

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

ESTABLISHED IN 1851 • JESUIT SINCE 1866

October 25, 2020 | Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Envy

It took going to a Catholic university for my interfaith journey to begin. At Georgetown University, I met Mennonites, American Baptists, Orthodox, and Evangelical Christians for the first time, and relished in learning about their perspectives of faith. Freshman year, I made my first Jewish friend, whose dorm room was next to mine, and who took me to my first Shabbat service in the beautiful Orthodox synagogue in Georgetown. I remember feeling like a fish out of water – I couldn't carry a pocketbook, sat up in the women's section, and got hopelessly lost in the prayer book until my friend explained Hebrew was read right to left. Yet, I was overwhelmed by the beauty and prayerfulness of the service with its reverence and tradition.

I was in an office in midtown during the terrorist attacks on September 11th. Next to me was a colleague, who was (and is) a good friend and observant Muslim. We were both horrified that religion could be perverted into a weapon, so we began a dialogue. She was the first practicing Muslim I knew, and I was the first practicing Christian she knew. Over the months, we learned so much about each other's faith. I guarded the conference room door at work so she could pray during Ramadan, and she learned that the statues in church are not idols worshipped, but only reminders of Jesus and the saints. I attended her mosque during Ramadan, and she came to St. Ignatius for Ash Wednesday. The sermons were nearly identical: love God, serve others, and be a light to the world.

The beauty of New York City rests in its incredible diversity, but it is easy for us to live among neighbors of other faiths without ever really engaging with them. What does it mean to be a person of faith in a city of many faiths? Why is this an important question? Shouldn't we focus on learning about our own faith rather than that of others?

I believe that God, through the teachings of his Son, Jesus, answers these questions. The parable of the Good Samaritan is the perfect illustration of what we can learn from our brothers and sisters of other faiths: we admire the Samaritan, the "non-believer", for his example of charity. Aren't we also a bit envious – hoping that we as Christians would have the same depth of charity and compassion?

As we enter a dialogue with those of other faiths, we grow in our own. We can be moved and challenged by others, as we are by the Good Samaritan. The Biblical fluency of my Protestant friends, the focused Ramadan fasting and daily prayer of my Muslim friends, and the powerful traditions of my Jewish friends have left me with envy. This holy envy as Barbara Brown Taylor explains comes from a dialogue with those of other faiths and can lead to profound insight into God, albeit from a different lens. This holy envy can spur us on to greater understanding and practice of our own faith.

It is in this spirit that the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry ("IIM") was formed several years ago. We have learned from rabbis, prayed with Protestant and Orthodox congregations, discovered the ancient Armenian traditions as the world's first Christian country, and celebrated Ramadan with Turkish members of the Peace Island Institute. As fellow believers, we acknowledge our shared desire to know God and serve Him, and to learn from each other.

Sorrow and loss have been another universal experience during this pandemic. Our neighboring faith communities have lost congregants, relatives, and friends to COVID-19 as have we at St. Ignatius. On October 28th at 7:30 pm, the IIM will be hosting a virtual prayer service of mourning with our brothers and sisters in faith. I hope that these expressions of grief and faith bring each of you comfort and a desire to learn more about the faith of others.

Please consider joining our ministry as well. You may register at ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com to be updated on upcoming events and meetings. I look forward to walking this journey together with you, with just the right amount of holy envy!

— Simone G. Vinocour McKeever
Chair, Ignatian Interfaith Ministry



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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Social Distancing Socials.
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.
6 PM. Zoom.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25th

Sunday Morning Sing-In.
9:45 AM. Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28th

Virtual Interfaith Memorial Prayer Service.
Hosted by the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola.
7:30 PM.

St. Ignatius Loyola Facebook page (*stignatiusnyc*)
and YouTube channel (*ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC*).

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
7:00 PM. Zoom.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th

Ignatian Social Justice:
Virtual Interparish Film Discussion.
6:30 PM. Zoom.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31st to SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive.

*For more information about
our upcoming programs,
please visit stignatiusloyola.org.*

Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday)

8:30 AM (Church), 12:10 PM (Church) & 5:30 PM (Livestream only)

Saturday: 8:30 AM (Church)

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



Join Our Email Mailing List!

To sign-up, scan the QR code at left or
visit stignatiusloyola.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, October 26th

(30th Monday in Ordinary Time)

Ephesians 4:32–5:8 Psalm 1 Luke 13:10–17

8:30 MEM Matthew White

12:10 ANN Mary Cecilia Sullivan

5:30 MEM Lillian Signorelli

Tuesday, October 27th

(30th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

Ephesians 5:21–33 Psalm 128 Luke 13:18–21

8:30 MEM Joan & Thomas McHugh

12:10 MEM Peggy Calucci

5:30 MEM Lizbeth Ceballos

Wednesday, October 28th

(Ss. Simon & Jude)

Ephesians 2:19–22 Psalm 19 Luke 6:12–16

8:30 MEM Catherine & Thomas Flannigan

12:10 MEM Toni Brown

5:30 MEM Christopher Begley

Thursday, October 29th

(30th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Ephesians 6:10–20 Psalm 144 Luke 13:31–35

8:30 MEM Freddie Tart

12:10 MEM Ann Coneys

5:30 MEM William Powers

Friday, October 30th

(30th Friday in Ordinary Time)

Philippians 1:1–11 Psalm 111 Luke 14:1–6

8:30 MEM Carl Vitale

12:10 MEM Katie Christian Stacey

5:30 MEM Anna Marie Chen

Saturday, October 31st

(St. Alphonsus Rodriguez)

Philippians 1:18b–26 Psalm 42 Luke 14:1, 7–11

8:30 MEM John & Margaret Reilly

Sunday, November 1st

(All Saints)

Revelation 7:2–4, 9–14

Psalm 24

1 John 3:1–3

Matthew 5:1–12a