The Jesuit spiritual master and author Anthony de Mello never liked New Year's resolutions. “They are admissions of failure! Don’t make them!” Resolving to join a gym is to admit your failure to stay in shape, and it is also an anticipatory admission that you are wasting your money. Believe me, I know.

January is the first month. *Janua, januae*, first declension, feminine. “Beginning, gate, entrance, prelude, threshold.” A speed bump. Approach with care, up and over. There we are, foot back, gently, on the gas.

We transition, pivot perhaps, settle into a new year, cross a threshold to something new. The view might be familiar, or just slightly different, or unnervingly foreign.

Ivan Pavlov, the Nobel Prize-winning Russian physiologist known for his experiment with bells and salivating dogs, performed another very curious experiment. Whenever he showed his dog a drawing of a circle, he fed the dog. The dog then became conditioned to salivate whenever a circle was presented before his eyes. Pavlov then showed the dog an ellipse, but did not feed the dog. Finally, the axis of the ellipse was gradually reduced, an eighth of an inch at a time; at a certain point, the dog didn't know if he was looking at an ellipse or a circle, and started to run around in circles, chasing his tail, completely disoriented.

There are times when we look around at our lives and find that our previous conditioning, how we navigate reality, no longer works for the new reality: I am older, my relationships have changed, and my physical and mental condition is diminished. My faith life does not nourish me as it did in the past. A period of disorientation begins, a bumpy scary transition to a new chapter. We could use the help of heaven as we penetrate this ‘dark wood.’ How about a tutelary god and a patron saint?

The writer Jhumpa Lahiri tells of her rocky transition from New York to Rome: “I think of two-faced Janus. Two faces that look at the past and the future at once. The ancient god of the threshold, of beginnings and endings. He represents a moment of transition. He watches over gates, over doors, a god who is only Roman, who protects the city.” Distinctively Roman, with no Greek equivalent, the god Janus, depicted as having two faces, presides over beginnings and endings — of journeys and conflicts, and life. The indecipherable, unsettling mystery gives way to the reassuring understanding that our comings and our goings are under divine protection. All will be well.

If Janus is the tutelary Roman god of the transition from what was to what will be, then Saint Januarius must be the Christian patron saint. A priest at 15 years of age, made a bishop at 20, Saint Januarius (better known in Naples and on Mott Street as San Gennaro) was martyred under the Emperor Diocletian in the late 3rd century. The patron saint of Naples, and blood banks and volcanic eruptions, San Gennaro is famous for the alleged miracle of the liquefaction of his blood. Three times a year, the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples removes the ampoule of Gennaro’s dried blood from its reliquary and holds it up before the faithful assembled in front of the cathedral. If the blood liquefies — it doesn’t always — the city will be blessed with a rich harvest and peaceful days (*i.e.* , Mount Vesuvius will keep quiet).

When Pope Francis visited Naples last March, and prayed over the relic and kissed it, Cardinal Sepe of Naples announced, “The blood has half liquefied, which shows that Saint Januarius loves our Pope and Naples.” Francis replied, “The bishop just announced that the blood is half liquefied. We can see the saint only half loves us. We must all spread the Word, so that he loves us more!”

The devotion to San Gennaro is rooted in our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Indeed, the popular explanation of the liquefaction of the saint’s blood is that he is too impatient for his own resurrection! The transformation of deadened life into liquid blood, the passage from the old to the new, does not require New Year’s resolutions (be gone!), but rather a renewed trust in the fundamental paradox that the grain of wheat must fall and break open at the threshold of life. Happy January!

— Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

P.S. On a personal note, my own transition from Rome to New York has been a joyful one, and remarkably smooth, and very life-giving. My deep thanks to all here at the parish! I will be in Rome for five weeks to tie up some loose ends, and perhaps to visit San Gennaro’s chaotic hometown. I’ll be back on February 8th.
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SPECIAL COLLECTION
This weekend, our Parish will take up a special collection at all Masses for the Catholic Communication Campaign and The Catholic University of America. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4th
Ranger Rosary Ministry.
7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Join us in making rosaries to send to our military. New members are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6th
Job Transition Support Group.
10:00 AM. Parish Lounge. Bringing together experienced professionals looking to secure employment.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7th
Ignatian Social Justice.
7:00 PM. Conference Room. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9TH
Winter Potluck Dinner.
5:00 PM. Wallace Hall. Hosted by the Family Ministry. All are welcome! Details at right.

IGNITE! Teen Ministry.
6:30 PM. Hoefner Lounge. Teens 13–19 are welcome! Details on page 3.

MUSIC
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH
Baptism of the Lord
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
J.S. Bach  Two settings of Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam (BWV 685, 684)
Palestrina  Sicut cervus
Philips  Ave Jesu Christe
J.S. Bach  Trio on Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Ehr’ (BWV 664)

FAMILY MINISTRY
Winter Potluck Dinner
Saturday, January 9th at 5:00 PM
Wallace Hall
Join our families as we come together to celebrate the new year — to renew, refresh, and restart.

Two ways to participate:
• Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert, or
• contribute $50 for a family up to four or $75 for a family of five or more

Dinner service begins at 5:30 PM.
Space is limited.
To RSVP, email parentcommittee.familyministry@gmail.com by Wednesday, January 6th.
All are welcome.

Where is the Church Going?
A Discussion on Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy
Thursday, January 14th at 7:30 PM
Wallace Hall
A conversation with Fr. Matt Malone, S.J.,
Editor-in-Chief,
America Magazine & Fr. James Martin, S.J.,
Editor-at-Large,
America Magazine

Moderated by Kerry Weber
Managing Editor, America Magazine

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 2015 and a letter from Father Feely about the Annual Appeal, visit our website at www.saintignatiusloyola.org
SEEKERS’ RETREAT
FOR YOUNG ADULTS
January 29th – January 31st
Friday Evening – Sunday Afternoon
Mariandale Retreat Center, Ossining, NY
For young adults in their 20s and 30s
Charis NYC presents a peer-led, weekend retreat inspired by Ignatian spirituality and the Jesuit tradition. Take time to reflect on your journey, your desires, and God’s hopes and dreams for you. Also, learn how to integrate your Catholic faith with the other areas of your life.
Cost: $260/person
Meals and boarding are included. Financial aid available.
For more information, please visit www.Charis.nyc or email CharisRetreatNYC@gmail.com by Monday, January 25th.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, January 4th (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)
Sirach 51:8–12  Psalm 8  Luke 2:21–24
8:30  MEM  Patrick Murphy
12:10  MEM  Evangeline Ramos
5:30  MEM  Dolorita Wallace

Tuesday, January 5th (St. John Neumann)
1 John 4:7–10  Psalm 72  Mark 6:34–44
8:30  MEM  Ann M. Spadafora
12:10  MEM  John Brown
5:30  MEM  Charles Miclo

Wednesday, January 6th (Wednesday after Epiphany)
1 John 4:11–18  Psalm 72  Mark 6:45–52
8:30  MEM  Martin J. O’Brien
12:10  LVG  Frida Cantwell
5:30  MEM  Dolores O’Neill Ventura

Thursday, January 7th (Thursday after Epiphany)
8:30  MEM  Caroline Choix
12:10
5:30  MEM  Lori Perrotta

Friday, January 8th (Friday after Epiphany)
1 John 5:5–13  Psalm 147  Luke 5:12–16
8:30  MEM  Nicholas Katsouros
12:10
5:30  MEM  Stratford Wallace

Saturday, January 9th (Saturday after Epiphany)
1 John 5:14–21  Psalm 149  John 3:22–30
8:30  MEM  Joan Sexton

Sunday, January 10th (Baptism of the Lord)
Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11  Psalm 104

Pope Francis’ January Prayer Intentions

Apostleship of Prayer receives monthly prayer intentions from Pope Francis and urges Christians throughout the world to unite in prayer for those intentions. The reflections below seek to illuminate the Holy Father’s concerns.

Universal: Interreligious Dialogue
That sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Evangelization: Christian Unity
That by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.
Lecture: Nostra Aetate — A Lever That Moved the World. Tuesday, January 12th, 6:00 PM. Fordham University, Lincoln Center, Gerald E. Corrigan Conference Center, 113 West 60th Street. Sponsored by America Media. Presenter: Rabbi Daniel Polish, Congregation Shir Chadash. The lecture, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate — the governing document on how the Church relates to non-Christian religions — will analyze Catholic-Jewish relations over the last half century. The lecture is free and open to the public. To RSVP, email events@americamedia.org or call 212-515-0191.

New York Encounter: Longing for the Sea and Yet (Not) Afraid. Friday, January 15th – Sunday, January 17th. 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, and cultural initiatives. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit newyorkencounter.org or call 212-253-5777.

Men’s Weekend Retreat. Thursday, January 21st – Sunday, January 24th. Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, NJ. Fr. Dan Fitzpatrick, S.J. will offer reflections on the theme Jesus: Presence of God in Our Midst. The retreat begins at dinner on Thursday and ends after lunch on Sunday. To RSVP, call 973-539-0740 and reference the group name “St. Ignatius New York – Men’s.” For more information, contact Peter Riordan at 212-877-5134, or visit stignatiusloyola.org

March for Life in Washington, D.C. Friday, January 22nd. A Manhattan bus (sponsored by the Archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office) will leave from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 457 West 51st Street. The bus departs at 5:00 AM. Total cost for the trip: $50. If you are not able to make the trip, please consider making a donation so that others can attend. For more information and to register, call Sr. Shirley at 212-371-1011 x3195 or email sr.shirleyann@archny.org

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

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.

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 Teresa Cariño 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 Teresa Cariño 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.