

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

ESTABLISHED IN 1851 • JESUIT SINCE 1866

December 13, 2020 | Third Sunday of Advent

Angels, Agents of Transformation

*My depression deepened unbearably and finally it seemed to me as though I were at the bottom of the pit.
I still gagged badly on the notion of a Power greater than myself, but finally, just for the moment,
the last vestige of my proud obstinacy was crushed.*

*All at once I found myself crying out, "If there is a God, let Him show Himself! I am ready to do anything, anything!"
Suddenly the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up into an ecstasy which there are no words to describe.
It seemed to me, in my mind's eye, that I was on a mountain and that a wind not of air but of spirit was blowing.
And then it burst upon me that I was a free man.*

This is how "Bill W", the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, described his "hot flash" spiritual conversion. Bill was in Towns Hospital, then located on Central Park West, for his last detox – his wife was resolved to have him committed should he relapse. Though he felt himself to be at a desperate, hopeless dead-end, an invisible yet tangible messenger pierced the veil, radically transforming Bill's life, and by extension countless other lives. Our ancestors in faith attributed experiences like this to angels.

While the angelic might appear dramatically, as with Bill W, most of us will be invited to receive these messengers in subtle, quiet ways. We will be touched by angels through others who enter our lives at just the right moment with guidance and wisdom. Perhaps there will be a dream that gives us clarity and new direction through arresting symbolism. The angelic might communicate through synchronicities: when we seem to encounter a certain theme, word, or image recurring everywhere, we sense that it is all more than coincidence. Deep intuitions that are impossible to ignore also serve to guide, warn, and teach us as well.

Angels are active during "in between" times in both biblical stories and the experiences of people like Bill W. When we reach life's thresholds, when faced with consequential choices, there is a power available to us independent of the ego, a power of otherworldly wisdom and gentle guidance. We are collectively passing through an "in between" time now as we endure COVID-19, social turmoil, and political transition. In the coming months it is likely that pandemic will gradually end, God willing, and our politics will regain a semblance of stability. History will invite us to draw wisdom from these turbulent times as we make decisions about what kind of people, nation and church we want to be. Such are the junctures when the angelic is most available to us, if we are discerning and humbly open to its guidance.



Winged Figure.
Abbott Handerson Thayer. 1889.

As we journey through the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will see external reminders of angels everywhere—in our lectionary readings, carols, favorite holiday films and atop our trees. I invite you to pay attention to these many synchronous signs of angelic presence, and open your hearts to the Mysterious Power that longs to guide us to healing, wholeness and peace through the presence of these sacred messengers in our lives.

— Brian Pinter
Pastoral Associate



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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Social Distancing Socials.
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays.
6:00 PM. Zoom.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13th

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Tuesday Night Book Group | *Story of a Soul: The Autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*. 7:00 PM. Zoom.

Meeting Christ in Prayer: Holy Listening.
7:00 PM. Zoom.

Parish Men's Faith Group | The Men of Advent and Christmas.
7:00 PM. Zoom

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17th

Angels - Agents of Transformation.
Presented by Brian Pinter.
7:00 PM. Zoom.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 14th (*St. John of the Cross*)

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Psalm 25 Matthew 21:23-27
8:30 MEM William & Ann Reilly
12:10 MEM Kevin Kerr
5:30 MEM Robert J. Kubera

Tuesday, December 15th (*Third Tuesday of Advent*)

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Psalm 34 Matthew 21:28-32
8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary
12:10 MEM Helen & Samuel Chierchio
5:30 MEM Vincent Lioni

Wednesday, December 16th (*Third Wednesday of Advent*)

Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Psalm 85 Luke 7:18b-23
8:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the
Brenninkmeijer Family
12:10 MEM Joseph Gehring
5:30 MEM Margaret O'Connell Romeo

Thursday, December 17th (*Third Thursday of Advent*)

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Psalm 72 Matthew 1:1-17
8:30 MEM Henry S. Kaufman
12:10 MEM Wolfgang Herz
5:30 MEM Living & Deceased Members of the
Wallace Family

Friday, December 18th (*Third Friday of Advent*)

Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72 Matthew 1:18-25
8:30 MEM Anthony Pflum
12:10 MEM Carmella Wolf
5:30 MEM Noel McElligott

Saturday, December 19th (*Third Saturday of Advent*)

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Psalm 71 Luke 1:5-25
8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

Sunday, December 20th (*Fourth Sunday of Advent*)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Reservations

Phone and online registration for our
Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve
and *Friday, December 25th* Christmas Day Masses
is now open.



To RSVP, visit ignatius.guestmanager.com
or scan the QR code at left.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses: 2 PM, 4 PM*, 6 PM, and 8 PM
Christmas Day Masses: 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon.

Please note: Reservations are no longer being accepted
for the 4 PM Mass.

*If you are unable join us in-person, view our virtual
Masses on our YouTube channel and Facebook page at
5:30 PM on Christmas Eve & 11 AM on Christmas Day.*

Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday)

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

Saturday: 8:30 AM (Church)

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