



June 28, 2026 | 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

By the Rivers of Babylon

In a week's time we will observe the 4th day of July as the day independence was declared from an autocratic sovereign whose only interest in the 13 colonies was how much of its wealth he could extract to fill his private coffers. The tax on tea, a commodity that fueled the emerging economy of the colonies, was more than what the founding fathers of this country could tolerate. Independence from the tyranny that ruled their lives was their goal. On July 4, 1776, an era of unprecedented freedom was inaugurated, a date etched into the tablet firmly held in the arm of Lady Liberty who stands tall in our harbor as a bright beacon of hope to those "yearning to breathe free." By tradition, in every hamlet, town and city of our nation we commemorate the day of the publication of the Declaration of Independence with its recitation and with parades, fireworks, cook-outs, and the singing of patriotic songs.

If you have not read the Declaration of Independence recently or at all, I suggest you read it this year. Each year for as long as I can remember I have read it to remind myself of the country we aspire to be and my role in it. I have also joined friends in a communal reading of the Declaration of Independence as we gathered in fellowship with hot dogs and beer to celebrate something all too many of us have taken for granted. The words of that document matter, and it is our responsibility to honor them by remaining faithful to the spirit they enshrine. Far too many women and men have died for our country so that we could live in freedom as a nation governed by the rule of law, a country where justice, truth, and integrity matter more than personal enrichment.

It is with a humble sense of pride and thanksgiving that we sing patriotic songs to celebrate the gifts of freedom and liberty and of a verdant land shining from sea to sea. Sadly, as I reflect upon this year's observance of the 4th day of July, I am reminded of the opening verses of Psalm 137:

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept
when we remembered Zion.
There on the poplars we hung our harps,
for there our captors asked us for songs,
our tormentors demanded songs of joy;
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"
How can we sing the songs of the Lord
while in a foreign land?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand forget its skill.
May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth
if I do not remember you.



Tragically we live today in a foreign land. We are a divided nation. We are at odds in our understanding of what it means to profess ourselves as the land of the free and the home of the brave. Freedom has become a commodity that is selfishly clutched in the hands of the highest bidder. The pandering of fear has ruptured relationships that heretofore were tranquil and civil, even in the face of disagreement. Truth has been compromised with such guile that we exist in a state of bewilderment. Bombast is seen as a sign of strength, and gilded adornments as greatness. I seriously doubt that the founding fathers envisioned what is occurring in our country as the blossoming of their ideals and principles.

To me, the words of our patriotic songs ring hollow this year. How can we sing the songs of our great nation while living in a foreign land? At another significant moment in history, we were a nation divided. The blood on the fields of Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh is a tragic testament to that reality. The insurrection of January 6, 2021 is all too fresh in our memory. Fractured at times, our democratic nation remains a work in progress. Our strength is in our unity, the same unity that freed the colonists from the madness of King George III and discredited those who sowed the seeds of discord and fear in order to divide our nation and profit from it.

The framers of the Declaration of Independence had an unwavering trust in God, the same trust in God's providential care that buoyed the spirits of the Israelites as they journeyed back to their homeland, singing once again the songs of Zion. As we approach the 4th day of July this year, may we, as a united nation, recommit ourselves to the values, principles, and ideals of our cherished founding document and place our trust in God alone. Let us also be mindful of the words of God to the Israelites that apply equally to us in the times in which we live: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer 29:11)

May God bless America, a land that we love!

— 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

SUNDAY, JUNE 28th

Fr. Pennacchia's Farewell Reception.
12 PM. Wallace Hall.

FRIDAY, JULY 3rd

Independence Day.

**The Parish House will be closed in observance of
Independence Day.**

One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM.

There will be no 5:30 PM Mass.

Summer Mass Schedule

Our summer **Daily Mass Schedule** begins on
Monday, June 29th and runs through
Monday, September 7th. During this time,
the 12:10 PM Daily Mass is discontinued.

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.

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.

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.

This September at St. Ignatius

Sunday, September 13th
Festival Mass

Sunday, September 20th
Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.'s Golden Jubilee

Sunday, September 27th
Welcome Back Sunday and Ministry Fair

Ministry of Care to the Sick & Homebound

The Ministers of Care of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish are
a sign of the community's presence, bringing Eucharist,
Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, comfort, prayer,
and companionship to those unable to participate
because of illness or aging.

Ministers of Care include lay persons and priests. Lay
ministers are trained as Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion and Pastoral Visitors, while priests
offer Reconciliation, Anointing, and Communion.

Together, they witness that the community of
faith has not forgotten the sick, the elderly, or the
unseen sufferers, drawing them into communion
with the Body of Christ so that no one is alone.

**To request Holy Communion, Reconciliation,
and/or the Anointing of the Sick, please
call the Parish House at 212-288-3588.**

Please tell the receptionist specifically what you
are requesting—a visit to receive communion, or
a visit to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation
and anointing with Communion.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Ignatian Volunteer Corps volunteers are adults over 50
years of age who offer their life skills and experience
one to two days a week to directly serve those in need.

**Interested? Contact Maureen Fullam, Regional
Director, at 917-859-0928 or email mfullam@
ivcusa.org, and visit us at ivcusa.org.**

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.**



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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Save the Date: Backpack Drive Saturday, July 11th to Sunday, August 16th

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring a Backpack Drive to provide backpacks and school supplies to students at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School in Harlem. Donated items may be dropped off at the Parish House. Staples gift cards are also welcome.

REQUESTED ITEMS:

- Backpack
- #2 Pencils
- Ballpoint pens, Black or Blue
 - Small box of crayons
- Small box of colored pencils
- 2 Black Marble notebooks
- 3 Pocket folders, 8"X11", any colors
- Small pack of wide-ruled loose leaf paper
 - Eraser
 - Pencil case

If you wish to order items online to be shipped to the Parish House, please have the shipments addressed: Attn: SVdP Backpack Drive.

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, July 8th—and all are welcome!

For more information, please contact us at svdpmembership980@gmail.com.

Fraud Alert

Please be aware that fraudulent emails are occasionally sent claiming to be from Fr. Yesalonia or other Parish staff members.

Before responding, always check the sender's email address. Legitimate Parish emails will come from the @nycignatius.org domain. If the email comes from a Gmail account or any other domain, it is not from the Parish. Neither Fr. Yesalonia nor Parish staff will ever request gift cards, money transfers, or similar purchases via email.

If you receive a suspicious email, please do not respond.

Religious Education

Registration Now Open for the 2026-2027 Session of IREP

Register now for the next session of our Interparish Religious Education Program (IREP).

IREP is an ongoing formation process for Kindergarten to 8th-grade students. IREP is intended for children who do not attend Catholic school but would like to be guided in the Catholic faith.

ALL NEW FAMILIES:



The QR code at left is for New Families only!

Once you complete this form, the IREP office will be notified and will review your application.

If approved, you will receive an automated email from Parish Giving with login credentials for an account that was created for you. Sign into your Parish Giving account to make a payment and select sessions for your child/ren.

ALL RETURNING FAMILIES:

If you're a returning family, please do not fill out the form. You will receive an email from Parish Giving on the morning that registration opens. This email will contain login credentials for a Parish Giving account that was created for you. There is no need for you to create a Parish Giving account.

If registration opens, and you don't receive this automated email, please contact the IREP office at 212-288-3588 x609 or email noonank@nycignatius.org.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Do you have a friend, family member, or a loved one who is considering becoming Catholic? Encourage them to reach out to us to inquire about our parish program designed to initiate adults into the Catholic faith.

For more information, contact Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org.

Parish Digital Publications

To access our Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report, visit ignatius.nyc/annual-reports.

The Vision Statement Implementation Plan and the Laudato Si' Action Platform can be found at ignatius.nyc/mission-and-values.

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 and 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for Next Weekend

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Casciotti

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Solemn Mass 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

7:30 PM Fr. Yesalonia

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

Resumes in September.

Confessions

4:30 PM Saturday 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.

Spiritual Direction

For more information or for help

finding a Spiritual Director, please

contact Roxanne De La Torre at

delatorreR@nycignatius.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, June 29th

(*Ss. Peter & Paul*)

Acts 12:1–11 Psalm 34

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

Matthew 16:13–19

8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey

5:30 MEM Peter Handal

Tuesday, June 30th

(*13th Tuesday in Ordinary Time*)

Amos 3:1–8 Psalm 5

Matthew 8:23–27

8:30 MEM Angelita Cruz

5:30 MEM Cecil C. Spadafora

Wednesday, July 1st

(*13th Wednesday in Ordinary
Time*)

Amos 5:14–15, 21–24 Psalm 50

Matthew 8:28–34

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

5:30 MEM Jackie Espejo

Thursday, July 2nd

(*13th Thursday in Ordinary Time*)

Amos 7:10–17 Psalm 19

Matthew 9:1–8

8:30 MEM Stephanie Krieger

5:30 MEM Living & Deceased

Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, July 3rd (*St. Thomas*)

Ephesians 2:19–22 Psalm 117

John 20:24–29

8:30 MEM Edward Dugan

Saturday, July 4th

(*13th Saturday in Ordinary Time*)

Amos 9:11–15 Psalm 85

Matthew 9:14–17

8:30 MEM Francisco Nicolas

Sunday, July 5th

(*14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

Zechariah 9:9–10 Psalm 145

Romans 8:9, 11–13

Matthew 11:25–30