Once in a while, we performing artists have an opportunity to speak, through our craft, to the most pertinent social and political issues of our time. We view such moments as centerpieces of our vocation as music ministers, and we approach them with great reverence and humility. This Friday’s Sacred Music in a Sacred Space offering provides such an occasion.

The theme of our 2016–17 season is Sacred Ground, suggesting that the physical world we inhabit also contains a dimension that is holy, and all the earth vibrates with this holiness. This coming Friday, we will explore our relationship with our planet, confronted with the indisputable fact that each decision we make has an impact on the air we breathe, the water we drink, the crops we grow, and the creatures who are our sisters and brothers. We have reached a crucial nexus in which it is imperative that we practice loving stewardship of the Earth; to see nature not as an ‘it’ to be manipulated, but as a ‘Thou’ to be partnered with and cared for as we care for our own bodies. This is a holy calling, and one worthy of our full attention.

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Inspired by Laudato Si, Pope Francis’s unprecedented 2015 encyclical about the environment, we are proud to present, with co-producer New York Opera Society, Upon this Handful of Earth, a world premiere chamber opera from Norwegian composer Gisle Kverndokk and librettist Aksel-Otto Bull.

Upon this Handful of Earth explores the intersection of faith and science through the story of six people whose lives have been irrevocably altered by environmental catastrophe. The project draws parallels between the Pope’s encyclical and the texts of Jesuit paleontologist Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Excerpts from accounts of environmental disasters, such as Chernobyl, tsunamis, pollution, and climate change, are read throughout, grounding the opera in the present. This meditation on the environment seeks a way forward for humanity at a time when climate change is at the forefront of political debate. Built around environmental themes, the five-part opera also explores related social issues such as labor exploitation, wealth disparity, the high cost of progress, reliance on technology, and industry.

Teilhard (1881–1955) was a central inspiration for the opera. He was a scientist, intellectual, and theologian, who studied evolution and the relationship between the material and spiritual worlds. He composed ecstatic, progressive writings on the environment throughout his life that were often censored by ecclesiastical authorities, leading Teilhard to become a scandalized figure. His later years were spent right here at St. Ignatius Loyola, where his funeral was also held.

Teilhard’s Mass on the World informs the opera’s narrative structure and excerpts from the offertory are used as dialogue throughout. Through his words, we will experience the Earth as a Cosmic Altar, a sacred ground on which our every breath depends, a living organism that now needs our nurturing hand to care for it as it has cared for us. Being grounded in Ignatius’ teaching about finding God in all things, Teilhard saw no divide between the spiritual and physical realms. And I suspect he would find the current popular rift between religion and science to be silly, sad, and destructive.

Although this project is billed as a “chamber opera”—and it is, compared with the grand productions of Verdi and Puccini—the term is a bit deceptive in this context. Supporting the six principal characters is the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, an orchestra, divided between the north and south altars, and our Children’s Choirs, their angelic voices soaring out of the organ loft. Four conductors are needed to bring all these elements together into a unified whole. Besides the musicians scattered throughout the church, a stage director and set and lighting designers helped bring this creative vision to fruitful reality. It is quite an undertaking!

We hope you’ll join us this Friday, February 24th at 7 PM. I think you’ll be profoundly moved and inspired not only by the beautifully soaring melodies and vivid colors in the music, but by the events that shape the lives of our main characters and their response to these events. It will be a truly momentous evening in the life of our parish.

— K. Scott Warren
Director of Music Ministries
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20th
Presidents’ Day.
The Parish House will be closed.
One Mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 8:30 AM.
There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd
Ignatian Social Justice.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

Money Made Simple:
Personal Finance Course.
7:00 PM. Parish Lounge.
Details on page 5.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents
Upon this Handful of Earth.
7:00 PM. Church.
Details on page 5.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25th
IGNITE! Teen Ministry.
6:30 PM. Parish Lounge.
Details on page 3.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 25th – FEBRUARY 26th
Shelter Weekend. Wallace Hall.
For information on volunteering, see page 3.

SCRIPTURE CLASSES

Women in the Bible
Five Sessions Beginning March 13th
Mondays at 11:00 AM in the Meeting Room

Both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures testify that women have been indispensable to the narrative of our faith, often fulfilling unexpected and vital roles. Join us as we meet these women and listen to their stories of victory and sorrow, blessing and bravery, birth and death.

From Eve to Esther, Rebecca to Ruth, Mary the mother of Jesus to Mary Magdalene, there is much wisdom to be learned, and faithful witness by which we can be graced.

To register, email WomenintheBibleClass@gmail.com

Jesus, The Jewish Messiah: Gospel of Matthew
Five Sessions Beginning March 13th
Mondays at 7:00 PM in the New Classroom (Wallace Hall)

Matthew’s Gospel has long been a deeply treasured account of Jesus’ life and ministry. This carefully organized, theologically rich text contains many of Jesus’ most memorable teachings and sayings, including the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Lord’s Prayer.

Our class meetings will explore these and other fascinating sections of this gospel that has always been given pride of place in the New Testament canon.

To register, email GospelofMatthewClass@gmail.com

All sessions led by Brian Pinter, Education Associate and Bible scholar-in-residence at Christ Church United Methodist.

Space is limited. Early registration is recommended.

CALL TO MINISTRY

Ministries

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 soon.

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

Sesquicentennial Dinner
Saturday, March 18th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Join us for an evening of celebration as we conclude our year-long commemoration of a parish community 150 years in the making.

To RSVP, visit https://donate.stignatiusloyola.org/dinner150

The RSVP deadline is Friday, March 10th.
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**
March 5    March 19    April 2

To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, you can follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/IgnatianYoungAdults.

**PRAYER RESOURCES**

**Pray as You Go**
www.pray-as-you-go.org

*Pray as You Go* is a daily prayer session designed for use on your iPod or other portable MP3 player.

**3-Minute Retreats**
www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm

Take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

**PRAYER SUGGESTION — Sacred Space**
Spend 10 minutes in prayer, as you sit at your computer, with the help of on-screen guidance and scripture chosen specially every day.
Visit www.sacredspace.ie

**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

**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 www.stignatiusloyola.org

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**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**SABBATH & SUNDAY**
FEBRUARY 25th & FEBRUARY 26th
SVdP Women’s Shelter
Wallace Hall

**Overnight Volunteers Urgently Needed**
Help us provide a safe, welcoming haven for our most vulnerable neighbors. Both men and women are invited to volunteer.

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

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**IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY**

Saturday, February 25th
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in the 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/fUpawgmbXNRGJjcs3

All are welcome to come and check us out.

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**RANGER ROSARY MINISTRY**

Monday, February 27th
7:00 PM in the Conference Room

**16,000 rosaries and counting!**
The Ranger Rosary ministry meets twice a month to make rosaries for Catholics who are serving in the armed services. These rosaries are constructed from materials with no metal parts that might reflect light or make a rattling noise.

New members are always welcome!

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**Lent 2017**

begins
Ash Wednesday, March 1st

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The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) makes a difference in the lives of people in need through service and prayerful reflection.

Relying on their experience, IVC volunteers are older adults who serve in community agencies and schools as tutors, counselors, legal advisors, business consultants, nurses and teachers. They are men and women who seek to develop and enrich their own spiritual lives through individual and communal reflection in the tradition of St. Ignatius Loyola.

For more information about IVC, visit IVCUSA.org or contact Mary Ellen O’Driscoll, Metro New York Area Director, at 917-609-8163.

The Cardinal’s Appeal offers vital support to Catholic programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese as well as in our own parish. Please share your gifts and support the Appeal by making your pledge today.

Gifts can be made online at www.cardinalsappeal.org

St. Ignatius is Now on Facebook!

To stay up-to-date on upcoming parish events and programs, follow us at facebook.com/churchofstignatiusloyolanyc

Calling All Singers!

The volunteer choirs — Parish Community Choir, Canticum Sacrum, and Wallace Hall Music Choir — are looking for new members. Details and schedule information can be found online at stignatiusloyola.org

Be a part of the wonderful music you hear each Sunday!

For more information or to schedule an audition, email the Music Office at music@stignatiusloyola.org

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, February 20th**
(Seventh Monday in Ordinary Time)
Sirach 1:1–10 Psalm 93 Mark 9:14–29
8:30 MEM Gerda Ryan

**Tuesday, February 21st**
(Seventh Tuesday in Ordinary Time)
Sirach 2:1–11 Psalm 37 Mark 9:30–37
8:30 MEM Fr. David Delzell
12:10 MEM Veronica Raible
5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

**Wednesday, February 22nd**
(The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle)
1 Peter 5:1–4 Psalm 23 Matthew 16:13–19
8:30 MEM Winifred Bird
12:10 MEM Charles Regan
5:30 MEM Patricia Webb

**Thursday, February 23rd**
(St. Polycarp)
Sirach 5:1–8 Psalm 1 Mark 9:41–50
8:30 MEM Christopher Berkery
12:10 MEM Frederick Merola
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

**Friday, February 24th**
(Seventh Friday in Ordinary Time)
Sirach 6:5–17 Psalm 119 Mark 10:1–12
8:30 MEM John B., John A. & Elizabeth A. Rooney
12:10 MEM Evelyn Breeding
5:30 MEM Al Hollett

**Saturday, February 25th**
(Seventh Saturday in Ordinary Time)
Sirach 17:1–15 Psalm 103 Mark 10:13–16
8:30 MEM Emil Wittek

**Sunday, February 26th**
(Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)
Isaiah 49:14–15 Psalm 62
1 Corinthians 4:1–5 Matthew 6:24–34

For your convenience

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

Interested in becoming Catholic? Call 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org
LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Throughout Lent, SVdP will be accepting donations of food for the Community Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

The items requested each week are listed below:

- **Week 1** (March 5–11):
  - pasta and tomato sauce
- **Week 2** (March 12–18):
  - rice and canned beans
- **Week 3** (March 19–25):
  - cereals and canned fruits
- **Week 4** (March 26–April 1):
  - tuna fish and canned vegetables
- **Week 5** (April 2–5):
  - soups and rice

Please bring donations to the Parish House.

LECTURE

**Growing in Age and Wisdom: Aging and the Call to Holiness**

Presented by Fr. Myles Sheehan, S.J., M.D.

Monday, March 6th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

There are many different ways we look at and prepare for aging. But, given that we are living longer than ever before, have we ever thought and dreamed about what God is offering us with our longer lives?

Taking a cue from St. Ignatius, Fr. Sheehan will discuss how God might be calling us to grow in love, wisdom, and holiness, as we face both the opportunities and real challenges that aging brings.

MUSIC

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th**

**11 AM SOLEMN MASS**

with Parish Community Choir

Bach, J.S.

Prelude in C Major, BWV 547/1

Britten

Jubilate Deo

Warren

Ave verum corpus

Bach, J.S.

Fugue in C Major, BWV 547/2

WORLD PREMIERE OPERA

**Upon this Handful of Earth**

Friday, February 24th, 7:00 PM

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 Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

Tickets: $25–$80

COMING IN MARCH

**Eric Whitacre Singers: Music for Sacred Spaces**

Sunday, March 5th, 4:00 PM

Eric Whitacre brings his Grammy award-winning choir to his homeland for only the second time. Featuring Eric's new work *Music for Sacred Spaces*, written especially for the occasion, the program includes some of his most loved pieces such as *Sleep* and *Lux Aurumque* alongside great works from the choral oeuvre.

Tickets: $35–$85

Tickets for all concerts are available at smssconcerts.org

LECTURE

**MONEY MADE SIMPLE: Free personal finance course**

Thursdays from February 23rd to March 23rd
7:00 PM–9:00 PM in the Parish Lounge

Are you ready to take charge of your personal finances? Join Money Made Simple for free financial literacy seminars. Topics include: financial goal setting and budgeting; credit and debt management; financial planning for education, careers, and housing; investing basics; and financial planning for later years.

Taught by Kim Bourne, CFP®, on behalf of the Pro Bono Committee of the Financial Planning Association of New York.

To register, please visit www.moneymadesimple.info | Questions? Email moneymadesimplecourse@gmail.com

Sponsored by Boomers & Beyond and Ignatian Young Adults
Play: Calderon’s Two Dreams. Through Sunday, February 26th. Ellen Stewart Theatre, 66 East 4th Street, 2nd Floor. Calderon’s Two Dreams is a presentation of both versions of playwright Pedro Calderon de la Barca’s play Life is a Dream—the initial 1635 work and the 1677 revision following his ordination as a priest. Directed by Fr. George Drance, S.J., Artistic Director of the Magis Theatre Company and Artist-in-residence at Fordham University Lincoln Center. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit lamama.org

Liturgy: Into the Heart of Mercy and Peace: Young Adult Holy Hour. Sunday, February 26, 5:00 PM. Church of St. Monica, St. Stephen of Hungary & St. Elizabeth of Hungary, 413 East 79th Street. Young adults between the ages of 18 and 40 are invited to spend time with the Lord and with each other. A reception with light refreshments will follow.


Travel: A 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., Provincial Assistant for Spiritual Ministries, Maryland & USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus, and Mr. Joe Naylor, Provincial Assistant for Advancement and Communications, Maryland & USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus. Prices 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.

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

We pray for the faithful departed
Cathleen McGoldrick
May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

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