



June 29, 2025 | Saints Peter & Paul

Sweet Land of Liberty

On the evening of November 9, 1938 in Germany, a group of thugs wearing brown and black shirts and stoking the flames of fear and suspicion, shattered the windows of businesses owned by Jews, delighted in creating a bonfire of their books and sacred scripture, and rounded up Jewish women, children, and men and “deported” them.

On Thursday, June 12th, 2025, at a news conference in Los Angeles where a representative of the current administration was spewing forth words of fear and intimidation, a United States Senator, who dared to voice a different opinion, was forcefully brought to his knees and arrested by men wearing brown and black shirts. The administration official continued her remarks without skipping a beat. It was as though no one was there but those who hung on her every word.

In the afternoon of the same day as the LA news conference, I attended the graduation ceremony of our grammar school children. By tradition, the ceremony begins with the singing of *My Country, tis of Thee*. For the first time in my life, I was unable to sing that song. Mindful of what has recently been happening in our country, I could not in good conscience voice the words *Sweet land of liberty*, nor the words *From ev’ry mountainside, let freedom ring*. Sadly, those words have become hollow and meaningless. We are no longer the *Land of the noble free*. We are being rounded up either to submit to abject and inflammatory rhetoric or be brought to our knees by modern day zealots wearing shirts of every color of the rainbow. *Sweet land of liberty?*

In the early morning of Saturday, June 14th, 2025, in Minnesota, two elected officials and the spouse of one of them were shot because of their political affiliation. One of those officials and her husband died. Later that afternoon, on a day that otherwise would have been a celebration of our nation’s military, propaganda and ego were paraded through the streets of the nation’s capital, passing by a sparsely populated reviewing stand and even sparser crowds. *Sweet land of liberty?*

To those who would criticize this essay, claiming it is about politics, it is not. It is about morality, decency, and values that have been the foundation stones of this great country for generations. To remain silent in face of what is happening in our country is to condone the abduction of children from schools and hospitals, the obliteration of the meaning of the rule of law, the denial of basic human needs from the most vulnerable in our society, and the elimination of God from our vocabulary. *Sweet land of liberty?*

On Friday of this week, we will celebrate the birth of our nation. Most of us are familiar with the beginning sentences of the *Declaration of Independence*. Let us remind ourselves of the last sentence of the text, *And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor*. It is now our responsibility to carry on what has been entrusted to us by our forefathers—a free and independent nation, a sweet land of liberty, the land of the noble free.

Perhaps the final verse of *My Country, tis of Thee* will guide us in our efforts to faithfully live the democratic principles heralded in each town square every 4th of July. Those words are, *Protect us by thy might, Great God, our King*, a sentiment that is engraved in the currency of the United States, IN GOD WE TRUST. As women and men of faith, we cannot stand idly by when official actions attempt to erase these words from our consciences. Our “sacred honor” is now being tested.

May God grant us, as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, the grace and strength of conviction to proclaim in our time God’s kingdom of peace, justice, compassion, and mercy!

— 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

TUESDAY, JULY 1st

Ranger Rosary.

1:30 PM. Parish House. *Details at right.*

FRIDAY, JULY 4th

Independence Day.

**The Parish House will be closed in observance of
Independence Day.**

One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM.

There will be no 5:30 PM Mass.

Summer Mass Schedule

Our summer **Daily Mass Schedule** begins on
Monday, June 30th and runs through
Monday, September 1st. During this time,
the 12:10 PM Daily Mass is discontinued.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Do you have a friend, family member, or a loved one who is considering becoming Catholic? Encourage them to reach out to us to inquire about our parish program designed to initiate adults into the Catholic faith.

A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray & to prepare for the Easter Sacraments.

**For more information, contact Maureen Fullam at
212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org.**

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.

From the Archdiocese

The Good Newsroom is the digital newsroom of the
Archdiocese of New York.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The parish's Vision Statement Implementation Plan was published one year ago in June 2024. I am delighted to report that we have made remarkable progress in accomplishing many of its goals.

The Parish Council has closely monitored the progress of each of the 12 initiatives of the Plan. Reporting on behalf of the Parish Council and as Chair of the Implementation Committee, Kenn Kern has written a letter to the parish community that is enclosed with this weekend's parish bulletin. It may also be accessed with this link: ignatius.nyc/vsip-summer-2025-update.

I am grateful to Kenn and everyone on the Parish Council for their diligence and commitment to the current and future welfare of the parish. I am also thankful to all of you for your enthusiastic embrace of the Implementation Plan.

May we continue to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our decisions so that all that we do as the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola will be for the greater glory of God and the salvation of all.

God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

Religious Education

Registration Is Open for 2025- 2026 IREP and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Pre-K)

Register now for the next session of our Interparish Religious Education Program (IREP). IREP is an ongoing formation process for Kindergarten to 8th-grade students.

IREP is intended for children who do not attend Catholic School but would like to be guided in the Catholic Faith and prepare for First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is open to preschool students regardless of which school they attend.



To register, visit tinyurl.com/SILIREP
or scan the QR code at left.

**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.**

The Spring Appeal is Underway!

The Spring 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 2025 Spring Appeal.



To give online, visit ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal or scan the QR code at left.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Ignatian Social Justice

Our new migrant families are in need of help from social workers, dentists, and doctors.

- Social workers who know how to navigate the health care system, insurance plans, and/or low-cost housing.
- Dentists who can offer pro bono care to families who do not have dental insurance.
- Specialists who can offer care to children with special needs (Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, a teenager with only one eye)

If you are able to help, have questions, or wish to make a donation, please email Laura de Boisblanc at socialjustice@stignatiusloyola.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Music at St. Ignatius

Jazz Mass in the Summer
Sunday, July 13th
6 PM Workshop/7:30 PM Mass
Church

Come ready to sing! Liturgical jazz pianist, composer, and scholar Deanna Witkowski will share her original congregational music, including prayer responses, jazz hymn arrangements, and Mass parts as part of this interactive workshop. Witkowski will also read an excerpt from her biography, *Mary Lou Williams: Music for the Soul* (Liturgical Press, 2021) and give a glimpse into her current book project, *Jazz in the Pews: Experiments in Sunday Worship in the 1960s*.

This Mass will feature cantor Nick Lowe. All are welcome to the workshop and Mass!

Please send workshop RSVPs to sheetzm@saintignatiusloyola.org.

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Backpack Drive Through Sunday, August 17th

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring a Backpack Drive to provide backpacks and school supplies to students at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School in Harlem. Donated items may be dropped off at the Parish House. Staples gift cards are also welcome.

Requested items:

- Backpack
- #2 Pencils
- Ballpoint pens, Black or Blue
- Small box of crayons
- Small box of colored pencils
- Black Marble notebooks, 2
- Pocket folders, 8"X11" any colors, 3
- Small pack of wide-ruled looseleaf paper
- Eraser
- Pencil case

If you wish to order items online to be shipped to the Parish House, please ensure the shipments are addressed as follows: Attn: SVdP Backpack Drive. Please do not donate items in bulk.

Concerts at St. Ignatius

Concert Series Circle

Join and become a friend of sacred music!

Donate \$100+ and receive your name in our concert programs.

Donate \$1000+ and receive early bird ticket access starting June 24th, as well as a special discount on all seats through June 30th.



Donate at ignatius.nyc/concert-series-circle or by scanning the QR code at left.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

IVC 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, and visit us at [ivcusa.org](https://www.ivcusa.org).

Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter

To receive regular updates on parish news and events, scan the QR code or visit [ignatius](https://ignatius.nyc).



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

Roxanne De La Torre 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 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. Yesalonia
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan
9:30 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, June 30th

(13th Monday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 18:16-33 Psalm 103

Matthew 8:18-22

8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey

12:10 MEM Christian Ambrose
DeVera

5:30 MEM William Powers

Tuesday, July 1st

(13th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 19:15-29 Psalm 26

Matthew 8:23-27

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

5:30 MEM James Sheerin

Wednesday, July 2nd

(13th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 21:5, 8-20a Psalm 34

Matthew 8:28-34

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon
Families

5:30 MEM Stephanie Krieger

Thursday, July 3rd

(St. Thomas)

Ephesians 2:19-22 Psalm 117

John 20:24-29

8:30 MEM Bridget Burke

5:30 MEM Edward Dugan

Friday, July 4th

(13th Friday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67

Psalm 106 Matthew 9:9-13

8:30 MEM Francisco Nicolas

Saturday, July 5th

(13th Saturday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29 Psalm 135

Matthew 9:14-17

8:30 MEM Lucretia Georgi

Sunday, July 6th

(14th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 66:10-14c Psalm 66

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20