



January 30, 2022 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Preparing for the Moral Life: Vulnerability, Recognition and Conscience

Years ago, I became worried about teaching courses in ethics. It seemed to me that we were designing courses as if students just needed a number of instructions. I began to see that we were presuming that everyone has a conscience, so all students need is instruction to guide and form their consciences.

Now I am beginning to think that they need something before conscience. I say this because I see some students who are responsive to the need for moral assistance, but others are not. If all have consciences and all take the same courses, why do some respond to the need for moral assistance and others do not?

Failing to respond in the first place seems to be the predominant failure in human history. At least it appears that way in the Bible. People do not fail having responded; rather, they fail beforehand: they fail to bother, to respond in the first place. The priest and Levite pass by the man on the road in Luke 10.30-37; the goats do not respond to the hungry and the naked in Matthew 25.31-46; and the rich man steps over Lazarus in Luke 16.19-31. None of them respond.

Is there something that starts the ball rolling? Is there something about ethical formation that precedes a conscientious response? Is there something we are not forming that eventually gets one to act?

I propose that in order to act out of conscience one needs to be vulnerable and from that vulnerability, needs to be able to recognize the neighbor. Vulnerability and recognition precede any conscience act. My presentation is then an engagement of these two topics.

Like many others, when I first thought of vulnerability, I considered it singularly as being wounded, as primarily a condition that raises alarm and concern. From the writings of Judith Butler, among others, I began to see vulnerability as being capacious, as being by nature disposed to respond.

When I recognized that the word “vulnerable” does not mean having been wounded, but rather being able to be wounded, then I began to see how it means being exposed to the other; in this sense vulnerability is the human condition that allows me to hear, encounter, receive, or respond to the other even to the point of being injured. Being human is being vulnerable.

The question of people being in unstable situations of need is the question of precarity. Being vulnerable should not be reduced to being precarious. In my paper I will discuss how the two concepts play out in the Good Samaritan Parable and the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Indeed, in this way, we will see the centrality of both the Samaritan and the Prodigal’s Father as the vulnerable center of the parables.

Similarly, we will see that we are vulnerable because God is vulnerable. God reveals to us God’s self as vulnerable by the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, his life in Nazareth, and his death on Golgotha. Thus, to be made in God’s image is to be made vulnerable. Our dignity is rooted in God’s vulnerability.

For recognition, I first turn to the psychoanalyst and feminist theorist Jessica Benjamin, who reflects on mutual recognition among infants, where an infant finally encounters another that seems much like itself and yet, not. Benjamin writes, “Mutual recognition is the most vulnerable point in the process of differentiation.” She adds, “In mutual recognition, the subject accepts the premise that others are separate but nonetheless share like feelings and intentions.”

I turn to how the call to recognition plays out today socially, in Black Lives Matter, in #MeToo, and in a variety of ways as the first step toward ethical engagement.

In light of these insights into vulnerability and recognition, we can finally turn to conscience.

— Rev. James F. Keenan, S.J., *Canisius Professor and Director of The Jesuit Institute at Boston College*

Join us on Monday, January 31st at 7 PM for the Zoom webinar Preparing for the Moral Life: Vulnerability, Recognition and Conscience, presented by Fr. Keenan. For more information, please see page 2.

WEBINAR

PREPARING FOR THE MORAL LIFE:
VULNERABILITY, RECOGNITION
AND CONSCIENCE

{ Monday, January 31st at 7:00 PM }
On Zoom



PRESENTER

REV. JAMES F. KEENAN, S.J.

*Internationally renowned Moral Theologian and
Bioethicist, Vice Provost for Global Engagement,
Canisius Professor and
Director of The Jesuit Institute at Boston College*

{ This talk suggests that longstanding “conscience formation programs” are not all that successful unless they help us first to cultivate the capacities to be vulnerable to one another and to recognize the other, often overlooked. Fr. Keenan’s thesis is that, until there’s vulnerability and the willingness to recognize, there isn’t much capacity to be a person of conscience. }



To register to attend this webinar,
visit [ignatius.nyc/event/january31webinar](https://www.ignatius.nyc/event/january31webinar)
or scan the QR code at left.



St. Ignatius Loyola
NEW YORK

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, JANUARY 31st

Webinar | Preparing for the Moral Life:
Vulnerability, Recognition and Conscience.
7 PM. Zoom. *See page 2.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

Tuesday Night Book Group —
*Introduction to the Spiritual Life: Walking the Path of
Prayer with Jesus* by Dr. Brant Pitre. 7 PM. Zoom.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

Courageous Women of Faith:
Celebrating Catholic Laywomen.
7 PM. In the Church and Livestreamed. *Details at right.*

A Catholic Perspective on Issues of War and Peace

Monday, February 7th at 7 PM
Parish Lounge

Interested in discussing contemporary
Catholic teaching on war and peace? And the
implications of that teaching for United States
defense policies and weapons spending? Then
please join us at our next monthly meeting.

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J., will guide our sessions.
To receive the readings for the session, please email
Fr. Hallinan at hallinanm@saintignatiusloyola.org.

*PLEASE NOTE: Proof of Vaccination and full
masking will be required to enter the Parish House.
Please have your Vaccination Card ready.*

LME Day of Reflection

Saturday, February 12th, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM
Online

For the first 2022 LME event, we will welcome Helen
Young, Emmy award-winning journalist. She will
highlight her documentary, “The Nuns, the Priests, and
the Bombs”, which follows the work of Sister Megan
Rice who was a parishioner 80 years ago.

Sadly, Sister Megan passed away last October, but
remembering her legacy echoes our parish's initiative
to acknowledge the work of women parishioners that
are active and engaged. Join us for this conversation
and have the opportunity to watch the documentary
before or after the event.

For more information and to register,
visit tinyurl.com/LMEWINTER2022.



Courageous Women of Faith: Celebrating Catholic Laywomen

Thursday, February 3rd
7 PM

In the Church and livestreamed on YouTube

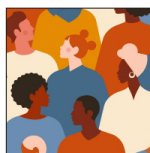
At this event we will honor environmental justice activist
(and keynote speaker) *Sharon Lavigne*, labor leader
Dolores Huerta, and civil rights ally *Eleanor Josaitis*.

We will commemorate their extraordinary work with the
conferral of the Mary Magdalene Award to each honoree
and the unveiling of large-scale banners of the women,
created by artist Julie Lonneman,
that will hang in the church through February.

To view the livestream, visit our YouTube channel
[ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC).

Lenten Discernment Series: Racial Justice

February 7th & 24th, March 24th, and April 7th
7 PM on Zoom



*Lenten Discernment Series: Racial
Justice* offers an opportunity for
education and theological reflection
to discern ways we can work for racial
justice through the framework of the
Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Readings will be sent out for each meeting
for small group discussion.

To sign-up, email **Jean Santopatre**,
Pastoral Associate, Ignatian Social Justice
at santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org.



Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners wishing to
receive a low-gluten host at the distribution of Holy
Communion, please speak with a Hospitality Minister.



Join Our Email Mailing List!

To sign-up for our e-newsletter, scan the
QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc.



To stay up-to-date on parish news,
follow us on Instagram and Facebook
at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusnyc).

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.

Associate Pastors

Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.

Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

Senior Priest

Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.

Pastoral Year Priest

Rev. Daniel N. Gustafson, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Kate Noonan

Jean Santopatre

Brian Pinter

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Haley

Assisting Priest

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Music Ministries

Scott Warren, *Director*

Daniel Beckwith

Maureen Haley

Robert Reuter

Philip Anderson

Michael Sheetz

Danya Katok, *Director of Concerts*

Assistant to the Pastor

Diane M. Boyle

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Schneider

Director of Communications

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Director of Development

Erin Pick

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses (Monday – Friday)

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

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Masses for the Weekend of February 6th:

Saturday Vigil

5:30 PM Fr. Bergen

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn

11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

Wallace Hall Family

11:00 AM Fr. Gustafson

7:30 PM Fr. Hilbert

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

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

Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass.

Confessions

4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please call Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636)

to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages

The Bride or Groom should call Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636) 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.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, January 31st

(*St. John Bosco*)

2 Samuel 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13

Psalms 3 Mark 5:1–20

8:30 MEM Helen & Charles Regan

12:10 MEM Hilda Handal

5:30 MEM William Powers

Tuesday, February 1st

(*4th Tuesday in Ordinary Time*)

2 Samuel 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a,

30–19:3 Psalm 86 Mark 5:21–43

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

12:10 MEM Jay Kilkenny

5:30 MEM Timothy Grealy

Wednesday, February 2nd

(*The Presentation of the Lord*)

Malachi 3:1–4 Psalm 24

Hebrews 2:14–18 Luke 2:22–40

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon Families

12:10 MEM Michael Diaks

5:30 MEM Michael Kelly

Thursday, February 3rd

(*4th Thursday in Ordinary Time*)

1 Kings 2:1–4, 10–12

1 Chronicles 29 Mark 6:7–13

8:30 MEM Kathleen Dun

12:10 MEM Mary Elizabeth Dee

5:30 MEM Bill Hassett

Friday, February 4th

(*4th Friday in Ordinary Time*)

Sirach 47:2–11 Psalm 18

Mark 6:14–29

8:30 MEM Eileen Ballar

12:10 MEM Timothy Vigorita

5:30 MEM Nora Terriberry

Saturday, February 5th

(*St. Agatha*)

1 Kings 3:4–13 Psalm 119

Mark 6:30–34

8:30 MEM Mariola Haggard

Sunday, February 6th

(*5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

Isaiah 6:1–2a, 3–8 Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Luke 5:1–11