



December 18, 2022 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Joseph—Symbol of Discernment

When Joseph discovered Mary’s pregnancy, we can imagine him being bombarded with voices competing for his attention. His betrothed’s voice might have sounded a mixture of joy, anxiety, and fear. After all, they both knew the child was not his, and this shocking news could make her look like an adulteress and he a cuckold. His family’s and community’s voice might have been one of perplexity. “Why did you wait until now to tell us? And besides, you two haven’t completed the marriage ritual yet. What’s going on here? Is there something you’re hiding?” The voice of his religion was loud and clear. “If the child isn’t yours, your fiancée is guilty of a capital crime. Turn her in.” Perhaps Joseph prayed with the words of Psalm 85 as he lay down to sleep on that fateful night: “I will listen to what God the Lord says, he promises peace to his people.” Joseph’s role models for us discernment—he listens for the voice of truth, and he acts.

Like his ancestors-in-faith Abraham, Jacob, Joseph (the patriarch), Solomon, and Daniel, Joseph receives in a dream the wisdom and guidance he needs. We notice that this dream-sent voice, the voice among all others he chooses to obey, is one of compassion and mercy. It calls him to preserve, not take life. It is gentle and counsels a loving response to the extraordinary circumstances that have come upon him and his betrothed. It is a voice that says, “God is with us;” that says, “I, your God, am here.”



Dream of Saint Joseph.

Valentin de Boulogne. ca. 1624–26.

“How do I know which is God’s voice?” We will inevitably confront this question as we journey on the path of faith. St. Ignatius Loyola tells us in his rules of discernment, “It is characteristic of God and his angels, by the motions they cause, to give genuine happiness and spiritual joy, and thereby to banish any sadness and turmoil induced by the enemy...” Joseph discerns the voice of God because it is inviting, relational, freeing, compassionate, loving, wise, receptive, allowing, unlimited, intuitive, creative, inspired, peaceful, connected. This is a voice that says, “Do not be afraid.”

Some voices can easily be mistaken for God’s because they sound like what some forms of religion have taught us that God is like—demanding, perfectionist, moralizing, and stern. We could interpret Joseph’s story as a warning that such tones—loud, aggressive, possessive, shaming, judgmental, fearful, opinionated, intrusive, dominating, limited, rationalizing, controlling, restrictive, conventional, anxious, defensive, and separated—are not of God. If it feels like a hammer blow, if it would do violence, if it moves us away from love of God and neighbor, it is not of God. As the prophet Elijah discovered, God will not be found in the “earthquake” or the “fire” but in a soft whispering sound.

When Joseph receives the grace of God’s guidance, he takes the final, crucial step of discernment—he acts. When we receive insight, there might arise an energy of resistance that wants us to file away rather than act upon the wisdom God has given us. Perhaps acting will upset others, or will take us in a new direction, or will defy voices we’ve been taught to unquestioningly obey. This final step of discernment, action, can be the most difficult and harrowing. Joseph showed us the way when “he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.” The great spiritual writer and teacher Henri Nouwen described discernment this way, “To discern means first of all to listen to God, to pay attention to God’s active presence, and to obey God’s prompting, direction, leadings, and guidance.”

As Advent draws to a close, we are invited to become more still, silent, and attentive, as did Joseph, to the voice that shines like a light in a dark place, “until the dawn and morning star rises in our hearts” (2 Peter 1:19).

— Brian Pinter
Pastoral Associate

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th

And On Earth, Peace: Annual Christmas Concert.
3 PM. Church. *Details below.*

St. Luke's Call Team.

Following the 7:30 PM Mass. Gonzaga Meeting Room.

Details on page 2.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19th

Advent Day of Reconciliation.

3 PM to 5 PM & 6 PM to 8 PM. Church. *Details at right.*

Viewing of Documentary *Why We Fight: Part 2.*

7 PM. Parish Lounge. *Details on page 2.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20th

Tuesday Night Book Group | *I Believe in Love:*

A Personal Retreat Based On the Teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux. 7 PM. Zoom.

To receive the Zoom link for this series, email
TuesdayNightBookGroup@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

Scripture Course: Christ the Refugee.

7 PM. Zoom. *Details at right.*

Daily Mass Livestream Update

Beginning *Tuesday, January 3, 2023*, we will begin livestreaming our 12:10 PM Daily Mass. As of that date, the 5:30 PM Mass will no longer be livestreamed.

Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 19th

Confessions will be heard in the Church from 3 PM to 5 PM and 6 PM to 8 PM.

Scripture Course

Christ the Refugee

Thursdays, through December 22nd at 7 PM
Zoom

This Advent, as the world witnesses the largest flow of displaced persons in a century, we focus on the evangelist Matthew's testimony that Jesus began his life as a refugee. Presentations and discussions will reflect on this pivotal story as well as other biblical texts that highlight God's command to care for the "sojourner." Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To RSVP, email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

Concerts at St. Ignatius

And On Earth, Peace: Annual Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18th at 3 PM
Church

The St. Ignatius Christmas concerts are our most beloved annual events. Featuring Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*, Adam's *O Holy Night*, and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*.

The Children's Choirs, Parish Community Choir, Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, and Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola can't wait to celebrate the Christmas season with you!

To purchase tickets, visit ignatius.nyc/concerts.

Women's Voices: An Advent Reflection Series

This Advent, as we wait with joyful anticipation of Christ's birth, we are gifted with Women's Voices from our parish sharing their reflections.

Each Sunday of Advent we will present a video reflection from a female member of our parish community.

DECEMBER 18TH | Moria Cappio

DECEMBER 25TH | Rose DiMartino

You may view these video reflections through our e-newsletter and on our parish website ignatius.nyc.

Snow Ball Dance

Thank You!

Thank you to all those who danced the night away at the Snow Ball Dance and to all of our sponsors:

- Frank E. Campbell–The Funeral Chapel
- Michael Doyle of Acheson Doyle Partners Architects
- Fazio Construction

The Heat is On at St. Ignatius

Please help us defray the increasing cost of providing heat and electricity to the parish.



To contribute, visit ignatius.nyc/makepayment (or scan the QR code at left) and note "Energy Collection" in the *Reason for Donation* box.

St. Luke's Call Team
Sunday, December 18th
Following the 7:30 PM Mass
Gonzaga Meeting Room

Are you a doctor, nurse, physical therapist, pharmacist, or other healthcare worker looking for a community? Then, we invite you to join our community of prayer, discussion, and faith sharing.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Fr. Hilbert at hilbertm@saintignatiusloyola.org or call the Parish House.

War & Peace Discussion Group

**Viewing of Documentary *Why We Fight:*
Part 2**

Monday, December 19th at 7 PM
Parish Lounge

This Peabody Award-winning film reviews the political, economic, and ideological forces that drive the U.S. military-industrial-congressional complex.

The Gift of Years
Wednesday, January 11th at 7 PM
Zoom

The journey of aging brings challenges as well as blessings, spiritual tasks that require tending, and spiritual gifts that call for giving. Our gathering will explore how we might discover and bring to our loved ones and community the wisdom, healing, and joy particular to the final third of life.

Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present and facilitate the discussion.

To register,
email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps



Join the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) and become a contemplative in action in the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuits!

IVC volunteers are adults over 50 years of age who offer their life skills and experience one to two days a week to directly serve those in need.

Interested? Contact Maureen Fullam, Regional Director, at 917-859-0928 or email mfullam@ivcusa.org, and visit us at ivcusa.org.

Annual Appeal

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please remember to include your contribution to the Annual Appeal on your to-do list.



If you have not yet made a donation, you can do so by visiting ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal or scanning the QR code at left.

Thank you for your support!

Lay Ministers' Enrichment Ministry
Day of Reflection - Spring 2023
Saturday, January 28th
Wallace Hall

You are invited to join the St. Ignatius Lay Ministers' Enrichment Ministry for a day of personal and group reflection led by Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

Doors open at 8:15 AM for registration and breakfast.

The day's activities will comprise two presentations by Father Modrys, each followed by time for personal reflection and group faith-sharing. There will be a Q&A session following the last group session.



To register, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc/lmespring2023.

Home Communion Call



If you or a loved one is confined to home and would like to receive Communion on a periodic or regular basis, someone from the parish's Compassionate Care Ministry will come to your home and bring Communion.

If interested, email Fr. Hilbert at hilbertm@saintignatiusloyola.org or leave your name and phone number at the Parish House for Fr. Hilbert, and someone will be scheduled to visit.

Low-Gluten Hosts



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



Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter!

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

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.

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 December 25th

Family Mass 4:00 PM Fr. Hallinan
6:00 PM Fr. Hilbert
Vigil Mass 8:00 PM Fr. Hallinan
Midnight Mass Fr. Yesalonia
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Bergen
10:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
12:00 PM Fr. Yesalonia

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, December 19th

(4th Monday of Advent)

Judges 13:2–7, 24–25a Psalm 71

Luke 1:5–25

8:30 MEM Carla Fendi

12:10 MEM Philip Demino

5:30 MEM Magdalena Lewis

Tuesday, December 20th

(4th Tuesday of Advent)

Isaiah 7:10–14 Psalm 24

Luke 1:26–38

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

12:10 MEM Douglas James McKay

5:30 MEM Christine Melphi

Wednesday, December 21st

(4th Wednesday of Advent)

Song of Solomon 2:8–14 Psalm 33

Luke 1:39–45

8:30 MEM Rachael Wells

12:10 MEM Christopher Juliano

5:30 MEM Nathan Davidson

Thursday, December 22nd

(4th Thursday of Advent)

1 Samuel 1:24–28 1 Samuel 2

Luke 1:46–56

8:30 ANN Carmen Fernandez

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark
Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Living & Deceased
Members of the Wallace Family

Friday, December 23rd

(4th Friday of Advent)

Malachi 3:1–4, 23–24 Psalm 25

Luke 1:57–66

8:30 MEM Peter J. Burke

12:10 MEM Mae & Charles
Tantillo

5:30 MEM Melanie Stewart

Saturday, December 24th

(4th Saturday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16

Psalm 89 Luke 1:67–79

8:30 MEM Laurie Siegel

Sunday, December 25th

(The Nativity of the Lord)

Isaiah 9:1–6 Psalm 96

Titus 2:11–14 Luke 2:1–14