I thumb my nose at superstitions. God controls everything—even something as trivial as a sparrow’s death. Everything will work out as it is destined. If something is supposed to happen now, it will. If it’s supposed to happen later, it won’t happen now. What’s important is to be prepared.”

This is a modern version of Hamlet’s line to Horatio in Act V; the original text says, “the readiness is all.”

It is a line I frequently use at weddings. Yes, I thumb my nose at superstitions (“We defy augury” in Shakespeare’s words, or, in the words of the immortal Yogi Berra, “I never make predictions, especially about the future”), and yes, I concur with Hamlet’s biblical reference to the fall of a sparrow, but I omit the seemingly fatalistic middle part of the quote, about everything being pre-destined. When it comes to marriage, I prefer Albert Schweitzer’s take on destiny: “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know, the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

The Season of Advent is a time of preparation, kind of like an engagement, the time to deck the halls and wrap the gifts and re-connect with friends and family. For engaged couples it is a graced opportunity to prepare their hearts and their minds not only for their wedding but more importantly for their marriage. St. Ignatius might say it is a time to “test the graces” of the decision to marry, a time to bring the relationship to a deeper level through intentional exercises of preparation.

Over the years I have collected a series of questions that I use to start the conversation about the Sacrament of Matrimony, and I call my list, “If I had only known…. ” The questions cover the obvious areas—communication, trust, family issues and faith history, and some uncomfortable areas—sacrifice, fidelity, household chores and finances, individual quirks and pet peeves. The number of questions stands at 35, and the last question is, “Why do you want to marry?”

The Archdiocese of New York introduced just last month a new program for engaged couples, called Prepare/Enrich. The program is a set of integrated components including online learning modules in addition to the traditional one-day Pre-Cana meeting. After the couple has made initial contact with the priest or deacon who will accompany them, they register online and complete a questionnaire (“Premarital Inventory”) which is much more scientific and comprehensive than my list!

Prepare/Enrich is custom-tailored to a couple’s relationship and provides exercises to build relationship skills. After the inventory is complete, a report is provided to the couple and the priest/facilitator, which serves as a basis for discussing the couple’s strengths and potential areas of growth in their relationship.

Marriage is a covenant relationship, a sacred vocation and a partnership of the whole of life. Married spirituality involves not only prayer and sacraments but also the everyday living of the couple. Making clear connections between everyday living and their faith life strengthens a couple’s marital covenant.

Returning to The Bard, we hear Henry V say, “All things are ready, if our mind be so.” In marriage, as in any path of life, the mind and the heart and the will must be ready. How blessed we are to have the time to prepare for the birth of the Savior, the light of the world! How sad that the innkeeper in Bethlehem was too busy to realize that a baby was about to be born! If he had only known!

God chose to come among us in a family. May God bless all the engaged couples in our parish as they prepare to enter the holy state of matrimony!

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th
Second Sunday of Advent

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents
Love's Pure Light — Annual Christmas Concert.
3:00 PM. Church. Details on page 5.

Sunday Social and the Annual Parish Christmas
Cookie Exchange. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults.
Follows the 7:30 PM Mass. Details on page 3.

Advent Lectio Divina.
6:30 PM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th
Jesuits & The Arts: Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.
7:00 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 5.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7:00 PM. Conference Room.

Magis Night: How does music feed our souls?
7:30 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th
More Than a Book Club: December Selection
Book Discussion. 2:00 PM. Meeting Room.
Details on page 4.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16th
IGNITE! Teen Ministry.
6:30 PM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15th – DECEMBER 17th
Shelter Weekend. Wallace Hall.
For information on volunteering, see page 3.

THE ANNUAL APPEAL

As you plan your Christmas gift-giving,
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

Thank you for your continued generosity!

WALLACE HALL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17th
Immediately following the
11:00 AM Family Mass

We hope that your family will join us in this
celebration of our Lord's birth. There is a role for everyone!

To participate: Scan the QR Code at left
to be directed to the online registration
form or visit http://stignatiusloyola.org/
index.php/outreach/family_ministry/2017_wallace_hall_christmas_pageant_registration

Two rehearsals are required:
Sunday, December 10th at noon in Wallace Hall &
Sunday, December 17th at 9:30 AM in Wallace Hall
Questions? Email Mary Jo Ward at mjward@med.cornell.edu

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18th
RECONCILIATION MONDAY

All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York
will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation
on Monday, December 18th.
Confessions will be heard beginning at 4:00 PM.
Many priests will be available for Confession.

ADVENT DAILY REFLECTIONS

During the season of Advent, we
will be posting daily reflections
from the clergy, staff, and lay
leadership of our parish on
our website and Facebook page. Their thoughts and
meditations are rooted in the words of well-known
Jesuit pastors, writers, theologians, and spiritual guides.
Booklets featuring these reflections—Advent Reflections
2017—are available in the Narthex
and at the Parish House.
**ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA**

**Sunday, December 10th & 17th**
6:30 PM – 7:15 PM  
Parish Lounge

Facilitated by Brian Pinter

*Lectio Divina* is an ancient approach to praying with scripture that invites us to hear God’s word with the ear of the heart.

All are welcome to join us for this prayerful reading and short discussion of the Sunday gospel.

**Registration is not required.**

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**IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY**

**Saturday, December 16th**
6:30 PM  
Parish Lounge

*Ignite* is forming a community of high school students guided by Ignatian spirituality through Saturday sessions, small groups, retreats, and more.

Parents can register their teens by scanning the QR code at left or by visiting [https://form.jotform.com/71575444498166](https://form.jotform.com/71575444498166)

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**PARISH MEN’S FAITH GROUP**

**Tuesday, December 19th**
7:00 PM  
Parish Lounge

**ST. JOSEPH: SPIRITUAL ROLE MODEL FOR MEN**

St. Joseph was asked by God to play a key role in a mysterious, miraculous, scandalous undertaking. Joseph was also the heir of a complicated spiritual lineage—his ancestors were remembered for their heroic and traumatic deeds. Yet Joseph navigated these paradoxes and tensions with integrity, patience and love.

Join us as we explore how Joseph serves as a role model of male spiritual maturity. Our time together will include a presentation by Brian Pinter, small group sharing, and prayer.

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**ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE**

**Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults at the IYA Sunday Social**

**TONIGHT at 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall, following the 7:30 PM Mass**

All parishioners are welcome. *Bring your homemade cookies to swap with others!*

**To participate:**

- **BAKE** your favorite Christmas cookies.  
  (If you’re not a baker but would still like to participate in the exchange, treats from a bakery are fine, too!)

- **BRING** your treats to Wallace Hall before or after the 7:30 PM Mass. Please bring your treats in a container you can reuse for carrying your new cookies home.

- **EXCHANGE** your cookies.

All are welcome to stay for our Christmas Social, also in Wallace Hall!

If you are interested in donating baked goods for the Christmas Social or have any questions about the event, please email ignatianyoungadults@gmail.com

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**IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS**

**Magis Night**

**How does music feed our souls?**

**Wednesday, December 13th**
7:30 PM in Wallace Hall

This month, we will be joined by the members of the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space staff as they share reflections on how music and faith intersect.

The first 20 people to arrive will receive complimentary tickets to the Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 17th. Visit [facebook.com/events/132928230750356](https://facebook.com/events/132928230750356) to RSVP.

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**MEETING CHRIST IN PRAYER**

**SAVE THE DATES**

The winter sessions of Meeting Christ in Prayer will be held **Tuesday mornings, January 30th through March 13th at 9:30 AM** or **Wednesday evenings, January 31st through March 14th at 7:00 PM.**

More details and registration information will follow after Christmas.
**Announced Masses and Readings for the Week**

**Monday, December 11th**
*Second Monday of Advent*
- 8:30 MEM Simona Saracino Fendi
- 12:10 MEM Valentino Mazzia
- 5:30 MEM Catherine Scanlon

**Tuesday, December 12th**
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- 8:30 MEM Anthony Ruggiero
- 12:10 MEM Rose Hynes
- 5:30 MEM Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

**Wednesday, December 13th**
*St. Lucy*
- 8:30 MEM Giro & Elina Zullo
- 12:10 MEM Robert Kopera
- 5:30 MEM Jane Doyle

**Thursday, December 14th**
*St. John of the Cross*
- Isaiah 41:13–20    Psalm 145    Matthew 11:11–15
- 8:30 MEM William & Ann Reilly
- 12:10 MEM Samuel Chierchio
- 5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Wallace Family

**Friday, December 15th**
*Second Friday of Advent*
- Isaiah 48:17–19    Psalm 1    Matthew 11:16–19
- 8:30 MEM Gerard Salvatore
- 12:10 MEM Jack O’Leary
- 5:30 MEM Joseph De Chiaro

**Saturday, December 16th**
*Second Saturday of Advent*
- Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11    Psalm 80    Matthew 17:9a, 10–13
- 8:30 MEM Deceased Members of the Brenninkmeijer Family

**Sunday, December 17th**
*Third Sunday of Advent*
- Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11    Luke 1
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24    John 1:6–8, 19–28

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**MORE THAN A BOOK CLUB**

**DECEMBER SELECTION BOOK DISCUSSION**

**Thursday, December 14th**
2:00 PM
Parish House Meeting Room

**DECEMBER BOOK SELECTION**

*The Ninth Hour by Alice McDermott*

Tracing three generations of an Irish immigrant family, *The Ninth Hour* centers on a widow and her daughter and the nuns who serve their Irish-American community in Brooklyn.

*The Ninth Hour* is available for purchase from most book retailers, including Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

To register for the December 14th book discussion, email MoreThanaBookClubSIL@gmail.com

Registration required.

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**RETREAT**

**From the Rising of the Sun to Its Setting: Prayer East and West**

*Friday, January 19th to Sunday, January 21st*
*Jogues Retreat, Cornwall, NY*

Led by Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J., & Issan Koyama

The retreat is an invitation to silent meditation, with periods of guided prayer using both Ignatian and Buddhist methods. The group will pray morning and evening prayer together, and the weekend will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist.

*There are 15 spaces available for this retreat.*

Cost: $150 per person

To register, email John Vernon at sil.retreat@gmail.com

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**Special Collection**

This weekend, our Parish will take up the annual collection for the retired women and men religious of the New York Archdiocese.

We thank you for your generosity.

Follow us on Facebook at churchofstignatiusloyolanyc
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Christmas Angel Project
Concludes This Weekend!
to benefit The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Harlem and St. Mary’s Church on Grand Street
Through Sunday, December 10th, participants will be able to select up to three Angel cards from one of the tables that will be placed in the Narthex and Wallace Hall. Cards will also be available at the Parish House while the supply lasts.
Gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December 10th.

Annual Toy Drive
Ends Tomorrow!
to benefit the children from the Church of St. Mary of the Assumption + Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – St. Benedicta
Please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for boys and girls between the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Final Week!
Benefiting the Church of the Ascension on the Upper West Side
Through Sunday, December 17th, SVdP will be accepting donations of food for the Church of the Ascension.
Please bring donations to the Parish House through Sunday, December 17th.

Please support the Advent & Christmas Liturgical Music Fund
This fund supports the liturgical music program throughout the year — our musicians, staff, music, robes, and maintenance of instruments.
Gifts of $100 or more that are received by Friday, December 15th will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship aids. Contributions of $500 or more will be featured in a separate section.
To donate, visit https://donate.stignatiusloyola.org/christmasmusic

MUSIC
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th
11 AM SOLEMN MASS
Phillips & Powell
Two settings of “Savior of the Nations, come!”
Byrd
Mass for Four Voices: Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei
Gibbons
This is the record of John

Love’s Pure Light: Annual Christmas Concerts
TODAY at 3:00 PM & Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 PM
Warmth and joy abound in our beloved annual Christmas concerts, where audience and choirs together join in singing popular carols.
Featuring J.S. Bach’s enduring cantata Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, this afternoon resounds with sing-along renditions of “Hallelujah” from Handel’s Messiah and Joy to the World!
Tickets: $35 – $85
Tickets are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

LECTURE
Jesuits & The Arts:
Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.
Monday, December 11th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall
Fr. Thomas Lucas, S.J., University Professor of Art at Seattle University, will present an illustrated lecture on Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins.
In this presentation, Fr. Lucas will sketch out the complicated biography of this enigmatic genius, opening up both the poet’s faith and his profound psychological difficulties, with readings of selected poems.
Fr. Thomas Lucas, S.J., is an internationally recognized expert in Jesuit art history and is well known as a liturgical designer and artist with an international portfolio.
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.

ArchCare Care Navigation Center: Resources for Seniors.
Need help caring for yourself or someone else but not sure where to turn? ArchCare, the healthcare system of the Archdiocese of New York has a Center staffed by health and social service professionals dedicated to helping people better understand and access the services for which they are eligible. Call 855-951-2273 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM seven days a week.

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

We pray for the faithful departed
Abigail Feerick
May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.