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February 13, 2022 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## My Prayer Is a Song

**D**on't all of us have trouble praying sometimes? I often find myself distracted while trying to pray, repeating a phrase over and over again in my mind, trying to invest it with some immediate meaning. My mind easily wanders. Often I'm not even thinking of anything else...just dwelling on the frustration of not being able to concentrate and really communicate with God. I know this is a common challenge when practicing any kind of meditation.

Our parish has some wonderful resources—programs and techniques to help us pray more effectively. You may take part in one of the parish ministries devoted to prayer, or you may have studied the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius Loyola. I'd like to suggest one more option that might help to breathe new life into our prayer: music.

Sung prayer isn't new to us. Each time we come to church, we hear prayers combined with music in the hymns, the psalms and the sung Ordinary of the Mass. Whether we consider ourselves decent singers or not, most of us are comfortable participating in the familiar chant of the Lord's Prayer. But why sing it? What is it that makes singing a prayer different than speaking it aloud, or silently in our heads?

When a composer sets a prayer to music, he or she adds color, atmosphere, emotion to the words, a personal impression of what the prayer means. When listening to songs from the past, we also find an imprint of the era that the composer likely had no idea was being added to the words. How wonderful that we might find new meaning and immediacy in familiar prayers, or find new context while imagining the words coming from a specific individual from another time and place.

Setting a prayer to music significantly slows down the pace of the words. The melodies highlight certain words. Sometimes words or phrases are repeated. And we have more time to savor the words, not only the meaning, but the sounds and the feel of them. All these factors can trigger new thoughts and new insights when considering the words of a prayer.

On February 17th, pianist Michael Sheetz and I will present a benefit concert entitled *My Prayer is a Song* in the church to raise money and awareness for The Ali Forney Center, the largest agency dedicated to protecting LGBTQ youths from the harms of homelessness. Supporting and learning about the wonderful work being done there is reason enough to join us. But there will also be an opportunity to explore this combination of prayer and music.

The concert program is made up of prayers that are sung (or you could say songs that are prayers), and I hope that the listener will have a chance to experience prayer in new ways. There will be prayer-songs from many time periods—from as early as the twelfth century to a brand new piece that will be heard for the first time at this event. The musical styles will also span a wide range: classical music from the past five centuries, chant, folk, spirituals, jazz and gospel.

You will hear settings of traditional prayers used in the church for centuries, and of prayers written by people who may not have considered their words to be prayer at all. Two of the songs don't even have words. But all of these songs contain a message of supplication or adoration or thanksgiving to God, or at least to what is recognized as some greater force or benevolence.

Maybe in considering the myriad ways people pray and the variety of interpretations expressed in the musical settings, we will find new inspiration in our own practice of praying. And who's to say contemplating musical prayer can't become one of the ways we choose to pray in the future? It's a type of meditation in which we don't have to feel guilty about letting our minds wander a little!

—Bruce Rameker

Pray | Listen | Discuss

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## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

Society of St. Vincent de Paul.  
7 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.

*Note: Proof of vaccination is required to attend.  
Email documentation to [svdpmembership980@gmail.com](mailto:svdpmembership980@gmail.com)  
prior to the day of the meeting.*

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th

Benefit Concert: My Prayer Is a Song.  
7 PM. Main Church & Livestreamed. Details below.

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.  
7 PM. Zoom.

## CONCERTS AT ST. IGNATIUS

### Benefit Concert: My Prayer Is a Song

Thursday, February 17th at 7:30 PM  
Main Church & Livestreamed

Bruce Rameker, vocalist | Michael Sheetz, piano

St. Augustine said, "He who sings prays twice." Prayers are twofold in this evening of sung prayers from every time and place, ranging from chant to spirituals to songs of the living composers here at St. Ignatius, from Schubert's Ave Maria to unlikely selections by Marc Blitzstein and Meredith Monk. Longtime parishioner and cantor Bruce Rameker uses both baritone and countertenor ranges and picks from a lifetime's collection of prayer-songs, demonstrating that there's more than one way to pray.

Composers include Hildegard von Bingen, Schubert, Brahms, Poulenc, Ravel, Ives, Copland, Vaughan Williams, Roger Gillen, Scott Warren, Roosevelt Credit, and Bobby Reuter.

100% of your ticket cost goes directly to The Ali Forney Center in Harlem, NY, the largest agency dedicated to protecting LGBTQ youths from the harms of homelessness.



To purchase tickets, visit [ignatius.nyc/gm\\_event/my-prayer-is-a-song](https://ignatius.nyc/gm_event/my-prayer-is-a-song) or scan the QR code at left.

## LECTURES AT ST. IGNATIUS

### The Birth of American Catholic Theology

Monday, February 28th at 7 PM  
Main Church & Livestreamed

#### PRESENTER

REV. ROGER HAIGHT, S.J.

*Pioneering Catholic theologian, former President of the Catholic Theological Society of America, and Visiting Professor at the Union Theological Seminary*

The talk will set the background of pre-Vatican II Catholic theology and then describe how this theology developed in the United States after the Council and characterizes its present-day character.



To view the livestream or set a reminder for this presentation, visit [youtube.com/c/ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC](https://youtube.com/c/ChurchofStIgnatiusLoyolaNYC) or scan the QR code at left.

*The 2022 Lectures at St. Ignatius series  
has been generously underwritten  
by an anonymous donor.*

## GIVING



### Help Us Go Green!

If you would like to receive all future correspondence from St. Ignatius electronically, visit [ignatius.nyc/makeapayment](https://ignatius.nyc/makeapayment).



If you would like to make your regular offertory contributions digitally, visit [ignatius.nyc/virtual-offertory](https://ignatius.nyc/virtual-offertory) or scan the QR code at left.

### Lady Chapel Open for Private Prayer



The Lady Chapel is open daily for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, from 1 PM to 4 PM. During those hours, the Main Church will be closed.

**Please wear a face mask while in the Lady Chapel.**



### Join Our Email Mailing List!

To sign-up for our e-newsletter, scan the QR code at left or visit [ignatius.nyc](https://ignatius.nyc).

# CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

980 Park Avenue at 84th Street • New York, New York 10028

(212) 288-3588 • Fax: (212) 734-3671 • ignatius.nyc

## 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 20th:

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

## 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, February 14th

(*Ss. Cyril & Methodius*)

James 1:1–11 Psalm 119 Mark 8:11–13

**8:30 MEM** George Washington

**12:10 MEM** Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

**5:30 MEM** Mae Tantillo

### Tuesday, February 15th

(*St. Claude La Colombière*)

James 1:12–18 Psalm 94

Mark 8:14–21

**8:30 MEM** Jack O'Leary

**12:10 MEM** Arline Richter

**5:30 MEM** Nora Terriberry

### Wednesday, February 16th

(*6th Wednesday in Ordinary Time*)

James 1:19–27 Psalm 15

Mark 8:22–26

**8:30 ANN** Cathleen McGoldrick

**12:10 MEM** Baron Roger

Coekelberg

**5:30 MEM** Suzanne Guzewich

### Thursday, February 17th

(*6th Thursday in Ordinary Time*)

James 2:1–9 Psalm 34 Mark 8:27–33

**8:30 MEM** Concetta Livoti

Geffner

**12:10 MEM** Brian Quinn

**5:30 MEM** Rosa Amelia Chang

### Friday, February 18th

(*6th Friday in Ordinary Time*)

James 2:14–24, 26 Psalm 112

Mark 8:34–9:1

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

**12:10 MEM** Steve Gutleber

**5:30 ANN** Susan Meyer

### Saturday, February 19th

(*6th Saturday in Ordinary Time*)

James 3:1–10 Psalm 12

Mark 9:2–13

**8:30 MEM** Carla Fendi

### Sunday, February 20th

(*7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

1 Samuel 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23

Psalm 103 1 Corinthians 15:45–49

Luke 6:27–38