Today at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass, 20 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. Fahimeh Sasan, author of this reflection, participated in this Rite last year.

Today as our Parish celebrates the Rite of Welcoming/Entrance into the Catechumenate for our current RCIA group, I am reminded of my own journey that started over a year ago here at St. Ignatius Loyola. As I sit writing these words, I am moved to tears, as I reflect on the generosity of time and spirit I have witnessed at this church, in particular by the leaders of the RCIA program.

As part of the Rite, each candidate will be asked, “What do you ask of God’s Church?” I responded that I wanted to become a better person by becoming closer to God. Over the last year, I was introduced to the Gospels, to the teachings of Christ, to the unconditional love of Jesus, and to the amazing people of our parish. Publicly welcoming God into my life and becoming a member of the Catholic Church has truly been a life-altering experience for me. God heard my response to the question and in return He has given me far more that I could have ever expected: He has brought new peace into my heart, and reminds me daily to be more patient, both of which I know are helping me be a better person, wife, and doctor.

Here is a glimpse into my journey: I was born in Iran to a non-practicing Muslim family. We moved to Texas when I was 8 years old and I had a great deal of exposure to a variety of Christian faiths and even sang in a church choir for several years. Growing up I went to church for holidays with friends and family and was always drawn to the sense of warmth, peace, and community that was present. From my first exposure to the Christian faith at the age of 8, I felt God’s presence in my heart and a desire to belong; but for reasons I cannot fully explain, I never formally entered the Church.

In August of 2014, my boyfriend, who is Catholic, asked me to marry him, and we both instantly knew we wanted to be married in the Church with God’s blessing on our union. This became the catalyst for me to learn more about Catholicism and to enter the Church. Initially, my desire to become a Catholic was so that my husband and I would be of a common faith and that in the future we could raise our children in the Church. But after my first session in the RCIA class, I realized that God was calling my name for me and not just for my husband or our future children.

Over the last year I have welcomed Jesus into my heart and soul with open arms. I will treasure my RCIA journey, my Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation as some of the most meaningful moments of my life. My husband and I were married on June 6, 2015 at St. Ignatius Loyola, and as the cantor sang Ave Maria I realized that the Holy Spirit was with us. Today I feel so blessed to be a part of the St. Ignatius family, I am honored to be a Catholic, and am eager to continue to learn and welcome God into my life every day.

In retrospect I realize that God has been with me my entire life, but was just waiting for me to be ready. I hope you all enjoy your journey as much as I have.

— Fahimeh Sasan Parishioner 2015 RCIA Class
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 10:00 AM**

Second Sunday of Advent

SVDp Christmas Angel Project ends tomorrow. Details on page 5.

SVDp Annual Toy Drive continues through Monday, December 14th. Details on page 5.

SVDP Advent Food Drive continues through Saturday, December 19th. Details on page 5.

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6th, 4:00 PM**

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents A Chanticleer Christmas in New York Details on page 3.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th**

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Mass of Anticipation
Monday, December 7th at 5:30 PM
All Masses will be celebrated in the Church.
The Feast is a holy day of obligation.

Performance of the one-man play The Bullpen. 7:00 PM. Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice. Details at right.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9th**

Job Transition Support Group.
10:00 AM. Parish Lounge.
Bringing together experienced professionals looking to secure employment.

The Tender Mercy of God.
6:30 PM. Parish House.
Sponsored by Contemplative Leaders in Action. Details on page 4.

**Hodie Christus Natus Est: Poetry & Art**
Celebrating the Birth of Jesus. An art-slide lecture presented by Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J. 7:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Details on page 5.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14th**

Reconciliation Monday
All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, December 14th.
Confessions will be heard beginning at 4:00 PM.
This will be followed by our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 PM.
Many priests will be available for Confession.

**Next Weekend: Special Collection**
The annual collection for the retired women and men religious of the New York Archdiocese will be taken next weekend.
Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Performance of the one-man play The Bullpen
Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 PM
The Mary Chapel, Church of St. Francis Xavier, 55 West 15th Street

Honoring the Jubilee Year of Mercy and the new joint Church of St. Ignatius Loyola–Church of St. Francis Xavier Prison Outreach Ministry

The Bullpen is a one-man, multi-character comedy based on playwright Joe Assadourian's experience following his arrest and detention in a holding cell full of colorful personalities.

This performance is free and open to the public.
Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice and the Peace & Justice Committee at the Church of St. Francis Xavier

Volunteers Needed for Build Project
Saturday, December 19th, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Volunteers will put in a full day on the build, which is likely to be in Brooklyn as part of Habitat's ongoing effort to assist families in the restoration of homes affected by Hurricane Sandy.

All volunteers must be 16 years of age or older.

If you would like to volunteer, and can commit to participating for the full day, please email Peter Wood at PeterWoodNYC@aol.com

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL**
Saint Ignatius Loyola Grammar School extends a cordial invitation to join us at our Annual Christmas Fair
Today from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM, McKinnon Hall
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH
3rd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Moore  Meditation on Veni, Emmanuel
te Velde  Meditation on Conditor alme siderum
Monteverdi  Missa in illo tempore: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei
Monteverdi  Cantate Domino

7:30 PM MASS
Bullard, arr.  Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

December at
Sacred Music in a Sacred Space

A Chanticleer Christmas in New York
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.

Sing We Noel:
Annual Christmas Concerts
Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 PM & Sunday, December 20th at 3:00 PM
Christmas joy abounds in these beloved annual concerts, featuring works by Cecilia McDowall, Pietro Yon, Howard Helvey, and Handel's iconic Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah. Includes well-known seasonal favorites rendered by the Choirs and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola and the N.P. Mander Organ, as well as carols for everyone to join in singing.

Featuring the Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola, the Parish Community Choir, and the Children's Choirs.

Tickets for all concerts are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 7th (St. Ambrose)
Isaiah 35:1–10    Psalm 85    Luke 5:17–26
8:30   MEM        Jerry Johnson
12:10    LVG       Ursula Trainer

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

Wednesday, December 9th
(Second Wednesday of Advent)
Isaiah 40:25–31    Psalm 103    Matthew 11:28–30
8:30   MEM        Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10   MEM       James O’Malley
5:30   MEM        Catherine Scanlon

Thursday, December 10th
(Second Thursday of Advent)
Isaiah 41:13–20    Psalm 145    Matthew 11:16–19
8:30   MEM        Living & Deceased Members of the Regan & Burke Families
12:10   MEM       Valentino Mazzia
5:30   MEM        Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Friday, December 11th
(Second Friday of Advent)
Isaiah 48:17–19    Psalm 1    Matthew 11:16–19
8:30   MEM        Mae Rooney
12:10   MEM       The Meehan Family
5:30   MEM        The Clancy Family

Saturday, December 12th
(Our Lady of Guadalupe)
8:30   MEM        The Gunning Family

Sunday, December 13th
(Third Sunday of Advent)
Zechariah 3:14–18a    Isaiah 12
**Lecture**

_Hodie Christus Natus Est:_ Poetry & Art Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

An art-slide lecture

_presented by_

Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J.

_Wednesday, December 9th_

7:30 PM

Wallace Hall

This lecture will combine the poetry of John Milton, Martin Luther, George Herbert, Thomas Hardy, and others with some of the most stirring visual portrayals of the birth of Jesus, examining how the incarnation gives history its deepest meaning by turning it toward an “Eternal Now.”

Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J., is President emeritus of Georgetown University. He has written art criticism for publications such as America, Commonweal, the Los Angeles Times, and the National Catholic Reporter.

**Book Signing & Reading**

Join us as

REV. JAMES MARTIN, S.J.

reads excerpts and sign copies of his debut novel, _The Abbey_

_Wednesday, December 16th_

7:30 PM in Wallace Hall

**About The Abbey**

A story of three lives intersecting — a grieving mother, an ambitious young architect who finds himself working as a handyman, and the wise, yet uncertain abbot of a local monastery. While each struggles with their unique challenges alone, it is when their lives come together that they begin their shared journey toward faith, hope and love.

Copies of _The Abbey_ will be available for purchase.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Christmas Angel Project

_Ends tomorrow!_

_Benefiting_

the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Harlem and St. Mary’s Church on Grand Street

Participants can select up to five Angel cards from one of the trees that are in the Narthex and Wallace Hall.

Cards will also be available at the Parish House while the supply lasts.

_Gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than tomorrow._

Annual Toy Drive

_Continues this weekend!_

_Benefiting the children from the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption + Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – St. Benedicta_

Through Monday, December 14th, please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for boys and girls between the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House.

See the flyer in the Narthex and on our website for a list of suggested toys.

*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 is accepting donations of food for the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

Please bring donations to the Parish House by

_Saturday, December 19th._

_Thank you for remembering those in need._

_Week 2_ (Dec. 6th – 12th):

pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruits

_Week 3_ (Dec. 13th – 19th):

tuna fish, soups, cereals (oatmeal preferred)
DeMello-Stroud Spirituality Conference—Advent: Waking Up to the Joy of Christmas/Reflections in the Spirit of Anthony DeMello, S.J. Presented by the DeMello-Stroud Spirituality Center. Saturday, December 19, 8:00 AM. Parish Hall, Church of the Epiphany, Second Avenue, between East 21st and East 22nd Streets. Schedule: 8:00 AM–9:00 AM: Bagels and coffee; 9:00 AM–4:45 PM: Interactive discussion, lectures, video. This event is free but a modest donation is appreciated. To register, call 917-859-1701 or email demellostroud@aol.com. For more information about the DeMello-Stroud Spirituality Center, visit demellospirituality.com

Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers Needed. Lenox Hill Hospital's Department of Pastoral Care is seeking additional Eucharistic Ministers. Volunteer ministers are asked to commit two hours on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. For more information and application, contact Carlos Cuartas, Chaplain at ccuartas@nshs.edu

Academic Tutors: ComUnidad Juan Diego Tutors are needed for the Academic Support Program of ComUnidad Juan Diego, a project sponsored by the Marist Brothers and the Archdiocese of New York to serve the Latino immigrant community in East Harlem. The Academic Support Program is designed to assist the children (elementary through high school) of the members of the ComUnidad Juan Diego achieve academic success and growth in self-confidence. Pope Francis visited this program during his visit to New York City. When: Every Wednesday from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. For more information, contact Brother John Klein, F.M.S., Executive Director, ComUnidad Juan Diego, at jklein47@gmail.com

PARISH STAFF
Parish Administrator
Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Associate Pastors
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.
Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.
Pastoral Associates
Teresa Marie Cariño
Carly-Anne Gannon
Assisting Priests (Sunday)
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.
Rev. Samuel J. Sawyer, S.J.
Rev. Anthony P. SooHoo, S.J.
Music Ministries
Scott Warren, Director
Robert Reuter
Michael Sheetz
Maureen Haley
Philip Anderson
Sara Murphy, Administrator
Assistant to the Pastor
Diane M. Boyle
Administrative Assistant
Patricia Schneider
Communications Coordinator
Elizabeth O’Sullivan
Director of Facilities
Michael Gardiner
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. Yesalonia
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Sawyer
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
7:30 PM Fr. Bergen

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) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

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.
Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 14th, beginning at 4:00 PM.

This will be followed by our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 PM.

Baptisms: Please call Teresa Carino 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 Carino 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