

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

ESTABLISHED IN 1851 • JESUIT SINCE 1866

October 31, 2021 | Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Praying with the Communion of Saints

Every morning I pray with two dear friends—our fellow parishioner Carlos Cuartas and Fr. Michael Sehler, S.J., who taught for 24 years at Loyola School next door. Though both died within the past 18 months, they remain my prayer partners. I pray for Carlos and Mike as they continue on their spiritual journey. And I ask them for support and inspiration as I begin my day —“Help me to do some good just as you did so much good in your time here.” On this eve of the month All Souls, I am filled with gratitude that our Catholic Tradition has tithed time to pray for and with our soul-friends on the other side of death.

Praying with the dead is grounded in our belief in the communion of saints. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, the spiritual writer, reflects, “This doctrine, so central and important that’s enshrined in our creed, asks us to believe that we are still in a real community of life and communication with those who have died.”

Though death separates us, our relationships with our departed loved ones deepen, grow and evolve. Carlos and Mike loved me and supported me here with their companionship, and continue to do so from their heavenly place. I have a Colombian rosary bracelet that Carlos once wore on his wrist. When he gave it to me (over a pint at Carlow East!) he said, “It reminds me that I am never alone.” When I put it on every morning I know that he is with me. And when I walk through the doors of Fordham Prep to begin my day of teaching, I make it my intention to bring Mike’s spirit of care, kindness, compassion, and fun to my classroom, as he did to his.



Fra Angelico. *The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs*. 1423–1424.

I am deeply grateful that I was able to say everything I wanted to say to Mike and Carlos before they died. But I recognize that it is a sad reality of the human experience that more often than not, much is left unsaid. The communion of saints affirms that there remains an opportunity for that unfinished business to be addressed. Recently a friend shared with me that his feelings about his late mother have evolved over many years, and he is finding that he understands her better and feels more inclined toward forgiving her for the ways she’d wounded and disappointed him. “Perhaps she too is desiring reconciliation”, I offered, “and is now reaching out from across the divide. Could that be why you’re feeling these emotions stirred?” He was silent and still for about a minute, then tears came to his eyes. Love is indeed stronger than death!

I have become more intentional about showing up in prayer with my soul friends on the other side. Besides my morning ritual with Mike and Carlos, I set aside time to simply be still in the presence of those I love who have died. I light a candle and call them to mind. I am also attentive to and reverence dreams where they visit me. When I journal about the dream I sometimes write alternative endings that address what was unfinished and unsaid. This spiritual writing exercise might be an opportunity for one to extend or ask for forgiveness, or say, “Thank you!” or “I love you.”

In the final months of his life, Carlos would often conclude notes to me with, “Managing daily, with the Lord at my side.” And the last thing Mike said to me while he could still speak was, “I love you.” Though they have gone to their rest, I know that Carlos and Mike are by my side daily, sending me love. I am especially grateful for them, and all my loved ones I will pray with in this season of All Souls.

— Brian Pinter
Pastoral Associate

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31st

Community Coffee Hour.
Noon. Outside the Church.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

Moms, Pops & Tots.
11 AM. Outside the Parish House.

Tuesday Night Book Group: *St. Augustine's Confessions*.
7 PM. Zoom.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th to SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

Parish Retreat: "Autumn Reflects God's Grandeur".
Jogues Retreat, Cornwall, New York.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th

In-Person Reading Course on Faith.
Five Saturdays, through December 4th.
11 AM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.

Celebration of the Sacrament
of the Anointing of the Sick.
At the 5:30 PM Mass. Church.

Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday)

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

For the Weekend of November 7th

Saturday Vigil	5:30 PM	Fr. Hallinan
Sunday:	8:00 AM	Fr. Bergen
	9:30 AM	Fr. Hallinan
Solemn (Livestream)	11:00 AM	Fr. Gustafson
Wallace Hall Family	11:00 AM	Fr. Yesalonia
	7:30 PM	Fr. Gustafson



ANNUAL MEMORIAL LITURGY

in remembrance of deceased
parishioners and/or their family members
who have died since November 2020.

Tuesday, November 16th at 7:00 PM

Refreshments following in Wallace Hall

You are invited to submit the names
of deceased loved ones no later than

Friday, November 12th to silmemorialmass@gmail.com.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, November 1st

(All Saints)
Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 Psalm 24
1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a

Tuesday, November 2nd

(The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed)
Readings will be taken from the *Masses for the Dead*

Wednesday, November 3rd

(Thirty-first Wednesday in Ordinary Time)
Romans 13:8-10 Psalm 112 Luke 14:25-33
8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino
12:10 MEM Frances Ennis McCollum
5:30 MEM Daniel F. Kelly

Thursday, November 4th

(St. Charles Borromeo)
Romans 14:7-12 Psalm 27 Luke 15:1-10
8:30 MEM Eileen Curran
12:10 MEM Shirley Goodingham
5:30 MEM Noel Sumulong

Friday, November 5th

(All Saints of the Society of Jesus)
Deuteronomy 30:11-14 Psalm 16 John 12:23-26
8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly
12:10 MEM Richard Bliss
5:30 MEM Sr. Mary Jane Kelly, O.P.

Saturday, November 6th

(Thirty-first Saturday in Ordinary Time)
Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Psalm 145 Luke 16:9-15
8:30 MEM The Meehan Family

Sunday, November 7th

(Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time)
1 Kings 17:10-16 Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44



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our weekly e-newsletter by scanning
the QR code at left or visiting [ignatius.nyc](https://www.ignatius.nyc).