Today, we hear Saint Paul command: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!* From those very words, we name the day—Gaudete Sunday, here again and here at last. We light the rose candle. We dress the priest up in rose-colored vestments. We take a break from the darkness of winter and the silence of Advent to recall that we prepare ourselves not, like Lent, for tragic events, but for joyful ones.

Advent is about waiting. We do not wait in the passive sense, as patients in the lobby of a doctor’s office. Advent means waiting like a mother, constantly peering out the window into the darkness to see whether her child has arrived home after the first semester of college. Perhaps that would be better captured by a word like “watching” or “anticipating.” Regardless, it is an expectant kind of wait, an active kind, when we prepare with joy for what we know will be a loving reunion.

We do need the reminder to rejoice, though. Plenty of darkness has gathered, as darkness always does. Whether we look at society’s respect for life, at surging illiberalism and xenophobia, at devastating violence and starvation, at tensions within our own families, discord among our friends, or disappointment in our church, it can sometimes feel like the world has little left to offer but grist for the most cynical comedies.

This is far from the first time that the world has felt dark, though. Some 2,000 years ago, the people of Judah would have felt likewise. Their return from exile had not led to a resurgence of Israeli autonomy, but humiliation after humiliation by a succession of foreign powers, each more indifferent to their needs and identity as a people than the last. During Advent, we remember the darkness of that time, that place, and that people. We remember their hope in the promise of the prophets, that the Lord would not abandon His people. Most importantly, we remember that God answered their cry, sent John the Baptist to announce His coming, and finally was incarnate of the Virgin by the Holy Spirit.

We do more than remember; we rejoice, and we hope. We Christians rejoice because we see that rose-colored sun peeking through the dark, violet clouds. We rejoice because the Father has sent that same Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of all that Christ said to us, a tongue of flame burning within us to keep the night at bay. We hope because we have been promised that Christ will come again, to deliver us once and for all from that ever-gathering dark. We hope because, as we heard on the feast of Christ the King, *night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light.*

Starting tomorrow, the Church will pray the O Antiphons in the run-up to Christmas. They should be familiar from the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” *Emmanuel, Rex Gentium, Oriens, Clavis David, Radix Jesse, Adonai, and Sapientia.* Taken together, they form an acrostic: *ERO CRAS,* “Tomorrow, I will be.” The very act of naming the Lord entails the beautiful promise that Christ is on the way. If anything sums up the promise of Advent, that’s it—we name the Lord at Christmas because we have known Him, and we will see Him again.

Our task this season is simple. We keep watch, actively looking through the darkness to catch those first few rays of hope. May the Lord bless our Advent work, and may He dawn on us all in radiant beauty.

— Rev. Brian G. Konzman, S.J.
Assistant Pastor
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th
Third Sunday of Advent
Bambinelli Sunday. At the 11:00 AM
Wallace Hall Family Mass. Details on page 3.

Monthly Parish Coffee Hour.
Following the 11 AM Solemn Mass. McKinnon Hall.

Wallace Hall Christmas Pageant.
Following the 11:00 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass.

Sacred Music in a Sacred Space presents
Glad Tidings! — Annual Christmas Concert.
3:00 PM. Church. Details on page 5.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th
Moms, Pops & Tots. 10:00 AM.
Gonzaga Meeting Room.
Reconciliation Monday.
4:00 PM– 8:00 PM. Church.
Details on page 5.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18th
Dreams: Unopened Letters From God.
7:00 PM. Parish Lounge. Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20th
LGBT Catholics & Friends Christmas Party.
7:00 PM. Five Mile Stone, 1641 2nd Avenue.
Details on page 3.

2018 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

M ONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 PM FAMILY MASS I
Wallace Hall Choir & Children's Choirs
Fr. Hilbert, Presider
Doors open at 3:15 PM

6:00 PM FAMILY MASS II
Parish Community Choir
Fr. Konzman, Presider
Doors open at 5:15 PM

8:00 PM VIGIL MASS
Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Bergen, Presider
Doors open at 7:30 PM

M IDNIGHT MASS
Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola
Fr. Yesalonia, Presider
Doors open at 10:45 PM

Christmas Day

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

9:30 AM MASS
Fr. Sullivan, Presider

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS
Fr. Yesalonia, Presider

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH
One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM
(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year’s Eve

M ONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
Mass at 8:30 AM in the Lady Chapel &
the Vigil Mass of Solemnity at 5:30 PM
in the Church
(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year’s Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1ST
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM
in the Church
(The Parish House will be closed)

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.
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

I am very happy to inform you that an AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP has been installed in the church. If you use a hearing aid and it is equipped with a T-COIL there is no need for you to use the headsets available in the rear of the church if you are seated within the LOOP area of the church. The sound system will be channeled directly to your hearing aid.

The AUDIO INDUCTION LOOP area is located on the high pulpit side of the church and is confined to the first twelve pews. The area can be identified by the gray rubberized strip on the floor at the end of each row of pews. If you are seated within this area your hearing aid will automatically connect to the system.

As we engage in the renovation of the church and Wallace Hall to accommodate those with limited mobility through the funding of the capital campaign, Your Parish, Your Home, I am delighted we can also now accommodate those who have a hearing impairment and rely upon the use of a hearing aid.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesalonija

PARISH MEN'S FAITH GROUP

Tuesday, December 18th
7:00 PM
Parish Lounge

DREAMS: UNOPENED LETTERS FROM GOD

Dreams are a tailor-made pilgrimage just for you. Dream-work has deep roots in our Tradition—our ancestors-in-faith saw dreams as a primary way the divine seeks to communicate with us.

Our presentation and discussion will explore ways we can be more attentive to our dreams and how dream-work can assist us in our journey to deeper spiritual maturity and wholeness.

Brian Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present and facilitate the discussion.

To register, email simensgroup@aol.com

LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT

LME invites all parishioners to a day of reflection, prayer and sharing

Saturday, January 26th | 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Wallace Hall

LME together with the Interfaith Ministry presents a retreat day focused on prayer practices. The day will be facilitated by Eastern Orthodox priest and scholar Father Sergey Trostyanskiy, who serves at St. Gregory the Theologian Church, and Father Mesrop Parsamyan, vicar of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral.

They will share ancient prayer traditions. The day will include continental breakfast, catered lunch, presentations, faith sharing, and a prayer service.

To register, visit https://tinyurl.com/lme-reg-2019 or register in-person at the Parish House.

Registration is required.

All are welcome!

Join Our Email Mailing List!

To sign-up, scan the QR code at left or visit stignatiusloyola.org/index.php/about_us/parish-email-list

Bambinelli Sunday
TODAY
At the 11 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass

At the 11 AM Wallace Hall Mass, we will bless Infant Jesus figurines that will be placed in your home crèches.

We invite parishioners to bring their figurines in for the blessing.

LGBT CATHOLICS & FRIENDS

LGBT Catholics & Friends Christmas Party

Thursday, December 20th | 7:00 PM
Five Mile Stone
1640 2nd Avenue
(between 85th & 86th Streets) (Upstairs)

Celebrate the festive season with LGBT Catholics & Friends. Great environment, food, and, of course, company.

All are welcome!
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 17th
(Third Monday of Advent)
Genesis 49:2, 8–10    Psalm 72    Matthew 1:1–17
8:30 MEM    Mae Rooney
12:10 MEM    Marilyn Mesina
5:30 MEM    Jack Kehoe

Tuesday, December 18th
(Third Tuesday of Advent)
Jeremiah 23:5–8    Psalm 72    Matthew 1:18–25
8:30 MEM    Carla Fendi
12:10 MEM    Joseph D. Demko
5:30 MEM    Christopher Gillespie

Wednesday, December 19th
(Third Wednesday of Advent)
8:30 MEM    Giro & Elina Zullo
12:10 MEM    Laure de Montebello
5:30 ANN    Joseph Eugene Butler

Thursday, December 20th
(Third Thursday of Advent)
8:30 MEM    Steve Dowling
12:10 MEM    Mario D’Aiuto
5:30 MEM    Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Friday, December 21st
(Third Friday of Advent)
Song 2:8–14    Psalm 33    Luke 1:39–45
8:30 MEM    Roberto Ghan
12:10 MEM    Gina Montalto
5:30 MEM    Nathan Davidson

Saturday, December 22nd
(Third Saturday of Advent)
1 Samuel 1:24–28    1 Samuel 2    Luke 1:46–56
5:30 MEM    Eileen Sullivan

Sunday, December 23rd
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)
Micah 5:1–4a    Psalm 80

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.
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Annual Toy Drive
Ends This Weekend!
Benefiting the children from
St. Mary of the Assumption & Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel–St. Benedict on Staten Island
Please bring new, unwrapped toys or
games for boys and girls between
the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House.

ADVENT CONFESSION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17th
RECONCILIATION MONDAY
All parishes in the Archdiocese of New York
will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation
on Monday, December 17th.
Confessions will be heard from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

MUSIC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23rd
11 AM SOLEMN MASS
Hailstork
Prelude on Veni, Emanuel
Rossi
Elohim hashiveinu
Victoria Missa
O magnum mysterium: Sanctus
Spencer
Nova, nova

Glad Tidings!:
Annual Christmas
Concerts
Today at 3:00 PM
Christmas is our favorite time of year, when we
accompany your holiday season with joy and
tranquility in music old, new, and familiar.
Warmth and joy abound in our beloved annual
Christmas concerts, where audience and choirs
together join in singing popular carols.
Featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia on
Christmas Carols and Gustav Holst’s Christmas Day,
this heart-warming yearly favorite includes traditional
carols for the whole family to sing together.
Tickets: $25–$88

The N.P. Mander Organ Recital Series
presents
Renée Anne Louprette
&
Ivan Goff
Sunday, January 20th
3:00 PM
All N.P. Mander Organ Recitals feature
large-screen projection, offering the audience
a rare view of the organist at work.
Tickets: $25

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

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Monday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
• 4:00 PM Family Mass I
• 6:00 PM Family Mass II
• 8:00 PM Mass of Christmas
 • Midnight Mass
Tuesday, December 25th
Christmas Day • 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM*
* There is a particular need for volunteers
at the 11:00 AM Mass
If you are available, please email Rob Manning at
robbiefmanning@gmail.com to let him know
at which Mass you can assist.
A sign-up table will also be in the Narthex
after all Masses this weekend.

Special Collection
Next weekend, we will take
the collection for our parish
Christmas Flowers Fund.
We thank you for your generosity.
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.
Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 17th, beginning at 4:00 PM.

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.