

# Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

ESTABLISHED IN 1851 • JESUIT SINCE 1866

October 18th, 2020 | Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Hunger Is Not Just a Third-World Problem

**H**ow can there be hunger in the United States when we know that there is a surfeit of food in our fields, in our feedlots, and in our stores? Hunger is the hidden scandal of our nation and all of us must reflect prayerfully on what we can do to bring this scandal to an end.

Why are people hungry in 'normal' times in America, that is, times when there is no pandemic raging, when the economy is strong, and natural disasters are not wreaking havoc in more than one part of the country? Obviously, persons who are unemployed would most likely not have the means to feed themselves, or those dependent upon them, and so would experience times of hunger (not having sufficient food to meet minimum dietary needs). There are, however, sadly many working people who find themselves experiencing hunger. These are Americans who work in the low-wage sector of our economy where wages are simply insufficient to meet the cost of housing, health care, clothing, and food. This sector is also notorious for denying workers sufficient hours to earn the income necessary to meet their needs, as well as for scheduling those hours in a way that makes taking on other work difficult, if not impossible. Sadly, we speak of the 'working poor' in this country as if this was an unalterable reality.

Why are we seeing a surge in hunger in the United States right now? The economic contraction caused by the pandemic has hit households across the United States. The most severely affected, of course, are those households in which you had dual income earners both of whom have now lost their jobs. Even in those households where only one of those income earners has lost his or her job, the economic impact can be severe. Many wage-earners have been reduced to putting together what work they can find, at the hours available, knowing that such arrangements leave them well short of what they need to earn in order to pay for housing, food, and other necessities. More than 50 million people with children under the age of 18 at home say their household has lost income since March, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. It should not be a surprise, therefore, that we are seeing a surge in hunger in the United States.

How prevalent is hunger in the United States currently? Even before the pandemic hit, some 13.7 million households, or 10.5% of all U.S. households, experienced food insecurity at some point during 2019, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That works out to more than 35 million Americans who were either unable to acquire enough food to meet their needs, or uncertain of where their next meal might come from, last year. This is according to reporting done by NPR. NPR also reports that an analysis by the Brookings Institution conducted earlier this summer found that in late June, 27.5% of households with children were food insecure — meaning some 13.9 million children lived in a household characterized by child food insecurity. Please remember that nutritional deficits in early childhood can have lasting effects on that child's physical and cognitive development which, in turn, can adversely impact their future economic well-being. Hunger is a tragic reality for too many Americans.

What can you do in response? You can help to address immediate local needs by contributing to organizations such as New York Common Pantry in Manhattan, or the Food Bank for New York City. Nationally, you can contribute to Feeding America, a highly rated organization. You can also become members of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization promoting non-partisan solutions to hunger both in the United States and throughout the world.

While it is important to provide immediate assistance to those who are hungry, our nation must recognize the need for a transformation in both our economy and how we structure government assistance programs. Until our economy is able to generate enough jobs that provide wages sufficient to meet basic household needs, we must have a system of government assistance that provides a consistent level of support to those individuals and families whose work denies them what they need in order to live healthy lives. We also need to have systems in place that provide sufficient support for those who are unemployed, as well as those who, because of age or disability, are not capable of working. Until we address fundamental economic inequities, and the structural problems in our government assistance programs, hunger will remain a scandal in a country that has more than enough food for all.

— Rev. Mark Hallinan, S.J.  
Associate Pastor



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## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Social Distancing Socials.

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.

6 PM. Zoom.

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th

Sunday Morning Sing-In.

9:45 AM. Zoom.

Boomers & Beyond | Sunday Brunch in Central Park  
1:00 PM. Meeting at East 79th Street & Fifth Avenue.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20th

Parish Men's Faith Group | "Clothe Yourself  
With Compassion": Channeling Compassion  
for a Wounded World.

7 PM. Zoom.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

Parish Women's Faith Group

7:00 PM. Zoom.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th

### & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th

Jesuit Friends & Alumni Sunday | Virtual Mass.

*For more information about  
our upcoming programs,  
please visit [stignatiusloyola.org](http://stignatiusloyola.org).*

### Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday)

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM

**Saturday:** 8:30 AM

Saturday Vigil	5:30 PM	Fr. Yesalonia
Sunday:	8:00 AM	Fr. Hallinan
	9:30 AM	Fr. Amiot
Solemn	11:00 AM	Fr. Hilbert
Livestream	11:00 AM	Fr. Yesalonia
	7:30 PM	Fr. Hilbert



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## Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

### Monday, October 19th

*(Ss. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & comps.)*

2 Corinthians 4:7-15 Psalm 126 Matthew 28:16-20

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

12:10 MEM James Johnson

5:30 MEM Robert Troilo

### Tuesday, October 20th

*(29th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)*

Ephesians 2:12-22 Psalm 85 Luke 12:35-38

8:30 LVG Frank Vardy

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Joyce Arentzen

### Wednesday, October 21st

*(29th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)*

Ephesians 3:2-12 Isaiah 12 Luke 12:39-48

8:30 MEM Leslie & Walter Kernan

12:10 MEM Helen Chierchio

5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

### Thursday, October 22nd

*(29th Thursday in Ordinary Time)*

Ephesians 3:14-21 Psalm 33 Luke 12:49-53

8:30 MEM Paul Ingrassia

12:10 MEM Warren Krug

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

### Friday, October 23rd

*(29th Friday in Ordinary Time)*

Ephesians 4:1-6 Psalm 24 Luke 12:54-59

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

12:10 MEM Margaret Gallacher

5:30 MEM Mario Daiuto, David Deporis & Suhair Koura

### Saturday, October 24th *(29th Saturday in Ordinary Time)*

Ephesians 4:7-16 Psalm 122 Luke 13:1-9

8:30 ANN Joan Gordon

### Sunday, October 25th *(30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 18

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40