April is the cruelest month,” if you believe T.S. Eliot in The Wasteland. April is cruel? How can April be cruel? It is Spring, the lilacs are in bloom, the mild weather gets the blood flowing again, love is in the air. We can empathize with Eliot’s dystopian take on the lilacs bred from the “dead land,” perhaps this year more than most. April 2017 has brought bitter discourse, mistrust and violence, a rise in xenophobia and maltreatment of innocent minority communities, when dissent turns into personal vitriol. Whether you pronounce “divisive” with a long ‘i’ or a short one, the breakdown of civility is a venal context for the vernal month of April.

The Year of Mercy was called by Pope Francis, who highlighted the active and performative nature of mercy, describing it as a “concrete reality” rather than an abstract ideal, explaining that mercy makes love “visible and tangible…something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviors that are shown in daily living” (Misericordiae vultus, 6, 9). The seeds planted during that Jubilee of Mercy are now “stirring dull roots with spring rain,” as Eliot would have it. Mercy blossoms into forgiveness; forgiveness bears fruit in reconciliation. Mercy can be a unilateral action by an individual, but genuine forgiveness requires an encounter that sees mercy offered and accepted, given and received. The encounter and exchange of mercy that characterizes forgiveness leads to reconciliation. Jesuit scholastic William C. Woody, S.J., writes in a recent essay: “Genuine reconciliation thus arises as the new state of relation among those parties involved, be they individuals, groups of people, or the all-merciful, compassionate God.”

The Society of Jesus has identified the ministry of reconciliation as an urgent imperative of our faith. The recent General Congregation, our highest legislative body, emphasized the Jesuit mission with Christ the Reconciler in numerous dimensions—with God, with humanity, and with creation. Father General Arturo Sosa promulgated the decrees of the General Congregation, saying that now more than ever, the world requires agents of reconciliation and mercy.

This is not a new characteristic of the Jesuit charism. From its earliest days, the Society was “ready to reconcile the estranged,” and was fervently engaged in numerous approaches to such reconciliation, ranging from work with prostitutes and orphans to theological disputes in universities, prison ministry with incarcerated individuals, and peace mediation in larger instances of social strife and violence, all the while celebrating sacramental reconciliation by hearing confessions.

A contemporary of St. Ignatius, a classmate at the University of Paris, described the earliest companions as those who “work to help others, and to walk with those who wander off the beaten path.”

Through the ministry of sacramental confession and spiritual conversation, Woody explains, “Jesuits earned a reputation as approachable, kind, and compassionate confessors.” Our critics, such as Blaise Pascal, accused us of being too kind, “putting cushions under the knees of sinners, and under their elbows!”

The Divine Mercy we celebrate this Sunday is the source—the Principle and Foundation—of our call to be co-workers with Christ in his mission to “reconcile all things in God.” The personal experience of God’s mercy is something we must return to frequently, insists St. Ignatius, as a helpful corrective against the tendency to believe the ministry of reconciliation is somehow under our human responsibility and purview. The recent decree mentioned above reiterates this humble disposition of service to Christ’s mission: “We seek to understand how God invites us…to share in that great work of reconciliation.”

Jesuits and our colleagues can foster constructive dialogue, through the unequaled network of schools and universities we run, and through our parishes and social centers. Far from resting on our cushioned elbows, we at St. Ignatius Loyola have this month of April been zealous in providing opportunities for reconciliation: with God (confessions), with our neighbors (an interfaith dinner), with those who are “off the beaten track” (a panel on immigration), and with our own memories and bereavement (Memorial Mass).

We can leave T.S. Eliot to his moods. The rain and the sun of April give birth to the evanescent glory of a rainbow. Divine Mercy has opened the window of forgiveness and reconciliation, if we will only look!

— Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.
Associate Pastor
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, APRIL 24th
Ranger Rosary Ministry.
7:00 PM. Conference Room. Details on page 3.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25th
Easter Memorial Liturgy.
7:00 PM. Church.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27th
Juilliard Organists in Recital.
7:00 PM. Church. Details on page 3.
Ignatian Social Justice.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, April 24th** (Second Monday of Easter)
8:30 MEM John B., John A. & Elizabeth A. Rooney
12:10 MEM Laura Regalado
5:30 ANN George Adams

**Tuesday, April 25th** (St. Mark)
1 Peter 5:5b–14 Psalm 89 Mark 16:15–20
8:30 MEM Marianne T. Bogunovich
12:10 MEM Rae Tavernia
5:30 MEM Thomas Flammer

**Wednesday, April 26th** (Second Wednesday of Easter)
Acts 5:17–26 Psalm 34 John 3:16–21
8:30 MEM Emil Wittek
12:10 MEM Mary & Michael Hegarty
5:30 MEM Anna Gagen

**Thursday, April 27th** (St. Peter Canisius)
8:30 MEM Quinn & Iervolino Family
12:10 MEM Erin Kane Rodriguez
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Regan & Burke Families

**Friday, April 28th** (Second Friday of Easter)
8:30 MEM Marianne T. Bogunovich
12:10 MEM Dolores Pitocco
5:30 MEM William Powers

**Saturday, April 29th** (St. Catherine of Siena)
Acts 6:1–7 Psalm 33 John 6:16–21
8:30 LVG Julia Wallace

**Sunday, April 30th** (Third Sunday of Easter)
Acts 2:14, 22–33 1 Peter 1:17–21

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**Taking Hold: Creative Planning for Retirement and Beyond**

An interfaith adult education program sponsored by the Episcopal Church Foundation and organized by Rabbi Leonard Schoolman

Three Tuesday evenings beginning May 16th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

May 16th: Social Security, Medicare & You
May 23rd: Living Fully in Retirement and Estate Planning
May 30th: Ensuring Your Wishes are Fulfilled and Planning for the End of Life

This program will join individuals and experts from various faith traditions, ages, and backgrounds as an interfaith collaboration of congregations that seeks to answer common questions and provide guidance on the next steps in this exciting new stage of life.

Registration is required.

To register for any or all of the evenings, visit http://bit.ly/2Kjtal or scan the code at left.

For more information, call 800-697-2858 or email ecf@episcopalfoundation.org

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- Visit formed.org

- Then, click on the button marked Register: Sign up free using your parish code, which is located in the lower right-hand corner, and then enter our code JM4KZX (all uppercase letters).

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**Special Collection**

Next weekend our Parish will take up the annual collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.
RANGER ROSARY MINISTRY

Monday, April 24th
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!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul provides confidential financial assistance to people in serious financial need.

If you are a parishioner in need, please leave a message for SVdP at the Parish House to request a consultation.

THE STAFF OF THE ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA DAY NURSERY CORDIALLY INVITE THE MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY TO THE

2017 ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

Friday, May 19th
7:00 PM to Midnight

New York Athletic Club
180 Central Park South

Cocktails, Dinner, Dancing, Raffle, Live and Silent Auctions

For ticket information, please call (212) 734-6427 x24.

Persons 21 years of age and over are welcome.

Black tie optional.

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 this month.

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.

MUSIC

SUNDAY, APRIL 30th
11 AM SOLEMN MASS

Buxtehude
Prelude and Fugue in E Major, BuxWV 141

Rheinberger
Abendlied, Op. 69, No. 3

Rheinberger
Mass in E: Kyrie eleison

Rheinberger
Organ Sonata No. 3, Op. 88: III. Fugu

Juilliard Organists in Recital

Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 PM

Organ students from the Juilliard School will present a recital on our N.P. Mander pipe organ, performing selections from the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, Marcel Dupré, Antonín Dvořák, Jean Langlais, Maurice Ravel, and Charles Marie Widor.

The recital is free and all are welcome.

Chanticleer: Washing of the Water
Sunday, April 30th
4:00 PM

Washing of the Water will feature music of spiritual intensity by Palestrina, Gibbons, Tomkins, Cardoso, Victoria, Bryars, Gabriel, Simon & Cohen.

The GRAMMY® award-winning ensemble Chanticleer is known around the world as “an orchestra of voices” for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices.

Tickets: $35 – $85

Haydn’s The Creation
Wednesday, May 24th
7:00 PM

Performed in English, Franz Joseph Haydn’s beloved oratorio depicts the creation of the world as told in the Book of Genesis and John Milton’s Paradise Lost.

Tickets: $25 – $80

Tickets are available online at www.smssconcerts.org
Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Every Sunday from 3:15 PM to 5:30 PM. Saint Joseph’s Church, 404 East 87th Street. An opportunity for quiet prayer and silent adoration. All are welcome.

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 Carino  Carly-Anne Gannon

Assisting Priests (Sunday)

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

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 5:30PM  Fr. Feely
Sunday: 8:00 AM  Fr. Yesalonia
9:30 AM  Fr. Feely
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM  Fr. Martin
Solemn 11:00 AM  Fr. Bergen
7:30 PM  Fr. Bergen

Religious Education for Children
Ms. Carly-Anne Gannon, Director
M.Phil., M.Ed.
(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) 861-3820  Fax: (212) 879-8248

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.

Baptisms
Please call Teresa Cariño 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.

Cocktails and Canapés: Young Professionals Networking. Hosted by America Media. Thursday, April 27, 6:30 PM. New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South. Join Fr. Matt Malone, S.J., Fr. James Martin, S.J., and the editors of America Media for an evening of networking and conversation. Professionals will be attending to share ideas and experiences from various industries including media, finance, technology, real estate, healthcare and more. Tickets start at $75 for general admission. Event includes open bar and an assortment of canapés and hors d’oeuvres. For ticket information, visit americaspringdrinks.eventbrite.com

After-School Tutors Needed. The Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service is in need of after-school tutors to assist low-academic performing East Harlem children. Three tutors are needed for Mondays from 4:45 PM to 5:45 PM; one tutor for Wednesdays, also from 4:45 PM to 5:45 PM. The one-on-one tutoring sessions are held at the Center, 333 East 115th Street (between First and Second Avenues). For more information, email tgough@lsafhs.org or visit www.littlesistersfamily.org

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

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

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