



February 8, 2026 | Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Walking Together: An Eyewitness Account of Pope Francis's Legacy of Synodality and the Renewal and Reform of the Church

I am convinced that synodality is Pope Francis's abiding gift to the church. His energetic mission to school the church in the art and practice of synodality in the final few years of his life fittingly defines his pontificate, even though the ensuing synodal process did not receive universal approval.

Synodality presents opportunities for the renewal and reform of the church, beginning with creating a shared space for listening, dialogue, and discernment. This synodal process is considered threatening by some critics and doubters, in part because of a fear of loss of authority by some priests and bishops. Synodality calls us to convert and reform a clericalist obsession with and exercise of power and authority in the church. The effort to heal this distorted form of authority in the church stands as a bold and enduring manifestation of Pope Francis's synodal vision.

Synodality is Francis's way to foster participation in mission by welcoming the gifts, talents, and wisdom that the Spirit generously bestows on the entire community, through the grace of baptism. In the synodal vision of Pope Francis, participation in mission is an expression of our faith in God.

Francis demonstrated by his words, deeds, and gestures that in a synodal church, people who disagree do not have to become enemies, because it isn't a zero-sum game of winners and losers. Differences, disagreements, and competing visions of synodality exist and are part of the synodal tradition. As such, synodality isn't easy. We make the way by walking in a transparent, inclusive, and sustained process of discernment in common. We do not determine the answers ahead of the process, nor exclude anyone from the 'way'.

Discernment is a mark of the church that Pope Francis encouraged us to co-create, so that, as a church, we can build our capacity to listen with openness and honesty and to speak with courage and charity. This process calls for co-responsibility in governance and the inclusion of lay people in consequential decisions. In a synodal church, lay women and lay men have a right to be listened to and that right is warranted by our shared baptismal grace as equal members of the body of Christ. (See Final Document, no. 60).

Synodality is not a task to be completed but a spirit to be incarnated and lived, a habitual way of life. The process is as important as its outcome. As such, it offers a chance for ecclesial renewal and conversion. Beyond the diatribes, controversies, and divisions, the fundamental question remains how to synod (verb); how do we walk well together as the People of God?

The gift of synodality to the church can be further thought of as a catalyst for renewal and reform of the church, first, because it reconfigures the mission-framework of the church, so that every baptized Christian carries the duty and responsibility of mission and, second, it helps the church become constitutively synodal, that is, a church which makes a preferential option to continuously engage in inclusive listening, dialogue, and discernment, as expressions of its ordinary ways of living, working, teaching, and ministering.

Finally, as envisaged by Pope Francis, synodality invites us to recognize the equal dignity of women members of the People of God, their indispensable role and ministry, and the necessity of a continued discernment of women's diaconate. Listening to women's voices, honoring their talents, celebrating their competence, and learning from them about being a synodal church in mission ultimately make us a better Church.

Pope Francis's prophetic vision of a synodal church aimed to promote an understanding and practice characterized by inclusive decision-making, participatory discernment, and co-responsibility in ministry, as habitual ways of fulfilling its mission. Continuing this rich legacy is the task of the church for the rest of the Third Millennium.

— Fr. A.E. Orobator, S.J.
Dean, Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University in California

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, FEBRUARY 9th

LECTURE | Walking Together: An Eyewitness Account of Pope Francis's Legacy of Synodality and the Renewal and Reform of the Church.

7 PM. Wallace Hall.

Details on page 3.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln: Character, Image, Leadership, and Personality.

1 PM. Wallace Hall.

Details on page 3.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12th

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

The *Spiritual Exercises* as a School for Cultivating a Sacramental Imagination.

8:30 AM. Wallace Hall.

Details below.

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.

Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter



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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The parish's Vision Statement Implementation Plan was published in June 2024. I am delighted to report that remarkable progress has been made in the 12 initiatives of the plan.

The Parish Council has closely monitored the progress of each of the 12 initiatives of the Plan. Reporting on behalf of the Parish Council and as Chair of the Implementation Committee, Kenn Kern has written a letter to the parish community that is enclosed with this weekend's parish bulletin. It may also be accessed with this link at ignatius.nyc/vsip3.

I am grateful to Kenn and everyone on the Parish Council for their diligence and commitment to the current and future welfare of the parish. I am also thankful to all of you for your enthusiastic embrace of the Implementation Plan.

God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesalonia

Meeting Christ in Prayer

Holy Listening

**Thursday, February 19th to March 26th at 7 PM
Zoom**

Are you looking for an opportunity to share your response to Scripture with others? Join us for six weeks of faith sharing in a structured and welcoming listening environment. We will share our responses to an upcoming Sunday reading and then our responses to each other's shares. This is ideal for past participants of Meeting Christ in Prayer, but all are welcome. The program will take place on Zoom. Registration will close on Sunday, November 30th, at 5 PM.



To register, scan the QR code at left.

Please add MCIP@nycignatius.org to your contact list to receive communications and the Zoom link.

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.

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln: Character, Image, Leadership, and Personality

**Tuesday, February 10th at 1 PM
Wallace Hall**

Circle of Friends welcomes back Helen Lee, our November 2025 lecturer, for its February program celebrating Presidents' Day. The program will explore the two presidents honored in February—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln—examining their character, leadership, personality, and public image as expressed through art, writings, and photography.

George Washington's image was carefully shaped not only by artists and historians, but by Washington himself. Nearly one hundred years later, Abraham Lincoln faced the challenge of creating a convincing public image in a very different era—one in which photography played a crucial role. With the help of the camera, Lincoln succeeded in shaping how he would be seen and remembered.

Join us for coffee, cookies, and conversation as we explore the powerful ways images and ideas helped shape the presidencies of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Registration is required at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com. There is no fee for this program, but a free-will donation is appreciated.

Young Adult

Lenten Morning of Reflection

**Saturday, February 21st & Saturday, March 7th
9 AM to 1 PM
Wallace Hall**

If you are a Young Adult in your 20s & 30s, we invite you to join us for a Lenten Morning of Reflection.

Take a few hours this Lent to slow down with us, bask in a few hours of silence and reflection, and grow in fellowship with one another. Meals will be provided.

To register for the February 21st session, visit tinyurl.com/Feb21session

To register for the March 7th session, visit tinyurl.com/March7session

For more information, please contact Roxanne De La Torre, Pastoral Associate, at delatorreR@nycignatius.org.

Sponsored by the Father William J. Bergen SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality & Faith Formation

Lectures at St. Ignatius

Walking Together: An Eyewitness Account of Pope Francis's Legacy of Synodality and the Renewal and Reform of the Church

**Monday, February 9th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall**

PRESENTER

REV. A.E. OROBATOR, S.J., DEAN, JESUIT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY OF SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY



Pope Francis believed that "it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium." As a participant in the Synod on Synodality (2021-2024), Fr. Orobator will offer an eyewitness account of the gifts and opportunities, promises and prospects of synodality for the renewal and reform of the Church in its local and global manifestations.

Lent and Sacrifice Through the Coptic Lens

**Thursday, February 26th in Wallace Hall
6:30 PM (doors open)**

**7 PM to 8 PM (discussion and Q&A)
8 PM to 8:30 PM (fellowship and light refreshments)**

Join us as we explore the observance of Lent from a Coptic perspective and learn of the extraordinary example of the 21 men martyred for their faith in 2105. We will be screening "The 21", which tells their story powerful short film shaped by Neo-Coptic iconography, a moving tribute to bravery, sacrifice, and faith.

To register, email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

**Sunday, February 15th
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.

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. Pennacchia

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Wallace Hall Mass 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn Mass 11:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

7:30 PM Fr. Casciotti

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, February 9th

(5th Monday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13 Psalm 132

Mark 6:53-56

8:30 MEM Simone Saracino Fendi

12:10 MEM John Vaughan

5:30 MEM Sose & Mark

Prekelezaj

Tuesday, February 10th

(St. Scholastica)

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 Psalm 84

Mark 7:1-13

8:30 ANN Karen Creag Gafner

12:10 MEM John F. Murray, Jr.

5:30 MEM Deceased Members of

the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Wednesday, February 11th

(5th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 10:1-10 Psalm 37

Mark 7:14-23

8:30 MEM John Sweeny

12:10 MEM Larry Dupuis

5:30 MEM Nicoletta Mezzatesta

Thursday, February 12th

(5th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 11:4-13 Psalm 106

Mark 7:24-30

8:30 ANN Living & Deceased
Members of the Jim Douglas Family

12:10 MEM Kenneth Gerard

Brown

5:30 MEM Living & Deceased

Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, February 13th

(5th Friday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19 Psalm 81

Mark 7:31-37

8:30 MEM Mae Tantillo

12:10 MEM Abigail Feerick

5:30 MEM Nora Terriberry

Saturday, February 14th

(Ss. Cyril & Methodius)

1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34

Psalm 106 Mark 8:1-10

8:30 MEM Patricia Dellomo

Sunday, February 15th

(6th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Matthew 5:17-37