



December 25, 2022 | The Nativity of the Lord

The Gift of Christmas Day

Running to the window, he opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; golden sunlight; heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious. Glorious.

“What’s today?” he cried out, calling downward to a boy in Sunday clothes, who perhaps had loitered in to look about him.

“Eh?” returned the boy, with all his might of wonder.

“What’s today, my fine fellow?” he asked again.

“Today!” replied the boy. “Why, Christmas Day!”

Perhaps you recalled these words from Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*. Ebenezer Scrooge has just awakened from a long night’s sleep on Christmas Eve, having been visited in his dream by the spirits of Christmas Past, Christmas Present, and Christmas Yet To Be. He journeyed with each spirit with hesitation and fear. He witnessed a life that had been filled with gaiety, wonder, love, and the warmth of friendships and family. He revisited the pain of disappointment and heartbreak that transformed his life into one of bitterness, resentment, and greed. He peered into the eyes of those whose lives could have been comforted by a singular word or gesture of kindness from him. He recognized how heartless a person he had become in life. Lonely by choice, not by circumstance, his solitary journey had put him on a path to darkness and doom, vilified by those who knew him and not having recognized in life those who loved him.



The story of Ebenezer Scrooge is one of conversion. His single night’s journey opened the eyes of his heart to what his daily waking eyes could not. Undoubtedly scared to his wit’s end upon first hearing the rattling chains of Jacob Marley, he nonetheless ventured forward with the visiting spirits of Christmas in the likely hope that it would soon be over. Little did he know, or could even have imagined, how it would end.

As children, were not our eyes on Christmas Eve focused on the gifts that Santa would bring? Were not our hearts pumping with happiness in anticipation of Christmas Day and the days that would follow? Filled with wonder, we dreamed of futures overflowing with all the world has to offer. Friendships would be formed, commitments of love made. And then, like Ebenezer Scrooge, times of disappointment and heartbreak diminished the luster of childhood dreams. The real world intruded. The safer path for many became lined with what were perceived as protective barriers that sadly led to a false sense of worth and self-importance, forgetting those who either needed help or wanted their love acknowledged and accepted.

As Ebenezer would come to realize in the course of a night’s dream, the dark path of isolation and walls of fear lead only to the disintegration of the bonds of friendship and family and a hardened heart of resentment. He learned from Jacob Marley that the shackles of darkness bear the torment of eternal despair. His nighttime dream ended there, but he nonetheless hoped that the stories of the Christmases Yet To Be were not yet written. When he finally awakened on Christmas morning, he breathed in the air of freedom, of a new beginning that could recapture the hopes and dreams of his childhood and fuel the fire of others in their dreams for a future overflowing with happiness and the bounty of goodness.

With the realization that he was given another chance to amend his ways, he was giddy with excitement. He danced about his room that for too long had shuttered out the light of day. A dawn of hope was awakened within him. His life was transformed by the wonder of God’s love that, somehow and for unknown reasons, he experienced in his dream. May his story of conversion be for us the entryway to a path that leads to the one born this day, whose birth was heralded by angels and brought joy to the world.

When Ebenezer Scrooge leapt with joy from his bed on that cold December morning to fling wide his bedroom window, he discovered that the greatest gift of all was the gift of Christmas Day.

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

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

8 AM (Church): Fr. Bergen

10 AM (Church/Livestreamed): Fr. Hilbert

12 PM Noon (Church): Fr. Yesalonia

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27th

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31st

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Masses at 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM in the Church.

The Parish House will close at 7 PM.

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.

Women's Voices: An Advent Reflection Series

During Advent, as we waited with joyful anticipation of Christ's birth, we have been gifted with Women's Voices from our parish sharing their reflections.

DECEMBER 25TH | Rose DiMartino

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

Feast of the Epiphany

Friday, January 6th

On Wednesday, January 6th, at 7:00 PM in the Church, Fr. Hilbert will celebrate a Mass in Italian for the Feast of the Epiphany.

Knowledge of the Italian language is not required!

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.

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



Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter!

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



May you be filled with the
Light of Hope during the
Christmas Season and
throughout the New Year

Merry Christmas

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

Lecture

When the Wave Knows It's the Ocean: Apostolic Wholeness and the Kinship of God

Monday, January 30th at 7 PM
Church

SPEAKER

FR. GREG BOYLE, S.J.

Fr. Boyle will explore the marks of authentic discipleship: flourishing, joy, and fearlessness.

About the Speaker

Fr. Boyle is the founder and director of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang intervention and rehabilitation program. His latest book is *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Low-Gluten Hosts



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

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 Church will be closed.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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(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 January 1st

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Hallinan

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

7:30 PM N/A

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 26th

(*St. Stephen, The First Martyr*)

Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59 Psalm 31

Matthew 10:17–22

8:30 MEM Henry Dolce

Tuesday, December 27th

(*St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*)

1 John 1:1–4 Psalm 97

John 20:1a, 2–8

8:30 MEM Jack Gerrity

12:10 MEM Christopher Meehan

5:30 MEM Toni Brown

Wednesday, December 28th

(*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*)

1 John 1:5–2:2 Psalm 124

Matthew 2:13–18

8:30 MEM Maria Bernatowicz

12:10 MEM Margaret Theresa

Magel

5:30 MEM Dr. & Mrs. Edward
Brennan

Thursday, December 29th

(*Fifth Day in the Christmas Octave*)

1 John 2:3–11 Psalm 96

Luke 2:22–35

8:30 MEM Anna Ensign

12:10 MEM John Mullen

5:30 MEM William Powers

Friday, December 30th

(*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
& Joseph*)

Sirach 3:2–7, 12–14 Psalm 128

Colossians 3:12–21

Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23

8:30 MEM J. Robyn Palette

12:10 MEM Sheila Eileen Kelly

5:30 ANN John Butler

Saturday, December 31st

(*Seventh Day in the Christmas Octave*)

1 John 2:18–21 Psalm 96 John 1:1–18

8:30 MEM William Wallace

Sunday, January 1st

(*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother
of God*)

Numbers 6:22–27 Psalm 67

Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:16–21