



January 4, 2026 | The Epiphany of the Lord

The Legacy of Pope Francis: The 2026 Lecture Series

As the Holy Year of Hope comes to an end with the closing of the Holy Doors, it is time to announce our 2026 Lecture Series, which will have as its theme “The Legacy of Pope Francis.” The calendar of lectures can be found elsewhere in the e-newsletters and Sunday bulletins of recent weeks. As each lecture approaches, the speaker will offer an essay on his particular topic.

Francis’s papacy (2013-2025) was marked by a distinct focus on humility, social justice, interfaith dialogue, and environmental stewardship, contributing to his legacy as one of the most influential popes in modern history.

One of Pope Francis’s most significant legacies was his commitment to social justice and the plight of the marginalized. Throughout his papacy, he emphasized the Church’s role in advocating for the poor and marginalized, calling for a more equitable distribution of resources and a renewed focus on humanitarian issues. This commitment was evident in his outreach to those living in poverty, his strong stance against human trafficking, and his support for refugees and migrants. He encouraged Catholics to engage in acts of charity and social justice, mapping a path for the Church to follow in addressing systemic issues like inequality and discrimination.

Interfaith dialogue was another cornerstone of Pope Francis’s legacy. He consistently promoted understanding and cooperation among different religions. His historic visit to Egypt in 2017, where he met with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, was particularly noteworthy, emphasizing the need for mutual respect among varying faith traditions. By fostering relationships between Christianity and other faiths, especially Islam, Pope Francis aimed to counteract religious extremism and promote peace in a world often divided by belief systems.

Environmental stewardship also played a pivotal role in Francis’s papacy, with the encyclical “Laudato Si” being a critical document in this regard. Released in 2015, it calls for urgent action to combat climate change, emphasizing the moral imperative to protect the planet and care for creation. This document resonates with many outside the Church, as it aligns with global movements advocating for environmental sustainability. Pope Francis encouraged individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize the health of the Earth, framing environmental concerns as both a spiritual and social duty.

Pope Francis brought about a more inclusive Church, advocating for the integration of women in church leadership roles and a more compassionate approach to issues such as divorce and remarriage. His emphasis on mercy over judgment represented a shift in tone for the Church, appealing to many who have felt alienated from institutional religion. By embracing a more pastoral approach, he sought to make the Church more welcoming and reflective of the diverse realities faced by its followers today.

Moreover, Pope Francis’s approach to governance within the Vatican was marked by a call for transparency and accountability. He worked to reform the Vatican’s bureaucracy, addressing corruption and financial malpractice, aiming to lead the Church with integrity. His efforts to bolster financial transparency reflect a desire to restore trust in the Church’s governance and ensure that resources are directed towards charitable missions and community support.

Despite facing criticism, both from traditionalists who found his views too progressive and from reform advocates who felt he hadn’t gone far enough, Pope Francis continued to push the Church toward a more inclusive and socially aware identity. His papacy sparked conversations about the role of religion in modern society and the responsibilities of faith leaders to tackle pressing global issues.

Pope Francis’s legacy is characterized by his unwavering emphasis on social justice, interfaith dialogue, environmental stewardship, inclusivity, and reform within the Church. His efforts to transform the Church’s engagement with contemporary issues made a significant impact, resonating with believers and non-believers alike. In an era that often seems to be defined by division, his message of compassion, understanding, and action remains particularly relevant, shaping the future of the Catholic Church and its role in the world.

The first lecture will be on Monday, February 9th, at 7 PM in Wallace Hall. Save the date!

— Rev. Michael Hilbert, S.J.
Associate 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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

Details below.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8th
Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

A Good Death Series: A Spirituality of Simplifying Our Possessions

Wednesday, January 21st at 7 PM
Parish House and on Zoom

Our presentation and conversation will explore the spiritual practice of simplifying our material possessions as preparation for a "good death." Drawing on wisdom traditions that emphasize detachment and intentionality, we'll examine how decluttering our physical spaces can free us—and our heirs—emotionally and spiritually. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To RSVP, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

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, January 7th. All are welcome!

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

For Families with Young Children

For the safety of your child, please accompany them to the bathroom if there is a need during the course of the Mass.

They must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The Spiritual Exercises as a School for Cultivating a Sacramental Imagination

Saturday, February 14th in Wallace Hall
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

PRESENTER: FR. KEVIN O'BRIEN, S.J.

Fr. Kevin O'Brien, S.J., author of the bestselling books *The Ignatian Adventure* and *Seeing with the Heart*, will explore how Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises can help us "find God in all things" through the development of a sacramental imagination. He will suggest how such an approach to living, loving, and serving impacts our understanding of the church and our ministry. This morning of reflection will offer times for personal prayer and common sharing.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/LMEWinter2026.

2026 Circle of Friends Winter/Spring Programs

Here's a sneak preview of what Circle of Friends is developing for the New Year.

Tuesday, February 10th at 1 PM

Back by popular demand from her November Lecture, Helen Lee, Art Educator & Lecturer, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Education Department, will take a "new look" at the life of President George Washington through the lens of art and fashion & sartorial prowess.

Tuesday, March 10th at 1 PM

This March, we will celebrate and honor Irish culture and heritage—and perhaps we, too, may find the lucky charm of a four-leaf clover!

Tuesday, April 14 at 1 PM

Isn't it always wonderful to see the first signs of Spring in Central Park? We'll celebrate the wonder, beauty, and hidden treasures found in Central Park.

Tuesday, May 12th at 1 PM

We'll continue our Michelangelo 2.0, and explore and appreciate the wonders of Michelangelo as a person, artist and sculptor.

All programs subject to change.

Offertory



You may contribute to today's Offertory collection by using the QR code made available here. Please designate your donation as "Offertory."

Thank you for your generosity.

IRA Charitable Rollover (Qualified Charitable Distribution)

If you are age 70½ or older and have an IRA, you may make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. In 2025, individuals may contribute up to \$108,000, or \$108,000 per qualifying spouse if married, without including the distribution in taxable income.

A QCD can be a meaningful way to support the mission of the Church while also offering potential tax advantages.

We encourage parishioners to consult with their IRA administrator or tax advisor to determine the best option for their personal financial situation. You may also contact our Treasurer, Fernando Castro, for general questions.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

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.

Lady Chapel Open for Private Prayer

The Lady Chapel is open daily for private prayer from 1 PM to 4 PM. During those hours, the Church will be closed.

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 Volunteer Corps

Ignatian Volunteer Corps volunteers are adults over 50 years of age who offer their life skills and experience one to two days a week to directly serve those in need.

Interested? Contact Maureen Fullam, Regional Director, at 917-859-0928 or email mfullam@ivcusa.org and visit us at ivcusa.org.

From the Archdiocese

The Good Newsroom is the digital newsroom of the Archdiocese of New York.

Stay informed about the happenings and initiatives of the archdiocese by visiting TheGoodNewsroom.org.

2026 Lectures at St. Ignatius: The Legacy of Pope Francis

Monday, February 9th

PRESENTER: Rev. A.E. Orobator, S.J., Dean, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University
Walking Together: An Eyewitness Account of Pope Francis's Legacy of Synodality and the Renewal and Reform of the Church

Monday, March 16th "Laetare Lecture"

PRESENTER: Mr. Austen Ivereigh, Fellow in Contemporary Church History, Campion Hall, Oxford, England

*Joy in a Time of Turbulence:
The True Legacy of Pope Francis*

Monday, April 13th

PRESENTERS: Rev. James Martin, S.J., and Rev. Sam Sawyer, S.J., Editors-at-Large of America Media
Francis the Jesuit: A Look at the Jesuit Roots and Ignatian Spirituality of Pope Francis

Organ Recital: Felix Hell Sunday, March 8th at 4 PM in the Church

What happens when you take some of the most powerful music ever written—and give it to one performer, on one instrument, with no strings attached?

International concert organist Felix Hell brings together three musical titans in a program of electrifying transcriptions: Bach's triumphant Sinfonia from Cantata 29, Barber's haunting Adagio for Strings, and Beethoven's groundbreaking Fifth Symphony in its entirety—all reimaged for solo organ.

This is not your typical organ recital. It's a symphony concert on a single set of hands and feet.

To purchase tickets, visit ignatius.nyc/felix-hell/.

Giving via Zelle

We are pleased to announce that parishioners can now make donations to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola conveniently through Zelle. If you use online or mobile banking, you can send your contribution directly from your bank account with no fees.

To give via Zelle, simply use the following email: church@nycignatius.org. In the memo line, please specify the fund or intention you would like your gift applied to.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish. Your contributions make a meaningful difference in sustaining our ministries and mission.

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. Pennacchia

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

9:30 AM Fr. Hilbert

Wallace Hall 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

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, 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, January 5th

(*St. John Neumann*)

1 John 3:22–4:6 Psalm 2

Matthew 4:12–17, 23–25

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

12:10 MEM Ann M. Spadafora

5:30 MEM Joseph Calise

Tuesday, January 6th

(*Tuesday after Epiphany*)

1 John 4:7–10 Psalm 72

Mark 6:34–44

8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly

12:10 LVG Miriam Forte

5:30 MEM Chantal Machover

Wednesday, January 7th

(*Wednesday after Epiphany*)

1 John 4:11–18 Psalm 72

Mark 6:45–52

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon

Families & Caroline Choix

12:10 MEM Martin Philip Murphy

5:30 MEM Michael Klimoski

Thursday, January 8th

(*Thursday after Epiphany*)

1 John 4:19–5:4 Psalm 72

Luke 4:14–22a

8:30 MEM Josephine Cooney

12:10 MEM John Downes

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

Friday, January 9th

(*Friday after Epiphany*)

1 John 5:5–13 Psalm 147

Luke 5:12–16

8:30 MEM Simona Saracino

Fendi

12:10 MEM Frank Loscalzo

5:30 MEM George Terriberry

Saturday, January 10th

(*Saturday after Epiphany*)

1 John 5:14–21 Psalm 149

John 3:22–30

8:30 MEM Michael J. Kelly

Sunday, January 11th

(*Baptism of the Lord*)

Isaiah 42:1–4, 6–7 Psalm 29

Acts 10:34–38 Matthew 3:13–17