Joining in the celebration of Mass at Christmas is consoling, but it can also be disconcerting. It is consoling because our annual celebration of the birth of the Savior reminds us of the depth of God's love for us. It can be disconcerting because the faces of so many who gather at Mass are not the faces of our community. They are the faces of people God loves; but they are the faces of people whom we never see at any other time of year. We naturally ask ourselves why they have come.

Nostalgia is the most common reason. Whatever it is our visitors are nostalgic for — lost simplicity, lost enthusiasm, lost loved ones, lost faith — the memories of times when their lives felt more coherent and whole hold out the possibility that their lives could feel coherent and whole once again. In that way, nostalgia opens the door to hope. The visitors who join us at Christmas are looking to experience hope.

If our visitors come looking for hope, why don't they come back more frequently? Perhaps because nostalgia is only the doorway to hope; it is not hope itself. It is natural that people come to church seeking hope because hope is a gift of God. But hope is not just a gift. Like any virtue, hope is also a project. It requires effort and practice on our part before it truly becomes ours. Hope requires the effort of relinquishing our urge to control, our need to be in charge.

This is what Saint Paul is telling us when he writes, “Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees?” All the projects and plans into which we pour our energy, all the pictures of the perfect future we strive so hard to make real, all our imaginings of what a coherent, whole life would look like — all these are things that we see, even if only in the mind’s eye. Paul calls us to hope in what we cannot see. We must be open to having God’s dream, not ours, come true; to having God’s future, not our forecast, fulfilled.

Because God’s dream is beyond our imagining and God’s future is not ours to decide, hope in God requires that we let go. Hope demands that we open ourselves to something transcendent, something utterly beyond our grasp. It demands that we hold all our projects and plans and pictures and imaginings lightly, not tightly. This is very, very difficult for us when everything in the world around us is demanding that we deepen our attachment to what we can see and forget the possibility that there is anything beyond our range of sight. Once we walk out the church door, it is hard to resist such pressure. It is hard not to give ourselves over body and soul to our plans, our projects, and our imaginings.

If practicing the virtue of hope is difficult for us who have incorporated the support of a community of worship and faith into our lives, imagine how hard it must be for our visitors who lack that support. That is why most of our visitors don’t find their way back again. For a brief Christmas moment, our culture makes nostalgia acceptable and lets our visitors open the doorway to hope. Within hours, though, the pressures of the world around them are demanding that our visitors close the door as tightly as they can, deafen themselves to the call of transcendence, and once again try to take charge of their future. It is an exhausting and ultimately hopeless project, but it is the only project our world allows.

So this Christmas I plan to pray for our visitors, and I ask you to join me in praying for them. Pray that at least some of them will be able to push back against the closing of nostalgia’s opening to hope. Pray that at least some of them will continue to open themselves to God’s dream beyond our imagining, and God’s future beyond our determining. Pray that at least some of them will join us soon again in this community where we celebrate things that are unseen: God’s transcendence and God’s love. These are the only things worth hoping for.

— Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Administrator
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS WEEKEND: PRE-NATAL BLESSING
A special Pre-Natal Blessing will be offered to expectant families at all Masses this weekend. 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20th
Wallace Hall Christmas Pageant.
Following the 11:00 AM Family Mass.
All are welcome!

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents
Sing We Noel — Annual Christmas Concert.
3:00 PM. Church. Details on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
Job Transition Support Group.
10:00 AM. Parish Lounge.
Bringing together experienced professionals looking to secure employment. Details on page 3.

The Parish House will be closed Friday, December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

2015 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM FAMILY MASS I
with Children's Choirs and Wallace Hall Choir & Orchestra
Fr. Judge, Presider
Doors open at 3:15 PM Prelude begins at 3:45 PM

6:00 PM FAMILY MASS II
with the Parish Community Choir
Fr. Yesalonia, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM Prelude begins at 5:45 PM

8:00 PM VIGIL MASS
Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Bergen, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM Prelude begins at 7:45 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS
Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Feely, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM Prelude begins at 11:15 PM

Christmas Day
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
9:30 AM MASS
Fr. Hilbert, Presider

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Fr. Feely, Presider
(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year’s Eve
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
Daily Masses at 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM
5:30 PM Vigil Mass in the Church

New Year’s Day
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1ST
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(The Solemnity 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
IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday Social 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.

Sunday Social Dates
Jan. 10  Feb. 7  Feb. 21  March 6

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 away to reflect with others in similar situations and on your own, as you consider how faith can make a difference in your life.
Transportation included. Financial aid available.
For more information, please visit www.Charis.nyc or email CharisRetreatNYC@gmail.com

Job Transition Support Group
Wednesday, December 23rd
10:00 AM
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 jfholewa@gmail.com or
Christian Nolan at ctnolan59@gmail.com

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FRIDAY – SUNDAY
JANUARY 1st – JANUARY 3rd
SVdP Women’s Shelter
Wallace Hall
There is a particular need for stay-over volunteers, especially on Sunday nights.
Both men and women are invited to volunteer.
If you would like to volunteer in the Shelter, please leave a message for Louise Decatre at the Parish House or email svdp.shelter980@gmail.com

MUSIC

Sing We Noel: Annual Christmas Concerts
TODAY 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 are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ordering and customer service.

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.
To donate, visit
https://donate.stignatiusloyola.org/christmasmusic

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
11:00 AM SOLEMN & 7:30 PM MASS
Chapman, arr. Joseph dearest, Joseph mine
Chapman, arr. Away in a manger
Balbastre Noël Suisse

IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY

Saturday, January 9th
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Hoefner Lounge
Teens 13–19 years old are welcome!
As a parish-based youth ministry rooted in Ignatian spirituality and Catholic tradition, IGNITE! offers a forum through which high school students and their families may find a deeper relationship with God and each other.
Registration for each session is encouraged but not required.
For more information and/or to register, email Teresa Cariño at carinot@saintignatiusloyola.org
With our sincere gratitude

$500 and above
In honor of Philip Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Baumann in honor of
Philip Anderson
Maryanne Trump Barry
Dr. John & Hiroyo Belmonte
William and Odessa Bourne
Elizabeth A. Coleman
In Memory of Chan Kok Hung
In Memory of Nathan J. Davidson
Linda Filardi & Gary Talarico
In Memory of Peter A. Gloo
The Gordon Fund
Sarah W. Johnson
Marja Lutsep and Michael Halloran
In gratitude for the life of
my son Matthew from Julie McGee
Gerard M. Meistrell
The Miller-Murphy Family
In loving memory of Melvin L. Moss
In loving memory of Jack O’Leary
Carla Pehowski
Leslie B. Perkin
In Memory of Ethel and Hugh Toumey
In Memory of Dorothy and Hugh
In Memory of Col. and Mrs. Lionel A. Danis
Catherine De Vido
The Dennehy Family
Barbara Bracht Donsky
The Droesch Family
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Drummond
John and Jean Entwistle
Michelle and Michael Fabian
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony K. Farina
Mary A. Flannery
Jean-Charles & Susan Forster
John and Marianne Fouhey
Steve and Beverly Friedman
Renata D. Gallagher
Armando and Marti Gallardo Family
Ms. Virginia A. Galvin
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gardini
In memory of George T. Gearty, Jr. and
Georgia Ann Gearty
Patricia Grant
In loving memory of William P. Gregg
In memory of Mary Ann Haley
Lee Halligan
Karen and Joseph Hansen
Mary Henninger
In loving memory of Wolfgang A. Herz
Bill and Mary Herzog
Ms. Sophia Hudson and Mr. Daniel P. Riley
Ann Hunt and Ed Menninger
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Jovanovic
Jean Junker-Schmidt
Ms. Elaine Jurumbo
In memory of Quentin and Lorraine
Kane
Kathleen and Richard Kearns
Regina and Bill Keller
Helen M. Regan in loving memory
Daniel F. Kelly
Paula and Tom Keltner
In memory of Leslie and Walter Kernan
Anne Marie Kunz
Mr. and Mrs. Bob La Blanc
Mary Claire and Chris Lagno
In memory of Regina and Francis
LeVeness by Dr. Frank P. LeVeness
Veronica Lubczenko
Julie Luttinger and Charlie Graves
In loving memory of William and
Gladys Lyman
In loving memory of Chester and Helen
Malins
Alice Maloney
Margaret E. Maruschak
In loving memory of Virginia McCarthy
Maureen McCarthy
Kathleen McCormack

In memory of Thomas F. McEvily, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John G. McGoldrick
McKeever Family
Mrs. Mary K. Meyer
Arabella C. Meyer
In honor of Rev. Walter F. Modrys, SJ
A. M. Moran
Terry and Jay Moyer
John P. Murnion (in loving memory)
Joan Nealon and Errol Griffiths
Thomas and Lisa Newell
Francesca Stanfill Nye
Francis J. O’Brien and Thomas Fazio
In memory of Marcella and James
O’Malley
Ellen and John O’Neill
Sally and Michael Orr
Federico Ortiz
Maureen Reidy
Mary Ann and Jack Routledge
In memory of Alice and Winthrop
Rutherford
Charlotte Schroeder
William and Barbara Serpe
The Skarzynski-Scheuerman Family
Diana Skerl and Michael Karakasians
Zee and Damir Skerl
George Spera and Jane Ginsburg
In Memory of Jean Swider
Dr. and Mrs. Peter and Maritza Terry
Gladys R. Thomas
Judith E. and Mary A. Vaughn Wiliams
In memory of Marian Vincour
Jerry Vittoria
In memory of Rosemarie and Daniel
Ward
Joseph Wayland & Patricia Verrilli
Kathleen L. Werner
Kathleen Love Werner
In memory of William and Jean Wood
Mashiho Yuasa
Justin Zaglio
Ada Zambetti
Sofia, Lucia, Violetta & Teddy Zambetti
Salvatore J. Zizza

We also thank those
whose donations
were received
after
December 12, 2015.
Merry Christmas!

Fr. Thomas Feely, S.J.,
and the Parish Staff
of the
Church of
St. Ignatius Loyola
extend best wishes
for a
blessed Christmas.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Friday, December 25th
Christmas Day
• 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM*
* There is a particular need for volunteers at the 11:00 AM Mass

If you are available, please email Rob Manning at robbiefmanning@gmail.com to let him know at which Mass you can assist.

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

Where is the Church Going?
A Discussion on Pope Francis and the Year of Mercy

A conversation with
Fr. Matt Malone, S.J.,
Editor-in-Chief,
America Magazine &
Fr. James Martin, S.J.,
Editor-at-Large,
America Magazine

Thursday, January 14th at 7:30 PM
Wallace Hall

Moderated by Kerry Weber
Managing Editor, America Magazine

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, December 21st (Fourth Monday of Advent)**
Song 2:8–14 Psalm 33 Luke 1:39–45
8:30 MEM Mario Cuomo
12:10 MEM Jeanine Rahme
5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

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

**Wednesday, December 23rd (Fourth Wednesday of Advent)**
8:30 MEM John B., John A & Elizabeth Rooney
12:10 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj
5:30 ANN Raymond J. Feerick

**Thursday, December 24th (Fourth Thursday of Advent)**
8:30 MEM The Lonergan Family

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

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

**Sunday, December 27th (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)**
1 Samuel 1:20–22, 24–28 Psalm 84

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

Copies are also available at the Parish House.

“And here the first word that I wish to say to you: joy! Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but of having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst.”

— Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy
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.

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 additional information, contact Peter Riordan at 212-877-5134, Carlos Cuartas at 917-509-5329, or visit loyola.org

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, 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 littlesistersfamily.org

ArchCare Care Navigation Center: Resources for Seniors. Need help caring for yourself or someone else but not sure where to turn? ArchCare, the healthcare system of the Archdiocese of New York has a Care Navigation Center staffed by health and social service professionals dedicated to helping people better understand and access the services for which they are eligible. Call 855-951-2273 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM seven days a week.

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. Feely
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Feely
7:30 PM Fr. Feely

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

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