On January 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. It may seem like a simple or even obvious name to give to Mary, but the controversies that beset the development of this particular devotion reveal otherwise. Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J. explores the enduring significance of this ancient feast, the title of which ‘contains the whole mystery of the Incarnation.’

Scholarship, Llywelyn writes, “allows us to surmise reasonably that by 250 or so, Christians in Egypt had already been venerating the mother of Jesus for some time and seeking her protection.”

“The historian and theologian Jaroslav Pelikan explained Theotokos—the Greek word we translate as ‘Mother of God’—as meaning ‘the one who gave birth to the one who was God.’ Where Jesus had asked ‘who do people say I am?’, succeeding centuries were driven by the question ‘what do we say he is?’ as Christians struggled to understand and explain what it meant for the Word to take flesh.”

“In the first decades of the fifth century, in an atmosphere of deep thought and often fervid debate, the role of Jesus’s mother became a matter of controversy. To refer to Mary as ‘Mother of God’ was—and indeed is still for some people—potentially scandalous.”

“How can a woman, merely part of creation, give birth to the Creator? Bishop Nestorius of Constantinople (c.386–450) argued that the title Theotokos meant that the whole Godhead had been born as a man—an idea he found repugnant. How could a woman give birth to God?”

“To calm the tensions, the Emperor Theodosius convened an ecumenical council at Ephesus in 431. The bishops gathered there voted to condemn Nestorius’s position. As a result, the title Theotokos [this title of Mary is found above the statue of Our Lady on the side altar of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola] remains the standard and most important way in Eastern Christianity of referring to the mother of Jesus.”

Just as the Orthodox liturgical texts for Christmas express that Mary’s womb contained the God whom the universe cannot contain,’ her title ‘Mother of God’ contains whole worlds of meaning.

“The phrase is a summary of the foundational belief that the ‘Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us’ (John 1:14). St. John of Damascus, writing in the eighth century says that the title Theotokos ‘contains the whole mystery of the Incarnation.’”

“The decision of the Council of Ephesus spurred devotion to the Mother of God throughout the Roman Empire. The unparalleled stature of Mary grew, venerated as the crown of all creation and a figure to whom the faithful could seek recourse in troubled times.”

“The title Theotokos arose first from the spiritual instincts of generations of Christians, who experienced the effects of the Virgin’s intercession as fruit of the Incarnation. Later thinkers expressed the same idea in more intellectual terms. The Catechism teaches us: ‘What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ’ (487). Prayer and doctrine alike express the fact that to venerate Mary as Mother of God is also to honor and love her Son.”

“Through the Virgin Mother, we have a fully human Savior who experienced hunger, anger, loneliness and tiredness as well as intimacy with his heavenly Father, and who can thus sympathize with us in our weaknesses. Moreover, the baby that Mary held in her arms at the temple is the long-awaited Messiah, the fulfillment of the centuries of waiting and hoping: the aged Simeon recognizes Jesus as the light of the Gentiles and the glory of God’s people.”

One last aspect of this solemnity, that opens our calendar year and is the most ancient Marian feast of all, demands our attention. New Year’s Day 2017 will be celebrated by a troubled world which seems to be more filled with violence and tension than for many years past. In 1968, Paul VI designated January 1st as an annual World Day of Peace. The theme of Pope Francis’ message for this 50th World Day of Peace is Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace. The full text is available on the official Vatican website.

This year, as ever, the Church prays that the Mother of God will hear our prayers and begs that she, in the words of Mother Teresa, “please be a mother to [us] now.”

Quoted material excerpted from the thinkingfaith.org article The Solemnity of the Mother of God by Fr. Dorian Llywelyn, S.J.
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st**
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
Masses at 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM (Solemn & Wallace Hall), and 7:30 PM.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd**
One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM. The Parish House will be closed.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**BLOOD DRIVE**
Sunday, January 29th
McKinnon Hall

The New York Blood Center requires 2,000 donations daily to meet the transfusion needs of our community.

Your donation could enable a premature baby to live, a burn victim to recover, a cancer patient to be treated, or an accident victim to survive.

*Registration details to follow in an upcoming bulletin.*

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**CALL TO MINISTRY**

We need to expand the number of our parishioners serving as

- Eucharistic Ministers
- Hospitality Ministers
- Lectors

Response forms and brief descriptions of each ministry are available in the Narthex (Church lobby) and in the Parish House.

Instruction for new ministers will be offered later this month.

For more information, contact Fr. Feely at feelyt@saintignatiusloyola.org

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**NEXT WEEKEND: SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Next weekend, January 7th & 8th, 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.*

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**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, January 2nd**

*Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen)*
1 John 2:22–28  Psalm 98  John 1:19–28
8:30 MEM Mona Harrikissoon

**Tuesday, January 3rd**

*The Most Holy Name of Jesus*
Sirach 51:8–12  Psalm 81  Philippians 2:1–11
8:30 MEM Lydie Joachim
5:30 ANN Dolorita Wallace

**Wednesday, January 4th**

*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*
1 John 3:7–10  Psalm 98  John 1:35–42
8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon Families
5:30 MEM Nick Schlafer

**Thursday, January 5th**

*St. John Neumann*
1 John 3:11–21  Psalm 100  Mark 1:7–11
8:30 MEM Patrick Murphy
12:10 MEM Albert Hanwell
5:30 MEM Angelina M. Ragosta

**Friday, January 6th**

*St. André Bessette*
1 John 5:5–13  Psalm 147  Mark 1:7–11
8:30 MEM Callie Clapp
12:10 MEM Ana M. Spadafora
5:30 MEM Dolores O’Neill Ventura

**Saturday, January 7th**

*St. Raymond of Penyafort*
1 John 5:14–21  Psalm 149  John 2:1–11
8:30 MEM Caroline Choix

**Sunday, January 8th**

*The Epiphany of the Lord*
Isaiah 60:1–6  Psalm 72
Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6  Matthew 2:1–12

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**Available at the Parish House**

**The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola: A Walking Tour**

Updated in commemoration of our Sesquicentennial Celebration, the redesigned Walking Tour—with all-new photographs—provides a detailed overview of the rich architectural history of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola.

*Cost: $8*
IGNITIAN 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. 8 | Feb. 19 | March 5 | March 19 |

To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC).”

IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY

Saturday, January 14th
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Parish Lounge

*All high school students are welcome!*

Ignite is a Catholic community of high school students rooted in the Ignatian way of prayer, service, and community. We meet twice a month on Saturdays from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM.

To register, scan the QR code at left or visit https://goo.gl/forms/fUpawgmEXNRGJjc53

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY**
**JANUARY 13th – JANUARY 15th**

**SVdP Women’s Shelter**
Wallace Hall

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is in need of volunteers for the Women’s Shelter, which is located in Wallace Hall, every other weekend through April.

If you would like to volunteer in the Shelter, please leave a message for Teresa Abruzzo at the Parish House or email svdp.shelter980@gmail.com

Pope Francis’ January Prayer Intention

**Christian Unity**

That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

MUSIC

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th**

**11 AM SOLEMN MASS**

*Litaize*
*Méditation sur l’Offertoire de l’Epiphanie*

*Mendelssohn*
*There shall a star from Jacob*

*Poulenc*
*Videntes stellam*

*Duruflé*
*Prelude sur l’Introit de l’Epiphanie*

**11:00 AM FAMILY MASS**

*with Wallace Hall Choir*

*Grossman/Fraser/Kohn*
*Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy*

COMING IN FEBRUARY

**Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir: Arvo Pärt**

**Wednesday, February 1st, 7:00 PM**

The leading proponent of Arvo Pärt's music in the world, The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir has won two Grammy awards for recordings of Pärt's works. Arvo Pärt is the most performed living composer in the world today. People of all religious faiths—and of none—find his music riveting and spiritually stirring.

**Tickets:** $35–$85

**WORLD PREMIERE OPERA**

**Upon this handful of Earth**

**Friday, February 24th, 7:00 PM**

In honor of the publication of “Laudato Si,” Pope Francis’ recent encyclical about the environment, SMSS and The New York Opera Society have commissioned a new chamber opera from renowned Norwegian composer Gisle Kverndokk and librettist Aksel-Otto Bull based on the writings of Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

**Tickets:** $25–$80

Tickets for all concerts are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.
Event: March for Life in Washington, D.C.
Friday, January 27. A Manhattan bus (sponsored by the Archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office) will leave from Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 457 West 51st Street. Mass at 6:15 AM/Depart 7:00 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 further information and to register, call Sr. Shirley at 212-371-1011 x3195 or email sr.shirleyann@archny.org

Travel: U.S. National Rosary Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. Thursday, June 22–Saturday, July 1. Includes all meals, a guided tour of Lourdes, a guided visit to Gavarnie, and scheduled liturgical services. The group will be accompanied by medical staff, clergy, and volunteers to assist with the needs of the pilgrims. Prices start at $2,745 (for a JFK/New York departure). Reservation deadline is Wednesday, March 15. For additional details and rate information, visit lourdes-pilgrimage.com, call 877-276-7279, or email lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net

Travel: An Ignatian Journey to Spain, Plus Lourdes. Sunday, October 1–Wednesday, October 11. Trip includes visits to Loyola, San Sebastian, Montserrat, and Barcelona. Trip leaders: Fr. George Witt, S.J. (Trip Spiritual Director), Provincial Assistant for Spiritual Ministries, Maryland & USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus, and Mr. Joe Naylor (Group Coordinator), Provincial Assistant for Advancement and Communications, Maryland & USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus. Prices (not including airfare) start at $3,899 (if paid by check)/$4,098 (if paid by credit card). Accommodations, sightseeing, and meals are included. To download a brochure, visit GoCatholicTravel.com/NaylorWitt For more information, contact Joe Naylor at jnaylor@jesuits.org or call 212-774-5529

Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
Every Sunday, 3:15 PM–5:30 PM. Saint Joseph’s Church, 404 East 87th Street. An opportunity for quiet prayer and silent adoration. All are welcome.

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**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor**
Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.

**Associate Pastors**
Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

**Senior Priest**
Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.

**Pastoral Associates**
Teresa Marie Cariño
Carly-Anne Gannon

**Assistant Priests (Sunday)**
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.

**Music Ministries**
Scott Warren, Director
Daniel Beckwith
Robert Reuter
Michael Sheetz
Maureen Haley
Philip Anderson
Sara Murphy, Executive Director of SMSS Concerts
Danya Katok, Administrator

**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

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**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
Saturday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
9:30 AM Fr. Feely
Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Judge
7:30 PM Fr. Judge