



January 11, 2026 | Baptism of the Lord

A People in Peril

Could the world be witnessing the permanent dispersal of the Palestinian people? This question is prompted not simply by what is occurring in Gaza, but by what is occurring in the occupied West Bank where Palestinians are being displaced at a rapid pace as their communities are erased.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between October 7, 2023 (when Hamas attacked Israel) and December 7, 2025, 1,039 Palestinians—at least 225 of them children—were killed in the occupied West Bank. These deaths coincided with a violent campaign by Israeli settlers to drive Palestinians off their lands. At the same time, the Israeli government has accelerated the approval of settlements in the West Bank. Three years after Israel took control of the West Bank, after the Arab-Israeli war in 1967, there were an estimated 1500 settlers. Today, there are at least 770,000. On December 21, 2025, the Israeli government approved 19 new settlements raising the total number of approved settlements to 200, which is an increase from 140 just three years ago. When these settlements were approved, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, himself a settler, declared: “We will continue to develop, build, and settle the inherited land of our ancestors with faith in the righteousness of our path.”

On December 20, 2025, the *New York Times* offered detailed reporting on the systematic campaign of intimidation and violence being used by settlers to displace Palestinians. According to the reporting of the *New York Times*, and independently confirmed by Israeli human rights organizations, the Israeli Defense Force, which retains authority over the West Bank, frequently turns a blind eye to the violence being perpetrated by the settlers, while at the same time facilitating the displacement of the Palestinians in response to that violence. When official action is taken in response to unprovoked violence against Palestinians, that action is anemic at best.

An Israeli settler, who is an Israeli reserve soldier serving in a regional defense unit, was filmed running his all-terrain-vehicle over a 23-year-old-Palestinian man as he knelt in prayer on the roadside outside of Ramallah. Breaking the Silence, a group of Israeli military veterans critical of the Israeli occupation, has referred to the regional defense units—which have been responsible for many other attacks on Palestinian civilians in the West Bank—as “no more than settler militias in uniform.” The IDF said that the soldier’s weapon has been confiscated and that he’s been suspended due to the “severity of the incident.” Israeli police released him from custody after a few days. He was placed under house arrest for five days, and ordered not to approach the village where the incident occurred. This same individual was involved in an earlier incident that day in a village north of Ramallah. In that incident, he opened fire on Palestinians injuring a young man.

In January 2025, the Israeli watchdog group Yesh Din reported that across more than 1,700 reports of religious or politically motivated hate crimes committed by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank over the past two decades, nearly 94% of them were closed without any indictment and only 3% resulted in a conviction. At the same time, some 8,000 Palestinians are currently being held indefinitely in Israeli prisons without trial, many of them under “administrative detention orders” which prevent detainees, and their lawyers, from reviewing the evidence against them. Settlers may not be held under the same orders. Defense Minister Israel Katz said the goal was “to convey a clear message of strengthening and encouraging the settlements.”

As this systematic campaign of expulsions continues, the Israeli government, in late December, became the first country to recognize the break-away region of Somaliland. Earlier last year, it was reported that the United States and Israeli governments had asked whether Somaliland would accept displaced Palestinians. Somaliland denied that such conversations occurred.

— 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, JANUARY 11th

**ICE Warning Whistle Kit-Making Workshop.
Following the 11 AM Masses. Wallace Hall.**

Details below.

Ignatian Social Justice

**ICE Warning Whistle
Kit-Making Workshop**

**Sunday, January 11th
Following the 11 AM Masses
Wallace Hall**

Join us as we assemble whistle kits for vulnerable parishes in the New York metro area. Father Eric Cruz, Director of Catholic Charities for Westchester, Putnam Counties, and the Bronx, and the Director of Pastoral Migratoria Immigration Ministry, will open with a brief talk on the urgent situation in the Archdiocese.

In addition to whistles, the kits will contain bilingual information regarding rights and resources. All supplies will be provided.

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.

Low-Gluten Hosts

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

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.

Join Our Email Mailing List!

Sign-up for our e-newsletter to receive regular updates on parish news and events.



To sign-up, scan the QR code at left
or visit ignatius.nyc.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusnyc).

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 or scan the QR code above.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

Sundays, January 18th, February 15th,
March 29th, April 19th & May 17th
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Parish House

This program brings high school students together with senior parishioners for one-on-one technology support. Seniors are invited to bring phones, tablets, or laptops for help with everyday tech questions.

For more information or questions, visit ignite.nyc.

SAVE THE DATE

Mardi Gras Pizza & Bingo Night
Saturday, February 7th
6 PM to 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

Join us for a lively night of community and camaraderie. More information to come next week on pizza and bingo packages.

Meeting Christ in Prayer

Wednesdays, February 4th to March 25th
7 PM on Zoom

Meeting Christ in Prayer is an interactive 8-week guided prayer experience for small groups. Based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola, it introduces participants to various ways of praying and provides an opportunity to support one another through faith sharing. Join us as we approach Lent and Easter.

To register, email MCIP@nycignatius.org. You will receive further information about the retreat as well as a request for a good faith offering to cover the necessary materials.

Lost & Found

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.

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

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. Pennacchia

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Wallace Hall

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn

11:00 AM Fr. Martin

7:30 PM Fr. Martin

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 12th

(First Monday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 1:1–8 Psalm 116

Mark 1:14–20

8:30 MEM Larry Bossidy

12:10 MEM Charles Winterhalter

5:30 ANN Albert Alby

Tuesday, January 13th

(First Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 1:9–20 1 Samuel 2

Mark 1:21–28

8:30 MEM James Clinton

12:10 MEM John Thomas Higgins

5:30 MEM William Gelsomino

Wednesday, January 14th

(First Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 3:1–10, 19–20 Psalm 40

Mark 1:29–39

8:30 MEM Ivan Kucic

12:10 MEM Eileen Bowles

5:30 MEM Howard "Humpty"
Wheeler

Thursday, January 15th

(First Thursday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 4:1–11 Psalm 44

Mark 1:40–45

8:30 MEM Genevieve Ann Lyons

12:10 MEM Donna Portanova

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

Friday, January 16th

(First Friday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 8:4–7, 10–22a Psalm 89

Mark 2:1–12

8:30 MEM John Roger Morris

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark

Prekelezaj
5:30 MEM Adam Charles Fudge

Saturday, January 17th

(St. Anthony)

1 Samuel 9:1–4, 17–19; 10:1

Psalm 21 Mark 2:13–17

8:30 MEM Maria Teresa de Ortiz

Sunday, January 18th

(Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 49:3, 5–6 Psalm 40

1 Corinthians 1:1–3 John 1:29–34