



March 8, 2026 | Third Sunday of Lent

A Brother's Grief

We are not born whole cloth. The fabric of who we are, of who we aspire to be, and who we become is woven over the course of our lives. What may appear to be seamless is stitched together through relationships, most especially with the threads of love shared from birth between a sister and a brother—lifetime companions on a journey of exploration, from youthful whimsy to the challenges of aging. It is a bond that can never be broken. Whether in life or after the passing of one, the threads of mutual affection are so tightly stitched into who they have become that even death cannot unravel the tapestries of their individual lives.

On Thursday of this past week, I presided at the Funeral Mass of my sister, Betty Ann, in the same church where both she and I were baptized sixteen months apart. After three weeks in the hospital, knowing that her heart was irreparably failing and she was dying, she wanted to go home, to die in the house she had lived in most of her life, first with our parents, and then with her two daughters. My sister quite clearly and repeatedly told us that she wanted to leave the hospital and go home. A woman of extraordinary religious faith, given the circumstances of her life, I believe she was telling us that she wanted to go to the one place where she would be at peace. It was so fitting that her Funeral Mass was celebrated in the same church of her baptism where her faith life began. It was her spiritual home that foreshadowed the home she so longed for at the end of her life.

I acknowledge the fact that every brother can be effusive in his comments about his sister in significant moments, such as death. With all due respect to all siblings, my sister was the real thing. She loved her family, and she loved me more than I deserved. She regularly wrote to me about how proud she was of me because of my accomplishments and that she loved me as her brother. I regret now that I failed to return the sentiments on an equally regular basis. A woman who shied away from public speaking, she was eloquent beyond words in the way in which she lived her life, cared for her family and friends, and prayed with a devotion that was inspirational. On occasions too numerous to count, she would call or text me to request prayers for someone who she believed needed them. She had an elegantly beautiful heart that shone brightly in everything she said and did. Her heart was full of goodness for so many, family, friends, and strangers. In the end, she surrendered her heart to the one who she knew would greet her warmly at the moment of her death and welcome her home.

At my sister's Funeral Mass, I chose the gospel passage about the visit of Jesus to the home of Martha and Mary—Martha, the hard worker, and Mary, the sister who sat at the foot of Jesus. Both were attentive to Jesus, but in different ways. My sister combined both these qualities. However, unlike the story in the gospel, my sister never complained about being a diligent worker, and for that matter, never, ever, said an unkind word about anyone.

As I write this essay, I am reminded of another gospel story of Martha and Mary. It is the account of the raising of their brother, Lazarus, from his death. When Jesus asked Martha whether she believed that that he was “the resurrection and the life” and that her brother lives, Martha answered, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.” At the end of her life, my sister revealed how much she was like Martha. She believed that her death was the beginning of a new life. Her resurrection was assured because of her deep and abiding love for Jesus and his Blessed Mother. It is that reality that we celebrated at her funeral.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are guided by our belief that Jesus lives. He truly is the resurrection and the life. And for those of us who have or have had a sibling, let us give thanks to God for the one person who assuredly walks as a companion with us, whether in life or in death, and who one day, and in God's time, will accompany us home.

— Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.
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

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th
Lenten Book Discussion.
1 PM. Parish House.

Irish American Stories to Celebrate America 250th.
1 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th
Lenten Bible Study | The Cross:
Meaning and Misunderstanding.
7 PM. Parish House & Zoom. *Details at right.*

**Seeds and Weeds Roundtable Discussion:
Cultivating a Spiritual Life in a Digital Age.**
6 PM. Parish House.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12th
U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club Concert.
8 PM. Church. *Free concert. No tickets needed.*

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13th
A Family Celtic Night Celebration.
7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 14th
Stations of the Cross.
9 AM. Church. *Details on page 3.*

Perfectly Paired

Sunday, March 22nd, following the 7:30 PM Mass
Wallace Hall

Calling all Young Couples of St. Ignatius of Loyola, especially those newly engaged, newly wed, still in your early years of married life, or those dating & discerning marriage. You're invited to join us for PERFECTLY PAIRED, an evening to get to know other young couples of the parish over wine & cheese.



To RSVP,
scan the QR code at left.

Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter



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

Movie Premiere: Communion

Thursday, March 26th
7 PM
Wallace Hall

Join us for the New York City premiere of the film Communion, a true story adapted for the screen from the sold-out Off-Broadway musical.

A discussion with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

Registration is recommended but not required.
RSVP to communionscreening@gmail.com.

Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation

On Tuesday, March 17th, from 1 PM to 3 PM, join us for a *Virtual Afternoon of Prayer* this Lenten season. Facilitated by Roxanne De La Torre (Pastoral Associate) and sponsored by the Fr. William J. Bergen SJ Office of Ignatian Spirituality & Faith Formation, this event is



open to all adult members of the parish.
To register, call the Parish House at (212) 288-3588 or scan the QR code at left.

On Thursday, March 19th from 6 PM to 9:30 PM, join members of the parish for a *Lenten Evening of Reflection* in Wallace Hall. Take a few hours this Lent to slow down with us and bask in a few hours of silence and reflection. Light snacks will be provided. Sponsored by the Fr. William J. Bergen SJ Office of Ignatian



Spirituality & Faith Formation. To register, call the Parish House at (212) 288-3588 or scan the QR code at left.

Lenten Bible Study

**The Cross:
Meaning and Misunderstanding**
Through Wednesday, March 25th
7 PM
Parish House & Zoom

Christians have for generations pondered and puzzled over the meaning of Jesus' passion and death. We affirm that he "died for our sins", but what does this mean? Did God demand that Jesus suffer before we could be forgiven? Was Jesus punished in our place? How was his death a "sacrifice"?

Our sessions will explore these and related questions through a careful reading of biblical theologies of the cross. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To register, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

Circle of Friends

Irish American Stories to Celebrate America 250th

Tuesday, March 10th at 1 PM
Wallace Hall

Dr. Elizabeth Stack returns to Circle of Friends this March to discuss some famous—and not so famous—Irish Americans to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence.

Dr. Stack will discuss some of the people involved in the American Revolution who had an impact on this country over the ensuing 250 years. In politics, religion, education, labor and culture, the Irish made incredible contributions to growing America, and yet some of these Irish Americans have been forgotten. To celebrate Irish American Heritage and Women's History Month, Dr. Stack will shine a light on some of these unsung heroes of Irish American history. Come join Circle of Friends and learn about the histories of these unsung Irish Americans.

There is no charge for this program.
A free will offering is appreciated.

RSVP at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.

Laetare Lecture

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

Monday, March 16th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

PRESENTER

Dr. Austen Ivereigh

Fellow in Contemporary Church History,
Campion Hall, Oxford, England

Visionary, reformer ... Pope Francis leaves a vast legacy. But most of all he showed us how to open to God's grace in our troubled "change of era".

Stations of the Cross: Saturdays in Lent Through March 28th at 9 AM Church

Led by Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

Join us for this traditional devotion as we draw closer to Jesus through a prayerful reflection on his passion and death.

Note: There will be Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 PM in the Church.

Easter Egg Coloring for Adults (Age 21+)

Friday, March 20th, from 6:30 to 9 PM
Wallace Hall

Join us for a fun-filled walk down memory lane with fellow parishioners as we decorate Easter eggs.

Enjoy light food and refreshments, and share in some joyful fellowship.

All supplies will be provided.
Just bring your imagination!

To RSVP, email jfmancuso@gmail.com.

A Family Celtic Night Celebration

Friday, March 13th, from 7 PM to 10 PM
Wallace Hall

Featuring music by Murphy's Lawyer, as well as Shepherd's Pie and Scones by Mary O's
With an open bar (Beer and Wine and Soda), face painting and dancing

All included with ticket price.
Price: Adults \$50 and Children \$25

Bring your small bills to shop the SIL SIOPA and bid on Celtic-themed auctioned baskets.



To purchase tickets,
scan the QR code at left.

Change for Change Drive

The proceeds for this year's Change for Change Drive will go towards supplying birthday cake boxes for the food pantry at the Church of the Ascension. The collection period runs to the end of Lent.

Loose change, bills, and checks (made out to "Church of St. Ignatius Loyola") are welcome.

Please bring donations to the Parish House.

Co-sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Interparish Religious Education Program

Guided Church Tour

Sunday, March 22nd at 2 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/.

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. Hallinan

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

9:30 AM Fr. Pennacchia

Wallace Hall Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

Solemn Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

7:30 PM Fr. Nolan

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, March 9th

(Third Monday of Lent)

2 Kings 5:1–15ab Psalm 42

Luke 4:24–30

8:30 MEM Simona Saracino
Fendi

12:10 MEM Maura Britton

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

Tuesday, March 10th

(Third Tuesday of Lent)

Daniel 3:25, 34–43 Psalm 25

Matthew 18:21–35

8:30 MEM Maria Fe Feliz Garcia

12:10 MEM Mr. & Mrs. Roger
Texier

5:30 MEM Ann Oroszlany Brown

Wednesday, March 11th

(Third Wednesday of Lent)

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9 Psalm 147

Matthew 5:17–19

8:30 MEM Helen & Don Markey

12:10 MEM William & Ann Reilly

5:30 MEM Heinz Simon

Thursday, March 12th

(Third Thursday of Lent)

Jeremiah 7:23–28 Psalm 95

Luke 11:14–23

8:30 MEM Living & Deceased
Members of the Wallace Family

12:10 MEM Virginia Driscoll

5:30 MEM Roy S. Kramer

Friday, March 13th

(Third Friday of Lent)

Hosea 14:2–10 Psalm 81

Mark 12:28–34

8:30 MEM Terence Wayne
Kirkpatrick

12:10 MEM Kathy & Bob Porrazzo

5:30 MEM Peter V. Bisconti, Jr.

Saturday, March 14th

(Third Saturday of Lent)

Hosea 6:1–6 Psalm 51 Luke 18:9–14

8:30 MEM Ann Oroszlany Brown

Sunday, March 15th

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8–14

John 1–41