He Dwells Among Us

St. Ignatius Loyola’s classic text, *The Spiritual Exercises*, leads a person by a series of imaginative meditations through the life of Christ. And Ignatius asks the retreatant to begin before the earthly life of Jesus even began.

In one of the loveliest of his meditations, St. Ignatius asks us to imagine the Holy Trinity in heaven. Looking down, they gaze upon all of humanity and see men and women greatly diverse in dress and behavior: “some white and others black, some at peace and others at war, some weeping and others laughing, some healthy and others sick, some being born and others dying....”

In their compassion, they decide that the second person of the Trinity should become human. “And thus when the fullness of time had come, they send the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady,” writes Ignatius. Christmas marks the time when God, out of compassion, became human, or, as the *Gospel of John* has it, “pitched his tent among us.”

Today the Holy Trinity watches over a world that would be virtually unrecognizable to the men and women in first-century Palestine. Just in the past decade, technological advances have enabled millions, at least in the West, to enjoy better health, increased educational opportunities and other unforeseen advantages.

But the Holy Trinity also sees a world surprisingly similar to that of first-century Palestine, a world with “some weeping.” Jesus was born into a violent time. Today terrorism, its complex roots maddeningly confusing, frightens millions. Likewise, the poor in Jesus’ day were, as today, powerless, marginalized and disenfranchised. Even St. Joseph was not exempt from financial woes. Like Palestinian peasant farmers, as the Rev. John Meier, a noted Scripture scholar, points out, he led a “precarious existence, sometimes at subsistence level.” How similar this is to our world this Christmas, when the poor are still marginalized and millions of middle-class Americans fear for their future.

Into such a place came Jesus: a world riven with differences between rich and poor, facing the threat of violence and, like that world, hoping for salvation. To enter this world, Jesus was born into the Holy Family, each of whose members offers a distinctive lesson for believers during Christmas—especially for those facing hard times, financial or otherwise.

Again we turn to Joseph, who is often relegated to second-class status in the Nativity scenes. A “righteous” man, as the *Gospel of Matthew* has it, Joseph shoulders the confusing task God has given him. Not only is he asked to accept the strange message from an angel about the miraculous circumstances of his wife’s pregnancy; he is also charged, later, to guard his family in their perilous trip to Egypt. This would have been a particularly hard road for a Jewish family—Egypt lies in the wrong direction. Joseph trustingly accepts God’s upending of his expectations.

Mary’s great yes to God offers not only a model for women, but for any disciple. Indeed, Mary’s encounter with the angel Gabriel offers a model of discipleship for those under duress. When God invites Mary to accept a strange future, she initially hesitates and, like any believer, voices her honest emotions. “How can this be?” she asks in the *Gospel of Luke*. In reply, the angel points to the example of her cousin, Elizabeth, in essence saying, “Look what God has already done.” How often this happens in our own lives. When doubtful, we are invited to look backward, to see God’s hand more clearly and magnify our trust. But even after Mary’s Fiat, her story provides a lesson. “Then the angel left her.” Then comes the part that we know well: faith.

The Holy Trinity chose “in the fullness of time” to enter into the complicated world of first-century Palestine. Christ, in his Spirit and in the church, continues to dwell in our lives. Christians are also called to insert themselves into what is becoming a more complicated world. For ways to do this, we need look no farther than the crèche, to the example of the Holy Family.
Dear Parishioners,

I am very happy to inform you that as we approach the end of the year $5,100,614 of our goal of $7.5 million has been contributed to Your Parish, Your Home – Campaign for the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. What a remarkable milestone to have achieved within 9 months of my announcement of the capital campaign!

In January work will begin on the installation of fire alarm systems in the church and Wallace Hall and a sprinkler system in Wallace Hall. As part of this renovation project, the exterior stairway entrances and interior loggia to Wallace Hall will be retrofitted with enhanced lighting and a water tight ceiling. There will also be the construction of a handicap accessible bathroom that will be located on the floor level of Wallace Hall.

Sometime in the Spring, during the renovation projects in Wallace Hall, work will begin on the construction of the elevator that will provide floor access to Wallace Hall from a sidewalk entrance on 84th Street. Also, the exterior bulletin boards of the church will be retrofitted to allow for electronic displays of announcements.

The progress of all this work is due to your generosity. Thank you for your support of the capital campaign! We are not yet there, but I am confident that we will achieve our campaign goal within the three-year timeline of the campaign. How wonderful it would be if I could announce at the end of the campaign that there was 100% participation among parishioners! If you have yet to contribute to the campaign or make a pledge, you still have time.

We have reached this milestone because of your generosity and the hard work of the Capital Campaign Committee. On behalf of a grateful parish, I thank you for the commitment you have shown to your parish, your home.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Fr. Yesalonia

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, December 31st** (Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave)
- 1 John 2:18–21, Psalm 96, John 1:1–8
- 8:30 MEM William Resk
- 5:30 VIGIL MASS MEM William Wallace

**Tuesday, January 1st** (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God)

**Wednesday, January 2nd**
- St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen
- 1 John 2:22–28, Psalm 98, John 1:19–28
- 8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon Families
- 12:10 MEM Patricia C. Burdick
- 5:30 MEM Peter Joseph Burke, Sr.

**Thursday, January 3rd** (The Most Holy Name of Jesus)
- 8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino
- 12:10 MEM Douglas & Hilda Handal
- 5:30 ANN Dolorita Wallace

**Friday, January 4th** (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)
- 1 John 3:7–10, Psalm 98, John 1:35–42
- 8:30 MEM Patrick Murphy
- 12:10 MEM Ray Rasenberger
- 5:30 MEM Maureen C. O’Brien

**Saturday, January 5th** (St. John Neumann)
- 1 John 3:11–21, Psalm 100, John 1:43–51
- 8:30 MEM Jack Kehoe

**Sunday, January 6th** (The Epiphany of the Lord)
- Isaiah 60:1–6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6, Matthew 2:1–12

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**Lecture**

**The Joy of Justice**

**Monday, January 14th at 7:00 PM**

**Wallace Hall**

Moderated by Eric van Nostrand
Chair, Ignatian Social Justice ministry

**Panelists**

Joanne Kennedy | Managing Editor, The Catholic Worker
Nick Napolitano | Assistant for Social Ministries for the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus
Danielle Riley | Executive Director, Roots & Wings
Susan Whelan | Legal expert/delegate, Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations

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**YOUR PARISH, YOUR HOME**

**Campaign for the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola**

To learn more about the Capital Campaign, visit stignatiusloyola.org/index.php/capitalcampaign
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!
We pray for the faithful departed
Daniel Johnson
May he rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

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

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. Konzman
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Konzman
9:30 AM Fr. Bergen
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Sullivan
7:30 PM Fr. Sullivan

Longest Married Couple Search. The search begins for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York. To enter, couples must be sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of New York. The longest married couples will receive commemorative certificates signed by His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan. The winning couple will be interviewed and featured in an article in Catholic New York. Winners are determined by how long couples have been married as of World Marriage Day, February 10, 2019. For further information, contact Joan Brison at 646-794-3190. Email entries to joan.brison@archny.org. The deadline for entries is Thursday, January 24, 2019.

Travel: Riverboat Cruise through Europe. Thursday, May 30, 2019 – Monday, June 9, 2019. His Excellency Archbishop Joseph Augustine DiNoia, OP, will celebrate daily Mass throughout the course of the journey, in some of Europe's most magnificent churches and cathedrals. Travelers will begin their stay at Budapest's Danubius Hotel Gellért on the banks of the Danube. Following a two-day stay, travelers will embark on a seven-day river cruise through eastern Europe's most beautiful cities: Bratislava, Vienna, Salzburg, Dürnstein, Melk, Passau, Regensburg, and Nuremberg. Cost: $3695/person, with cabin upgrades available.

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