What do you think about when you think about growing older? One answer is prudent financial planning. It makes good sense to look to wise investments, decisions about where to live and how to finance it, and care in ensuring adequate insurance for a variety of possible problems, especially health.

Another consideration is what to do as one moves away from career or job and plans for activities to fill one's time. It may be that some will plan for travel and leisure activities that will provide stimulation and keep one engaged mentally and physically.

Some may be wary about getting old, and can be frightened by the possibility of illness, problems with memory, a loss of independence, and the inevitability of death.

There is another option, to view getting old as an opportunity, a gift to become more fully the person whom God has created us to be.

Ignatian spirituality emphasizes a world of grace, where the details of one's life and the circumstances in which one lives provide the possibilities for a deep and transforming encounter with God. St. Ignatius, in the Spiritual Exercises, his manual for retreat and prayer aimed at discovering God's will for an individual, writes that a long life or a short one, good health or bad, illness or health are not important in and of themselves but for the ways in which one finds God and grows close to God in the specific details in which one's life unfolds.

We are living much longer. Whereas, within our own lifespan, it once was common for people to die in their fifties and sixties, death is most common in the ninth and tenth decade and it is not so rare for people to make it to one hundred years of age. Might it be that these extra years are given to us for a way to grow more deeply in love with God?

Planning for old age makes sense, with its financial aspects, considerations of ways to enjoy more free time and remain active. But it also makes sense to plan spiritually for old age. Travel, tennis, and other activities may fill up some of the time, but they will not necessarily fill our spirit as we face the likely challenges of growing older. And, as we face the end of life, it makes sense that we are spiritually vital so that which remains when our life ends is prepared for our encounter with God.

What is your spiritual retirement plan? Many people, as they traverse the active years of building a career and family, find themselves so busy and engaged that they may feel the tug of desiring a closer relationship with God and the desire to take part in efforts to care for those in need but it simply is not possible to do this as intensively as one wants. With the extra years that we now have the potential to enjoy, could it be that God is calling us to grow not only in age, but also in closeness to God, to take part in service to the poor, and to experience the call to holiness that is given to all the baptized? How might you plan for your retirement spiritually?

The key to a rich spiritual retirement is listening to the deepest desires of your heart and giving yourself the time and space to daydream, pray, discern, and choose. This can mean making daily Eucharist a part of the rhythm of your life, setting aside a part of every day for prayer, reading Scripture carefully and attentively in a way you have always wanted but may not have had the opportunity, finding a spiritual director with whom you can speak and share your journey, and taking the time for a quiet retreat where you can be totally available for God. It can also mean growing in care for one's neighbor through a variety of activities that allows your prayer to find meaning in action.

Betty Friedan, in her 1993 book The Fountain of Age, describes the problem of aging as “…how to break through the cocoon of our illusory youth and risk a new stage in life…to step out into the true existential unknown of these new years of life open to us, and to find our own terms for living it.” Perhaps another way to look at it is to find God’s plan for us as we live and age and to engage the God who made us and is calling us into life for all eternity.

— Fr. Myles Sheehan, S.J.

On Monday, March 6th at 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall, Fr. Sheehan will present Growing in Age and Wisdom: Aging and the Call to Holiness. For more information, please see page 3.
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 5th
Eric Whitacre Singers: Music for Sacred Spaces.
4:00 PM. Church.
Details on page 5.

Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults.
Follows the 7:30 PM Mass.
Details on page 3.

IYA Lenten Reflection Group.
6:00 PM. Faber Lounge.
Details on page 3.

MONDAY, MARCH 6th
Lecture: Growing in Age and Wisdom:
Aging and the Call to Holiness.
Presented by Fr. Myles Sheehan, S.J., M.D.
7:00 PM. Wallace Hall.
Details on page 3.

Ranger Rosary Ministry.
7:00 PM. Meeting Room.
Details on page 3.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7th
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Lady Chapel. Details at upper right.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 11th – MARCH 12th
Shelter Weekend. Wallace Hall.
For information on volunteering, see page 3.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11th
Hope Rises: The IGNITE Teen Reflection Series.
6:30 PM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday Evenings, March 7th–April 11th
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the Church
(except Tuesday, March 7th when Exposition will take place in the Lady Chapel)
The church will be open for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and private adoration.

Scheduling Note
The church will remain open after the 5:30 PM Mass until 8:00 PM.
At 6:00 PM, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed.
Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place shortly before 8:00 PM when the church closes.

SAVE THE DATE

Heralds of Hope
Saturday, March 25th, 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Wallace Hall
A morning and afternoon of prayer and reflection on our parish’s Lenten theme.
Sponsored by LME and open to all members of the parish.
Further details and information about registration will be available in next week’s bulletin.

LENTEN VESPERS: TOGETHER IN FAITH

Wednesday, March 15th
Immanuel Lutheran Church
7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 22nd
Church of St. Ignatius Loyola
7:00 PM

In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, in cooperation with Immanuel Lutheran Church (122 East 88th Street), will be presenting joint Lenten services and reflect upon the Catholic-Lutheran Joint Declaration on Justification by Faith.

Immanuel Lutheran will celebrate a Vespers service on Wednesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM.
On Wednesday, March 22nd at 7:00 PM, we will host our Lenten service, with a reception to follow in the Meeting Room.

The RSVP deadline is Friday, March 10th.
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
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, March 6th**  
*(First Monday of Lent)*  
Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18  
Psalm 19  
Matthew 25:31–46  
8:30  MEM  
Philip Barbero & the DeSisto Family  
12:10  MEM  
The Meehan Family  
5:30  MEM  
Frank Denigris, Jr.

**Tuesday, March 7th**  
*(First Tuesday of Lent)*  
Isaiah 55:10–11  
Psalm 34  
Matthew 6:7–15  
8:30  MEM  
Patricia Webb  
12:10  MEM  
Steven McDonald  
5:30  MEM  
Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

**Wednesday, March 8th**  
*(First Wednesday of Lent)*  
Jonah 3:1–10  
Psalm 51  
Luke 11:29–32  
8:30  MEM  
The Choix & Gordon Family  
12:10  MEM  
Carol Montgomery  
5:30  MEM  
Antonia Sordillo

**Thursday, March 9th**  
*(First Thursday of Lent)*  
Esther 13:9–14:19  
Psalm 138  
Matthew 7:7–12  
8:30  MEM  
Simona Saracino Fendi  
12:10  MEM  
Sharon Wrocklage  
5:30  MEM  
Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

**Friday, March 10th**  
*(First Friday of Lent)*  
Ezekiel 18:21–28  
Psalm 130  
Matthew 5:20–26  
8:30  MEM  
James J. O’Connor, Jr.  
12:10  MEM  
Valentino Mazzia  
5:30  MEM  
Eugene Sicignano

**Saturday, March 11th**  
*(First Saturday of Lent)*  
Deuteronomy 26:16–19  
Psalm 119  
Matthew 5:43–48  
8:30  MEM  
Thomas Schumacher II

**Sunday, March 12th**  
*(Second Sunday of Lent)*  
Genesis 12:1–4a  
Psalm 33  
2 Timothy 1:8b–10  
Matthew 17:1–9

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 Annual Change for Change Drive**  
Donations this year will be forwarded to Xavier High School, Chuuk, Micronesia.  

The collection period runs to the end of April. Loose change, bills, and checks (made out to “Church of St. Ignatius Loyola”) are welcome!  

Please bring donations to the Parish House in care of Carly-Anne Gannon.

**Lent 2017 Brochure**  
A complete list of Lenten activities, including Holy Week Mass times, can be found in the Lenten brochure. Copies are available in the Narthex, at the Parish House, on our Facebook page, and online at **www.stignatiusloyola.org**

Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God’s generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in the service of others.

This weekend, as you enter the church, you will receive solicitation materials for this year’s Cardinal’s Appeal. Please consider a gift, even a modest one, in support of this year’s Appeal.

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

To stay up-to-date on parish events and programs, follow us at **facebook.com/churchofstignatiusloyolanyc**
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (March 5–11)</th>
<th>Week 2 (March 12–18)</th>
<th>Week 3 (March 19–25)</th>
<th>Week 4 (March 26–April 1)</th>
<th>Week 5 (April 2–5)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pasta and tomato sauce</td>
<td>rice and canned beans</td>
<td>cereals and canned fruits</td>
<td>tuna fish and canned vegetables</td>
<td>soups and rice</td>
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**Please bring donations to the Parish House.**

MUSIC

SUNDAY, MARCH 12th

11 AM SOLEMN MASS

Victoria

Jesu, dulcis memoria

Tallis

O nata lux

Eric Whitacre Singers: Music for Sacred Spaces

TODAY at 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

**The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series**

**presents**

K. SCOTT WARREN

Director of Music Ministries and Artistic Director of Sacred Music in a Sacred Space

**Sunday, March 26th at 3:00 PM**

The N.P. Mander organ is the largest tracker-action pipe organ in the New York metropolitan area. All N.P. Mander Organ Recitals feature large-screen projection, offering the audience a rare view of the organist at work.

**Tickets:** $20

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

**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.

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 is a theologically rich text containing many of Jesus’ most memorable teachings and sayings.

Our class meetings will explore Matthew’s Gospel, a text that has always been given pride of place in the New Testament canon.

To register, email GospelOfMatthewClass@gmail.com
Walking Retreat-Pilgrimage to Fatima and Santiago de Compostela. Monday, May 1st to Friday, May 12th. Walk the last 100 kilometers of the Portuguese Way to Santiago de Compostela, where the remains of St. James the Apostle are believed to be buried. Experience the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola with daily reflections. Spiritual Guide: Fr. Joseph Weiss, S.J., Professor, School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College. Cost: $3,495. Full payment due by Wednesday, March 15th. Price includes roundtrip flight, daily breakfast and dinner, and all accommodations (double occupancy; single room is an extra $475). Space is limited. For more information and reservations, call 917-607-0937 or email angiecruzphd@gmail.com.

Travel: A Journey toSpain, 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.