strange message from an angel about the miraculous circumstances of his wife’s pregnancy; he is also charged, later, to guard his family in their perilous trip to Egypt. This would have been a particularly hard road for a Jewish family — Egypt lies in the wrong direction. Joseph trustingly accepts God’s upending of his expectations.

Mary’s great yes to God offers not only a model for women, but for any disciple. Indeed, Mary’s encounter with the angel Gabriel offers a model of discipleship for those under duress. When God invites Mary to accept a strange future, she initially hesitates and, like any believer, voices her honest emotions. “How can this be?” she asks in the Gospel of Luke. In reply, the angel points to the example of her cousin, Elizabeth, in essence saying, “Look what God has already done.” How often this happens in our own lives. When doubtful, we are invited to look backward, to see God’s hand more clearly and magnify our trust. But even after Mary’s Fiat, her story provides a lesson. “Then the angel left her.” Then comes the part that we know well: faith.

Mary’s son came, as one hymn has it, “not as a monarch, but a child.” The Word of God chose to dwell among us in that most fragile of human states — as a newborn. When the Magi arrived, they may have wondered, “This little child is the king?” Entering into perilous situations and accepting the need to be protected, to be cared for and to be nurtured by others is another lesson that God offers us at Christmas. “The secret of life,” said Blessed John XXIII, “is to let oneself be carried to God.”

The Holy Trinity chose “in the fullness of time” to enter into the complicated world of first-century Palestine. Christ, in his Spirit and in the church, continues to dwell in our lives. Christians are also called to insert themselves into what is becoming a more complicated world. For ways to do this, we need look no farther than the crèche, to the example of the Holy Family.

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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29th**
Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults.
Follows the 7:30 PM Mass.
*Details on page 3.*

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31st**
Daily Masses at 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM
5:30 PM Vigil Mass in the Church

**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.)

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY**
**JANUARY 3rd – JANUARY 5th**
Shelter Weekend. Wallace Hall.
For information on volunteering in the Shelter, see details at right.

**NEXT WEEKEND: SPECIAL COLLECTION**
Next weekend, January 4th & 5th, our Parish will take up a special collection at all Masses for the
Catholic Communication Campaign and
The Catholic University of America.
*Visit our website to read a message from Cardinal Dolan about this upcoming collection.*

**BLOOD DRIVE**
Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
*Sunday, January 12th*
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
McKinnon Hall
The New York Blood Center requires 2,000 donations daily to meet the transfusion needs of our community.
To register:
**Online** – https://drm.nybloodcenter.org/
PublicScheduler/GroupLanding.aspx?s=06239
**Telephone** – (800) 933-2566 (Group Code 06239)
Walk-ins are also welcome.

**For your convenience...**
To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the QR Code at left from your smartphone.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH**
We look forward to welcoming Cardinal Dolan to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. The Cardinal will be celebrating the 7:30 PM Mass and attending the Ignatian Young Adults Social.
*All are welcome!*

**Shelter Volunteers Needed**
Friday, January 3rd to Sunday, January 5th
Wallace Hall
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Women’s Shelter needs set-up and stay-over volunteers every other weekend through April.
There is a particular need for stay-over volunteers, especially on Sunday nights. Both men and women are invited to volunteer.

To volunteer, please leave a message for Teresa Abruzzo at the Parish House or e-mail svdp.shelter980@gmail.com

**Pope Francis Canonizes Blessed Peter Faber**
More than 140 years after being named Blessed, Jesuit Father Peter Faber was canonized by Pope Francis on December 17th, the pope’s 77th birthday, in a decree of “equivalent canonization.” Pope Francis has long admired Faber, one of the first Jesuits and a close companion of St. Ignatius Loyola.

For Faber’s equivalent canonization, the pope adds the name of the new saint to the universal calendar of saints, without verifying that a miracle was performed through his intercession and without holding a formal canonization ceremony.

**Source:**

**MUSIC**
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 5th**
The Epiphany of the Lord
**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**
Langlais  La Nativité: La Crèche, Les Anges, Les Bergers, La Sainte Famille*
Durufle  Prelude sur l’introit de l’Épiphanie
Lassus  Videntes stellam
Byrd  Surge illuminare
Pachelbel  Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*
* Also played at 7:30 PM Mass

**11:00 AM FAMILY MASS**
Larson, arr. Jesus What a Wonderful Child
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
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

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. To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC).”

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

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 end of today to FaithIYA@gmail.com

LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT
Sunday, January 26th, Wallace Hall
Presented by Rev. Gregory C. Chisholm, S.J.
Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Church
All Lay Ministers at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola are invited to attend.
Registration details to follow in an upcoming Bulletin.

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

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 30th (Sixth Day in the Christmas Octave)
1 John 2:12–17  Psalm 96  Luke 2:36–40
8:30 MEM  Margaret Sullivan
12:10 MEM  Elizabeth Sciuotto
5:30 MEM  William Powers

Tuesday, December 31st (Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave)
1 John 2:18–21  Psalm 96  John 1:1–18
8:30 MEM  Mercy Abello
12:10 MEM  Giuseppina Arlistico

Wednesday, January 1st (Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)

Thursday, January 2nd (St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen)
1 John 2:22–28  Psalm 98  John 1:19–28
8:30 MEM  Joseph Theodore Yuska
12:10 MEM  Paul Wier
5:30 MEM  Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Friday, January 3rd (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)
8:30 MEM  Jürgen Heise
12:10 MEM  Kevin Lawler
5:30 MEM  Dolorita Wallace

Saturday, January 4th (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
1 John 3:7–10  Psalm 98  John 1:35–42
8:30 MEM  Patrick Murphy

Sunday, January 5th (The Epiphany of the Lord)
Isaiah 60:1–6  Psalm 72
Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6  Matthew 2:1–12
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 973-339-0740 and reference the group name “St. Ignatius New York – Men’s.” For additional information, contact Peter Riordan at 212-877-5134 or visit loyalty.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

Pilgrimage to Rome with the Archdiocese of New York for the Canonization of Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII. Thursday, April 24th – Thursday, May 1st, 2014. Includes a special Mass with Cardinal Dolan at the Basilica of St. Paul-Outside-the-Walls. Six-night package prices start at $4,245 per person, sharing a twin room. Deadline is February 15th, 2014. For additional details and rate information, visit petersway.com

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
Staff information: on the website at music/music staff

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

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