



September 7, 2025 | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lost Innocence of Summer

Among her inspirational quotes, motivational speaker, best-selling author and journalist Regina Brett wrote, “*Summer is the annual permission slip to be lazy. To do nothing and have it count for something. To lie in the grass and count the stars. To sit on a branch and study the clouds.*” How many of us took advantage of that permission slip this summer or in recent years? Or have we relegated the counting of stars and the study of clouds to the domain of children? There is value in doing nothing, both for children and, most especially, for adults. Yet we allow our insecurities and external circumstances to rob us of what is vital to our physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being. When we fail to take a firm grasp of that permission slip, the innocence of summer is lost, and with it our ability to see the beauty of the world around us, even amidst the horrors that assault our senses on an almost daily basis and confound our understanding.

My summer vacation this year was unlike any other I have had, and it was not because of the cold weather at the beach in the middle of August. I have always looked forward to my summer vacation as a chance to visit friends and catch up on news of our lives (and the latest gossip), to walk along the seashore and watch the clouds floating in the sky, and to sit on the porch at night and do nothing more than listen to the crickets and count the stars. Sadly, it was not to be like that this year. There was a sinister mist of foreboding on the horizon that obscured the clouds and vanquished the stars.

Invariably the pleasantries that were exchanged upon first greeting friends were followed by words of dread, exasperated expressions of bewilderment, and contained anger. The topic of those conversations shared a common thread, What is happening in our country? It is no longer recognizable to us and to those who look at us from afar. The unanswered question was always the same, How did we get here so quickly? There is no simple answer that explains the reasoning (if it can be called that) why so many revered institutions have abdicated their responsibility to safeguard what we have valued from the very founding of our country. Jim Jones had Kool-Aid. What pernicious elixir is being offered now?

If we were to focus our attention on darkness, we would never see the light. If we were to continue down that path in our conversations we would be drinking an elixir of fear. Failing to study the clouds and count the stars would rob the summer of its innocence. We would lose sight of the goodness that surrounds us and gives us hope for the future.

In the midst of their exile in a foreign land, the prophet Jeremiah delivered to the Israelites a message from God, “*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you...plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope....When you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me...and I will change your lot.*” (Jer 29:11-14a). To a divided Christian community in Philippi, St. Paul wrote, “*...whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen from me. Then the God of peace will be with you.*” (Phil 4:8-9).

We are exiles in our own land, living in a nation divided by deep chasms of suspicion and enmity. History is being rewritten, and a dystopia fashioned. The signs are all around us, but if we limit our vision to those signs we will be deaf to the words of both Jeremiah and St. Paul and blind to the path that will lead us to a future of hope. Our spirits will be buoyed when we place our trust in God and do nothing more than study the clouds and count the stars. The love that God has for us will be revealed in the simple act of being alone with God and gazing at the sky. By “doing nothing” we will be strengthened in our resolve to live our lives with honor, integrity, and truthfulness, and the future will appear bright. It is a matter of faith and courage for us to firmly grasp the proffered permission slip of God and retrieve the innocence of summer. When we do that, our nation will begin to heal and our hope for the future will be restored.

As we begin a new cycle in the life of the parish, may we find ways as a community to join in joyful purpose to study the clouds and count the stars in ways that will redound to the greater glory of God and the salvation of all!

— 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, SEPTEMBER 7th

Community Coffee Hour.
12 PM. Outside the Parish House.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS | The Heavens Are Telling...and
What Do People Ask the Pope's Astronomer?**

1 PM. Wallace Hall.

Details on page 3.

Fall Bible Study

Tradition and Innovation -

The Books of Sirach and Wisdom

Wednesdays, September 24th to October 15th
7 PM

Parish House and on Zoom

The book of Sirach—a favorite of Jesus—honors traditional ways while Wisdom seeks to bring ancient teaching into dialogue with new trends in thought and living. Our class gatherings will explore how these venerable texts present a model of mature faith that holds the tension between tradition and innovation.

Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To RSVP, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

Registration for the Children's Choir is now open!

The Angel Choir (K-4th Grade) and Chorale (4th-8th Grade) are active in the life of the church and community, singing regularly in both Solemn Mass and in the Wallace Hall Family Mass. We also join the combined forces of the full music program for the annual Christmas Concert, this year's special presentation of J.S. Bach's Saint Matthew Passion, the annual Sing and Celebrate festival, and the Upper East Side Interfaith Service. Rehearsals begin on September 11th, and enrollment is open through October.

To register, contact Elizabeth van Os at
vanose@nycignatius.org.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](#).

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.

From the Archdiocese

2025 Cardinal's Appeal

Our parish goal is \$359,700.
So far, we have raised \$195,213
with 145 donors contributing.

That's 54% to our goal. We have a long way to go!

With your help, we can reach our goal. Please prayerfully consider donating to this year's Cardinal's Appeal. For your convenience, envelopes are available in the rear of the church and in the side pamphlet racks of the pews. You may also scan the QR code at left for electronic donations (please note 'Cardinal's Appeal' in the 'Reason for Donation' box).



Thank you to those who have helped!

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@nycignatius.org.

Circle of Friends

The Heavens Are Telling...and What Do People Ask the Pope's Astronomer?

Tuesday, September 9th

1 PM

Wallace Hall

(Enter through the Parish House at
980 Park Avenue)

PRESENTER

Brother Guy J. Consolmagno, S.J.

President of the Vatican Observatory, doctor of Planetary Science, and most recently, author of A Jesuit's Guide to the Stars: Exploring Wonder, Beauty & Science

You may be surprised to know that the Vatican has an Observatory dedicated to exploring the heavens for scientific research. Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J., the Director of the Vatican Observatory, receives more "interesting" questions in his In-Box than anyone else at the Vatican (except perhaps, the Holy Father Himself). Some questions are amusing, some are profound, but all of them raise questions about our human existence, our Catholic faith, and our relationship with the heavenly stars and planets.

Come join us & Brother Guy as he talks about the work of the Vatican Observatory astronomers & the questions he gets asked as the "Pope's Astronomer."

**Registration is required. Email
sircircleoffriends@gmail.com to register.**

Although there is no cost for this program, free will offerings are encouraged.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul welcomes all St. Ignatius parishioners to volunteer with us—and join us at our meetings for prayer, reflection, spiritual growth, fellowship, and community service year-round.

Our regular meetings take place every other Wednesday at 7 PM in the Parish House. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th—and all are welcome!

**For more information, please contact us at
svdpmembership980@gmail.com.**

St. Ignatius Has an App!

To download our app, visit
parishsolutionsco.com/ignatiusnewyork.html
or scan the QR code at right.



Lay Ministers' Enrichment

An Ignatian Spiritual Journey of Healing and Hope for Lay Ministers

Saturday, September 20th

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Wallace Hall

PRESENTER

Fr. Rocco Danzi, S.J.

Fr. Rocco Danzi, S.J., invites us on an Ignatian spiritual journey of healing and hope for Lay Ministers. Fr. Rocco will offer biblical and personal reflections on healing and hope, inviting us into moments of guided meditation, journaling, and small group sharing. Let us gather on September 20th and be renewed through this journey for our service to God's people as Lay Ministers.



**To register, visit tinyurl.com/LMEFall2025
or scan the QR code at left.**

About the Presenter

Father Danzi is the Chaplain of the St. Peter's Jesuit Community in Jersey City. He has served in various capacities in our area, at St. Francis Xavier and Fordham.

Ignatian Social Justice

You, our parishioners, have been so generous to our migrant families. Thank you. Our families need help from social workers, dentists, doctors, lawyers, and interpreters.

- Our Migrant Accompaniment group needs Spanish-English interpreters. We use Google Translate frequently, but sometimes a topic under discussion is too complicated for Google Translate.
- A member of the migrant accompaniment group serves as pro bono counsel for several of our families in their asylum removal proceedings. The assistance of other lawyers and paralegals interested in helping these families in their asylum proceedings would be most welcome. There is also a need for Spanish-English interpreters and translators with strong fluency in both languages to assist with these asylum cases.
- Any dental help is greatly appreciated. Right now, we take our families to the NYU Dental Clinic.

**If you are interested in helping, have questions,
or wish to make a donation, please email Laura de
Boisblanc at socialjustice@nycignatius.org. Thank you
for your consideration.**

**To receive regular updates on parish news and
events, scan the QR code or visit 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.

Pastoral Year Priest

Rev. Jonathan P. Pennacchia, 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 – 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. Casciotti

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Konzman

9:30 AM Fr. Konzman

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

7:30 PM Fr. Yesalonia

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

noonank@nycignatius.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@nycignatius.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@nycignatius.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@nycignatius.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, September 8th

(The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin)

Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 13

Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

8:30 MEM Katharine Tully
Denihan

12:10 MEM Sang Nguyen

5:30 MEM Katharine Tully
Denihan

Tuesday, September 9th

(St. Peter Claver)

Colossians 2:6-15 Psalm 145

Luke 6:12-19

8:30 MEM Simona Saracino
Fendi

12:10 MEM Vincent Quinn

5:30 MEM Deceased Members of
the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Wednesday, September 10th

(23rd Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 145

Luke 6:20-26

8:30 MEM Kelly Reilly-
Gillebaard

12:10 MEM Charles De Benedetto

5:30 MEM Katharine Tully
Denihan

Thursday, September 11th

(23rd Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 150

Luke 6:27-38

8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey

12:10 MEM Livio Texidor Garcia

5:30 ANN Richard Fraser

Friday, September 12th

(23rd Friday in Ordinary Time)

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 Psalm 16

Luke 6:39-42

8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly

12:10 MEM Sarojini Bruschi

5:30 MEM Joseph J. Sullivan

Saturday, September 13th

(St. John Chrysostom)

1 Timothy 1:15-17 Psalm 113

Luke 6:43-49

8:30 MEM Paul Choix

Sunday, September 14th

(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 78

Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17