



December 15, 2024 | Third Sunday of Advent

Our Animal Companions

Since St. Francis created a nativity scene for Christmas in 1223 that included a live ox and donkey, our tradition has prominently featured animals surrounding the Christ child in the creche. The inclusion of non-human creatures reminds us that God chose to become incarnate among creatures, giving both them and us an elevated dignity. Living in the Bronx, I do not have an ox and donkey to include in my scene, but I did surrender to the demands of my wife Jessica and sons (Matthew and Michael) that we get a dog. After six years of living with a 12-pound Norfolk terrier named Benny, I admit that this little creature has taught me much about joy and tenderness, aging and limits, and above all, being human. Our relationship with animal companions has the potential to convey spiritual wisdom that can guide us toward living more deeply in the image of Jesus.

Tradition tells us that St. Francis preached to birds and tamed a dangerous wolf. In doing so he treated animals as more than objects. To Francis, they were subjects worthy of a relationship. Pope Francis' teaching on environmental ethics has echoed his namesake's example: "In our time, the Church does not simply state that other creatures are completely subordinated to the good of human beings, as if they have no worth in themselves and can be treated as we wish." (*Laudato Si'*) Preparing our creches this Advent can be an invitation to offer a contemplative, loving gaze to our animal friends, to see their worth as carriers of God's mysterious presence, and to learn from them.



Among the highlights of Jessica's day is coming through the apartment door, when Benny jumps into her arms. Could there be any clearer expression of spontaneous joy, of celebrating life, of pure friendship? To watch this daily ritual is to receive a lesson in the value of playfulness, of living in the present moment, of the healing solace of companionship. Living with a dog has also mirrored back to me my limitations as a creature and the need we all have for self-care. Benny always stretches his little body before he moves, seeks out the solitude of a hiding place when he doesn't feel well or simply wants to be alone, and takes a nap when he needs rest. And as he ages (at six, he's now "middle-aged"), he paces himself, whether on a walk or playing with puppies. Observing him reminds me that our culture conditions us to

ignore or to override the needs of the body, always to our detriment. The wisdom of a dog can bring me "back to earth," back to humility, back to my humanity.

Among the greatest lessons our animal friends teach us is total attention to the master's presence. I notice that Benny quietly follows us wherever we go in the apartment, Jessica especially. She has his complete attention; it is a relationship of total connection. If she is in the bathroom, he is outside the door. If she is taking a nap, he is beside the bed. If she is preparing a meal, he is in the kitchen. If I attended to God's presence with a mere 10% of what this dog gives my wife, I'd be a saint! As I watch them, I wonder what it would be like if I moved toward God with the same contemplative gaze Benny fixes on Jessica.

As these Advent days draw to a close and the nativity blooms, I invite you to reflect on the graces our animal companions convey to us: how they teach us about God's providential care; how they remind us what it is to be a creature, to be human. By simply living, they perfectly fulfill the call of Psalm 148, "Praise the Lord...wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds! Let them praise the name of the Lord."

— Brian Pinter
Pastoral Associate

Parish Mission Statement

The love of Christ impels us to welcome all,
to worship joyfully and pray fervently,
to walk together with those in need,
and to reverence God in the wonder of Creation.

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Bambinelli Sunday.

Following the 11 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass.

Details below.

**CONCERT | Laud to the Nativity:
Annual Christmas Concert.**

3 PM. Church. *Details on page 3.*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16th

Advent Day of Reconciliation.

3 PM to 5 PM & 6:30 PM to 8 PM. Church. *Details below.*

Advent Penance Service.

6 PM. Church. *Details below.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17th

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

6 PM. Church. *Details at right.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18th

**SCRIPTURE CLASS | The Ox and Lamb Kept Time:
A Spirituality of Animal Companions.**

7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

Bambinelli Sunday

December 15th

Following the 11 AM Wallace Hall Family Mass

We will bless Infant Jesus figurines that
will be placed in crèches.

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

Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 16th

Confessions will be heard in the Church
from 3 PM to 5 PM and 6:30 PM to 8 PM.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

6 PM to 6:30 PM
in the Church

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Schedule

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 PM

Family Mass

(Omega Dance/Children's Choirs/Wallace Hall Choir)

6 PM *(Parish Community Choir)*

8 PM

Vigil Mass *(Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola)*

Midnight Mass (livestreamed)

(Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 AM (livestreamed) *(Organ/Cantor)*

Noon

Solemn Mass *(Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola)*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday Evenings through December 17th

6 PM to 8 PM in the Church

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6 PM. The church will be open for private adoration until shortly before 8 PM when the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed and the church will close.

Venue Change

From Monday, December 16th through Wednesday, December 18th, the 8:30 AM and 12:10 PM Masses will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel.

On Friday, December 20th, the 12:10 PM Mass will be in the Lady Chapel.

Join Our Email Mailing List!

Sign-up for our e-newsletter to receive regular updates on parish news and events.



To sign-up, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc.

Lady Chapel Open for Private Prayer

The Lady Chapel is open daily for private prayer from 1 PM to 4 PM.

During those hours, the Church will be closed.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusnyc).

Lecture

What Did the Synod Do? And Where Do We Go From Here?

Wednesday, January 15th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall



PRESENTER
Fr. James Martin, S.J.
Editor at Large, America Magazine

A behind-the-scenes look of the Synod of Bishops from Fr. James Martin, S.J., Synod delegate.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Sat Sri Akal (Truth reigns eternal)

Monday, January 13th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall



PRESENTER
Harmeet Kamboj
*Senior State Policy Manager
Sikh Coalition*

Join us as we learn more about one of the world's largest faith traditions: Sikhism. Founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, it is the fifth largest religion in the world and also monotheistic.

To register, email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Annual Toy Drive Through Sunday, December 22nd

*Benefiting the children of St. Mary of the Assumption-
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedict Parish
on Staten Island*

Please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for children between the ages of 3-12 to the Parish House.
IREP students: May bring unwrapped gifts into class for collection

Toys must be new.
No used toys, please.

*Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and
the Interparish Religious Education Program*

Lost & Found

If you have lost an item while visiting the church, please stop by the Parish House to check if your misplaced article has been turned in.

Concert

Laud to the Nativity: Annual Christmas Concert Sunday, December 15th at 3 PM & Sunday, December 22nd at 3 PM Church

Featuring Ottorino Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity" and culminating with "O Holy Night" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah," our Laud to the Nativity Christmas concerts will inspire you and your family during the height of New York City's dazzling holiday season. Includes beloved carols for everyone to sing.

For tickets, visit ignatius.nyc/concerts.

Travel

Trip to South Africa

At the end of February 2025, join us on a journey of discovery in South Africa to experience the vibrant nature of the relationship that exists between Christians and Muslims. Coordinated by Peace Islands Institute, the 8-day excursion includes visits with Cardinal Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town, and representatives of both faith traditions at Catholic and Muslim educational institutions and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference.

The trip will include a visit to Soweto Township and The Mandela House, as well as a ferry trip to Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent 26 years. We will spend an afternoon at a Mosque complex that includes a school, a health clinic, a soup kitchen, and a bazaar. There will also be excursions to experience the natural beauty and wildlife of South Africa.

The cost of the 8-day tour is \$2,000 (\$500 supplement for Single travelers). All accommodations (3 and 4-star hotels), as well as meals, and internal transportation by plane or private coach bus, are covered by the cost of the tour. Travel to and from South Africa is your responsibility. Arrival should be booked into Johannesburg (where the tour will begin), and departure to the US from Cape Town (where the tour will end).



To view the itinerary and to register,
scan the QR code
at left.

Stay informed about the happenings and initiatives of the archdiocese by visiting TheGoodNewsroom.org.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

980 Park Avenue at 84th Street • New York, New York 10028

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PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.

Associate Pastors

Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.

Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

Assisting Priest

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

In Residence

Rev. James A. Casciotti, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Kate Noonan Brian Pinter Jean Santopatre

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Haley

Music Ministries

Jen Arvay Kefalas Robert Reuter
Daniel Beckwith Michael Sheetz
Christina Kay Elizabeth Van Os
Douglas Purcell

Scott Warren, *Director*

Assistant to the Pastor

Rebecca Brucas

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Schneider

Director of Communications

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Facilities Coordinator

Pattie Hughes

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses (Monday – Friday)

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for the Weekend of December 22nd

Saturday Vigil	5:30 PM	Fr. Hilbert
Sunday:	8:00 AM	Fr. Casciotti
	9:30 AM	Fr. Hilbert
Wallace Hall Family	11:00 AM	Fr. Yesalonia
Solemn	11:00 AM	Fr. Hallinan
	7:30 PM	Fr. Hallinan

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

noonank@saintignatiusloyola.org

Saint Ignatius Loyola School

Upper Campus

(First Grade through Eighth Grade)

Ms. Mary Larkin, Head of School

M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)

48 East 84th Street

(212) 861-3820 | Fax: (212) 879-8248

Lower Campus

(PreK-3 through Kindergarten)

Ms. Mary Larkin, Head of School

240 East 84th Street

(212) 734-6427 | Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass.

Confessions

4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please contact Maureen Haley at
baptisms@saintignatiusloyola.org
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 contact
Maureen Haley at
weddings@saintignatiusloyola.org
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.

Ignatian Young Adults (IYA)

For more information about our IYA
ministry, email Jean Santopatre at
santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 16th

(3rd Monday of Advent)

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Psalm 25

Matthew 21:23-27

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Sal Sanfratello

5:30 MEM For All Priests

Tuesday, December 17th

(3rd Tuesday of Advent)

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Psalm 72

Matthew 1:1-17

8:30 MEM Jack Dyer

12:10 MEM For All Priests

5:30 MEM Tantillo & Fudge
Families

Wednesday, December 18th

(3rd Wednesday of Advent)

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72

Matthew 1:18-25

8:30 MEM Robert L. Cahill, Jr.

12:10 MEM For All Priests

5:30 ANN Magdalena Nicolas

Thursday, December 19th

(3rd Thursday of Advent)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Psalm 71

Luke 1:5-25

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

12:10 MEM Thomas J. Conway

5:30 MEM Dr. & Mrs. Edward
Brennan

Friday, December 20th

(3rd Friday of Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24

Luke 1:26-38

8:30 MEM Mr. & Mrs. Linh Doan

12:10 MEM Toni Brown

5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

Saturday, December 21st

(3rd Saturday of Advent)

Song 2:8-14 Psalm 33

Luke 1:39-45

8:30 MEM Mr. & Mrs. Duong
Duc

Sunday, December 22nd

(4th Sunday of Advent)

Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 80

Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45