



March 15, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Overflowing Cup

One of Saint Ignatius's spiritual exercises imagines "three kinds of people" who are all burdened with the same problem. Each has a sum of money and wishes to be free "of the burden arising from the attachment to it." Easy, you might say; give it away! But Ignatius wants us to see that the issue is attachment to money, not the money itself. So before working out what to do with it, which might be—who knows?—to give it away, keep it, or some other decision—they have to be free to do God's will. And they can't do that if they have already organized their lives and hearts to hold on to what they have.

This is about our freedom to be a disciple. The problem is not the things we possess, but the way they can possess us, robbing us of our freedom to live full lives of loving service. We want to be open, generous, free—and be ready to serve the Kingdom of God where we can. But in practice, a spirit in us stops us: a fear of losing what we have struggled to possess, a reluctance to admit we don't have it all sewn up. Pope Francis called it "spirit of sufficiency." It is the spirit of our age.

St. John tells of a man blind from birth whose cure by Jesus destabilizes the community. There are three kinds of responses. The first is that of the doctors of the law, who try desperately to shut it down. They are threatened by the miracle—it is fruitful to ponder why—so try and force a different narrative. The second response, that of the man's family and neighbors, is the saddest. They can see what has happened but can't share in the joy of it. For fear of the Pharisees and the crowd, they won't admit it publicly, so they deflect, keeping their heads down. The third response is the greatest, yet the loneliest: that of the now-seeing man himself, who knows something truly marvelous has happened to him, and struggles to understand it. He stands up to the jeering and bullying and boldly embraces the truth he comes to see: that God's action has given him new life. For this he is cast out. But Jesus meets him there and makes him a disciple of the Kingdom.

In St. Ignatius's exercise the first and second persons want to follow God's will, but they do nothing about it, and in practice bend God's will to their own desire. This is the way of the world, the way of sufficiency. But in the third case, the person takes the key step: he makes himself insufficient. To be open to God's will he gives up his attachment in his heart and so frees himself to follow Christ. Just as, in John's Gospel, we learn no more about the next chapter in the seeing man's life, so St Ignatius leaves it to us to take the story on from there—and make it our own story.

Here's the spoiler. In both cases what lies ahead is openness to God's action in our lives. And the sign of that action is what the psalmist calls the "overflowing cup." Jesus's presence is full of such signs: nets full of fish, multiplying loaves, dirty water becoming vintage wine. Why an overflow? Because it is the very life of God being poured out into us at such moments, as it will be, most fully and dramatically, in the Resurrection of Jesus.

"Such overflows of love happen, above all, at the crossroads of life, at moments of openness, fragility and humility," Francis wrote in our book *Let Us Dream*, "when the ocean of His love bursts the dams of our self-sufficiency, and so allows for a new imagination of the possible." Happy Laetare Sunday.

— Dr. Austen Ivereigh
Fellow in Contemporary Church History at Campion Hall, Oxford

Join us on Monday, March 16th at 7 PM in Wallace Hall for the presentation "Joy in a Time of Turbulence: The True Legacy of Pope Francis," led by Dr. Ivereigh.
For more information, see page 3.

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, MARCH 16th

**Joy in a Time of Turbulence:
The True Legacy of Pope Francis.**
7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

TUESDAY, MARCH 17th

Lenten Book Discussion.
1 PM. Parish House.

Virtual Afternoon of Prayer.
1 PM. Zoom. *Details at right.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th

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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19th

Lenten Evening of Reflection.
6 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details at right.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 20th

Easter Egg Coloring for Adults (Age 21+).
6:30 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st

Stations of the Cross.
9 AM. Church. *Details on page 3.*

**Celebration of the Sacrament
of the Anointing of the Sick.**
5:30 PM. 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.**

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

Discover the Glories of Central Park
Tuesday, April 14th at 1 PM
Wallace Hall

Central Park may be New York's most beloved green space, yet even lifelong New Yorkers are often surprised by the secluded gardens hidden within its 843 acres. From the formal elegance of the Conservancy Garden to the poetic beauty of the Shakespeare Garden, these spaces reveal the artistry, history, and seasonal color that make Central Park one of the city's most enchanting landscapes.

Join Circle of Friends for a richly illustrated presentation by George Rudenauer, a dedicated member of the Central Park Conservancy and a tour guide of Central Park.

In this engaging talk, George will highlight spring flowers in bloom, uncover hidden gems throughout the park, and share ideas for peaceful strolls through this extraordinary urban oasis.

There is no charge for the program, though a free-will donation is appreciated. Registration is required at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.

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.

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

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".

**Celebration of the Sacrament of
the Anointing of the Sick**
Saturday, March 21st, at the 5:30 PM Mass
Church

This liturgy is designed so that the community can support our brothers and sisters who are ill or aging.

During the course of the Mass, all those who feel the need of healing and strength because of illness, physical weakness, or spiritual distress will be invited to come forward to receive the Sacrament of Anointing.

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 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.

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/guidedtour.

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.

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. Pennacchia

Wallace Hall Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn Mass

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, March 16th

(Fourth Monday of Lent)

Isaiah 65:17-21 Psalm 30

John 4:43-54

8:30 ANN Charles Denihan

12:10 MEM Manuel Anthony May

5:30 ANN Charles Denihan

Tuesday, March 17th

(Fourth Tuesday of Lent)

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 Psalm 46

John 5:1-16

8:30 MEM Ann Oroszlany-Brown

12:10 MEM Frank Rosato

5:30 MEM Charles Frederick
O'Neill

Wednesday, March 18th

(Fourth Wednesday of Lent)

Isaiah 49:8-15 Psalm 145

John 5:17-30

8:30 MEM T.J. Horrigan

12:10 MEM Ted Kruckel

5:30 MEM Theresa Troilo

Thursday, March 19th

(St. Joseph)

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

Psalm 89 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

12:10 MEM Rosemary Baker

5:30 MEM Bradford Melanson

Friday, March 20th

(Fourth Friday of Lent)

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 Psalm 34

John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

8:30 MEM Nora & John Reilly

12:10 MEM Florence Achard

5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

Saturday, March 21st

(Fourth Saturday of Lent)

Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 7

John 7:40-53

8:30 MEM Helen Regan

Sunday, March 22nd

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

Ezekiel 37:12-14 Psalm 130

Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45