



September 21, 2025 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Abiding Love of God



This morning, I watched the sunrise from my window. It rose slowly, painting the skies a dull pinkish-gray before rising fully over the horizon and illuminating the homes and storefronts scattered across the hills and valleys below. The arresting view is a far cry from my typical mornings in New York City, where I usually can't see the sunrise from my first-floor apartment windows, which are blocked in on all sides by other apartment buildings. Everything seems different here in Bethlehem, in the Holy Land—a far cry from home in so many ways, yet strikingly familiar in the most important way: in the deep and abiding presence of God's love for all of us, even amidst considerable pain, suffering, and ongoing challenges. It is this fact that has provided the backdrop to my first visit to the Holy Land, and which has permeated all the wonderful conversations and interactions I've had here over the past week or so.

By the time you read this, I will have returned home and will be eagerly hoping to meet as many of you in person as possible. To start with, it has been nothing short of a joy and a blessing to have joined the St. Ignatius Loyola community at the beginning of the Summer as the new *Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*. The Summer provided a time for settling in, for deep reflection, and also for laying some foundations for our parish's new sisterhood relationship with St. Catherine's Parish of the Church of the Nativity. When I wrote this reflection from the birthplace of Jesus, my two feet were planted on the soil that the Holy Family trod on, and I was reminded (in a quite visceral way) of the depth of God's love for us. God certainly didn't need to enter the world in this way: in the form of a fragile child born in poverty, to parents already viewed as outcasts in many ways by their society, in a region fraught with discord and instability. No, God didn't *need* to be with us in this way. However, God *chose* to give us Jesus because of a love so deep, so indescribably irrational, so magnanimous that it became Truth. God wanted to be with us so fully and truly that God entered humanity in this tiny, little place called Bethlehem.

"Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor, so that by his poverty, you might become rich."
— 2 Corinthians 8:9

As Christians, the Bethlehem of Jesus' birth has always been part of our life stories, even if just in reference to the physical place we remember each year at Christmastime. But how wonderful it is that our parish community now gets to entangle our stories with the Bethlehem of today, to grow in faith alongside our brothers and sisters who still root themselves here, and to be able to more deeply entrench the birthplace of Christ within our own graced histories in a new & personal way.

In Ignatian Spirituality, reflecting on and sharing our "graced history" is not merely a flowery concept, but an important exercise in viewing our past and present experiences in light of God's abundant love for us. As we recollect and examine the pivotal moments of our life, we are called to actively seek where God's grace has been present through all the many instances of consolation and desolation. We are invited to sit in gratitude of how God lovingly accompanies us through every high and low, and how the Holy Spirit is constantly working to draw us more deeply into the fullness of our humanity.

As we get to know one another better, I am so looking forward to sharing our graced histories with each other and seeking to more fully uncover how God is working through all of us to build a stronger faith community at St. Ignatius. Let us seek one another out—as God continuously seeks *us* out—so that we might all grow in deeper love and continue to flourish through God's grace that is so abundantly poured out. Mashallah!

+AMDG+

— Roxanne De La Torre
Pastoral Associate for Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation

From the Pastor's Desk

September 2025

Dear Parishioners,

Many of you have inquired about Father Bill Bergen since his move to the Jesuit health care facility adjacent to the campus of Fordham University. I am happy to report that Father Bergen is both in good spirits and good health. There is no doubt that we miss him terribly and have very fond memories of his homilies and his caring presence among us. Now is the time for us to honor him in a fitting and enduring way.

In April of this year, I announced the creation of the *Father William F. Bergen, SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*. I simultaneously announced the appointment of Ms. Roxanne De La Torre to the position of Pastoral Associate whose primary responsibility is to coordinate the programming of the Office and identify the resources required for this new undertaking of the parish. Roxanne joined the parish staff in mid-June and has already presented me with her plans for the Office. She will collaborate with all the ministries of the parish as an animator of Ignatian Spirituality, will offer spiritual direction as well as assist individuals who are searching for a spiritual director at the parish or beyond, and will curate a library of books that pertain to Ignatian Spirituality and faith formation. The resource room of materials and Roxanne's office are located on the first floor of the Parish House. Finally, what I have long regarded as a need of the parish is a regular schedule of retreats for the different sectors of the parish: youth, families, seniors, those discerning a vocation, and by professions (i.e., medical, legal, finance, etc.). Roxanne will take on this responsibility as well.

To accomplish what is envisioned by the *Father William F. Bergen, SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation* will require funding. Please join us in our effort to raise \$100,000 to support the programming of the Office and to acquire the resources that will allow the Office to flourish.

Your financial support at this time will put the Office on a solid foundation. Hopefully, its foundation will be as solid and vigorous as the Jesuit priest whom we honor. While Father Bergen was on the parish staff, we were nourished and strengthened in our faith, were buoyed by his comforting words when we looked to him for advice and felt the warmth of his love by his gentle demeanor and compassion. I can think of no better way to honor Father Bergen than creating an office bearing his name that will nurture the faith life of parishioners for generations to come.

Thank you for considering and contributing to the *Father William F. Bergen, SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*. Gifts may be made by check or using the parish website's "DONATE TODAY" button. Checks should be made payable to the *Church of St. Ignatius Loyola* and designated for *Fr. Bergen Office*.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

Ministry Fair.

12 PM. Grammar School's McKinnon Hall.

Details on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

SCRIPTURE CLASS | Tradition and Innovation -

The Books of Sirach and Wisdom.

7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th

Mosques & Churches: Muslim and Christian

Perspectives on Houses of Worship.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. Details on page 3.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

Friends of the Poor Walk.

9:30 AM. St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5th

1 PM

Outside the Parish House

Pet owners are invited to bring their leashed dog, cat, reptile or caged birds and bunnies for a blessing in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato si': Care for Our Common Home*.

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, scan the QR code.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at *stignatiusnyc*.

Presentation

Mosques & Churches: Muslim and Christian Perspectives on Houses of Worship

Thursday, September 25th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

PRESENTERS

Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J., Pastor &
Hakan Yesilova, Editor, *The Fountain*

How houses of worship reflect culture,
faith, and tradition.

Sponsored by Peace Islands Institute, New York

Circle of Friends

Come & Get Closer to The Frick Collection: Behind the Scenes at the New Frick

Tuesday, October 14th at 1 PM in Wallace Hall
(enter through the Parish House at 980 Park Avenue)

PRESENTER

Dr. Marie-Laure Buku Pongo
Associate Curator of Decorative Arts

The Frick Collection is back! Join Dr. Marie-Laure Buku Pongo, Associate Curator of Decorative Arts, for an illuminating lecture exploring the reopening of The Frick Collection's historic Fifth Avenue home following the most significant renovation and enhancement in the museum's history.

This lecture will discuss the importance of The Frick's art collection and delve into the multi-year renovation that preserves the elegance and legacy of this elegant Gilded Age mansion while introducing state-of-the-art infrastructure, expanded galleries, and new visitor amenities. Come learn how these changes enhance the visitor experience, strengthen accessibility, and secure the institution's vitality for generations to come, all while offering a fresh encounter with The Frick's unparalleled collection and getting a sneak peek at upcoming special exhibitions.

Registration is required. Email
silcircleoffriends@gmail.com to register.

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

Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter

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



Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Keeping the Faith: Exploring the Place of Religion in Higher Education

Wednesday, October 15th in Wallace Hall

6:30 PM (doors open)

7 PM to 8 PM (Discussion and Q&A)

8 PM to 8:30 PM (Light reception)

PRESENTER

Dr. Ian Rottenburg, *Dean of Religious Life at Columbia University*

MODERATOR

Bill McGarvey, *Author & Editor*

Join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry as we have a fireside discussion to explore the role religion plays on campuses and how both parents and students can prepare to not only keep the faith but take the steps to nurture its growth.

To register,
email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com.

Meeting Christ in Prayer

Wednesdays, October 1st to November 19th
7 PM to 8:30 PM on Zoom

Are you longing for a deeper relationship with God through Christ? Is your childhood way of relating to God insufficient now that you are an adult? Are you curious to learn what your Jesuit-educated friends mean by Ignatian Spirituality? If you answered yes, please join us in MCIP either via Zoom.

Meeting Christ in Prayer is an interactive 8-week guided prayer experience for small groups. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, it introduces participants to various ways of praying and provides an opportunity to support one another through faith sharing.

The cost of materials is a sliding scale of \$30-\$50 and a good faith offering will be appreciated.

To register, visit
ignatius.nyc/mcip-fall-2025-registration.

Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 21st, from Noon to 2 PM
Grammar School's McKinnon Hall

Join us at our annual Ministry Fair. The event will feature our Community Coffee Hour, plus the opportunity for parishioners to become reacquainted with the various ministries of the parish.

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. Hallinan

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Pennachia

7:30 PM Fr. Pennachia

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 22nd

(25th Monday in Ordinary Time)

Ezra 1:1–6 Psalm 126 Luke 8:16–18

8:30 MEM Eileen Lennon

12:10 MEM Joe Mingino, Sr.

5:30 ANN Joyce Flammer

Tuesday, September 23rd

(St. Pius of Pietrelcina)

Ezra 6:7–8, 12b, 14–20 Psalm 122

Luke 8:19–21

8:30 MEM Living & Deceased
Members of the Regan & Burke
Families

12:10 MEM John Tsiouris

5:30 MEM Jay Moyer

Wednesday, September 24th

(25th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

Ezra 9:5–9 Tobit 13 Luke 9:1–6

8:30 MEM Martin Philip
Murphy

12:10 MEM Robert L. Cahill

5:30 MEM Living & Deceased
Members of the Wallace Family

Thursday, September 25th

(25th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Haggai 1:1–8 Psalm 149 Luke 9:7–9

8:30 MEM James Mitchell

12:10 MEM Helen Abdalla

5:30 ANN Mary Elizabeth Dee

Friday, September 26th

(25th Friday in Ordinary Time)

Haggai 2:1–9 Psalm 43

Luke 9:18–22

8:30 ANN Mary Cecelia Sullivan

12:10 LVG Justina Augustine

5:30 ANN Alessandra Simon

Saturday, September 27th

(St. Vincent de Paul)

Zechariah 2:5–9, 14–15a

Jeremiah 31 Luke 9:43b–45

8:30 MEM Eleonora Curreri

Sunday, September 28th

(26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Amos 6:1a, 4–7 Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:11–16 Luke 16:19–31