The Birth of the Church

Someone once said that the early Christian community waited in eager anticipation for the return of the Lord in glory but the Church showed up instead. Today, the Feast of Pentecost, has often been described as the birthday of the Church — the oldest living body in today’s world, yet one that is still going through its growing pains. This shouldn't be too surprising. Anything truly alive goes through change and development all its life. This is the way with living things. People shouldn't be unduly alarmed, therefore, at the changes happening in the Church in our time. This is a sign of its vitality.

Living things that don't move are dead. If we want to check on whether a person is dead or alive, we first look for some sign of movement — a heartbeat, breathing, any kind of motion. For too long a time many Catholics have associated the Church with a lack of movement. We have focused on one of its many attributes, its stability — the fact that through the years it remains basically the same in its form and teachings. We may have forgotten that because it is a living reality the Church must change and renew itself.

The great guiding force behind change in the Church is the person of the Holy Spirit, the parting gift of Jesus to his then small circle of friends. “I will not leave you orphans,” he had told them during his last supper with them. “I will ask the Father and he will give you the Holy Spirit to be with you forever.”

In his Acts of the Apostles, Saint Luke describes how that promise was fulfilled as the Holy Spirit came to the group of twelve apostles. The Resurrection and Ascension had come and gone. They were left feeling abandoned, with no sense of mission or purpose. As they huddled together for prayer on the Jewish Feast of Weeks, something quite extraordinary happened to them. Luke writes of a noise like a strong rushing wind, tongues of fire, and the ability to speak in several languages. The apostles suddenly felt energized and empowered. Soon Peter is out into the streets preaching to the crowds of pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem for the festival. We are told that 3,000 people were baptized that first Pentecost—that is about three times the capacity of St. Ignatius Church! It was the birthing of the Christian Church.

What began on Pentecost spread like a forest fire. In thirty years it spread so dramatically that Christianity became a powerful force in faraway Rome and the Emperor Nero made it the target of an all-out persecution. With Pentecost, there was a new coming of God to the world — a sort of second Christmas—because God came in the Person of the Holy Spirit to be always with, and in, the Church. And twenty centuries later, the Church is still here — in every corner of the world — alive, changing and always growing, despite the schisms, the conflicts and scandals that have plagued the Church from its earliest days.

Wherever the Spirit is at work we can be sure there is a call to live in the community of the Church and to be involved in that community. This is what happened to the apostles on that first Pentecost. Instead of remaining isolated and fearful of the Jewish religious authorities who had plotted the murder of Jesus, they immediately began to proclaim to the whole world the Good News about the Resurrection of Jesus. Small Christian communities began to spring up near and far.

Christians of every generation are called to be part of that same movement — the movement away from isolation and individualism to community and involvement. The Holy Spirit will always be a challenge to the one who thinks, “I don't need the Church, I can go to God on my own.” It may be a hard lesson for some to learn but we are saved together. Nobody is saved on their own.

— Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Associate Pastor
SUNDAY, MAY 24th
Habitat for Humanity NYC
After all Masses. Details below.

MONDAY, MAY 25th
Memorial Day
The Parish House will be closed.
One Mass will be celebrated at
8:30 AM in the Lady Chapel.
There will be no 12:10 PM
or 5:30 PM Masses.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27th
Job Transition Support Group.
10:00 AM. Parish Lounge.
Bringing together experienced professionals
looking to secure employment.

IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE
Paper House Campaign for
Habitat for Humanity NYC
TODAY
In the Narthex after all Masses
Sign a Paper House in support of Habitat for Humanity
NYC’s efforts to advocate for the creation and
preservation of affordable homeownership and housing
opportunities for New York’s working families.

FAMILY MINISTRY
Family Ministry Potluck Dinner
Saturday, June 6th at 5:00 PM
Wallace Hall
Join our families as we come together for
an evening of fun, food, and friendship.
To RSVP, email stignatiusfamilyministry@gmail.com
by Wednesday, May 27th.

SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
Senior Luncheon
Saturday, June 20th at 1:00 PM
Wallace Hall
To RSVP, call the Parish House at (212) 288-3588 or
e-mail svdpmembership980@gmail.com with
your full name by Monday, June 15th.

Welcome, Michael Gardiner!
Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Michael Gardiner,
the new Director of Facilities at
the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola,
St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School,
and St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery.

Michael is from Downpatrick, Ireland. He emigrated
to the United States in 1999, working in construction before transitioning into residential management in
Queens and, for the last eight years, in Manhattan.
We are blessed to have him with us!

The Parish Ministry Council
cordially invites those
St. Ignatius Parishioners
who are active in Ministry to
The Ministers’ Night Annual Supper Social
An Evening of Celebration, Thanks & Praise
Thursday, June 4th
7:00 PM
Wallace Hall
RSVP by Monday, June 1st:
212-288-3588 or
ministrydinner@gmail.com
Please leave both your name and
your ministry.
We look forward to sharing a meal together!

Available at the Parish House
New York Catholics:
Faith, Attitude & the Works!
The legacy of New York City’s largest
religious community comes alive in
these biographies of 76 women and men
who have helped make New York
and America great, and whose
color and qualities are uniquely

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4
Join choristers from local schools and sing with our St. Ignatius Children’s Choirs next season! Rising 1st through 12th graders may 'audition' on Wednesday, May 27th, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM, in the Parish House Meeting Room. Please contact Maureen Haley, Director of Children’s Choirs, at haleym@saintignatiusloyola.org for an audition time.

All parish children are welcome and no prior experience is necessary. A parent or guardian must be present to fill out the registration materials.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, May 25th (Eighth Monday in Ordinary Time)**
Sirach 17:20–24 Psalm 32 Mark 10:17–27
8:30 MEM Catherine Heaney

**Tuesday, May 26th (St. Philip Neri)**
Sirach 35:1–12 Psalm 50 Mark 10:28–31
8:30 MEM Emil Wittek
12:10 MEM Phyllis Browne
5:30 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

**Wednesday, May 27th (Eighth Wednesday in Ordinary Time)**
Sirach 36:1, 4-5a, 10–17 Psalm 79 Mark 10:32–45
8:30 LVG Thomas Middelhoff
12:10 LVG Gerta Reineck & Family
5:30 MEM James Waters

**Thursday, May 28th (Eighth Thursday in Ordinary Time)**
Sirach 42:15–25 Psalm 33 Mark 10:46–52
8:30 MEM Eileen Patricia Davis
12:10 MEM Francis Schultz
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

**Friday, May 29th (Eighth Friday in Ordinary Time)**
Sirach 44:1, 9–13 Psalm 149 Mark 11:11–26
8:30 LVG Thomas Middelhoff
12:10 MEM Donald Shea
5:30 MEM William Powers

**Saturday, May 30th (Eighth Saturday in Ordinary Time)**
Sirach 51:12cd–20 Psalm 19 Mark 11:27–33
8:30 MEM Peter D'Agostino

**Sunday, May 31st (The Most Holy Trinity)**
Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40 Romans 8:14–17
Psalm 33 Matthew 28:16–20

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**Farewell Reception for Fr. Witt**

*Sunday, June 14th in McKinnon Hall*
*Following the 11:00 AM Masses*

After eight years at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, six of them as pastor, Father Witt has been asked by the Jesuit Provincial to take on a new assignment: Provincial Assistant for Spirituality Ministries. Please join us in McKinnon Hall following the Mass for a reception thanking Father Witt for his service to our parish and congratulating Father Feely on his appointment as Parish Administrator for the coming year.

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**MUSIC**

**SUNDAY, MAY 31st**

**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**

| J.S. Bach | Prélude in Eb Major (BWV 552)* |
| Mendelssohn | Kyrie, Heilig Palestrina Benedicta sit sancta Trinitas |
| Sheppard | Libera nos, salva nos |
| J.S. Bach | Fugue in Eb Major (BWV 552)* |

*Also played at the 7:30 PM Mass |

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**In Search of Francis: A Video Documentary**

*Sunday, June 7th at 6:00 PM Parish House*

Join parishioner/filmmaker John Ebrahimian for the premiere showing of *In Search of Francis*, a 40-minute video documentary which includes a 10-minute segment on Pope Francis. A question and answer period with John will follow.

Come and learn more about St. Francis, a visionary peacemaker who not only revolutionized life in the medieval world, but who also continues to inspire us in our search for faith, social justice, and global reconciliation.

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**Sunday Social Spring 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**

June 7 June 21
Music Information: (212) 288-2520   Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org