



September 18, 2022 | Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## “Do whatever he tells you”: Reflections on Meeting Christ in Prayer

Upon entering the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, we see a stained-glass depiction of St. Ignatius. He holds a book with the inscription *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, “For the Greater Glory of God.” This is Ignatius’ bedrock advice on how we should live our lives as Christians. But how do we grasp the mission that God intends for each of us individually? How do we figure out our unique personal skills to accomplish our mission?

Recently, I came across a Brazilian devotion to Our Lady of Cana. In John’s Gospel, Jesus begins his public ministry at the wedding at Cana (John 2:1–11). Knowing that her son can resolve the dilemma of not having wine for the guests, Mary turns to the servants and says, “Do whatever he tells you.” The servants listen and follow Jesus’s instructions, sharing with



*The calling of St. John during the marriage at Cana.*

Jan Cornelisz Vermeyen. c. 1530–1532.

all the guests a plentiful quantity of wine that is miraculously drawn from the water jugs. Reflecting on Mary’s place in the story, she is the one who recognizes the nature of Jesus most profoundly. Indeed, she nurtured him and brought him to maturity as one fully human. To hear her command is to realize that in Jesus we encounter a loving God who understands our humanity. We can trust God to reveal a plan for our lives. The challenge for disciples in today’s world is to find the voice of Jesus as it speaks to each one of us.

In Ignatius, we have a mystical instructor who teaches us to hear God’s voice. He shows us a Jesus who is at once a relatable human person and a loving God always available to us. Ignatius gives us a roadmap for this task in his *Spiritual Exercises*. *Meeting Christ in Prayer* is an abbreviated form of the *Exercises* for contemporary Christians living out their lives in the world and confronting its challenges. It aims to foster an encounter with God through scriptural contemplation and prayer.

The discernment that the *Exercises* facilitate—the quest to hear God’s voice speaking to each one individually—relies on Ignatian spiritual techniques. Using the Church’s ancient prayer method of *Lectio Divina*, holy reading, we read a scriptural passage and then pause and reflect. What is this reading saying on its face? We read again and pause and reflect. What is God saying to me personally in this reading? A third time. What do I want to say to God?

Ignatius was a promoter of imaginative prayer, picturing ourselves in a scriptural scene. If I quietly reflect on the wedding at Cana, which character in the story would I be? Would I be an observer or play an active role? What would I say or do? Would I speak directly to Jesus, and would he address me? Do I feel the Holy Spirit guiding me in the way this imagining unfolds? Do I hear God’s voice in this?

A prayer unique to Ignatian spirituality is the *Examen*. Similar to the reflections before confession, we ask ourselves at the end of the day, what did I do today that was good? Did I hear God? How might I have failed to listen to God? Did I find God in other people? Did I advance God’s glory?

*Meeting Christ in Prayer* meets as a small, trusting group and participants share experiences and inspirations with each other. Many times, I have been profoundly moved by the reflections of others, hearing spiritual insights that I would never have uncovered alone. I recall the passage, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20). I believe I have heard the Holy Spirit speaking to me through other retreatants.

If you are interested in participating in *Meeting Christ in Prayer*, consider tasting the wine of God’s abundant banquet.

For further information and to register for the retreat starting September 28th, please email [MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org).

— Andy Richards  
Parishioner & *Meeting Christ in Prayer* Participant

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

We live in a very exciting time as the universal Church prepares for the convening in Rome of the “Synod on Synodality: Communion, Participation, Mission” in October 2023. The bishops of the world, along with lay colleagues, will meet to discuss the nature of the church as a collaborative body and how we walk together—bishops, priests, religious, and laypeople—united in our desire to care for the Catholic Church and those whom the church serves. More than an issue of governance in the church, the invitation of Pope Francis is to discern who we are as a church and how best we can accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ in the context of today’s world.

The discernment process in preparation for the Synod was begun on the diocesan level. Each diocese was invited to submit to the Vatican a report of what it learned through listening to the voices of those who participated in the process. Those reports will become the foci of deliberations in next year’s General Assembly in Rome.

While not a constitutive part of the discernment process for the Synod, we undertook a similar journey in 2019 that resulted in the drafting of a *Vision Statement* that was published and distributed to all parishioners in February of this year. Similar to what was happening at the diocesan level, listening sessions were held in the Spring, providing everyone the opportunity to offer their reflections on the *Vision Statement*. Following those sessions, I was delighted to report that a significant majority of parishioners endorsed the *Vision Statement* and its corresponding recommendations for its implementation.

At the beginning of the summer, I wrote in a letter published in the parish bulletin and e-newsletter asking for your prayers as we continue our planning process and that you consider participating in one of four working groups to draft action plans that would set the course for the implementation of the *Vision Statement*. To refresh your memory, the four strategic elements of the *Vision Statement* are: 1. *We Welcome All*. 2. *We Worship With Joy*. 3. *We Walk Together With Those In Need*. 4. *We Reverence God In The Wonder of Creation*. For the full text of the *Vision Statement* and its corresponding recommendations, refer to the parish website [ignatius.nyc/vision-statement](http://ignatius.nyc/vision-statement).

Now it is time to get to work and bring our strategic planning process to fruition so we may begin to live what we profess to be, as members of this parish. Please contact me by email, [yesaloniad@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:yesaloniad@saintignatiusloyola.org), or telephone at 212-288-3588 to discuss with me your willingness to serve on one of the four implementation committees.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us as we work together as a parish to build the kingdom of God in our corner of the world, and may all that we do now and in the future redound to the greater glory of God.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Fr. Yesalonia*

### Welcome Home Sunday

Sunday, September 25th  
Noon to 2 PM

On Park Avenue and East 84th Street



Join your fellow parishioners for fun and fellowship after the 11 AM Solemn Mass and Wallace Hall Family Mass.

We've missed you!

Featuring treats, live music, and children's activities.

### 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](http://ignatius.nyc/pmdinner2022)  
or scan the QR code at left.

The RSVP deadline is October 10th.

## This Week at a Glance

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th

Community Coffee Hour.

Following the 11 AM Masses. Outside the Parish House.

Making Sandwiches for the New York Common Pantry.

Following the 11 AM Masses. Wallace Hall.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

The Ultimate (Catholic!) Insider's Guide to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details below.*

Emmaus Bereavement Support Group.

7 PM. Parish House.

To register, email [EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com](mailto:EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com).

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd

LGBT Catholics & Friends Meeting.

7 PM. Parish Lounge.

For more information, email [join.lgbt.caf@gmail.com](mailto:join.lgbt.caf@gmail.com).

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

Ignatian Young Adults Pizza Social.

Following the 5:30 PM Mass. Wallace Hall.

To RSVP, email [jsantopatre@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:jsantopatre@saintignatiusloyola.org).

## Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 2nd

1 PM, Outside the Parish House

Pet owners are invited to bring their leashed dog, cat, reptile or caged birds and bunnies for a blessing in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

## The Ultimate (Catholic!) Insider's Guide to the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Tuesday, September 20th at 7 PM  
Wallace Hall

Join us for a journey through the past 5000 years of humanity's search for God through art, led by authors Steve and Evelyn Auth, who have led art lovers on their faith-based tour of 65 masterpieces on display at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Their talk and slide presentation will take us on a journey through the history of Western art—so much of which expresses humanity's search for God.

A limited number of copies of their book *Pilgrimage to the Museum* will be available at the event, or you are welcome to bring your own to be signed by the authors at the reception to follow.

To register, email [TuesdayNightBookGroup@gmail.com](mailto:TuesdayNightBookGroup@gmail.com).

## Mysticism in Christianity and Islam

Thursday, October 6th

7 PM in Wallace Hall

The Ignatian Interfaith Ministry, together with our Muslim friends from Peace Island Institute, invite you for an evening discussion on *Mysticism in Christianity and Islam—What is mysticism, who are some noted mystics, and what can they teach us?*

A light reception will follow the discussion.

To register,  
email [IgnatianInterfaithMinistry@gmail.com](mailto:IgnatianInterfaithMinistry@gmail.com).

## 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](https://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](mailto: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 25th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Hallinan

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

9:30 AM Fr. Martin

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

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 19th

(25th Monday in Ordinary Time)

Proverbs 3:27-34 Psalm 15

Luke 8:16-18

**8:30 MEM** Carla Fendi

**12:10 MEM** Kerry Shor Jacobson

**5:30 MEM** Shane O'Reilly

### Tuesday, September 20th

(St. Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Paul Chông  
Ha-sang & comps.)

Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13 Psalm 119

Luke 8:19-21

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

**12:10 MEM** John Roderick Sharkey

**5:30 MEM** Myra Cohen

### Wednesday, September 21st

(St. Matthew)

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 Psalm 19

Matthew 9:9-13

**8:30 MEM** John & Nora Reilly

**12:10 MEM** Carroll & Mary Hayes

**5:30 MEM** Nathan Davidson

### Thursday, September 22nd

(25th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Ecclesiastes 1:2-11 Psalm 90

Luke 9:7-9

**8:30 MEM** Thomas J. Collins

**12:10 MEM** Leo Estevez

**5:30 ANN** Joyce Flammer

### Friday, September 23rd

(St. Pius of Pietrelcina)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Psalm 144

Luke 9:18-22

**8:30 MEM** Living & Deceased  
Members of the Regan & Burke  
Families

**12:10 MEM** Philip Lobkowicz

**5:30 MEM** Robert L. Cahill, Jr.

### Saturday, September 24th

(25th Saturday in Ordinary Time)

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8 Psalm 90

Luke 9:43b-45

**8:30 MEM** Martin Philip Murphy

### Sunday, September 25th

(26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Amos 6:1a, 4-7 Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31