



November 9, 2025 | Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Eat This, Not That!

We're just weeks away from Thanksgiving—and you practically can smell the stuffing already! This beloved American holiday is a joyful pause, a moment when everyone, regardless of background or belief, gathers around the table to celebrate gratitude. No gifts, no pressure—just food, family, and the cozy traditions we cherish: turkey trots, football games, and lending a hand at food banks. It's simple, heartfelt, and for many, the perfect holiday. And let's be honest—every family has that one dish that must be on the table. For me? It's homemade cranberry sauce, tart and glistening, the crown jewel of the feast.

New York City's vibrant diversity includes global cuisines rooted in tradition. For my family, Christmas Eve means celebrating Polish *Wigilia*—a meatless meal that begins when the youngest child spots the First Star, a challenge amid the city's glow. The table is dressed only in white (no red and green), with hay and a whole *Oplatek* wafer at the center, symbolizing Jesus in the manger. Dishes like *Żurek* and pierogi are served in odd-numbered courses, all white in color. We set an extra place and light a candle to welcome the Holy Family or any stranger in need. Before eating, we break and share *Oplatek*, offering blessings, gratitude, and love to one another.

It was only when I went to college that I learned many Americans actually eat meat on Christmas Eve. I was shocked and a little horrified! Our Easter traditions are less in-depth, but I would never even think of eating food that is not blessed on Easter Saturday. I am third generation and not even 100% Polish.

So, as I met Jewish and Muslim friends and learned they, too, had dietary traditions, I somehow found it comforting and familiar. Kosher in Judaism and halal in Islam are the two most recognized religious dietary systems and ones New Yorkers can see daily in everything from restaurants to food carts. While we may not know the differences (yet), it is fair to say that both express a deep respect for God and the injunctions passed down in the Torah and Quran. The word kosher derives from the Hebrew word *kasher*, meaning “fit” or “proper” according to the kashrut laws. *Halal* in Arabic means “permissible” according to Islamic sharia law.

Both Judaism and Islam intertwine food with faith, setting clear guidelines on what's permissible and how holidays are observed. Passover, one of the oldest food-focused celebrations, is detailed in the Bible and marked by a family meal—much like Thanksgiving. Islamic traditions also center around food and ritual. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset, then gather each evening for Iftar—a meal that begins with prayer and shared dishes. It's a practice our parish recognizes and honors alongside our Muslim neighbors.

Compared to their Eastern counterparts, Catholic Christians take a more relaxed approach to food restrictions and fasting—especially during Lent. But step into the world of the Eastern churches—Armenian, Orthodox, Coptic—and you'll find a rich tapestry of fasting traditions woven into the calendar. These communities observe numerous fast days and intricate dietary rules, turning spiritual discipline into a deeply embodied ritual that shapes daily life and communal rhythm.

Ready to feast on knowledge just in time for the holidays? Join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry on Monday, November 17th for “Eat This, Not That!”—a lively, eye-opening evening exploring the fascinating similarities and differences between kosher and halal traditions. Whether you're hosting, attending, or simply curious, this is your chance to deepen your understanding and become a more thoughtful, inclusive neighbor. Doors open at 6:30 PM, the conversation kicks off at 7 and trust us—you won't want to miss it. RSVP now at ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com and come hungry for insight!

— Simone Vinocour
Chair, Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

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 9th

Community Coffee Hour.

12 PM. Outside the Parish House.

Fall Blood Drive.

9 AM. Grammar School's McKinnon Hall.

Details at right.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th

Caritas Concerts: Roosevelt André Credit.

7:30 PM. Wallace Hall.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

Annual Memorial Liturgy.

7 PM. Church.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

Song of Songs: Ancient Wisdom
for Modern Hearts.

7 PM. Zoom & Parish House. *Details on page 3.*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

Saints' Lives: Holiness in History.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

Roundtable Discussion on Aging and Isolation

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

The process of aging 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 aging 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.



Please RSVP at
ignatius.nyc/roundtable-discussion-on-aging-and-isolation or scan the QR code.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

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.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service

Thursday, November 20th at 7 PM
Church

Please join us as we welcome outside faith communities in the area for an evening of togetherness in music, prayer, and reflection. All are invited to give thanks for God's many blessings and to pray for peace in our world, our nation, our communities, and in our hearts.

A reception with drinks and light bites will follow.

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.

Saints' Lives: Holiness in History

Thursday, November 13th
7 PM

Wallace Hall

PRESENTER

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.

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. Hilbert

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

7:30 PM Fr. Hallinan

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 10th

(*St. Leo the Great*)

Wisdom 1:1-7 Psalm 139

Luke 17:1-6

8:30 MEM Maribel Quite

12:10 MEM Cynthia Flood

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

Tuesday, November 11th

(*St. Martin of Tours*)

Wisdom 2:23-3:9 Psalm 34

Luke 17:7-10

8:30 MEM Gordon D. Vaughan

12:10 MEM Margaret Healy Bay

5:30 MEM Doris Galardi

Wednesday, November 12th

(*St. Josaphat*)

Wisdom 6:1-11 Psalm 82

Luke 17:11-19

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon
Families

12:10 MEM Maria Requeña

5:30 MEM Antoni Trzaskowski

Thursday, November 13th

(*St. Stanislaus Kostka*)

Wisdom 7:22b-8:1 Psalm 119

Luke 17:20-25

8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly

12:10 MEM Maryanne T. Barry

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

Friday, November 14th

(*St. Joseph Pignatelli*)

Wisdom 13:1-9 Psalm 19

Luke 17:26-37

8:30 MEM Jack Doyle

12:10 MEM Reg Murphy

5:30 MEM Karin Hellman

Saturday, November 15th

(*32nd Saturday in Ordinary Time*)

Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9 Psalm 105

Luke 18:1-8

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

Sunday, November 16th

(*33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

Malachi 3:19-20a Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19