The Divine Omnipotence of Love

Who doesn’t love the story of Christmas? The familiarity and simplicity of the events surrounding Jesus’ birth are a source of great consolation, so much so that its retelling each year never fails to warm the heart. Mary and Joseph traveling a great distance, the lack of room at the inn, the stable, the shepherds, and the unmistakable message that this all makes for good news of great joy for all people. It is easy to love.

But if what we celebrate is not only heartwarming but also true, its implications extend far beyond the goodwill and happiness that are generated by its tender images. It teaches us a lesson about God that can shape the very way we live. And the lesson is as profound as it is simple: the divine omnipotence, God’s all-embracing power, is an omnipotence of love, and nothing else.

God has made good on his promise to love us by coming among us in human form. And what is most striking is that he takes that form right from its earliest, most vulnerable point. The divine infant was as dependent for his life on the loving protection and care of Mary and Joseph as is any human child on his or her parents.

What an incredible demonstration of the immensity and tenderness of divine love! It comes to us without any false trappings of power, but only as pure self-gift. It divests itself of all the qualities we instinctively attach to divinity, such as radical “otherness,” majesty, or invincibility, and it approaches us precisely where and as we are. Just as we learn later in Jesus’ Passion and Death, so we see now at his birth: divine love stops at nothing, but pours itself out for us.

So the story of Jesus’ nativity is much more than a warm tale. It contains the very seed of our salvation, no matter how much we may sometimes buck against what it implies about how God operates. The fact is, we would often prefer a different kind of God, one whose omnipotence is more actively expressed. We would prefer a God who puts an end to warfare; who does not allow children to be abused; who salvages every broken relationship; who prevents the illness and death of those we love.

But this is not how God works. And the Christmas story highlights this truth: it is in vulnerability and defenselessness that God reveals his all-powerful love. It reminds us that love is the greatest power on earth, and that more than anything else, love is what God asks from us.

Pope Francis continually stresses our call to respond in kind. He draws our attention to the love that we are to demonstrate for one another, especially for those most in need. In The Joy of the Gospel, he states, “We want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep; arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world.” Indeed, he says, “without this sense of belonging we cannot understand our deepest identity.”

In the spirit of Pope Francis’ exhortation, and in response to the deep truth contained in the Christmas story we know and love so well, I encourage us to focus in the coming year on just such efforts, following Jesus’ lead in self-emptying activity on behalf of others.

In this way, we will play our small part in carrying forward the good news of great joy promised by his birth.

A blessed Christmas to you all.

— Rev. George M. Witt, S.J.
Pastor
The Parish House will be closed Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

SVDP Advent Food Drive ends this weekend. Details on page 3.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21st
Wallace Hall Christmas Pageant.
Following the 11:00 AM Family Mass.
All are welcome!

2014 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM FAMILY MASS I
with Children’s Choir, Wallace Hall Choir & Omega Dance Company
Fr. Feely, 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 & Omega Dance Company
Fr. Judge, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM Prelude begins at 5:45 PM
8:00 PM VIGIL MASS
Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola & harp
Fr. Hilbert, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM Prelude begins at 7:45 PM
MIDNIGHT MASS
Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola & harp
Fr. Witt, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM Prelude begins at 11:15 PM

Christmas Day
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
9:30 AM MASS
Fr. Hilbert, Presider
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Fr. Bergen, Presider
(The Parish House will be closed)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM
(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year’s Eve
WEDNESDAY, 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
(The Feast is a holy day of obligation)
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.

New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners and invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at stignatiusloyola.org
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks you for your tremendous support of the annual Thanksgiving food drive, Advent food and toy drives, and Christmas Angel project. Your generosity and kindness this holiday season has truly made a difference and touched the lives of so many individuals and families throughout New York City.

IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

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).”

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sunday Social Dates:</th>
<th>Jan. 11</th>
<th>Feb. 8</th>
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<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>March 8</td>
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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 IYAknitting@gmail.com

Monday, January 12th
7:00 PM in the Conference Room

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/person; financial assistance available.
For more information, visit charis.nyc, email CharisRetreatNYC@gmail.com, or call 347-619-2692.

SAVE THE DATE!
LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
Saturday, January 31st
Presenter: K. Scott Warren, Director of Music Ministries
All Lay Ministers at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola are invited to attend.
Details to follow...

MUSIC
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH
Feast of the Holy Family
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS & 7:30 PM MASS
Langlais La Nativité: La Creche, Les Anges, Les Bergers, La Sainte Famille
Milhaud Pastorale
J.S. Bach Fugue on Vom Himmel hoch BWV 700

Please support the Advent and Christmas Liturgical Music Fund
This fund supports the liturgical music program throughout the year — our musicians, staff, music, robes, and maintenance of instruments.
Visit https://donate.stignatiusloyola.org/liturgicalmusic to donate.

JOBs

Job Transition Support Group
Wednesday, December 31st
10:00 AM in the Parish Lounge
There is no meeting on Wednesday, December 24th
For more information, contact John Holewa at jholewa@gmail.com or Christian Nolan at ctnolan59@gmail.com

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Ends today!
Please bring donations to the Parish House by 9:00 PM tonight.

Final day!
tuna fish, soups, cereals (preferably oatmeal)
Benefiting the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.
Thank you for remembering those in need.

Interested in becoming Catholic? Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
**2014 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL MUSIC FUND DONORS**

**With our sincere gratitude**

**$500 and above**
In Honor of Philip Anderson from
Mr. and Mrs. Baumann
Odessa and Bill Bourne
Mr. and Mrs. James Buckman
In Memory of Chan Kok Hung
Elizabeth A. Coleman
In Memory of Nathan J. Davidson
Mary Ann and Vincent Giffuni
In Memory of Peter A. Gloo
Michael G. Halloran
Sarah W. Johnson
Julia McGee
The Miller-Murphy Family
Carla Pehowski
Virginia Wattiker Sheerin
The Skerl Family
In Memory of Dorothy and Hugh Toumey
David and Elizabeth Treussard
K. Scott Warren in gratitude for the choirs of St. Ignatius Loyola
In Memory of Ethel and Michael F. White
Elina and Giro Zullo

**$100 and above**
Anonymous (3)
In memory of Richard J. Adams
Colleen and Bill Ambrose
In honor of Philip Anderson
In memory of Odino Benedetto, the Anzai Family
Amy Baker
Dr. and Mrs. C. Wayne Bardin
The Barnett Family
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bendall, Jr.
Marissa and Richard Blackett
Gwendolyn Terreri Blackstone
Marlene Brommund
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Buckman
Mr. and Mrs. Andy Bugas
Robert L. Cahill, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Califano, Jr.
Kathleen and Patrick Carrajat
Barbara Charles
Susan and Peter Collins
Marie and Brendan Cryan
Ann Marie and John Curtin
In loving memory of John P. Curtin
Charles and Susan D’Amico
The Richard Daniel Family in loving memory of Marie and Peter Lomenzo
Col. and Mrs. Lionel A. Danis
Catherine De Vido
Mary Ashcroft Donoso
Barbara Bracht Donsky
The Droesch Family
John J. Drummond
James H. Duffy
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony K. Farina
In memory of Dorothy and Harold Fitzgibbon
Mary A. Flannery
John and Marianne Fouhey
Steve and Beverly Friedman
In memory of John and Alice Fullam
Armando and Marti Gallardo and Family
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gardini
In loving memory of William P. Gregg
In memory of George T. Gearty, Jr. and Georgia Ann Gearty
Maeve Gyenes
In memory of Mary Ann Haley
Karen and Joseph Hansen
The Harkins Family
Mary Henninger and Family
In loving memory of Wolfgang A. Herz Bill and Mary Herzog
Margaret P. High
David and Patricia Hogan
Sophia Hudson
Ann C. Hunt and Edward J. Menninger
Laura and John Ivan
Di Johnston and Stephen Spruiell
Kimberly Jovanovic
In memory of Adam and Sophie Jurumbo
In Memory of Quentin Kane
Kathleen and Richard Kearns
For Kate and John Kelleher
Bill and Regina Keller
Paula and Tom Keltner
In memory of Leslie and Walter Kernan
Chris, Gabbie and Kevin Lee
Kathryne J. Lyons
In loving memory of Chester and Helen Malins
Alice Maloney
In memory of James and Mary Manning
Margaret E. Maruschak
Tom and Nancy McCarthy
Donald and Kristin McDonough
Mr. and Mrs. John G. McGoldrick
The McKeever Family in memory of Marian Vinocour
Arabella C. Meyer
Mary K. Meyer
The Mies and Jansen Family
In thanksgiving for Fr. Walter F. Modrys, S.J.
Catherine Morgan and Family
In loving memory of Melvin Moss
Terry and Jay Moyer
In memory of Josephine and James P. Naughton
Elsie Reilly Nelson
Dennis and Roseline Michael Neveling
Thomas and Lisa Newell
Francis J. O’Brien and Thomas Fazio
In memory of James and Marcella O’Malley
Sally and Michael Orr
In loving memory of Joachim Parrella
The Pastore Family
Anne and Dick Pinkham
Elizabeth Preis and Stephen Dougherty
In honor of Mary Prisco and her family
Felipe and Renata Propper
David and Patricia Rung
Cynthia and Raphael Russo Family
In memory of Alice and Winthrop Rutherfurd
In memory of my friend Sean McNulty by Andrew R. Sackin
Noelle M. Savage-Abraham
Barbara and Bill Serpe
The Skarzynski Family
Zee and Damir S. Skerl
The Skolnik Family
George Spera and Jane Ginsburg
Trudy and Michael Sullivan
Virginia Verwaal
Jerry Vittoria
Kathleen L. Werner
Judith E. and Mary A. Vaughn Williams
Daniel and Kristen Williams
Karin and Bob Wiseman
Mashio Yuasa
Ada Zambetti
Sofia, Lucia, Vita, and Teddy Zambetti
Salvatore J. Zizza

We also thank those whose donations were received after December 13, 2014. A final list of donors to the Advent and Christmas Music Fund will be included in the worship aids on Sunday, January 11, 2015.
Merry Christmas!


Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 22nd
(Fourth Monday of Advent)
1 Samuel 1:24–28    1 Samuel 2    Luke 1:46–56
8:30   MEM    Eileen Sullivan
12:10   MEM    Audrey Fabrizio
5:30   MEM    Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Tuesday, December 23rd
(Fourth Tuesday of Advent)
8:30   MEM    Joseph Carl Ceva
12:10   MEM    Sose & Mark Prekelezaj
5:30   MEM    Raymond J. Feerick

Wednesday, December 24th
(Fourth Wednesday of Advent)
8:30   MEM    John B., John A., & Elizabeth Rooney

Thursday, December 25th
(Nativity of the Lord)
Isaiah 9:1–6         Psalm 96

Friday, December 26th
(St. Stephen)
8:30   MEM    Emil Wittek

Saturday, December 27th
(St. John)
1 John 1:1–4    Psalm 97    John 20:1a, 2–8
8:30   MEM    Ante Lozina

Sunday, December 28th
(Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)
Sirach 3:2–7, 12–14    Psalm 128

TOWN HALL MEETING
To discuss Cardinal Dolan’s proposal that St. Thomas More parish be merged with St. Ignatius Loyola.

Sunday, January 11th
Following the 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Masses. McKinnon Hall

Have you made your donation to the Annual Appeal?
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!

Making All Things New

Volunteers Needed

Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
• 4:00 PM Family Mass I
• 6:00 PM Family Mass II
• 8:00 PM Vigil Mass
• Midnight Mass

Thursday, 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.

A sign-up table will also be in the Narthex before and after all Masses today.

For your convenience...

To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the QR Code at left with your smartphone’s camera.
After School Tutors Needed: The Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service is in great need of after-school tutors to assist low-academic performing East Harlem children (ages 7 – 12). The one-on-one tutoring sessions are held at the Center, at 333 East 115th Street (between First Avenue and Second Avenue), once a week for 70 minutes. A variety of days and times are available. For more information, contact tgough@lsafhs.org or visit the website littlesistersfamily.org

Special Needs Mass: For families with loved ones on the Autism spectrum and with other challenging behaviors, Sunday, January 4th at 4:00 PM. Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 152 West 71st Street. All family members are invited to attend. For more information, contact jackie@snacknyc.com

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, 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.

Men’s Weekend Retreat, Thursday, January 22nd – Sunday, January 25th, 2015. Loyola House of Retreats, Morristown, NJ. Directed by Fr. Bill Rakowicz S.J. 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, Carlos Cuartas at 917-509-5329, or visit loyola.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. Hilbert
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
9:30 AM Fr. Hilbert
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Feely
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. SooHoo
7:30 PM Fr. SooHoo

For additional information, contact tkough@lsafhs.org or visit the website littlesistersfamily.org

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

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. Communal Penance Services are celebrated during Advent and Lent.

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.