Questions and Answers

The Lenten season is a wonderful opportunity for prayer that includes a good deal of introspection. I have always been intrigued by the probing questions Jesus puts to certain people in the Gospels. I would like to think he asks these same questions of us from time to time.

For instance, in Mark’s Gospel, to the blind beggar of Jericho, Jesus asks: What do you want me to do for you? And to his disciples while they are in a boat during a storm on the Sea of Galilee: Why are you so frightened? How is it you have no faith? And afterward to Peter: Who do you say I am?

In Matthew’s Gospel, during the Sermon on the Mount, he asks: Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And later in that same sermon: Why do you observe the splinter in your brother’s eye and never notice the plank in your own?

In John’s Gospel, Jesus asks a sick man at the Pool of Bethsaida: Do you want to be well again? And to Mary, the sister of Lazarus, he asks: If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? I suggest that you imagine Jesus asking you these same questions. Ponder them slowly and deeply. How do you answer?

Let me presume to ask some questions of my own that may provide material for prayer as we prepare for the celebrations of Holy Week. I would resist the urge to go through these questions quickly, giving answers that come immediately to mind. The questions deserve more considered attention than that. In fact, it would be good to spend more than one day on a particular question as long as you feel drawn to that question and as long as you feel you haven’t fully answered it. You may even want to return to the same question much later in Lent. This applies as well to any of the questions Jesus asks in the Gospels I’ve quoted. Be sure to ask God’s help before you begin your prayer and allow God to accompany you as you pray. And create a time and space where you can be quiet and not subject to distraction.

Here are my questions for your prayerful reflection:

Are you listening to what your life is saying to you?
Do you have preconceived expectations of life?
What are your worries?
What do you dream about?
What is it for you that makes life worth living?
Do you need to make certain changes in your life if the Gospel message is to be internalized?
What do you think God is like?
Where do you find God most easily?

What has been your experience of God over the past year?
What do you think God wants of you?
How has God been good to you in your life?
Do you sometimes live as though you do not need God?
Do you believe your future can be better than your past?
Do you believe that God loves you without any reservation?
Can you forgive yourself of past sins and mistakes?
Are you letting the past spoil the present?

May your prayer during these days of Lent deepen your faith in the God who yearns to become more real and present to you each day.

— Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.
Senior Priest
Dear Parishioners,

The Latin antiphon which is customarily sung or said at the beginning of the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is *Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: Gaudete cum Laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis.* “Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow.” It is from this antiphon that we refer to this Sunday of Lent as *Laetare* Sunday which will be observed this year on March 11th. Almost at the midpoint of the season of Lent, the Church invites us to rejoice in expectation of the celebration of Easter. It is a day to buoy and refresh our spirits during a solemn time of the Church’s calendar when we reflect upon the reasons we long for God’s healing and forgiveness and await the surest sign of God’s love for us, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

To honor this tradition of the Church I have decided to introduce an annual parish event by inviting a prominent Catholic or representative of the Church’s hierarchy to deliver a lecture on the Monday following *Laetare* Sunday. As part of our celebration we will confer The Loyola Medal on our distinguished guest. You may recall we conferred our first Loyola Medals on the occasion of our sesquicentennial anniversary.

I am pleased to announce that Cardinal John Ribat, KBE, M.S.C., Archbishop of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea will preside and preach at the 11:00 AM Solemn Mass on *Laetare* Sunday. At the conclusion of the Mass, The Loyola Medal will be conferred. On Monday, March 12th, at 7:00 PM in Wallace Hall, Cardinal Ribat will deliver the inaugural *Laetare* Lecture, *A Sea of Change: Climate and the South Pacific.*

Please join us on *Laetare* Sunday and March 12th to welcome Cardinal Ribat and to honor him for the timely work he has undertaken at the request of Pope Francis to raise our consciousness to the effects of climate change on our planet.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesalonia

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**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

*Tuesday Evenings Through March 27th*

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the Church

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6:00 PM. The church will be open for private adoration until shortly before 8:00 PM when the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed and the church will close.

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**THE ANNUAL CHANGE FOR CHANGE DRIVE**

Donations this year will be forwarded to the Community of Sant’Egidio.

The collection period runs to the end of Lent. 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.

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**FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th**

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

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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
Church.
Details below.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1st**

Ignatian Social Justice.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.
Details on page 3.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd**

Ignite! Stations of the Cross.
12:00 PM. Church.
Details on page 3.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
5:30 PM. Church.
Details on page 3.
RANGER ROSARY MINISTRY

Monday, February 26th
7:00 PM in the Conference Room

The Ranger Rosary ministry meets twice a month to make rosaries for Catholics who are serving in the armed services.

New members are always welcome!

IGNATIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thursday, March 1st
7:00 PM
Conference Room

Important organizational meeting to plan programming of events.

New members are welcome.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, March 3rd at the 5:30 PM Mass

All parishioners are invited to support our brothers and sisters who face the trials of illness or aging by celebrating the Anointing of the Sick with them during the 5:30 PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 3rd.

Those who feel the need of healing and strength because of illness, physical weakness or spiritual distress will be invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament of Anointing after the gospel and homily.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FRI – SUN
March 9th – March 11th
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

PRAYER SHawl MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shawls, made for centuries, are universal and embracing. Members of our Prayer Shawl ministry knit or crochet shawls that are blessed and given to those in need of comfort or solace.

For more information or to join this ministry, contact Diane Boyle at boyled@saintignatiusloyola.org

MARCH BOOK SELECTION

Thursday, March 15th
2:00 PM
Parish House Meeting Room

The Bookseller of Kabul
by Asne Seierstad

A portrait of a proud man who, through three decades and successive repressive regimes, braved persecution to bring books to the people of Kabul.

The Bookseller of Kabul reveals the plight of Afghan women and a window into the realities of daily life in today’s Afghanistan.

The Bookseller of Kabul is available for purchase from most book retailers, including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

To register for the March 15th book discussion, email MoreThanABookClubSIL@gmail.com

Registration required.
JANUARY SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS
Andrew Lavin Astrachan
Ysabelle Baclay
Edward William Burns
Liam Jude Connorton
Caeli Madison Beleno Cu
Nolan George Cully
Alan Javier Gomez Regalado
Rory Brennan Hughes
Charlotte Emilia Kerecz
Frederique Lenor Medina-Lashko

WEDDING
Daniel Taylor Bethea & Jennifer Lee Leaverton

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, February 26th
(Second Monday of Lent)
8:30 MEM    Donald Gordon
12:10 MEM    Peter Meinig
5:30 MEM    William Sympson

Tuesday, February 27th
(Second Tuesday of Lent)
Isaiah 1:10, 16–20    Psalm 50    Matthew 23:1–12
8:30 MEM    Carla Fendi
12:10 MEM    Assaad Samaan
5:30 MEM    Pete Domenici

Wednesday, February 28th
(Second Wednesday of Lent)
8:30 MEM    Toni Brown
12:10 MEM    Sose & Mark Prekelezaj
5:30 MEM    William Powers

Thursday, March 1st
(Second Thursday of Lent)
8:30 MEM    John & Nora Reilly
12:10 MEM    William Fioravanti
5:30 MEM    Faustina Calix

Friday, March 2nd
(Second Friday of Lent)
Genesis 37:3–4, 12–13a, 17b–28a    Psalm 105
Matthew 21:33–43, 45–46
8:30 MEM    Joseph P. Leader
12:10 MEM    Michael Trepp
5:30 MEM    Wy-Lea Verhoff

Saturday, March 3rd
(Second Saturday of Lent)
8:30 MEM    Paola Paoluzzi

Sunday, March 4th (Third Sunday of Lent)
Exodus 20:1–17    Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:22–25    John 2:13–25

IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS
invites you to a reading/signing/celebration of
God Isn’t Finished With Me Yet: Discovering the Spiritual Graces of Later Life by Barbara Lee

Wednesday, March 7th
3:00–5:00 PM & 6:00–8:00 PM

Jesuit Provincial Center
39 East 83rd Street

To RSVP, email blee_aida@msn.com and specify afternoon or evening session

NEW!
MOMS, POPS & TOTS
Monday, February 26th
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

Available at the Parish House
The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola: A Walking Tour

The Walking Tour provides a detailed overview of the rich architectural history of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola.

Cost: $8
MUSIC

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th

11 AM SOLEMN MASS

Lassus
Missa octavi toni: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei

Tallis
Salvator mundi

J.S. BACH: VISIONS OF ETERNITY
|| Wednesday, March 21st at 8:00 PM ||

Choir and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
K. Scott Warren, conductor
Andrew Henderson, organ

Timed to celebrate the unique genius of J.S. Bach on his birthday, this program of chorales, motets and arias portrays the complex emotions of a person approaching death, from world weariness to the joyful anticipation of being united at last with God.

Tickets: $25 – $80

LAETARE LECTURE

A Sea of Change:
Climate and the South Pacific

Monday, March 12th
7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Presented by
Cardinal John Ribat KBE, M.S.C.
Papua New Guinea

Cardinal John Ribat will discuss the climate change crisis that is affecting the Oceania region. Rising sea levels are washing away islands, putting the region’s very survival and existence at stake.

2018 The Cardinal’s ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

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.

Please consider a gift in support of this year’s Appeal.
Gifts can be made online at www.cardinalsappeal.org

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Throughout Lent, SvdP will be accepting donations of food for the Church of the Ascension.

The items requested each week are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(February 25–March 3)</td>
<td>(March 11–17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>rice and</td>
<td>tuna fish,</td>
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<tr>
<td>canned beans</td>
<td>canned vegetables</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(March 4–10)</td>
<td>(March 18–21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>cereals and</td>
<td>soups and rice</td>
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<td>canned fruits</td>
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Please bring donations to the Parish House.

The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series presents

DAVID HIGGS
Chair, Organ Department, Eastman School of Music

SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH
3:00 PM

The magnificent pipe organ at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola—at 5,000 pipes, 30 tons, 45 feet high, with 55,000 parts, four keyboards, 5,000 pipes and 68 different stops—is the largest tracker-action pipe organ in the New York metropolitan area. At a cost of $1.25 million in 1992, its creation by the English organ builder N.P. Mander involved a year of planning and construction in England, and a five-month on-site installation at St. Ignatius Loyola. The N.P. Mander Organ debuted to an audience of 1,800 with a recital by David Higgs on April 27, 1993.

Tickets: $25

Tickets are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.
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)
Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.
Rev. James Martin, S.J.
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. Bergen
Sunday:
8:00 AM Fr. McLaughlin
9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Wallace Hall Family
11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
Solemn
11:00 AM Fr. Feely
7:30 PM Fr. Feely

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 Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636) 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 Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636) 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.

Walking Retreat-Pilgrimage to Fatima and Santiago de Compostela.
May 15 to May 25. 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. Daniel Corrour, S.J., Associate Pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Cost: $3,599. Full payment due by Thursday, March 15th. Price includes roundtrip flight, daily breakfast and dinner, and all accommodations (double occupancy; single room is an extra $750). Space is limited. For more information and reservations, call 917-607-0937 or email angiecruzphd@gmail.com

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.