



November 2, 2025 | The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

At the Birthplace of Christ

Editor's Note: In his Easter letter to the Parish, Father Yesalonia announced that we have established a sister parish relationship with the Parish of St. Catherine in Bethlehem, Palestine. In September, Roxanne De La Torre and Fr. Hilbert traveled to Bethlehem for an exploratory visit to the community there, meeting with the pastor and other parish leaders, youth groups, and families. They were welcomed with warmth and joy, and they began the process of developing projects of mutual assistance and shared faith. Roxanne is our staff liaison with the Parish of St. Catherine and will be reporting regularly on the budding relationship. The essay below contains Roxanne's moving reflections on that visit.

Early on in my time in the Holy Land, I met Abu (Arabic for father), who was a parishioner at the Church of St. Catherine's in Bethlehem. He had taken it upon himself to be my guide for the day, introducing me to many other Catholic families in Bethlehem, teaching me a bit of the history of the place, explaining some of the hardships and challenges that Palestinians in this region are currently facing, and treating me exactly like a treasured member of his family. The kindness and hospitality were overwhelming.

Life in the West Bank is game of survival—with “normal” day-to-day activities made increasingly more complicated by the occupying government's strategies to wear-down the Palestinian resolve. And yet, the Palestinian spirit persists, even when all efforts to maintain a semblance of normalcy is thrown into chaos.

After a full day of travelling around town, meeting as many people as possible, and navigating several difficulties with checkpoints and random road closures, the end of the day came with a shooting at a bus stand a few miles away from where we were—culminating in a military lockdown of all of Bethlehem. The gates were again closed and fortified on the open-air prison where Abu's family traces their roots, in the land where Jesus took his first breaths. We were under siege, and there was no telling how long it would last. And yet, amidst all this, Abu's family continued to move with intention, adjusted plans on the fly, relished the moments of joy, and generously poured into me from what they had. Their God-given resilience was on full display.

Hours later, Abu spoke the following words that had me absolutely floored:

“We are the living descendants of Jesus, born on this very land like he was. No matter how difficult life becomes or how much we are threatened, it is our responsibility to stay.”

This statement hit me like a ton of bricks. But the tightening of my chest and the collecting of tears in my eyes were not born of pity. Nor were they born of an immediate desire to find ways to help or to ease their burden in some way. In a quite visceral way, I understood that there would be little I alone could do to change the impact of war on this family.

But what moved me deeply was that these words were delivered by Abu as if they were an extension of the Creed that we recite at Mass every week. For him and his family, staying in Bethlehem, despite the injustices of occupation and the daily threat of escalating war, was simply the clearest expression of their faith and trust in God. For Abu, to remain is his calling as a Palestinian Christian—an honor and a privilege granted to him by God alone that he daily prays for the strength to uphold. These words were a beautiful outpouring of his love for God, and his spiritual reliance on God's return of love to him and his family that keep him going. I couldn't help but think, with all the privileges and blessings I have in this world, have I ever loved God that much? Have I ever allowed myself to just fall into the love of God in trust and surrender the way Abu has? I'm not sure I have.

As I look back on the two weeks that Fr. Hilbert and I were blessed to have spent in Bethlehem this past September, I struggle to relay the complexities of life in the occupied West Bank, and thus the processing and sharing with our community will be staggered and spread-out. But I remain ever-grateful for the opportunity for our parish to get to know the people of St. Catherine's more deeply in the years to come, and to share a bit of ourselves with them too. I look forward to more opportunities to share these stories with you, and to having you join Fr. Hilbert and me as we continue to build on the relationships we established there two months ago. As always, the grace of how we will move forward together will be in the hands of our loving God, Inshallah!

— Roxanne De La Torre
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, NOVEMBER 2nd

Community Coffee Hour.

12 PM. Outside the Parish House.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program.

12:30 PM. Parish House.

Details at right.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

**Celebration of the Sacrament of the
Anointing of the Sick.**

5:30 PM. Church.

Details on page 3.

Saints' Lives: Holiness in History

Thursday, November 13th at 7 PM in Wallace Hall

**PRESENTER: Rev. Sam Conedera, S.J.,
Saint Louis University**

Saints' lives are filled with miracles and heroic deeds, as well as legends or misunderstandings. Learn how an elite group of Jesuit scholars—the Bollandist Society—has spent the last 400 years sorting out fact from fiction.

Roundtable Discussion on Aging and Isolation

Monday, November 17th at 5 PM in the Parish House

The process of ageing is not for the faint of heart. Not only is the body affected; it is also the psyche. For many, aging has become a solitary journey, either by circumstance or choice. Join us for a roundtable discussion as we listen to one another's personal experiences of ageing and how our lives have been affected by it, either in our own lives or in the lives of our friends or loved ones.

Our conversation will begin with brief remarks by Dr. Anthony Lechich, Senior VP at ArchCare and Medical Director of Mary Manning Walsh Nursing Home, and Dr. Mark Nathanson, geriatric psychiatrist and Assistant Professor at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center.

Space is limited.

**Please RSVP at
ignatius.nyc/roundtable-discussion-on-aging-and-isolation.**

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

**November 2nd, November 16th, and December 7th
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM in the Parish House**

Our parish is launching a new initiative bringing high school students together with senior parishioners to provide one-on-one technology support. Seniors are invited to bring phones, tablets, or laptops for help with everyday tech questions.

**To express interest or ask further questions,
contact alexmarcus@gmail.com or visit ignite.nyc.**

Visions of Gratitude: An Exploration of Thanksgiving Celebrations through the Lens of Visual Art

Tuesday, November 18th at 1 PM

**Wallace Hall (enter through the Parish House at
980 Park Avenue)**

SPEAKER: Helen Lee, Art Educator & Lecturer

Join Circle of Friends for an inspiring exploration of Thanksgiving celebrations through the lens of visual art. *Visions of Gratitude* invites participants on a cross-cultural journey, examining how artists from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and time periods have expressed themes of gratitude, harvest, and community.

Our November program will feature artworks spanning traditional, contemporary, and indigenous representations of thanksgiving; insights into cultural traditions surrounding gratitude and harvest celebrations from around the world; a discussion on how historical and modern artists have interpreted the spirit of Thanksgiving in their works, and a special focus on how the American Thanksgiving has been represented in various artistic styles and narratives.

Registration is required at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.

Fall Blood Drive

**Sunday, November 9th, from 9 AM to 3 PM
St. Ignatius Loyola School's McKinnon Hall,
48 East 84th Street**

Your donations save lives!

**To schedule an appointment, visit
tinyurl.com/blooddrivesil.**

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat and drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo.

**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.**

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Saturday, November 8th at the 5:30 PM Mass

This liturgy is designed so that the community can support our brothers and sisters who are ill or aging.

During the course of the Mass, all those who feel the need of healing and strength because of illness, physical weakness, or spiritual distress will be invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

Song of Songs: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Hearts

**Wednesday, November 12th at 7 PM
Parish House and Zoom**

The Song of Songs provides a refreshingly holistic perspective on romantic love as a spiritual experience, emphasizing patience, fidelity, and the sacred nature of intimate connection.

Join us for this introduction to Scripture's most passionate book and its insights into love, sexuality, and human relationships. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will lead the discussion.

To RSVP, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Eat This, Not That! Exploring Kosher and Halal Food Traditions

Monday, November 17th

6:30 PM – Doors open

7 PM to 8 PM – Discussion and Q&A

**8 PM to 8:30 PM – Reception and Light Refreshments
Wallace Hall**

SPEAKERS

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher & Imam Gazi Aga

MODERATOR

Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.

Join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry, Temple Sharaay Tefila, and Peace Island Institute as we explore the similarities and differences between kosher and halal food traditions. Learn the origins of these traditions and their importance in modern observance. This is a terrific event leading up to the holidays, when food is so integral to celebrations.

To RSVP, email

ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com.

Registration deadline is Thursday, November 13th.

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

Snow Ball Dance

Saturday, December 6th

7 PM

Wallace Hall

Save a few places on your dance card for our annual Snow Ball Dance.

Join us for what promises to be a very merry evening.

Come eat, drink, and dance to live music by The Morris Brothers Band with your friends and fellow adult (21+) parishioners.

Tickets are \$75 per person/\$65 for seniors (age 60+). Premium Tables for 10 guests are available for \$1,000.



**To purchase, visit
ignatius.nyc/snowballdance
or scan the QR code at left.**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thanksgiving Food Drive Through Sunday, November 16th

*For the Church of the Ascension Food Pantry
on the Upper West Side*

We're collecting canned goods and non-perishable items to help our neighbors in need during the Thanksgiving holiday. Your contribution matters!

SUGGESTED FOOD DONATIONS

Canned: beans, corn, green beans, yams, turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, tomatoes, other canned vegetables & fruits, chili, stew, soup, tuna, and other canned fish & meat, condensed milk

Boxed or Bags: rice, pasta, dried beans, stuffing, cornbread mix, brown sugar, baking/pancake mix (e.g., Bisquick), shelf-stable milk, hot or cold cereal, instant soups, cake or brownie mix with frosting, shelf-stable milk

Other: poultry seasoning and other seasoning, olive oil, or avocado oil in plastic bottles or cans

No glass jars or bottles.

**Items may be dropped off daily
at the Parish House.**

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 or scan the QR code above.

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

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. Yesalonia

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Martin

7:30 PM Fr. Martin

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.

Order 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, November 3rd

(31st Monday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 11:29–36 Psalm 69

Luke 14:12–14

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

12:10 MEM Francis Ennis
McCollum

5:30 MEM David F. Kelly

Tuesday, November 4th

(St. Charles Borromeo)

Romans 12:5–16b Psalm 131

Luke 14:15–24

8:30 MEM Living & Deceased
Members of the Brenninkmeijer
Family

12:10 MEM Esperanza C. Valero

5:30 MEM Mae Tantillo

Wednesday, November 5th

(All Saints of the Society of Jesus)

Deuteronomy 30:11–14 Psalm 16

John 12:23–26

8:30 MEM Franca Fendi

12:10 MEM Sarah Caffrey

5:30 MEM Erlinda V. Oades

Thursday, November 6th

(31st Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 14:7–12 Psalm 27

Luke 15:1–10

8:30 MEM The Meehan Family

12:10 MEM Josephine Rose Bellini

5:30 MEM Ortensia Macri

Friday, November 7th

(31st Friday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 15:14–21 Psalm 98

Luke 16:1–8

8:30 MEM Thomas O'Connor

12:10 MEM John Maguire

5:30 MEM Aurora O'Hara

Saturday, November 8th

(31st Saturday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 16:3–9, 16, 22–27

Psalm 145 Luke 16:9–15

8:30 MEM Simona Saracino
Fendi

Sunday, November 9th

(Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)

Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12 Psalm 46

1 Corinthians 3:9c–11, 16–17

John 2:13–22