An Intentional Lenten Fast

On Wednesday, Catholics everywhere will start the Lenten Fast. Most people know the requirements: only one full, meatless meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for people aged 18 to 59, and no meat on Fridays for anybody over 14—with common sense exempting people who are ill, pregnant, etc. Many Catholics additionally give something up for the season.

One vexing reality is that people (myself included) approach Lent either as an afterthought or as a feat to be accomplished. One year, we forget to adopt something to give up, and we never abstain from meat anyway because we heard somewhere that meatless Fridays were a scheme to enrich a medieval pope’s fisherman cousin. The next year, we opt for something outlandishly difficult to signal our virtue to everybody around us. As a Jesuit parish in the United States and in today’s Church, we might benefit from reflecting on a way we can fast intentionally, rather than anything so crass as mere habit or pride.

One quick caveat. Father Ignatius encouraged fasting only in moderation. As a young man, he undertook such extreme fasts that it permanently harmed his health. While he later never shied away from fasting as a spiritual aid, he had learned his lesson. He encouraged people to fast, but only insofar as they do not harm themselves and that no notable illness follows. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping that moderation in mind.

That said, one of the primary reasons to fast is penance—either to express exteriorly the grief for our sins that we experience interiorly, or to beg for the grace to experience such contrition. There’s something very Christian about using our own discomfort to make explicit our remorse for a wrong done. It echoes the very mystery of salvation through the Cross. Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection saves us. When we do penance, when we fast, we unite our voluntary sacrifice with that of Christ in the sure and certain hope that we participate in His redemptive work.

One striking thing about the harrowing crises in the Church over the past year has been the number of people who despairingly ask what they can do. We feel powerless to effect change. In one way, that’s true. Church policy is prescribed only by competent ecclesiastical authority. In another way, though, there is something we can do: penance. Christ, himself sinless, died for us sinners. The Gospel constantly encourages us to follow his example and lay down our lives for each other. Trying to make right the sins that others commit is our tradition. We are called, collectively and individually, to work for healing. In this particular moment of history, I suggest that we, the Christian community, should be doing penance for the ways that we, Christian individuals, have failed in this crisis. Can you imagine if millions of undertook a sustained period of spontaneous fasting to express our grief? What a compelling symbol that would be! Not that it would make up for the crimes committed; we can never do that. Nor that it could substitute for implementing meaningful and effective codes of conduct and accountability. What it would do is show survivors and the world the depth of our anguish and how earnestly we desire reconciliation.

This Lent, I will be engaging in the ancient Christian practice of fasting as intentional penance for the Church because of the crimes that priests committed and bishops covered up. I will donate the money I save on food and drink to a national organization that helps survivors. That way, I hope this season will not be simply an exercise in self-control, but a cry to God for mercy. If you feel the way I do—sad, outraged, powerless, and more—please consider joining me.

— Rev. Brian G. Konzman, S.J.
Assistant Pastor
The Prophetic Imagination

Six Sessions Beginning March 5th
Tuesdays at 11:00 AM
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

Space is limited. Early registration is recommended.
**THE ART OF FORGIVENESS**

Tuesday, March 12th
7:00 PM
Parish Lounge

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 presentation 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.

All are welcome.

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**MOMS, POPS & TOTS**

Monday, March 4th
10:00 AM
Gonzaga Meeting Room

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.

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**LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT**

LME invites all parishioners to a day of individual reflection, faith sharing, and guided prayer.

Saturday, April 6th
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM in Wallace Hall

The Rev. Kaji Dousa, Senior Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church, will lead a reflection on compassionate connections.

Relationships are beautiful and complex, but they function best when we can find ways to connect with compassion. This workshop will explore how we can deepen in our capacities to love compassionately, following the example of Christ himself.

The day will include continental breakfast and catered lunch, and will conclude with a prayer service.

Continental breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM, with the program beginning at 9:30 AM.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/lme-april-2019.

Registration is required.

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**MOMS, POPS & TOTS**

Monday, March 4th
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No RSVP is required.

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**IGNITE! TEEN MINISTRY**

Teen Lenten Reflection Series

Thursdays, March 7th to April 11th
6:00 PM
Parish Lounge

All high school students are welcome.

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**THE ANNUAL APPEAL**

If you have not yet contributing to our Annual Appeal, you can do so by visiting the Annual Appeal page on the St. Ignatius website by scanning the QR code at left.

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 stignatiusloyola.org

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**ANNOUNCED MASSES AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, March 4th**  
*(Eighth Monday in Ordinary Time)*  
Sirach 17:20–24  Psalm 32  Mark 10:17–27  
8:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the Breninkmeijer Family  
12:10 MEM Cecillia & Billy Roach and Brid Wallace  
5:30 MEM Kevin Sheridan

**Tuesday, March 5th**  
*(Eighth Tuesday in Ordinary Time)*  
Sirach 35:1–12  Psalm 50  Mark 10:28–31  
8:30 MEM Susan Morrill Wommack  
12:10 MEM Paul Sanders  
5:30 MEM Jack Kehoe

**Wednesday, March 6th**  
*(Ash Wednesday)*  
Joel 2:12–18  Psalm 51  
2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2  Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

**Thursday, March 7th**  
*(Thursday After Ash Wednesday)*  
8:30 MEM John Scanlon  
12:10 MEM Francisca Dancel  
5:30 MEM Maureen Sullivan

**Friday, March 8th**  
*(Friday After Ash Wednesday)*  
Isaiah 58:1–9a  Psalm 51  Matthew 9:14–15  
8:30 LVG Fr. Joe Scolaro  
12:10 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj  
5:30 MEM Deceased Members of the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

**Saturday, March 9th**  
*(Saturday After Ash Wednesday)*  
8:30 MEM Simona Saracino Fendi

**Sunday, March 10th** *(First Sunday of Lent)*  
Deuteronomy 26:4–10  Psalm 91  
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th

11 AM SOLEMN MASS
Gabrieli
Exaudi, Domine

Croce
Missa sexti toni: Sanctus, Agnus Dei

7:30 PM MASS
with Parish Community Choir
Bevan
There’s a wideness in God’s mercy

The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series
presents
STEVEN THARP
TODAY 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

So We Must Make the Journey
Sunday, April 14th
4:00 PM

FEATURING
Lorelei Ensemble
Beth Willer,
founder and artistic director

Take flight on a transcendent journey from the soaring perspective of birds, and trace humanity’s parallel journey through the cycle of life with the Lorelei Ensemble.

Boston’s Lorelei Ensemble is recognized nationally for its bold and inventive programs that champion the extraordinary flexibility and virtuosic capability of the human voice.

Tickets: $20–$80

To stay up-to-date on parish events and programs, follow us at stignatiusnyc

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Church of St. Ignatius Loyola
980 Park Avenue at 84th Street • New York, New York 10028 • (212) 288-3588
Fax: (212) 734-3671 stignatiusloyola.org

PARISH STAFF

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

Associate Pastors
Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.
Rev. Vincent B. Sullivan, S.J.

Assistant Pastor
Rev. Brian G. Konzman, S.J.

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

Pastoral Associates
Teresa Marie Cariño    Carly-Anne Gannon

Pastoral Assistant
Maureen Haley

Assisting Priests

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

Treasurer
Fernando Castro

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. Joy L. Blom, Executive Director
M.A., M.Ed.
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.

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

Lecture: The Tragedy & Triumph of Lyndon Johnson: An Evening with Joseph A. Califano, Jr. Wednesday, March 20th, 6:00 PM. America Media, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, 11th Floor. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Johnson administration. Joseph A. Califano, Jr., President Lyndon Johnson’s chief domestic policy assistant, and Matt Malone, S.J., will discuss the legacy of President Johnson. This event is free and open to the public. To RSVP, email events@americamagazine.org.

Academics: Fordham Preparatory School Higher Achievement Program (HAP). Monday, June 24th to Wednesday, July 24th. Fordham Preparatory School, Fordham University Rose Hill Campus, 441 E. Fordham Road, Bronx. Applications are being accepted for this five-week program open to rising 8th grade boys. HAP combines academics, athletics, and creative enrichment activities that prepare participants for 8th grade and the high school application process. To apply, visit fordhamprep.org/HAP. The online application and school evaluation form are due Friday, March 22nd. For more information, call 718-367-7500 x263 or email HAP@fordhamprep.org.

Travel: A Spiritual Journey to Portugal. Monday, October 21st to Thursday, October 31st. Hosted by the Maryland & USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus. Spiritual Director: Fr. Rodolfo Casals, S.J. Cost: $3,679 from New York (Air/land tour price is $3,279 plus $400 government taxes/airline surcharges). Price includes roundtrip airfare, most meals, first class/select hotels, comprehensive sightseeing with local guides, entrance fees, porterage, and hotel service taxes. For more information, contact James Skurka, Tour Coordinator, at 212-774-5548 or jskurka@jesuits.org.