



December 28, 2025 | Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

## The Holy Family: Symbol of Hope

Christmas has the power to trigger potent emotions and memories, particularly around families. While many of those are warm to recall, it is a reality of the human condition that families can be complicated. For some of us, Christmas might be an unwelcome reminder of the many ways families can fracture—estrangement, divorce, death, addiction—and the ways that politics have divided families and our nation. I feel a kind of tension, a “holy sadness,”



*The Holy Family.*

Benedetto Gennari the Younger. 1682.

around the concept of family this time of year. I reverence the truth that the Divine Child is seeking to be born in my heart in a new way, while also recognizing that my families—of origin, of religion, of country—are in need of his healing light.

This Advent, several of our fellow parishioners and I had the privilege of studying, discussing, and praying with Matthew’s Gospel. This evangelist begins his story in a most creative and unexpected way—Abraham begetting Isaac. The gospel goes on to list a veritable rogues’ gallery of ancestors. Among them are Jacob (who defrauded his brother and deceived his blind father), Judah (who was seduced by a prostitute who turned out to be his daughter-in-law), David (who had his lover’s husband killed), and Ahaz (who sacrificed his son to an Assyrian idol). What a remarkably dysfunctional family tree! Yet despite these deeply flawed characters, God managed to find a way to work with and through them, to Jesus, to us.

The Holy Family, whose feast we celebrate today, knew difficulty and dysfunction intimately. Matthew’s story continues with an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a transgression punishable by death, and a husband who was ready to walk away in shame from his betrothed. And if this crisis wasn’t enough to endure, political tensions created by a cruel king and his agents force this fledgling family to flee from their home. If it weren’t for a few timely dreams and some good judgement on the part of his parents, Jesus might not have survived infancy. What a statement of solidarity God makes by choosing to enter the human condition through such a complicated, vulnerable situation!

Henri Nouwen wrote, “Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.” This Christmas, I find myself turning to the weak, vulnerable, powerless dimensions of the Holy Family’s story. As I experience our national family becoming more deeply estranged; as I live with our worldwide Catholic family struggling to find healing and common ground; as I hold the tensions and broken-ness that are present in my own family, I feel a deep solidarity flowing from the hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Theirs was no angelic existence where they floated three inches off the ground. No—they, too, were fully immersed in the complexity of being human. And that is where God came and met them, becoming weak, vulnerable and and powerless, all in order to demonstrate great compassion.

Today’s Gospel ends with a journey, from Bethlehem, to Egypt, to Nazareth. I can only imagine the anxiety, the terror, the loneliness, the resentment, the confusion the Holy Family must have felt while wading through such danger and broken-ness. Nonetheless, they found a way, by the grace of God, through the chaos to a new kind of life. This is the promise of this Divine Child who comes to us at the darkest time of year, seeking to bring his light and hope to the darkest corners of the human heart—and the lesson we learn from his parents, who chose to trust in that light. Today I pray in gratitude for God’s compassion and solidarity, and I pray that I may also trust that God is coming to meet us in our most broken places.

— Brian Pinter  
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, DECEMBER 28th**

**Guided Church Tour.**

**12:30 PM. Church.**

*Details on page 3.*

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 1st**

**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God.**

**Mass of Anticipation will be celebrated on  
Wednesday, December 31st at 5:30 PM.**

The Parish House will be closed.

**One Mass will be celebrated on  
Thursday, January 1st at 10:30 AM in the Church.**

The Parish House will be closed.

*The Solemnity is a holy day of obligation.*

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 2nd**

**One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM.**

The Parish House will be closed.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd**

**Epiphany Retreat Day.**

**9 AM. Wallace Hall.**

*Details on page 3.*

### 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.

### 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.**

### 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](https://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.

## 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/guidedtour](http://ignatius.nyc/guidedtour).

## 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.

## 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](http://ignatius.nyc).

## 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](http://TheGoodNewsroom.org).

## Epiphany Retreat Day

Saturday, January 3rd, from 9 AM to 3 PM  
Wallace Hall

In anticipation of the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, join us for a few hours of prayerful reflection and contemplation as we consider the days between the birth of Christ and Christ's manifestation to the whole world, which we commemorate through the visit of the Magi to the Holy Family.

*Hosted by the Father William J. Bergen, S.J., Office of Ignatian Spirituality & Faith Formation*

For more information, please contact Roxanne De La Torre, Pastoral Associate, at [delatorrer@nycignatius.org](mailto:delatorrer@nycignatius.org).



To register, visit [forms.cloud.microsoft/r/pYnUYPLsMz](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/pYnUYPLsMz) or scan the QR code at left.

## Organ Recital: Felix Hell

Sunday, March 8th at 4 PM  
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 reimagined for solo organ.

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

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://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](mailto: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

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. Hilbert

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall

11:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

Solemn

11:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

7:30 PM Fr. Pennacchia

## 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 29th

(Fifth Day in the Christmas Octave)

1 John 2:3–11 Psalm 96

Luke 2:22–35

**8:30 MEM** Kevin Sullivan

**12:10 MEM** Lydia C. Sarnataro

**5:30 MEM** William Powers

### Tuesday, December 30th

(Sixth Day in the Christmas Octave)

1 John 2:12–17 Psalm 96

Luke 2:36–40

**8:30 MEM** Eddie Sweeney

**12:10 MEM** Deborah Kearney

**5:30 ANN** John Butler

### Wednesday, December 31st

(Seventh Day in the Christmas  
Octave)

1 John 2:18–21 Psalm 96

John 1:1–18

**8:30 MEM** Philippe DeValcy &  
Eloëz Pierre

**12:10 MEM** Ted Kruckel

### Thursday, January 1st

(Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of  
God)

Numbers 6:22–27 Psalm 67

Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:16–21

### Friday, January 2nd

(St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory  
Nazianzen)

1 John 2:22–28 Psalm 98

John 1:19–28

**8:30 MEM** Kathleen Thomas

### Saturday, January 3rd

(The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

1 John 2:29–36 Psalm 98

John 1:29–34

**8:30 MEM** Peter Joseph Burke, Sr.

### Sunday, January 4th

(The Epiphany of the Lord)

Isaiah 60:1–6 Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6

Matthew 2:1–12