



December 14, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent

Rejoice! Really?

Today is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin for “rejoice.” It is from the opening antiphon of today’s liturgy. “Rejoice in the Lord always ...rejoice. The Lord is near.” Is there cause for us to “rejoice” in these distressing times in which we now live?



What is the cause of our rejoicing? The antiphon tells us: the Lord is near. This is not a reminder that Christmas is less than two weeks away. It is a reminder to us that the Lord is near right now. The Lord, indeed, is within us and within our midst. Jesus dwells in each one of us personally by virtue of our baptism in which we come to share even now in his risen life. All of the baptized together form the body of Christ, that is, the Church and the Lord, of course, dwells within the Church. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, the Lord is present in all the members of his body who have gathered in remembrance of him. The Lord is also present outside the body of Christ, that is, the Church, wherever the values of the reign of God, which Jesus inaugurated in his life and ministry, are present in this world. Wherever we witness an all-inclusive compassion, an all-inclusive mercy, wherever we witness selflessness and generosity, wherever we witness the desire for the good of all persons, and the desire to lift up the poor and marginalized, the Lord is present there as his values, the values of God’s reign, are present there. Yes, indeed, the Lord is near, and that is cause for rejoicing.

The challenge for each of us is to deepen our participation in the risen life of Jesus Christ so that we are powerfully aware of his presence within us. In that awareness, we rejoice that we share in his very life right now so that we are with him, and he is with us. Nothing in this world can separate us from him—not even death. Instead, death will be our passage into the fullness of life in him. This is reason to rejoice. Yet, our intimacy in Jesus Christ is predicated on a life of prayer and action. Through prayer, we deepen our awareness of his presence within us, and we hear him call us to lives of deep compassion, lives rich in mercy, lives marked by selflessness and generosity, lives in which we truly desire the good for all of God’s people, lives in which we share his passionate concern for the poor and marginalized. In living in fidelity to what Jesus calls forth from us, we serve as agents of this world’s transformation. This is cause for us to rejoice as it joins us ever more intimately to Jesus Christ. It is also cause for this world to rejoice as we work in cooperation with Jesus to overcome what is unjust and evil in our world today.

Migrants have cause to rejoice when they see persons stand in solidarity with them and advocate for them. Workers have cause to rejoice when we join with them in their struggle to obtain the wages, hours and benefits necessary for them to live in dignity. The unborn rejoice within the womb when we are advocates for them. Those who are poor rejoice when we demand that our society provide for them what they need to live a dignified life. Are we persons who are cause for rejoicing in our world today? If so, we have cause for rejoicing, as the Lord is, indeed, near to us. The Lord is within us and acting through us to bring joy to this world.

Will Christmas be for us a day to rejoice as we celebrate our intimacy with the One whose birth we commemorate; an intimacy made manifest in how we are the cause for this world’s rejoicing?

— Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th

Annual Christmas Concert: Gloria!

3:00 PM. Church.

Details on page 3.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Ranger Rosary Ministry.

7 PM. Parish House.

Advent Reconciliation Monday.

3 PM to 5 PM & 6:30 PM to 8 PM.

Church.

Advent Penance Service.

6 PM to 6:30 PM. Church.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

6 PM. Church. *Details below.*

Emmanuel Has Come:

Matthew's Gospel for Advent.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Tuesday Evenings, through December 23rd
6 PM to 8 PM in the 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.

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—and all are welcome!

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



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

Share Your Jubilee Pilgrimage Moments!

We invite all parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola who participated in this year's 2025 Jubilee anywhere in the world to share their photos!

We are creating a special video/photo montage to celebrate and show the global participation of our parish family in this Year of Hope.

Please submit pictures of yourselves on pilgrimage to communications@nycignatius.org by close of day Wednesday, December 17th.

Be sure to include the full names of those photographed and mention their relevant parish ministry (if applicable) so we can properly acknowledge their journey of faith. We look forward to seeing your inspiring photos!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Christmas Angels Gift Project

Through Sunday, December 14th

Thanks to the generosity of St. Ignatius' parishioners, all but a handful of our 340+ Christmas Angels have been spoken for! The remaining Angel cards are at the receptionists' office at the Parish House. You may choose and register one or more Angel cards during Parish House hours.

If we run out of Angel cards or if you prefer, you may also leave a cash or check donation for the Christmas Angels. Please make checks payable to: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and write Christmas Angels in the memo line.

Annual Toy Drive

Through Sunday, December 21st

*Benefiting the children of St. Mary of the Assumption-
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedict Parish
on Staten Island*

Please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for children between the ages of 3–12 to the Parish House. IREP students: May bring unwrapped gifts into class for collection

Toys must be new. No used toys, please.

Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners wishing to receive a low-gluten host at the distribution of Holy Communion, please speak with a Hospitality Minister.

Guided Church Tour

Sunday, December 28th at 12:30 PM
Church (Meeting Point: Narthex)

The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola is a vibrant parish community whose foundation rests on the faith life and commitment of all who worship here.

We invite you to explore and learn more about our beautiful church through our monthly tours.

To register, visit ignatius.nyc/guidedtours/.

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.

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.

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.

Annual Christmas Concert: Gloria!

Sunday, December 14th at 3 PM and
Sunday, December 21st at 3 PM
Church

Featuring J. S. Bach's Cantata 191 Gloria in excelsis Deo and culminating with "O Holy Night" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's "Messiah," our Christmas concerts will inspire you and your family during the height of New York City's dazzling holiday season. Includes beloved carols for everyone to sing.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit ignatius.nyc/concerts/gloria.

Emmanuel Has Come: Matthew's Gospel for Advent

Tuesdays, through December 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.

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.

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.

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

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. Yesalonia

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

9:30 AM Fr. Casciotti

Wallace Hall

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

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, 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 15th

(Third Monday of Advent)

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Psalm 25

Matthew 21:23-27

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Duc Duong

5:30 MEM Cho Hoang

Tuesday, December 16th

(Third Tuesday of Advent)

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Psalm 34

Matthew 21:28-32

8:30 MEM Robert L. Cahill, Jr.

12:10 MEM Nestor Azziz

5:30 MEM Madeleine LeDrappier

Wednesday, December 17th

(Third Wednesday of Advent)

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Psalm 72

Matthew 1:1-17

8:30 MEM Michael F. Keogh

12:10 LVG Nereyda Tapanes

5:30 MEM Alina Kudelska &

Anita Kudelska-Witek

Thursday, December 18th

(Third Thursday of Advent)

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72

Matthew 1:18-25

8:30 MEM Emil Frankola

12:10 MEM John C. Arendes

5:30 ANN Magdalena Nicolas

Friday, December 19th

(Third Friday of Advent)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Psalm 71

Luke 1:5-25

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

12:10 MEM Donald Melanson

5:30 MEM Betty Manderfeld

Saturday, December 20th

(Third Saturday of Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24

Luke 1:26-38

8:30 MEM Jay Moyer

Sunday, December 21st

(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm 24 Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24