



September 11, 2022 | Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Merely a Puddle, or Something More?

Recently, I was walking along Park Avenue, as is my wont on sunny afternoons in the summer. The dark sky of the early morning transformed itself into azure blue with billowing white clouds dancing in irregular cadence far above the hectic pace of the streets below. The earlier rain of that day proved to be the harbinger of a precious gift that is longed for after an extended succession of sultry days. The freshness of the air was intoxicating. As I walked, it became evident to me that I was not the only one walking at a slower than usual pace in order to relish the lavishness of refreshing breezes. What I also noticed were the evaporating footprints of the earlier rain, puddles.

Have you ever noticed how young children are drawn like magnets to puddles of water and the elation they exhibit when they either stomp their feet into them or jump smack dab into the puddles' centers? In our busy lives, as we hurriedly walk from place to place on city streets, do we even notice puddles, or take the time to look closely at them? After all, aren't puddles traps, idly waiting to soak the shoes and socks of unsuspecting pedestrians? And if we do notice them, how we maneuver through them as though they were an obstacle course.

On this particular day as I was approaching the intersection of Park and 79th Street, a mother and her young daughter caught my attention. They were walking hand in hand, the girl being no older than a preschooler. As they got nearer to the corner, before we passed by one another, the young girl stopped and letting go of her mother's hand, looked down into a puddle that was at her feet. She did not walk into it, jump into it, or stomp her foot into it. Rather she approached the puddle from several vantage points and simply looked into it. Her mother bemused, smiled at her daughter, as I did when I walked past them. What did this young girl see that captivated her?



This seemingly unremarkable incident became the focus of my thoughts for the remainder of that day and a well-spring for my own imagination and reflection. Did this young girl think that this blue patch was a piece of the sky that had fallen to the ground and was now part of the sidewalk? Did she believe that clouds were actually made of cotton candy or fluffy marshmallow, and she needed a closer look? Was she trying to understand how she could see her own face mirrored at her feet? Was it an opening to another world? Or, was she simply showing early signs of a future career in meteorology? Whatever it might have been, I like to think that she found something beautiful in an unexpected place and held onto it for as long as she could under the loving gaze of her mother.

In this shallow puddle on a city sidewalk, that was undoubtedly unnoticed by countless passersby, I believe she beheld a reflection of something transcendent, something detached from her and, at the same time, part of her reality. She was gazing at a reflection of herself in the ordinariness of a pooling of water. She took a few moments to peer at herself intently and from many angles, and she took delight in what she saw.

It may not be a puddle of water, but we, like this young girl, in the ordinary routine of our lives, have opportunities to look at ourselves. Are they quick glances? Are they the means to reassure ourselves that we look handsome and are defying the aging process? Are we wishing that the reflection we see was of someone else rather than the person looking back at us? Perhaps this little girl can teach us a lesson. She beheld someone beautiful. Under the watchful eye of her mother, she saw a reflection of someone God loves. In fact, she saw a reflection of God. Whether a cotton candy cloud, an azure blue sky, a puddle of water, or her own face, she beheld the face of God in everything God created.

A trivial incident on the grand scale of things as I took my afternoon stroll that day, but I was taught a profound lesson through the innocent inquisitiveness of a young girl walking hand in hand with her mother. Was it an encounter with a puddle on a city sidewalk, or something more? What a moment of grace offered to us each day if we only stop to take a closer look!

— Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.
Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

Now that the Labor Day weekend is behind us, the pulse of parish life is beginning to pick up. We will be at full throttle in no time.

It is wonderful to experience once again the enthusiasm, vitality, and commitment that each of us brings to the parish as we worship and pray together, care for one another and those who are less advantaged, and work side by side to make a difference in our community and the world so that the glory of God is made manifest by living what we profess in faith. To everyone who had the opportunity to leave the City for the summer months, welcome back! To those who remained to enjoy all that the City offers on both sultry and more temperate days, I hope you found time for revelry and relaxation. And to our Saint Ignatius Loyola School students, we look forward to your return to classes and the exuberance and energy that you bring with you.

Now let me bring you up to date with news of what occurred at the parish during the summer months. For the most part it was a beehive of activity involving renovations, repairs, transitions of parish staff, and planning for our upcoming calendar of events for the remainder of the calendar year and the first six months of 2023. Also, I would be remiss if I failed to mention the very hard-working priests of the parish who throughout the summer presided at weekday and weekend Masses, weddings, baptisms, and funerals, heard confessions, and attended to the pastoral care of parishioners. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for their good deeds done, dedication, and commitment to their priestly ministry.

At long last we were able to get the appropriate scaffolding inside the church to restore power to one of the two amplifiers and to change the flickering high intensity light bulbs that illuminate the pilasters of the upper section of the nave. At the Parish House, the receptionist's office on the ground floor was gutted and remodeled. In the next several weeks an awning will be constructed over the front door, and the front door itself will be replaced, bringing more natural lighting into the interior entryway.

In Wallace Hall, an additional amplifier was installed that will fill in the "dead spaces." Also, there are now acoustical fixtures suspended from the ceiling that will ameliorate the echo effect that was problematic during the livestreaming of events. The new livestreaming system is now fully operational and is complemented by two large portable screens that will project clearer and larger images.

At the Upper Campus of the grammar school, a handicap access ramp was constructed at the entrance to the school. At the Lower Campus, there was an extensive upgrade to the kitchen that for the first time in the history of the use of that building will allow for the preparation of meals on-site. There were also IT upgrades at both campuses.

In regard to the grammar school, a feasibility study will be conducted during the Fall to review both the cost and the financing options, including a limited fundraising campaign, for the replacement of the elevator at the Lower Campus and the refurbishment or replacement of building's roof of the Upper Campus. This study will be reviewed with the Parish Finance Committee to determine the course of action to be taken.

Finally, there were several transitions during the summer. After 30 years' at the parish, most recently as principal Cantor, Philip Anderson retired. Also after 30 years of service, most recently as Director of the Children's Choir, Maureen Haley retired. Replacing her as Director of the Children's Choir is Elizabeth van Os. We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth to the team. After one year of ministry at the parish, Father Danny Gustafson left us in July to return to graduate studies at Boston College. We are grateful for the short time he was with us and wish him well. Last month we welcomed Father Jim Casciotti, S.J. who will be in residence at the Parish House. You will periodically be seeing him as a presider at Mass. Closer to home in the Pastor's office, after 17 years as Assistant to the Pastor, Diane Boyle retired. She had the stamina and patience to work with 3 Pastors and 1 Acting Pastor. All of us owe her a great debt of gratitude for helping to keep the trains running on time and in an orderly fashion. Diane will be greatly missed. Replacing her as Assistant to the Pastor is Rebecca Brucas whom you may know from her former responsibilities as the Parish Receptionist. That role is now in the very capable and gracious hands of Pat Reeves. As an aside to these transitions, I was appointed to another 6-year term as Pastor that became effective on June 1st.

Please stay tuned for next week's bulletin. A letter from me will be published that will explain the next and final step of the planning process that began in 2019. We are on the threshold of a new chapter in the history of the parish. Working together we will build upon the strong foundation of this parish and honor the legacy of those who preceded us in their love and commitment to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. May all that we do be for the greater glory of God!

Welcome back! Welcome home!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

Community Coffee Hour.
Following the 11 AM Masses.
Outside the Parish House.
Details below.

Ignatian Young Adults | Soulful Sunday
Bagels & Coffee.
Following the 11 AM Masses. Parish Lounge.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

Ranger Rosary.
1:30 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.
Note: Proof of vaccination is required to attend.
Please email documentation to Esposito218@verizon.net
prior to the day of the meeting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

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
prior to the day of the meeting.

Spirituality & Midlife.
7 PM. Zoom.

To register, email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

Concert | Choir of Merton College, Oxford.
7 PM. Church.

To reserve your free tickets, visit ignatius.nyc/concerts.

Parish Women's Faith Group.
7 PM. Zoom.

If you would like to participate, contact Adele Gallo
at amdgallo@me.com to request the Zoom link.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Tuesday Night Book Group |
Saturday Midday Field Trip: Talk on St. Thomas Aquinas.
1 PM.

To register, email tuesdaynightbookgroup@gmail.com.

Community Coffee Hour

Sunday, September 11th, following the 11 AM Masses
Outside the Parish House

Join us on Park Avenue for our Community Coffee Hour.

We will have coffee as well as an opportunity
to mix & mingle with your fellow parishioners.

Parish Ministries Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, October 18th
7 PM in Wallace Hall

Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J., cordially invites those who
have participated in the various ministries of the parish
this year to the Parish Ministries Appreciation Dinner.



To RSVP, visit
ignatius.nyc/pmdinner2022
or scan the QR code at left.

The RSVP deadline is October 10th.

Snow Ball Dance

Saturday, December 10th
7 PM in Wallace Hall

Please save the date and a few places on your dance card
for our 5th Annual Snow Ball Dance.

Join us for what promises to be a very merry evening.
Come eat, drink, and dance to live music by
The Morris Brothers Band with your friends
and fellow adult (21+) parishioners.

Tickets are \$75 per person/\$65 for seniors (age 60+).
Premium Tables for 10 guests are available for \$1,000.



To purchase tickets, visit
ticketsource.us/StIgnatiusnyc
or scan the QR code at left.

Meeting Christ in Prayer

Wednesdays, September 28th – November 16th
7 PM to 8:30 PM on Zoom

Are you longing for a deeper relationship with God
through Christ? Is your childhood way of relating
to God insufficient now that you are an adult? If you
answered yes, please join us in Meeting Christ in Prayer.

Meeting Christ in Prayer is an interactive 8-week
guided prayer experience for small groups. Based
on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, it
introduces participants to various ways of praying
and provides an opportunity to support one another
through faith sharing, via Zoom.

A good faith offering will be appreciated, as the cost of
materials ranges between \$30-\$50.

To register, email MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org
and pick up the MCIP book from the Parish House
by Monday, September 26th.

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.

Assisting Priest

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

In Residence

Rev. James A. Casciotti, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Kate Noonan Brian Pinter Jean Santopatre

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Haley

Music Ministries

Daniel Beckwith Douglas Purcell
Robert Reuter Elizabeth Van Os
Michael Sheetz

Scott Warren, *Director*

Danya Katok, *Director of Concerts*

Assistant to the Pastor

Rebecca Brucas

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Schneider

Director of Communications

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Facilities Coordinator

Caroline Fernandes

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 September 18th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Hallinan
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Romane St. Vil
9:30 AM Fr. Romane St. Vil
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
7:30 PM Fr. Bergen

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 contact Maureen Haley at
baptisms@saintignatiusloyola.org
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
contact Maureen Haley at
weddings@saintignatiusloyola.org
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, September 12th

(24th Monday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 11:17–26, 33 Psalm 40
Luke 7:1–10

8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey

12:10 MEM Joyce Phelan

5:30 MEM Richard Fraser

Tuesday, September 13th

(St. John Chrysostom)

1 Corinthians 12:12–14, 27–31a
Psalm 100 Luke 7:11–17

8:30 MEM Kelly Reilly-Gillebaard

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark

Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Joseph J. Sullivan, Sr.

Wednesday, September 14th

(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Numbers 21:4b–9 Psalm 78
Philippians 2:6–11 John 3:13–17

8:30 MEM Paul Choix

12:10 MEM Jimmy Neary

5:30 MEM Bill Hassett

Thursday, September 15th

(Our Lady of Sorrows)

1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Psalm 118
John 19:25–27

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Robert Errico

5:30 MEM Charles A. Spadafora

Friday, September 16th

(Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian)

1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Psalm 17
Luke 8:1–3

8:30 MEM John Griffin

12:10 MEM Theresa Conley

5:30 MEM Peter Daley

Saturday, September 17th

(St. Robert Bellarmine)

1 Corinthians 15:35–37, 42–49
Psalm 56 Luke 8:4–15

8:30 MEM Rita Dilva Chiappa

Sunday, September 18th

(25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Amos 8:4–7 Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1–8 Luke 16:1–13