The Model for Advent Spirituality: John the Baptist

One person is unique to these weeks of the Advent Season, yet not present at the Christmas Nativity Scene. Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist, proclaims in our Gospel today, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” and he prepared Second Temple Israel for the Messiah, as he prepares us in 2017. Edward Schillebeeckx explains, “Jesus sees an essential correspondence between the baptism of John and his own ministry. As prophets have full authority . . . recognition of John’s authority must entail recognition of Jesus’ authority.”

The Baptist’s lifestyle supplies the hermeneutical key to interpret his prophetic message and task. John returns to the wilderness, the site of the formation of the Israelites after the Exodus events. The desert is the location for a passionately desired new future and re-formation of the whole world. John the Baptist’s life makes sense only if we ponder how he completely orients himself to a dramatic new course for the world.

One might say that John continues a role that we know from the Old Testament, the unflinching, uncompromising prophet. But he contributes something entirely new: a baptism ritual with the prophet. Jews had washed themselves historically. Because John stubbornly insists on this ritual of repentance, we cannot comprehend this prophet without considering his invitation to conversion.

John also expects a future drastically different from everyone else. The Israelites imagined that the coming of the Lord would entail the defeat of their enemies, their return to regional prominence, and the guarantee of salvation. But John contends that the future belongs solely to God’s potentialities. Since it’s impossible for us to anticipate the form and facets of this future, only our own conversion and orthopraxis allow us to be open to it.

Pope Francis’s World Day of Peace Message 2018 asks Christians to turn a contemplative gaze on the New Jerusalem, as described in Isaiah 60 and Revelation 21. Brought about by God’s own power and vision, this city opens its gates to the people of every nation. Its transcendent, holy beauty inspires awe and great generosity. “Peace is the sovereign that guides it and justice the principle that governs coexistence within it.” This sacred vision of God’s future allows us to turn the same contemplative gaze upon our own cities. 22.5 million refugees have departed their homes, seeking this same peace. Francis writes, “We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others . . . welcoming others requires concrete commitment, a network of assistance and goodwill, vigilant and sympathetic attention, the responsible management of new and complex situations.”

As John the Baptist prophesied and lived, our unalloyed desire for a future from God opens us up to changing our way of life. Pope Francis proposes a four-fold strategy for effective hospitality: welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating. The Advent Christian promotes an expansion of pathways for refugees to enter situations of peace. Women and children are especially vulnerable among this population, requiring our vigilant care. For all children, education is a vital necessity to give them a future of possibilities. The Advent Christian lastly supports these newcomers to participate fully in the life of their new society.

John’s insatiable hope for the future meant that, with the Lord’s coming, he had to live an entirely new existence. It was this way of life that prepared Andrew and the other disciples to be ready for the radicality of discipleship. For every generation, John inspires an Advent spirituality that grounds itself in an unforeseen future promised by and provided by God. Make Straight His Paths.

― Rev. Brett B. McLaughlin, S.J.  
Assistant Pastor
2017 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

**4:00 PM FAMILY MASS I**

*Children's Choirs*
Fr. Judge, Presider
Doors open at 3:15 PM  Prelude begins at 3:45 PM

**6:00 PM FAMILY MASS II**

*Parish Community Choir*
Fr. Hilbert, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM  Prelude begins at 5:45 PM

**8:00 PM VIGIL MASS**

*Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola*
Fr. Bergen, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM  Prelude begins at 7:45 PM

**MIDNIGHT MASS**

*Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola*
Fr. Yesalonia, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM  Prelude begins at 11:15 PM

**Christmas Day**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH**

**9:30 AM MASS**
Fr. McLaughlin, Presider

**11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS**
Fr. Yesalonia, Presider

**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST**

Masses at 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM (Solemn & Wallace Hall), and 7:30 PM.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM in the Church

**A Gentle Reminder**

The Christmas Masses here in the Parish are unusually crowded, especially the 4:00 PM Family Mass and the Midnight Mass.

People will be seated as they arrive. In fairness to all, please do not attempt to save or hold seats for those who are expected later.

The ushers have been instructed not to honor such arrangements.

**Available at the Parish House**

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola: A Walking Tour

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

**Cost:** $8
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

On Saturday, December 9th, we held our first annual Snow Ball Dance. It was a very merry evening, as Mother Nature lent her decorative touch to the festivities with our first snowfall of the season!

I want to extend a special thank you to the members of the Snow Ball Dance Committee whose efforts made the Dance such a smashing success!

We hope you were able to join us on Saturday evening. If not, we hope to see you next year at our second annual Snow Ball Dance.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesalonia

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

ADVENT LECTIO DIVINA

Sunday, December 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.

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.

IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY

Saturday, December 23rd
6:30 PM
Parish Lounge

Ignite is forming a community of high school students guided by Ignatian spirituality though 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

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Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, December 18th (Third Monday of Advent)**
Jerome 23:5–8  Psalm 72  Matthew 1:18–25
8:30 MEM  Veronica Raible
12:10 MEM  Leslie Earl Inman
5:30 MEM  Patrick F. Linehan

**Tuesday, December 19th (Third Tuesday of Advent)**
8:30 MEM  Kelly Reilly-Gillebaard
12:10 MEM  Samuel Chierchio
5:30 MEM  Eleanor Passorella

**Wednesday, December 20th (Third Wednesday of Advent)**
8:30 MEM  Eleanore Shaw
12:10 MEM  John J. White, Jr.
5:30 MEM  Paul Warhola

**Thursday, December 21st (Third Thursday of Advent)**
Song 2:8–14  Psalm 33  Luke 1:39–45
8:30 MEM  Vincent Boller
12:10 MEM  Daniel & Rosina Tenga
5:30 MEM  Nathan Davidson

**Friday, December 22nd (Third Friday of Advent)**
1 Samuel 1:24–28  1 Samuel 2  Luke 1:46–56
8:30 MEM  Eileen Sullivan
12:10 MEM  Margaret Heaney
5:30 MEM  Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

**Saturday, December 23rd (Third Saturday of Advent)**
8:30 ANN  Raymond Feerick

**Sunday, December 24th (Fourth Sunday of Advent)**
2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16  Psalm 89

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!

NEW PARISHIONERS
We welcome new parishioners and invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at www.stignatiusloyola.org

Registration is our only means of certifying membership in the Parish.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Sunday, December 24th**

- **Christmas Eve**
  - 4:00 PM  Family Mass I
  - 6:00 PM  Family Mass II

- **8:00 PM  Mass of Christmas**
- **9:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Monday, December 25th**

- **Christmas Day**
  - 8:00 PM  Midnight Mass

If you are available, please register at https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/l/enrollment/StIgnatiusLoyolaNYC
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th

4:00 PM MASS with Training & Middle School Choirs
   arr. Biery
   O Come, Divine Messiah
   arr. Schaefer
   Lulajze Jesuniju
   arr. Vance
   Angels we have heard on high
   arr. Perry
   Niño lindo
   J.S. Bach
   In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

6:00 PM MASS with Parish Community Choir
   J.S. Bach
   Cantata 140: Gloria sei dir gesungen
   Rutter
   Star carol
   Adam
   O holy night
   J.S. Bach
   In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

8:00 PM & MIDNIGHT MASS
   Balbastre
   Noel Suisse
   arr. Wood
   Winds through the olive trees
   Mendelssohn, arr. Chapman
   Hark! The herald angels sing
   arr. Vaughan Williams
   Greensleeves
   arr. Lovelace
   Away in a manger
   Buxtehude
   Magnificat
   J.S. Bach
   Magnificat: Suscepit Israel
   J.S. Bach
   Cantata 51: Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, Sei Lob und Preis mit Ehren, Allelujia
   arr. Lovelace
   Away in a manger
   Mozart
   Missa Brevis in C, K. 317: Kyrie, Sanctus
   J.S. Bach
   Magnificat, BWV 243: Magnificat anima mea
   Adam
   O holy night

Love's Pure Light: Annual Christmas Concerts
TODAY 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.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Ends Today!
Benefiting the Church of the Ascension on the Upper West Side
Through the end of today, SVdP will be accepting donations of food for the Church of the Ascension on the Upper West Side.

Please bring donations to the Parish House by the end of today.

Week 3 (Dec. 10th – 17th):
  rice, beans, and cereals

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 from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM.
Many priests will be available for Confession.

Please don’t forget to notify us! This information helps us to keep our database current.
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  5:30PM Fr. Hilbert
Sunday:  8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
         9:30 AM Fr. Feely
Solemn  11:00 AM Fr. Feely

For our complete Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass schedule, see page 2.

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.

Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers Needed. Lenox Hill is in need of Eucharistic Ministers to bring communion to their Catholic patients. Prospective volunteers will need to complete an application, come in for an interview, be medically cleared and attend an orientation session. A weekly commitment is required. If you are interested in this or any other volunteer opportunities at Lenox Hill Hospital, please contact Carlos Cuartas at ccuartas@northwell.edu for more information.

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