If today were not Sunday, it would be the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker. Venerable Pius XII instituted the memorial in 1955 to highlight the Church’s concern for workers, and he chose the first of May to counterbalance the May Day festivities then common in communist countries.

The gospels identify Joseph as a worker. The Greek word *tekton* literally means maker. Carpenter became the common translation because biblical scholars presumed the people of a poor farming village like Nazareth would be most in need of articles made of wood. However, the more general term craftsman might be a better description for Joseph. A *tekton* might work in metal and stone, not just wood, and the people of Nazareth would have needed someone who could work with all three. Joseph most likely possessed a range of skills beyond carpentry.

Still, it is hard to imagine a craftsman could make a living working for a community of four hundred souls, the estimated population of Nazareth at Jesus’ time, no matter how many materials he was skilled at working with. Joseph needed another source of income. During Jesus’ youth and young adulthood, Herod Antipas was restoring the city of Sepphoris. The project went on for years and would have required craftsmen with various skills. Sepphoris is about an hour’s walk from Nazareth. It is quite possible Joseph walked to Sepphoris together and worked there together, they would have spent long hours together. As a result, they probably talked more than many fathers and sons, grew to appreciate each other more than many fathers and sons, and learned to depend on each other more than many fathers and sons. A rich companionship would inevitably have grown up between them. That could have influenced the love of companionship and gift for gathering companions we see in the gospels’ portrayal of Jesus.

Working with Joseph in Sepphoris may have affected Jesus in more personal ways as well. It most likely deepened his appreciation for companionship. If Jesus and Joseph walked to Sepphoris together and worked there together, they would have spent long hours together. As a result, they probably talked more than many fathers and sons, grew to appreciate each other more than many fathers and sons, and learned to depend on each other more than many fathers and sons. A rich companionship would inevitably have grown up between them. That could have influenced the love of companionship and gift for gathering companions we see in the gospels’ portrayal of Jesus.

Working so closely with Joseph may also have deepened Jesus’ capacity for compassion. Joseph does not appear in the gospels as a participant in the events of Jesus’ public life the way Mary does. Because of that, tradition holds that Joseph died during Jesus’ youth. Given how close they were, the loss of Joseph must have been a terrible blow to Jesus. He would have felt truly bereft. This personal experience of loss likely heightened Jesus’ sensitivity to all suffering and helped make him the astoundingly compassionate man we meet in the gospels.

Jesus’ experiences of work and companionship with Joseph, the love he had for Joseph and the pain he felt when he lost Joseph helped shape Jesus as a person. In turn, the person Jesus was shaped the salvation history he was God’s chosen instrument in creating. This should serve as a reminder to us. Our experiences of work and companionship, of love and loss, are not unimportant. Like Jesus’ experiences, they shape salvation history. We should approach these experiences with reverence because God is at work in them just as God was at work in the lives of Joseph and Jesus.

— Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Administrator

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Christ in the House of His Parents.
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Special Collection
This weekend our Parish will take up the annual collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.
Visit stignatiusloyola.org to read a letter from Cardinal Dolan regarding this special collection.

SUNDAY, MAY 1st
Blood Drive. Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. McKinnon Hall. Details at right.
Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall. Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults. Follows the 7:30 PM Mass.

MONDAY, MAY 2nd
Ranger Rosary Ministry. 7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Join us in making rosaries to send to our military. New members are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4th
Job Transition Support Group. 10:00 AM. Parish Lounge. Bringing together experienced professionals looking to secure employment.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. All are welcome.

ASCENSION THURSDAY
MAY 5th
Anticipated Mass at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, May 4th.
Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:30 PM on Thursday, May 5th. All Masses will be celebrated in the Church.

SATURDAY, MAY 7th
IGNITE! Teen Ministry. 6:30 PM. Hoefner Lounge. Teens age 13–19 are welcome! To register, email Teresa Cariño at carinot@saintignatiusloyola.org

The Staff of the St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery cordially invites the members of the Parish Community to
The Annual Spring Benefit
Friday, May 20th, 7:00 PM to Midnight Guastavino’s
Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing, Raffle, Live and Silent Auctions
For ticket information, please call 212-734-6427 x24.
Persons over 21 years of age are welcome.

Pope Francis’ May 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.
Universal: Respect for Women
That in every country of the world, women may be honored and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.
Evangelization: Holy Rosary
That families, communities, and groups may pray the Holy Rosary for evangelization and peace.

BLOOD DRIVE
TODAY
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.
Your donation may enable a premature baby to live, a burn victim to recover, a cancer patient to be treated, or an accident victim to survive.
Walk-ins are welcome.
A photo or signature ID is required.
Please drink plenty of fluids and eat a well-balanced meal before giving blood.
Please help us exceed our goal of 38 donations!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
WALLACE HALL AVAILABLE FOR RENTAL
For more information, contact Caroline Fernandes at 212-288-3588 or fernandesc@saintignatiusloyola.org

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

SUNDAY, MAY 8TH

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
with Parish Community Choir

Tournemire  In Ascensione Domine
Mendelssohn  Verleih uns Frieden
Bach  Mass in B Minor: Dona nobis pacem
Hurford  Laudate Dominum Suite: VI. Let God arise

Psalms, Hymns & Spiritual Songs
Wednesday, May 11th
7:00 PM

The season concludes with a rousing celebration of music for unaccompanied choir:
Aaron Copland's 1947 choral concerto In the Beginning,
Philadelphia composer Jennifer Higdon's Sanctus, and
Carmina mei, cordis by award-winning Minnesota native Abbie Betinis.

Tickets: $25–$80

Rejoice in the Lord!
A Music Ministry Celebration
Sunday, May 22nd
3:00 PM

The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Parish Community Choir, Wallace Hall Choir, Canticum Sacrum, and Children's Choirs join forces in gratitude and joy.

FREE WILL OFFERING.
NO TICKETS NECESSARY.

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

Coming Next Month

Thursday, June 2nd
Ministers’ Night Annual Supper Social.
In Wallace Hall at 7:00 PM.

Sunday, June 5th
Reception congratulating our new (as of June 1st) Pastor, Fr. Yesalonia, and thanking Fr. Feely for serving as Parish Administrator for the past year.
In McKinnon Hall following the 11:00 AM Masses.
Note: There will be no Coffee Hour in Wallace Hall that day.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, May 2nd (St. Athanasius)
Acts 16:11–15  Psalm 149  John 15:26–16:4a
8:30  MEM  Brian Maroff
12:10  MEM  Mary Wesley
5:30  MEM  Lauren Megias

Tuesday, May 3rd (SS. Philip & James)
1 Corinthians 15:1–8  Psalm 19  John 14:6–14
8:30  MEM  Lidia Lugo
12:10  MEM  Iannicelli Family
5:30  MEM  Anne Anderson

Wednesday, May 4th (Sixth Wednesday of Easter)
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1  Psalm 148  John 16:12–15
8:30  MEM  Allison MacEachron
12:10  MEM  Antoinette Angloletti
5:30  Anticipated Mass  Ascension of the Lord

Thursday, May 5th (The Ascension of the Lord)
Acts 1:1–11  Psalm 47

Friday, May 6th (Sixth Friday of Easter)
8:30  MEM  Norah Waters
12:10  MEM  Cleveland Michaels
5:30  MEM  Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Saturday, May 7th (Sixth Saturday of Easter)
8:30  MEM  Julia Anne O’Donnell

Sunday, May 8th (Seventh Sunday of Easter)
Acts 7:55–60  Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20  John 17:20–26

Parishioners and Friends of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish are cordially invited to attend LifeWay Network’s Spring Fundraiser

Event Towards New Life: Walking Together Towards Freedom
Thursday, May 19th
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall
Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.
This event supports LifeWay Network, which collaborates to combat human trafficking through safe housing and education.

Tickets: $125 before May 2nd/$150 thereafter
Visit www.lifewaynetwork.org to register and pay online, or mail payment to LifeWay Network, Inc., PO Box 754215, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Interested in becoming Catholic? Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
Volunteer Opportunity. The Community of St. Egidio is looking for volunteers for their activities in Manhattan, including preparing and distributing food to homeless men and women and visiting a nursing home on the Upper East Side. If you are interested, contact Paola at 646-765-3899 or at santegidiousa@gmail.com.

Lecture Series: The Jubilee Year of Mercy — A Faith Formation Experience with Dr. Bernie Swain. Tuesday, May 17th – Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 PM. The Church of St. Monica, 413 East 79th Street. This series will examine mercy’s place in our daily lives, focusing on the questions “What does ‘Merciful Like the Father’ really mean?” and “How can we ‘evangelize by attraction’?” Dr. Bernie Swain is a noted theologian, author, and parish consultant. With over 40 years of pastoral ministry experience, Dr. Swain is also the author of Liberating Leadership, which analyzes collaborative ministry, and has written for a variety of publications, including Atlantic Monthly, Commonweal, Harvard Theological Review, and Miami Herald.