Wide Open Doors

Today at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass, 25 people will participate in the Rite of Welcome and Entrance into the Catechumenate, marking the end of the inquiry phase of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). During Advent, the next phase of this journey begins for these adults — preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Ms. Ashley Grier, author of this reflection, participated in this Rite last year.

I grew up in South Carolina in a Baptist household. My father sang in the church choir while my mother would sit attentively taking notes in the margins of her bulletin. I would sit with my two sisters. My younger sister would usually be asleep. My older sister and I would play tic-tac-toe on a bulletin and sift through the hymnals for our favorite hymns. During communion, I would trade my grape juice for her communion wafer. Sermons would last a little over an hour, which was long and painful for three little girls. This was the only form of church I knew. I remember the itchy tulle under my Sunday dress more than I remember being deeply moved by the experience.

Church became different during my teenage years. I went to a residential high school for the arts where I studied classical voice, and began taking jobs singing with choirs. I was often invited as a soloist to local Lutheran churches, and remember being shocked that everyone drank from the same chalice and that the wine was not Welch's grape juice! As years passed, Catholic and Episcopal churches were added to the list of places where I would be invited to sing. I remember enjoying Catholic Mass: the homily, incense, and the community. But I wasn't Catholic. I wasn't even sure how a person became Catholic. As I grew older, I became more inquisitive about spirituality and began to desire a spiritual home.

When I moved to New York three years ago, I was five days out of college and deeply confused about that life transition. At that point, my spiritual journey had been terribly eclectic. I consistently prayed, but had no church home and my relationship with God was full of doubt and anxiety. It wouldn't be until a year later that I would find peace in my relationship with God.

One hot summer day, I found myself standing in front of St. Ignatius Loyola. The doors were wide open. I wasn't sure if I was allowed to enter, but I went inside anyway. When I walked in, I was overwhelmed by how beautiful the church was. Someone was practicing the organ, and I sat in a pew in the middle of the church to listen. I closed my eyes, and felt myself rocking from side to side. I mumbled a prayer lower than a whisper. After a while, an amazing thing happened. I felt completely calm. An unfamiliar stillness and sense of peace fell over me. In that moment, I knew I had to come back to this place. I began visiting almost every day to pray, and later, started attending Mass. When I started the RCIA process, I was able to rest in the peace of God. I found a great community in St. Ignatius Loyola, and I found abundant opportunities to become stronger in my faith.

I can look back and see many ways that God was trying to call me to a closer relationship. I can also see how I blocked many an invitation to deepen my faith in God. Anxiety and doubt plagued opportunity. Even so, I was still provided for. I'm grateful that God never abandoned me. As Advent progresses, I take comfort in knowing that God is very much present in our lives. Let us be present, and be willing to recognize God's revelation. I also think about those who seek to have a personal and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ and are interested in becoming Catholics. Let us together pray for and welcome this group of adults as they begin their journey toward Easter!

— Ashley Grier, IYA Committee Member, Member of Canticum Sacrum, and Parishioner
For your convenience...

To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the QR Code at left with your smartphone's camera.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th
Second Sunday of Advent

Gift deadline for the SVDP Christmas Angel Project. Details on page 5.

SVDP Annual Toy Drive continues through Monday, December 15th. Details on page 5.

SVDP Advent Food Drive continues through December 21st. Details on page 5.

Christmas Caroling. 1:30 PM. Hosted by Boomers & Beyond and Ignatian 40s. Details on page 3.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 4:00 PM
Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents
A Chanticleer Christmas
Details on page 3.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th
Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:30 PM, & 7:30 PM Church
The Feast is a holy day of obligation.

Private Prayer & Reflection
Weekday Evenings:
December 8th-12th (Except Thursday, Dec. 11th), December 15th–19th (Except Wednesday, Dec. 17th), and Monday, December 22nd & Tuesday, December 23rd
The Lady Chapel will be open from 6:00 PM–8:00 PM as an opportunity to spend time in private prayer and reflection during the Advent Season.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th
Job Transition Support Group. 10:00 AM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

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).

NEXT WEEKEND: PRE-NATAL BLESSING
A special Pre-Natal Blessing will be offered to expectant families at all Masses next weekend, December 13th-14th. 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.

PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4
**Sunday Socials Fall/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).”

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<th>Sunday Social Dates:</th>
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<td>Dec. 14</td>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
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**IYA Advent Reflection Group**

Sundays:
December 7th, 14th, & 21st
6:00 PM in the Parish Lounge

The Ignatian Young Adults (ages 21-39) are sponsoring a sharing group during Advent. We will explore the spirituality of the season using Sacred Space for the Advent and Christmas Season 2014-2015 as a starting point for reflection.

During each meeting, facilitated by a young adult peer leader, we will have an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the daily readings for the season of Advent.

Email ignatianyoungadults@gmail.com to RSVP.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com

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**Seekers’ Retreat**

FOR YOUNG ADULTS
January 30th – February 1st
Friday Evening – Sunday Afternoon
Mariandale Retreat Center, Ossining, NY

For young adults in their 20s and 30s

Join other young adults as they learn how their Catholic faith impacts their lives, through Ignatian spirituality. Take time to reflect on your journey and God’s hopes and dreams for you.

Cost: $250/$225 (before December 15th)/person; financial assistance available.

For more information, visit charis.nyc, email CharisRetreatNYC@gmail.com, or call 347-619-2692.

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**Job Transition Support Group**

Wednesday, December 10th
10:00 AM in the Parish Lounge

Bringing together a group of experienced professionals looking to secure employment, we hope to help one another in the job search process. Please bring your resume.

For more information, contact John Holewa at jjholewa@gmail.com or Christian Nolan at ctnolan59@gmail.com

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**Music**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH**

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**

- J.S. Bach Fugue on Magnificat BWV 733
- Victoria Missa de Beata Maria: Kyrie
- Parsons Magnificat

**7:30 PM MASS**

- J.S. Bach Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 243

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**December at Sacred Music in a Sacred Space**

**A Chanticleer Christmas**

**TODAY at 4:00 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.

Called “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker magazine, Chanticleer is known around the world for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices and its original interpretations of vocal literature.

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**Heavenly Light: Annual Christmas Concerts**

**Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 PM & Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM**

Centering on excerpts from J.S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, our ever-popular Christmas concerts will offer you and your family the inspiring warmth and joy of the season. Includes well-known carols for all to sing. Featuring the Combined Choirs & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Tickets for all concerts are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ordering.

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**Boomers & Beyond**

**DOUBLE THE VOICES, DOUBLE THE FUN!**

**TODAY AT 1:30 PM**

Calling all Boomers & Beyonders and Ignatian 40s for our annual Christmas Caroling event.

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.

**Place:** Lott Assisted Living Residence 5th Avenue (between 107th and 108th Streets)
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 8th
(Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
Genesis 3:9–15, 20             Psalm 98
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11–12       Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 9th
(Second Tuesday of Advent)
Isaiah 40:1–11   Psalm 96   Matthew 18:12–14
8:30   MEM
Mae Rooney
12:10   MEM
Margaret Phelan
5:30   ANN
Catherine Scanlon

Wednesday, December 10th
(Second Wednesday of Advent)
Isaiah 40:25–31   Psalm 103   Matthew 11:28–30
8:30   MEM
Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10   MEM
Valentino Mazzia
5:30   MEM
Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Thursday, December 11th
(Second Thursday of Advent)
Isaiah 41:13–20   Psalm 145   Matthew 11:11–15
8:30   MEM
Charles Denihan
12:10   MEM
The Meehan Family
5:30   MEM
The Clancy Family

Friday, December 12th
(Our Lady of Guadalupe)
8:30   MEM
Jerry Johnson
12:10   MEM
Landelina Nardelli
5:30   MEM
Elizabeth McCaffrey

Saturday, December 13th
(St. Lucy)
Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11 Psalm 80 Matthew 17:9a, 10–13
8:30   MEM
The Gunning Family

Sunday, December 14th
(Third Sunday of Advent)
Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 Luke 1
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28
ANNUAL APPEAL

Have You Made Your Donation Yet?

Thank you to those who have already responded to the Annual Appeal, which is now underway.

In order to fund the current level of service and programming, we rely heavily on this annual collection.

If you have not yet made a donation, you can do so by visiting the Annual Appeal page on the St. Ignatius website by scanning the QR code at left.

To electronically access the Annual Report for Fiscal year 2014 and a letter from Father Witt about the Annual Appeal, visit our website at www.saintignatiusloyola.org. Copies are also available at the Parish House.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th
RECONCILIATION MONDAY

All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, December 15th.

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.

4th ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults at the IYA Sunday Social

December 14th at 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 but would still like to participate in the exchange, treats from a bakery are fine, too!)

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.

EXCHANGE your cookies.

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

If you are interested in donating baked goods for the Christmas Social or have any questions about the event, please contact Ann at Ann.wirry@gmail.com

SVDP Christmas Angel Project

Concludes this weekend!

It has become a tradition at St. Ignatius for our parishioners to purchase Christmas gifts for parishioners in low-income parishes.

Wrapped gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than today.

Thank you for remembering those in need.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Continues This Weekend!

SVdP is sponsoring a toy drive to benefit the children of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island.

Through Monday, December 15th, please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for boys and girls between the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House.

Thank you for your generosity!

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Continues This Weekend!

Benefiting the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great

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.

Please bring donations to the Parish House through Sunday, December 21st.

Thank you for remembering those in need.
We pray for the faithful departed
Sr. Audrey Boylan, S.C.
Lawrence Costiglio
May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

Tutors Needed: Academic Support Program. Sponsored by ComUnidad Juan Diego, the Marist Brothers, and the Archdiocese of New York. Every Wednesday and Thursday, 4:30 PM–6:00 PM. Our Lady Queen of Angels School, 229 East 112th Street. The program, primarily serving the Latino community in East Harlem, focuses on providing children with life and study skills as well as academic tutoring. For more information, contact Br. John Klein, F.M.S. by email at jklein47@gmail.com or by phone/text at 201-320-4782.

New York Encounter: Identity: In Search of the Human Face. Friday, January 16th – Sunday, January 18th, 2015. Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18th Street. A three-day cultural festival centered around presentations, artistic performances, conferences, exhibits, and information booths introducing a variety of charitable, cultural, and work-related initiatives. Featuring opening remarks by Cardinal Dolan. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit newyorkencounter.org or call (347) 713-5146.

More than 10,000 New Yorkers are currently waiting for a life-saving transplant... in other words, they are waiting for a chance to live.

New York ranks 49th out of 50 states with regard to the percentage of residents registered as organ donors. New York ranks 3rd in the country in people waiting for organ donations, yet only 23% of New Yorkers are registered organ donors.

The Roman Catholic Church has long supported organ and tissue donation. In this context, donation is seen as an opportunity for individuals to foster a culture that values life.

Learn more about becoming a donor by visiting the New York Organ Donor website: http://www.donatelifeny.org/.

Copies of the brochure Organ and Tissue Donation: A Catholic Perspective are available in the Narthex and at the Parish House.

Sponsored by ComUnidad Juan Diego, the Marist Brothers, and the Archdiocese of New York, New York Encounter: Identity: In Search of the Human Face.

Religious Education for Children
Ms. Carly-Anne Gannon, M.Phil., M.Ed. 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
cs

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: 4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment. Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 15th, 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 (212-288-3588 x632) 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 (212-288-3588 x632) 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

PARISH STAFF
Pastor
Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Associate Pastors
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.
Pastoral Associates
Joanne Cunneen
Carly-Anne Gannon
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

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

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

DONATE LIFE

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