

# CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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

(212) 288-3588 • Fax: (212) 734-3671 • ignatius.nyc

## 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 29th

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

## 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 23rd

(*4th Monday of Advent*)

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Psalm 25  
Luke 1:57-66

**8:30 MEM** Peter J. Burke

**12:10 MEM** Sose & Mark  
Prekelezaj

**5:30 MEM** William Powers

### Tuesday, December 24th

(*4th Tuesday of Advent*)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Psalm 89 Luke 1:67-79

**8:30 MEM** Elizabeth Heslin Kahn

### Wednesday, December 25th

(*Nativity of the Lord*)

Isaiah 9:1-6 Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

### Thursday, December 26th

(*St. Stephen*)

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Psalm 31  
Matthew 10:17-22

**8:30 MEM** Andrew Filak

### Friday, December 27th

(*St. John*)

1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97  
John 20:1a, 2-8

**8:30 MEM** Angelina & Michael  
Filak

### Saturday, December 28th

(*The Holy Innocents*)

1 John 1:5-2:2 Psalm 124  
Matthew 2:13-18

**8:30 MEM** John Timlin

### Sunday, December 29th

(*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and  
Joseph*)

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 Psalm 84  
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Luke 2:41-52



December 22, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Christ Comes Uninvited

During the war in Vietnam (1965-1973) that witnessed the deaths of countless Vietnamese and 58,220 American soldiers, Thomas Merton penned a hauntingly evocative poem, *No Room at the Inn*, about hope for a broken world. It is a poem that seems appropriately fitting as we navigate toward an uncertain future amidst the raging tides of division, partisanship, global conflicts, and fear. There is a lesson to be learned today from what Merton wrote sixty years ago.



*Christmas Eve: 'And there was no room for them in the inn'.* Arthur Melville. 1900-1904.

*Into this world, this demented inn  
in which there is absolutely no room for him at all,  
Christ comes uninvited.*

*But because he cannot be at home in it,  
because he is out of place in it,  
and yet he must be in it,  
His place is with the others for whom  
there is no room.*

*His place is with those who do not belong,  
who are rejected by power, because  
they are regarded as weak,  
those who are discredited,  
who are denied status of persons,  
who are tortured, bombed and exterminated.*

*With those for whom there is no room,  
Christ is present in this world.*

Merton provides us with another point of entry into the Christmas story. For him, it is not a romanticized recounting of a time long ago, it is a drama that continues to unfold to this day. Merton invites his readers to take a close look at the world within the context of the Christmas narrative. It is as relevant an exercise for us today as it was at the height of the war in Vietnam.

The sobering reality of our generation is that there is no room in the inn for far too many people. The innkeepers of today's world—the powerful, the greedy, elected officials and misguided governments, swindlers, cheats and fraudsters—acting out of petty self-interest and blind to the needs of others, have locked the doors to scores upon scores of people who seek shelter, who are forced to live in the dark shadow of fear, and who are denied the opportunity to live with dignity. The ironic tragedy to this is that by locking the doors to let no one in, they have confined themselves to a fantasy world, an equally broken world with a façade of wealth, power, and status, where the story of Christmas holds no meaning.

It was into a cold and broken world that Christ came uninvited because, as Merton wrote, “he must be in it.” That moment in time is captured beautifully in the carol, *O Holy Night*, with the words, *A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.* That hope becomes a reality each day for all who unlock their doors to allow Jesus to reside in their hearts. Only then will Jesus be recognized in the faces of those who knock at the door seeking refuge from the buffeting winds of an indifferent world. On that day, a new morn will break through the darkness, and the “uninvited” Christ will illumine the path to a brilliant future, bathed in hope for all.

As disciples of Jesus Christ and parishioners of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, we are called to be heralds of hope. Let our prayer be that we welcome Jesus into our hearts, so that through us his radiant light may be a beacon of hope for a weary world. May our joy at his birth renew our fervor to be faithful to our mission to walk together with those in need and to be a source of solace for those who are burdened. By our testimony of faith, people will come to know that Christ, born on Christmas Day, is truly present in the world.

May our celebration of Christmas this year be filled with the radiant light of hope!

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

## 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 22nd

**CONCERT | Laud to the Nativity:  
Annual Christmas Concert.**  
3 PM. Church.  
*Details on page 3.*

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th & WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th

To view our complete  
Christmas Mass schedule,  
see details at right.

### 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), 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.

## 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)*

### 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](http://ignatius.nyc).

### Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners wishing to receive a low-gluten host  
at the distribution of Holy Communion,  
please speak with a Hospitality Minister.

### 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.

### Livestream Viewing Recommendation

For a consistently more reliable viewing of  
livestreamed Masses, we encourage you to use our  
parish YouTube channel, rather than Facebook.



You can find us on YouTube at  
[youtube.com/c/ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC](https://youtube.com/c/ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC)  
or by scanning the QR code at left.

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.

## 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.**

## Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

### Sat Sri Akal (Truth reigns eternal) Monday, January 13th at 7 PM in 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](mailto:ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com)

## The Annual Appeal is Underway!

The Annual Appeal is an important source of funds for the many ministries and ordinary operations of the parish.

Please support your parish and contribute to the *Annual Appeal*.

To give online, visit [ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal](http://ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal) or scan the QR code above.



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

*Combined Choirs & Orchestra  
of St. Ignatius Loyola*

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](http://ignatius.nyc/concerts).

## Ignatian Social Justice

Thursday, January 9th at 7 PM  
Parish House

Ignatian Social Justice is a ministry of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola comprised of parishioners committed to raising awareness of current Catholic social teaching and advocating for social justice on timely and underappreciated issues

The volunteer group embraces the responsibility to inform, engage, and mobilize parishioners to promote social justice in our local community as well as the global community.

For more information, contact Jean Santopatre at [santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org).

## St. Ignatius Has an App!

It has never been easier to find current information on parish programming, participate in online giving, learn about our ministries, and more.



To download our app, visit [parishsolutionsco.com/ignatiusnewyork.html](http://parishsolutionsco.com/ignatiusnewyork.html) or scan the QR code at left.

## Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Ignatian Volunteer Corps volunteers are adults over 50 years of age who offer their life skills and experience one to two days a week to directly serve those in need.

Interested? Contact Maureen Fullam,  
Regional Director, at 917-859-0928  
or email [mfullam@ivcusa.org](mailto:mfullam@ivcusa.org),  
and visit us at [ivcusa.org](http://ivcusa.org).