Johannes Brahms was 28 when he began drafting the earliest sections of his Requiem in 1861. Raised a Lutheran in Hamburg, he abandoned serious religious practice by his adult years, but maintained avid interest in the Bible and spirituality for the rest of his life. At the 1867 premiere of the first three movements of the Requiem in his adopted hometown of Vienna, many in the overwhelmingly Catholic audience were puzzled: how could this piece, consisting mostly of Psalms, be considered a Requiem? None of the expected elements were there. As Brahms later expressed, this piece was a universal rather than specifically religious response to death and mourning. In fact, he would have happily replaced the word “German” with “human” in the title.

When considering the origins of his Requiem, we are often drawn to two tragic events in young Brahms’ life: the descent into severe mental illness and eventual death in 1856 of his dear friend, the great composer Robert Schumann; and the death of his own adored mother, Johanna Henrika Christiane Nissen, in 1865. It is possible that in watching Schumann’s decline—which included a suicide attempt in 1854—Brahms, a serious and introspective person by nature, began contemplating the complexities of human suffering, mortality, and grief at quite a young age. In 1868, Brahms conducted the then six-movement piece in a concert on Good Friday in the Cathedral of Bremen. Shortly thereafter, he added a solo for soprano, “Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit” (You now have sorrow), which would take its place as the fifth of seven movements. Biographers have made the credible speculation that he was thinking of his mother when he included the text from Isaiah: “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you.”

From the following text excerpts, one can perceive the theme of consolation pervading the entire work:

First Movement—Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Second Movement—All flesh is as grass…but the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
Third Movement—Lord, make me to know mine end…the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.
Fourth Movement—How lovely are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!
Fifth Movement—You now have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice.
Sixth Movement—O death, where is thy sting, O grave, where is thy victory?
Seventh Movement—Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord…they rest from their labors.

To set these texts, Brahms combined Classical and Baroque compositional techniques such as rigorous counterpoint (he knew the music of Bach and Schütz well) with progressive uses of harmony that marked him as a man ahead of his time. By the unification of Germany in 1871, the Requiem had been performed in every major German city, and in some cities, multiple times. It was for the most part well-received, but an amusing pattern of criticism began to develop: in the northern, mostly Protestant cities, some found the Requiem to be overly sentimental; whereas in the more Catholic south, some thought it too dry and unemotional, given the subject matter. With time, criticism subsided, and it took its rightful place as one of the greatest choral masterworks ever written. One final note regarding the music: it was originally written with orchestral accompaniment, but Brahms later crafted a four-hand piano accompaniment, not as a keyboard reduction, but as a re-casting of the material for a new medium. This causes the Requiem to take on a more intimate, chamber music feel, and this is the version we will present in our concert.

Brahms’ musical ancestor, Felix Mendelssohn, will take center stage at the beginning of our concert, as we present a few of his beloved motets, as well as a couple of less-familiar gems. We hope you will join us, Sunday, February 24th, at 3:00 PM.

— K. Scott Warren
Director of Music Ministries
THE MYSTERY OF LOVE

Love is the most powerful force we experience—it shapes us, directs our choices, and transforms us. The mysterious pull of love ultimately leads us into the mystery of God.

Our discussion will explore how this energy plays out in our passions, attractions, resistances and paradoxes of our lives.

To register, email simensgroup@aol.com

PARISH MEN'S FAITH GROUP

Thursday, February 21st
7:00 PM
Parish House

Martha or Mary: Has the balance ever been harder to achieve? Serenity beckons, but so does achievement. As women of faith we focus on how to recognize and respond to Jesus’ invitation to holiness. We discover the grace of service and contemplation.

Meetings will be facilitated by Adele Gallo.

For more information, email amdgallo@me.com

PARISH WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP

SCRIPTURE CLASS

The Prophetic Imagination
Six Sessions Beginning March 5th
Tuesdays at 11:00 AM in the Gonzaga Meeting Room

The prophets of ancient Israel were missioned to speak uncomfortable truth to power. Their role was to criticize but also energize, to invite their people to imagine an alternative future, the future as God dreams it can be. Our presentations will explore the creative ways and words the prophets chastised, inspired, and inspirited. Our discussions will seek to translate prophetic teaching for our own troubled, pivotal times.

To register, email Lent2019BibleStudy@gmail.com

All sessions led by Brian Pinter, Pastoral Associate.

Space is limited. Early registration is recommended.
Are you longing for a deeper relationship with God through Christ? Is your childhood way of relating to God insufficient now that you are an adult? Are you curious to learn what your Jesuit-educated friends mean by Ignatian Spirituality?

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, February 19th – April 10th | 9:30 AM–11 AM
Closing Mass: Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00 PM

**Evening Sessions**
Wednesdays, February 20th – April 10th | 7 PM–8:30 PM
Closing Mass: Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00 PM

The cost of the program is a sliding scale of $30-$50.
To register, email MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org

Please join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry as they explore historic Catholic/Muslim dialogue through a screening of the film *The Sultan and the Saint*.

On the battlefields of the Crusades, *The Sultan and the Saint* explores how Saint Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt—two men of faith—fought against a century of war and distrust in a search for mutual respect and common ground.
A reflection and discussion will follow the film.
To RSVP, email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com
Space is limited.

Forgiveness and reconciliation are a journey we are all called to undertake. If we are to answer God's invitation to ever deeper conversion, we must become practitioners of the art of forgiveness. Our presentations and conversation will focus on self-forgiveness, moving beyond the "soul suicide" of revenge and control, and transforming brokenness into wisdom and compassion.

Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will facilitate the discussion.
This will be a two-session class. Attendance at both sessions is recommended but not required.
All are welcome.
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, February 18th**  
*(Sixth Monday in Ordinary Time)*  
Genesis 4:1–15, 25    Psalm 50    Mark 8:11–13  
8:30 MEM Peter J. Whalen

**Tuesday, February 19th**  
*(Sixth Tuesday in Ordinary Time)*  
Genesis 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10    Psalm 29    Mark 8:14–21  
8:30 MEM Carla Fendi  
12:10 MEM Lawrence Carron  
5:30 ANN Susan Meyer

**Wednesday, February 20th**  
*(Sixth Wednesday in Ordinary Time)*  
Genesis 8:6–13, 20–22    Psalm 116    Mark 8:22–26  
8:30 MEM John Scanlon  
5:30 MEM Brian Daly

**Thursday, February 21st**  
*(Sixth Thursday in Ordinary Time)*  
Genesis 9:1–13    Psalm 102    Mark 8:27–33  
8:30 MEM Lorenzo Carvsone  
12:10 MEM Pietro Malquori  
5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

**Friday, February 22nd**  
*(The Chair of St. Peter)*  
1 Peter 5:1–4    Psalm 23    Matthew 16:13–19  
8:30 MEM Stella Yamamoto Wu  
12:10 MEM Charles Regan  
5:30 MEM Alicia Torres

**Saturday, February 23rd**  
*(St. Polycarp)*  
Hebrews 11:1–7    Psalm 145    Mark 9:2–13  
8:30 MEM Mary Angela Hawke

**Sunday, February 24th**  
*(Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)*  
1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23    Psalm 103  

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**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](http://www.stignatiusloyola.org)

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

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**MORE THAN A BOOK CLUB**

**FEBRUARY SELECTION BOOK DISCUSSION & FILM SCREENING**

**FEBRUARY BOOK SELECTION DISCUSSION**

*Rules of Civility by Amor Towles*

Thursday, February 21st | 2:00 PM  
Meeting Room

On the last night of 1937, 25-year-old Katey Kontent is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society—where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own brand of cool nerve.

**Screening of the film**

*The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler*

Wednesday, February 27th  
2:00 PM in the Parish Lounge

The story of Irena Sendler, a social worker who was part of the Polish underground during World War II and was arrested by the Nazi’s for saving the lives of nearly 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto.

To register for the Thursday, February 21st book discussion and/or the Wednesday, February 27th film screening, email MoreThanABookClubSIL@gmail.com

Registration required.

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**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Our magnificent church buildings don’t reflect the welcome we extend to everyone. However, you can help change that by making a gift to the Your Parish, Your Home capital campaign.

To contribute to the Your Parish, Your Home Capital Campaign, scan the QR code at left.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24th
11 AM SOLEMN MASS
Bédard
Variations on Ubi caritas
Biery
Ubi caritas
Rachmaninoff
Liturgy of St. Chrysostom: Blagoslovi, dushe moya, Ghospoda
Hindemith
Sonate II: I. Lebhaft

Tickets are available online at smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

Fortunate Families:
The Blessings (and Challenges)
of Being LGBT Family

Wednesday, February 27th | 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall

Featured Speaker
JR Zerkowski
Executive Director of Fortunate Families,
a ministry to Catholic parents of LGBT children

Plus, members of the LGBT Catholics and Friends ministry will share how they handled their children coming out to them, as well as their experiences coming out to their own families.

Sponsored by LGBT Catholics and Friends

Catholics in Action:
Lord, What Would You Have Us Do?

Friday, March 22nd to Sunday, March 24th
Jogues Retreat House, Cornwall, NY

Our very own personal commitment to a cause or social action activity can be a source of deep spiritual reward and fulfillment.

Through personal prayer and reflection, along with guided group sharing, we will discover what brought us to our work, what sustains us throughout and what our future efforts can achieve. Our goal is to leave spiritually renewed in our commitments and equipped with insights and tools to energize our efforts for the future.

Cost: $150

To register, scan the QR code at left or visit http://retreat.social/catholicsinaction.

For more information, email catholicsinactionretreat@gmail.com

Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice and LGBT Catholics & Friends

The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series
presents
STEPHENV THARP
Sunday, March 3rd at 3:00 PM

Stephen Tharp is recognized as one of the great concert organists of our age.

Having played more than 1400 concerts across 50 tours worldwide, Stephen Tharp has built one of the most well-respected international careers in the world, earning him the reputation as the most traveled concert organist of his generation.

Tickets: $25

Tickets are available online at smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.
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. Hilbert
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
9:30 AM Fr. Judge
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Sullivan
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
7:30 PM Fr. Bergen

Volunteer Eucharistic Ministers Needed. The Mary Manning Walsh Home (1339 York Avenue, at East 72d Street) needs volunteers to act as Eucharistic Ministers to distribute communion to its patients and residents. Volunteers are asked to commit to one hour, one day a week. Volunteers are most needed on Tuesdays and Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Sr. Helena at 347-913-2650.

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