Journey of the Magi

T. S. Eliot’s *Journey of the Magi* had a profound effect on me as a Jesuit novice. The poem offered a key to Ignatian contemplation, a prayer form I had been struggling with. At the start of the poem, Eliot does exactly what Ignatius tells someone to do when contemplating a story from Scripture. Eliot takes on the persona of one of the magi, sees the situation through the magus’s eyes, hears what the participants are saying, and considers what they are doing.

You might call Eliot’s depiction raw realist invention. He describes the harsh winter weather, the refractory camels, the unreliable servants, the frigid nights at desolate campsites, the unfriendly reception the travelers received in some of the places they passed through, and the final arrival at a town that was at best undistinguished.

The beginning of Eliot’s poem taught me to approach Ignatian contemplation with imaginative freedom. The ending, however, disillusioned me. The magus claims not to regret the journey. Still, his experience is shrouded in ambiguity. He had gone to witness a birth, but once arrived he could not shake the shadow of death. He had gone looking for assurance; instead, he was left with a profound sense of dislocation.

It is a dark reflection, and I was disconcerted that Eliot, who had converted to Anglicanism the year before the poem was published, ended the poem on a note of ambiguity and dislocation. It seemed to me that a believing Christian should have ended on a note of uncomplicated affirmation and confidence.

With time, I came to appreciate the poem’s ending even more than its beginning. I recognized that Eliot was unwittingly following St. Ignatius’ instructions for the conclusion of a contemplation. Eliot was sharing what was in his heart. Ignatius tells us to share what is in our hearts with the Trinity or with Jesus. Eliot addresses the reader. The intention to share is the same.

Eliot could not write from the stance of easy affirmation and confidence my novice-self longed for him to adopt. Instead, he wrote out of uneasy faith—one more valuable than uncomplicated affirmation, and out of beleaguered hope—one more enduring than confidence. More valuable and more enduring because more honest.

Honesty is the most important thing *Journey of the Magi* taught me about prayer. If we pray as we think a person of faith ought to pray or as we think God expects a person of faith to pray, then our prayer is useless. We need to share with the Trinity what is truly in our hearts, even if it is confusion and doubt, distress and disturbance. We need to be honest with God; otherwise, we are playacting, not praying.

I first read *Journey of the Magi* half a century ago, before photocopying became widespread or the Internet existed. I discovered the poem because a novice classmate reproduced it on a spirit duplicator and distributed it on the Feast of the Epiphany. Today all you need do to find it is go to the internet and search for it. I suggest you do. Eliot’s poem has a lot to teach us about prayer.

— Rev. Thomas H. Feely, S.J.
Associate Pastor
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th**

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

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8th**

Moms, Pops & Tots.
10:30 AM. Meeting Room.
Details on page 4.

Ranger Rosary Ministry.
7:00 PM. Meeting Room.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10th**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY JANUARY 12th – JANUARY 14th**

Shelter Weekend. Wallace Hall.
For information on volunteering, see page 3.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 28th**

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
McCinnon Hall

**Catholic Schools Week**

January 28th – February 3rd

**THIS WEEKEND:**

**BLESSING FOR EXPECTANT FAMILIES**

A special Blessing for Expectant Families will be offered to expectant families at all Masses this weekend.

As we celebrate 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.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul extends our deep gratitude to the Parish for the success of our Thanksgiving and Advent Drives.

Thanks to your generosity:

- Our Thanksgiving Drive collected 29 boxes of food plus $2,510 in monetary donations for the New York Common Pantry
- Our Advent Food Drive collected 26 boxes of food for the SVdP Pantry at the Church of the Ascension (West 107th Street)
- We collected countless toys for the Church of Saint Mary of the Assumption + Our Lady of Mount Carmel - St. Benedicta (Staten Island)
- The Christmas Angels gifts provided gifts to 398 people from 6 months old to 100 years old, and the number of recipients split equally between Saint Mary’s Church on Grand Street and Our Lady of Lourdes on West 142nd Street. For many of the recipients, the Angel Gift was their only Christmas present.

**Thank You**

The members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul–Saint Lawrence O’Toole Conference

**BLOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, January 28th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
McCinnon Hall

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

While all donations are welcome, there is particular need for the following blood types: O Negative, O Positive, A Negative, and B Negative. Your donation may enable a premature baby to live, a burn victim to recover, a cancer patient to be treated, or an accident victim to survive.

To register:

Online – [www.nybloodcenter.org/blood](http://www.nybloodcenter.org/blood)
Telephone – (800) 933-2566

Please reference Group Code 06239 when registering.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

A photo or signature ID is required.

Please drink plenty of fluids and eat a well-balanced meal before giving blood.
**Sunday Social 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**
January 7       February 4       March 4

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

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**MEETING CHRIST IN PRAYER**
Meeting Christ in Prayer is an interactive 8-week guided prayer experience for small groups. Based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola, it introduces participants to various ways of praying and provides an opportunity to support one another through faith sharing.

**Morning Sessions**
Tuesdays, January 30th – March 13th*
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Evening Sessions**
Wednesdays, January 31st – March 14th*
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

*Note: Both sessions will conclude with an evening Mass on Wednesday, March 21st.

**What does it offer?**
Weekly meetings are 90 minutes long and include group prayer, guided meditation, small group faith sharing, and an orientation for the following week’s prayer or prayer techniques. The cost of the program is a sliding scale of $30-$50 and covers all materials. Scholarships are available.

Flyers with program details and information about registration will be available in the Narthex next week.

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**EMMAUS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**
A six-session support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one will begin on Tuesday evening, February 13th, at the Parish House, from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

The sessions, both educational and supportive, are run by experienced facilitators.

To register, email EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com

Registration is required.

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**PARISH MEN'S FAITH GROUP**
Tuesday, January 23rd
7:00 PM
Parish Lounge

**FIVE LESSONS EVERY MAN NEEDS TO LEARN!**
Facilitated by Brian Pinter

The wisdom of our Christian tradition teaches us that there are five essential lessons every man must learn if he is to thrive; wisdom he must internalize so that he may bring his gifts to his community. Our presentation and discussion will briefly introduce and explore these lessons. There will also be opportunity for prayer and small group sharing and listening.

For more information, contact Brian Pinter at brianbpinter@gmail.com

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**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**FRIDAY – SUNDAY**
**JANUARY 12th – JANUARY 14th**

**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, from November 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

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**LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT**

**SAVE THE DATE**

*LME invites all parishioners to...

**A SPIRITUALITY FOR TWO HALVES OF LIFE**
... a program directed by Brian Pinter Bible Scholar-in-Residence at Christ Church UMC and frequent lecturer & instructor at St. Ignatius.

For details and registration information, please see next week’s bulletin.
**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, January 8th**  
*The Baptism of the Lord*  
Isaiah 55:1–11  
1 John 5:1–9  
8:30 MEM  
Caroline Choix  
12:10 MEM  
James Greene  
5:30 MEM  
Andrew McEvoy

**Tuesday, January 9th**  
*(1st Tuesday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 1:9–20  
Mark 1:21–28  
8:30 MEM  
Simone Saracino Fendi  
12:10 MEM  
Peter Greco  
5:30 MEM  
Stratford Wallace

**Wednesday, January 10th**  
*(1st Wednesday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–20  
Mark 1:29–39  
8:30 MEM  
John P. Belli  
12:10 MEM  
Valentino Mazzia  
5:30 MEM  
George Terriberry

**Thursday, January 11th**  
*(1st Thursday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 4:1–11  
Mark 1:40–45  
8:30 MEM  
Virginia Grant  
12:10 MEM  
The Meehan Family  
5:30 MEM  
Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

**Friday, January 12th**  
*(1st Friday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 8:4–7, 10–22a  
Mark 2:1–12  
8:30 MEM  
Betty Ruffer  
12:10 MEM  
Sose & Mark Prekelezaj  
5:30 MEM  
Margaret Phelan

**Saturday, January 13th**  
*(1st Saturday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1  
Mark 2:13–17  
8:30 MEM  
Veronica Raible

**Sunday, January 14th**  
*(2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 3:3b–10, 19  
Mark 40  
1 Corinthians 6:13c–15a, 17–20  
John 1:35–42

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**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
January 18th - 25th  
This year’s theme is *Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power*  
The Week of Christian Prayer invites Christians throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus: “that they all may be one...so the world may believe.” (John 17:21).

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**NEW!**  
**MOMS, POPS & TOTS**  
Monday, January 8th  
10:30 AM  
Meeting Room  
Meets every Monday!  
This gathering provides parents with young children the opportunity to make friends and develop community while strengthening their own spiritual lives. Coffee and treats are available for the parents.  
No RSVP is required.  
For more information, email Nicole O’Reilly at n_fusaro@yahoo.com

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**MORE THAN A BOOK CLUB**  
**JANUARY SELECTION**  
**BOOK DISCUSSION**  
Thursday, January 18th at 2:00 PM  
Conference Room  
**JANUARY BOOK SELECTION**  
*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*  
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows  
January 1946: Writer Juliet Ashton receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. And so begins a remarkable tale of the island of Guernsey during the German occupation, and of a society as extraordinary as its name.  
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society is available for purchase from most book retailers, including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.  
To register for the January 18th book discussion, email MoreThanABookClubSIL@gmail.com

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**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**
**LECTURE**

**Jesuits & Interfaith Dialogue**  
Monday, January 22nd at 8:00 PM  
Wallace Hall  
Fr. Tom Worcester, S.J., President of Regis College in Toronto, will discuss the role of Jesuits in interfaith and ecumenical dialogue from the origins of the Society of Jesus to the present day.

**MUSIC**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14th**

**11 AM SOLEMN MASS**

Callahan  
Prelude on Union Seminary  
Phillips  
Voluntary on Crucifer  
Mendelssohn  
I waited for the Lord  
Philips  
Ave Jesu Christe  
Campbell  
Gaudeamus

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**The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series**  
**presents**  
**SIMON JOHNSON**  
Organist and Assistant Music Director of St. Paul's Cathedral, London  
**Sunday, January 14th 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:** $25  
Tickets are available online at [www.smssconcerts.org](http://www.smssconcerts.org) or by calling 212-288-2520.

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**Feeding Our Neighbors:**  
**Archdiocesan-Wide Food Campaign**

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola will be participating in the food drive scheduled from Sunday, January 28th through Sunday, February 4th. Donations will go to the Church of the Ascension on the Upper West Side.

Please bring **non-perishable foods** to the Parish House.

While all donations are greatly appreciated, **these items are especially welcome:**

- 100% fruit juices  
- beans (canned or dry)  
- canned fish  
- salmon, sardines, or tuna  
- canned fruits  
- canned meat  
- chicken, beef, or ham  
- canned stews  
- chicken or beef  
- canned vegetables  
- coffee/tea  
- couscous  
- dried fruits  
- dry cereal and hot cereal  
- farina, grits, or oatmeal  
- dry milk packets  
- flour/cornmeal/baking mixes  
- nutritional beverages  
- Boost, Ensure, Carnation Instant Breakfast  
- nuts  
- pasta/noodles  
- peanut butter  
- personal care items  
- rice  
- shelf-stable milk  
- soy/almond/rice milk  
- spices  
- tomato sauce  
- vegetable soups  
- whole wheat crackers

Every item counts!  
*Thank you for your generosity.*

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**THE ANNUAL APPEAL**

As we embark on a new year, please remember to include your contribution to the Annual Appeal on your to-do list.

In order to fund the current level of service and programming, we rely on the Annual Appeal, which is now underway.

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 2017, visit our website at [stignatiusloyola.org](http://stignatiusloyola.org)

*Thank you for your continued generosity!*
PARISH STAFF

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

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

Assistant Pastor
Rev. Brett B. McLaughlin, S.J.

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

Pastoral Associates
Teresa Marie Cariño  Carly-Anne Gannon

Assisting Priests (Sunday)

Music Ministries
Scott Warren, Director
Daniel Beckwith  Maureen Haley
Robert Reuter  Philip Anderson
Michael Sheetz
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
Robert Cisternino

Asst. to the Director of Facilities
Caroline Fernandes

Director of Development
James P. MacGuire

Treasurer
Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses (Monday to 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. Feely
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Wallace Hall Family  11:00 AM Fr. McLaughlin
Solemn  11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
7:30 PM Fr. Hilbert

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 Cariño 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.

We pray for the faithful departed
Peter Joseph Burke
Philip Lobkowicz
May they rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

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