



November 30, 2025 | First Sunday of Advent

All Misfits Welcome

In 2018, at the first retreat held by the LGBT Catholics & Friends ministry, Ellen Stilwell and I independently came up with the same idea of having a Mass at St. Ignatius that would welcome the LGBTQ community. We decided to work together, and we organized a “Mass of Welcome for the LGBT Community and Friends” in early December of that year, close to World AIDS Day, which is on December 1st. We had many of the members of the LGBT ministry involved, but we also had the support of our wonderful music ministry, we had the liturgical dancers on board, all of our parish priests concelebrating, and very importantly, the attendance of people in the congregation who maybe didn’t have skin in the game, but wanted to support what they felt was an important and right message of welcome.

The night was absolutely wonderful. For so many of us, it was the first time we had heard the words “gay” or “lesbian” used in a positive way in church. From the pulpit, we heard our pastor assuring us we were loved by God, telling us that we were welcome and wanted in the church, and inviting us to participate in the parish. Despite fears of possible protest, there was only warmth and beauty that night, and at the reception afterwards, people I didn’t know came up to tell me that it was their first time in years back in the church.

This Mass is now an annual event. Over the last couple of years, it’s lost its novelty, and we see the faces of our ministry members in the pews, but not so many others from the parish. Yet each year, new people find me to tell me the same thing—what a wonderful experience the Mass was for them, and how happy they are to be back in the church where they had felt unwelcome or unworthy before.

I’ve started to think that this might be a type of evangelization, creating a welcoming space for disappointed or discouraged people to return to a church that is now ready to invite them back, in a world where that welcoming message, even from other parts of our church, is unclear or missing altogether. And maybe all of us present at this Mass, and present in this parish, are part of a light that beckons others, inviting those on the margins to come closer to God.

Welcoming the LGBTQ community has shown me how powerful and necessary that light can be, but it has also made me realize that this can be a beginning. The experience of LGBTQ Catholics mirrors the quiet pain carried by so many others who feel like “misfits,” who believe they are too broken, too different, too complicated, or too far from the ideal to belong in church. If we can learn to extend real, intentional hospitality to LGBTQ Catholics, perhaps we can learn to recognize and embrace all those who stand at the edges: divorced and remarried people, single parents, addiction victims, people who have been hurt by the church, and anyone who doubts.

Our Mass of Welcome may have begun with inclusion of the LGBTQ community, but its deeper purpose can be to awaken in us a broader vision of church: one where every person who has ever felt like an outsider can finally hear, and believe, the words, “You are loved. You are wanted. You belong here.” In that sense, this is not just a ministry event, but it is a small, hopeful step toward the kind of church we are all called to build, one where no “misfit” stands on the margins, because the boundaries have been melted away by the warmth of the welcoming love that Christ taught us.

Please join us on Monday, December 1st, at 7 PM in the Church for “All Hearts Together: A Mass for the LGBTQ Community.” A reception in Wallace Hall will follow.

— Bruce Rameker
LGBT Catholics & Friends 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st

**All Hearts Together:
A Mass for the LGBTQ+ Community.**
7 PM. Church.
Details on page 3.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
6 PM. Church.
Details on page 3.

Emmanuel Has Come: Matthew's Gospel for Advent.
7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.

Details on page 3.

Holy Listening.
7 PM. Zoom.

Details on page 3.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th

Snow Ball Dance.
7 PM. Wallace Hall.
Details on page 3.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Christmas Angels Gift Project Through Sunday, December 14th

*Benefiting Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the Church
of the Immaculate Conception, and the migrants
accompanied by the Ignatian Social Justice Ministry*

Angel Cards listing recipients' Christmas wishes will be on the trees in the Narthex and Wallace Hall.

There will be volunteers to help parishioners with their Angel registration at all Masses. It's very important to register your Angel card(s) with one of the volunteers so we can keep track of the hundreds of gifts.

Please bring your wrapped Angel gift(s) to the Parish House by *Sunday, December 14th.*

We ask each person or family to limit their number of Angel Cards to four.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

Sunday, 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.

Hark!: The Story Behind Our Most Beloved Christmas Carols

Tuesday, December 9th
Noon in Wallace Hall
(Enter through the Parish House)

PRESENTERS

Fr. Ricardo da Silva, S.J., America Media
K. Scott Warren, Director of Music at St. Ignatius Loyola

Everyone loves an encore! Back by popular demand, Fr. Ricardo da Silva, S.J., Associate Editor at America Media and producer of the renowned podcast, *Hark!*, will be accompanied by K. Scott Warren, St. Ignatius Loyola Music Director, to uncover more backstories of our beloved Christmas Carols.

Christmas Carols have a centuries-old tradition. Beginning around the first century, the music was written to celebrate Christmas and the Nativity. Yet, not all Christmas Carols began as sacred music. Some have their origins in pagan songs celebrating the Winter Solstice and medieval drinking songs sung in taverns.

Come and "sing in" this joyous season with Circle of Friends, and enjoy "Cookies & Carols", while expanding our knowledge of how this body of music dedicated to the Feast of Christmas developed. We'll sing and celebrate Christmas and the community that has become the Circle of Friends. Hope to see you there and we wish you and yours a very joyful and blessed Christmas season.

Registration is required.

Register at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.
There is no fee for this program, but a free will offering is suggested.

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.



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



**All Hearts Together:
A Mass for the LGBTQ+ Community**
Monday, December 1st
7 PM
Church

PRESIDER
Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

Join us for a special Mass in observance of
World AIDS Day.

Let's come together in faith and solidarity, lifting up the
LGBTQ+ community and all affected by HIV/AIDS.

Reception to follow in Wallace Hall.

Holy Listening
Tuesdays, December 2nd to 23rd
7 PM
Zoom

Join us for structured and welcoming faith sharing about
Advent scripture readings. This is perfect for anyone
seeking to deepen their engagement with scripture and
listen deeply to how the Word of God impacts others.

To register, sign up at tinyurl.com/SILHolyListening.

You will receive the Zoom link the day before the
program begins.

Contact Cynthia-Marie O'Brien at
MCIP@nycignatius.org with any questions.

All are welcome.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday Evenings, December 2nd to 23rd
6 PM to 8 PM Church

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6 PM. The
church will be open for private adoration until shortly
before 8 PM when the Blessed Sacrament will be
reposed and the church will close.

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](https://ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal) or scan the QR code above.**



Snow Ball Dance
Saturday, December 6th at 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.

Book Launch: Sunday Homilies of
Fr. William Bergen, S.J.
Wednesday, December 10th at 5 PM
Wallace Hall

Join us for the launch of the three-volume book series of
Fr. Bergen's Liturgical Year A, B, and C homilies.

ABOUT THE BOOK SERIES

Father Bergen's Sunday Homilies is a three-volume
collection of reflections on the Sunday Scripture
readings for each week of the Liturgical Year—Years
A, B, and C, drawn from more than forty years of
preaching at St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore and St.
Ignatius Loyola Church in New York City.



Fr. Bergen's books are now available
for order. For more information or to
purchase, please visit williambergen.com
or scan the QR code at left.

Emmanuel Has Come: Matthew's Gospel
for Advent

Tuesdays, December 2nd to 23rd
7 PM
Parish House & Zoom

Matthew's Gospel enjoyed preeminence among our
ancestors in faith and has inspired every generation of
Christians. His story of Jesus begins with a perplexing
genealogy, then journeys through some of the most
memorable stories in scripture—the Magi, the Sermon
on the Mount, engrossing parables, captivating miracles,
a distinctive Passion story, and the Great Commission.

This 4-session course will serve as a general
introduction to this beloved text. Brian B. Pinter,
Pastoral Associate, will lead the discussion.

RSVP to pinterb@nycignatius.org.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at *stignatiusnyc*.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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(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

Parish Administrative Assistant

Caitlin Caruso

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. Hilbert

9:30 AM Fr. Hilbert

Wallace Hall

11:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

Solemn

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

7:30 PM Fr. Nolan

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, 6:30 PM Sunday,
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, December 1st

(*Ss. Edmund Campion, Robert Southwell & comps.*)

Isaiah 4:2-6 Psalm 122

Matthew 8:5-11

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

12:10 MEM Donald Buckley

5:30 MEM Otilia Schley

Tuesday, December 2nd

(*First Tuesday of Advent*)

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72

Luke 10:21-24

8:30 LVG Jeannette Barbacane &
Tesa Fleming

12:10 ANN Daniel F. Kelly

5:30 MEM Ambrosio L. Valero, II

Wednesday, December 3rd

(*St. Francis Xavier*)

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Psalm 117 Matthew 16:15-20

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon
Families

12:10 MEM James Buscarino

5:30 MEM Albert Araneo

Thursday, December 4th

(*First Thursday of Advent*)

Isaiah 26:1-6 Psalm 118

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

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

12:10 MEM MaryAnn Leahy

5:30 MEM Margaret & Joseph
Phelan

Friday, December 5th

(*First Friday of Advent*)

Isaiah 29:17-24 Psalm 27

Matthew 9:27-31

8:30 MEM Caroline Choix

12:10 MEM John Ferguson

5:30 MEM Jack Kehoe

Saturday, December 6th

(*First Saturday of Advent*)

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 Psalm 147

Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

8:30 ANN Thomas Flammer

Sunday, December 7th

(*Second Sunday of Advent*)

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12