



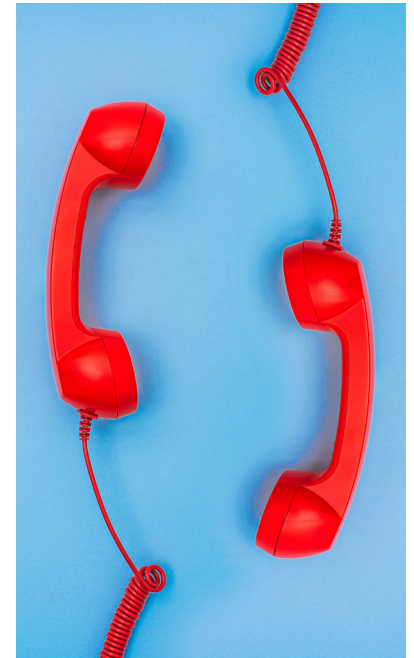
February 12, 2023 | Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Just Checking In

I had a friend who, with rare exception, called me on a weekly basis for close to 30 years and always began the conversation by simply saying, “just checking in.” Jack was a prominent Boston attorney who was a student in an estate planning course I taught at Boston College Law School. As I look back on it, our conversations of 15 minutes or longer on everyday kinds of things like the weather, local and national politics, how the Red Sox were doing, or how our golf swings were improving, were something I looked forward to each week. “Checking in” was our way of expressing how much we valued our friendship.

As Jack was approaching death at the age of 57 after a difficult terminal illness, he became uncommunicative and our calls became less frequent, but not for a lack of trying on my part. Full of life and jovial in demeanor and spirit, his fear of death overshadowed his desire to live. He isolated himself from the very people who cared about him and wanted to be present to him in his time of greatest need. After all, isn't that what true friendship is about, knowing that in times of need we can rely on one another to help, even if it is only with a prayer? Sadly, although surrounded at his death bed by those who loved him, Jack died feeling unloved and abandoned by God. He simply threw up his hands and surrendered to the demons of fear and despair. At his Funeral Mass, those who he regularly checked in on filled the church to capacity.

Approaching the season of Lent that will begin in two weeks' time as well as the anniversary of Jack's death on February 15th, I am reflecting on my friendship with Jack and the importance of the *Examen* in my daily life as a way of “checking in.” You may already be familiar with this method of prayer that is one of the indispensable components of Ignatian spirituality. In the *Examen* we are invited to enter into a conversation with God to talk about the everyday kinds of things of our lives, to express our gratitude for the generosity of God's love, and to ask for help in those areas of our lives where it is needed. The great surprise that comes to those who practice the *Examen* on a daily or regular basis is the growing awareness that we are speaking to a friend who looks forward to our calls that begin, “just checking in.”



In the course of my long history of calls with Jack, I came to understand better how to pray the *Examen*. Friendships are not one-way relationships. There is an intimacy that develops as hopes and dreams, joys and successes, disappointments and regrets are shared sincerely and honestly. It is being fully alive to who we are without the need to window dress reality. Faultless, no; sinful, yes; beloved, definitely! The graces that flow abundantly from the *Examen* are spiritually nourishing and life-sustaining.

And now, what is there in the *Examen* that makes it more than a one-way communication? If the season of Lent invites us to reflect on how we have forgotten to check in regularly with God, the *Examen* opens our hearts to hear the voice of God expressing God's desires and hopes for us and for the world. We will hear God asking us, as any friend would, to help heal the wounds that we humans have the tendency to self-inflict. We will be impelled, as St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, to care for one another and for the world, our common home. We will draw closer to God as we befriend our sisters and brothers. In praying the *Examen* we will appreciate more than ever that we are never alone, never unloved, never abandoned by God.

Our faith will be tested, as it was with Jack in his illness. One of my regrets is that I failed to encourage him to check in with God more frequently. If he had, I believe the end of his life would have been markedly different. In his memory, I invite all of us to pray the *Examen* and “check in” with God throughout the season of Lent and beyond.

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

This Week at a Glance

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

Ranger Rosary.
1:30 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th

Tuesday Night Book Group: *Proclaiming the Power of Christ* by Bishop Robert Barron.
7 PM. Zoom.

For more information and to register, email TuesdayNightBookGroup@gmail.com, with "Bishop Barron" in the subject line.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th

Spirituality and Midlife.
7 PM. Zoom. *Details below.*

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th

A Panel Discussion of Prevalent Mental Health Issues.
7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

LGBT Catholics & Friends Meeting.
7 PM. Parish Lounge.

For more information, email join.lgbt.caf@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18th

**Tuesday Night Book Group:
Saturday Midday Field Trip.**
Noon. *Details at right.*

Spirituality and Midlife

Wednesday, February 15th, from 7 PM to 8 PM
Zoom

Midlife stirs us to reflect more deeply on our relationships—what they mean and have meant, how they have been a blessing and a channel for God's love and grace, and where they are in need of healing. Our presentation and discussion will explore how we can cooperate with God's grace as it moves us toward more soulful, Christ-like relationships with others. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will facilitate the discussion.

To register, email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

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.

Tuesday Night Book Group

Saturday Midday Field Trip Saturday, February 18th at Noon

Join the Tuesday Night Book Group on a Saturday Midday Field Trip to hear a one-hour talk on the Hesychasts and The Jesus Prayer, the subject of their quest to "pray without ceasing" (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*).

After the noon talk, there will be an optional 1 PM-3 PM guided meditation based on writings from key figures among the Hesychasts, including John Climacus (6th-7th centuries), Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022), the anonymous Russian layman of The Way of the Pilgrim (19th century), and Lev Gillet (1893-1980). At 3 PM, there will be a casual social gathering over Carmelite-roasted Mystic Monk coffee and Benedictine monastery-baked cookies.

To register to attend (and have a chance to receive one of 10 free books on The Jesus Prayer) and/or learn more, email tuesdaynightbookgroup@gmail.com.

Annual Appeal

As we embark on a new year, please remember to include your contribution to the Annual Appeal on your to-do list.

In order to fund the current level of service and programming, we rely on the Annual Appeal, which is now underway.



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

Thank you for your support!

Evening of Unity

Monday, February 13th at 6:30 PM
The Moise Safra Center, 130 East 82nd Street

Featuring opening remarks by David Miller of the Moise Safra Center, a welcoming benediction by Rabbi Haim Shaul, and a presentation on community unity by Pastoral Associate Jean Santopatre.

Elected officials will also be present to discuss the work they've been undertaking in their respective districts to combat anti-Semitism.



To register, scan the QR code at left or visit moisesafracenter.org.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusnyc).

Lectures at St. Ignatius

Peacebuilding as Cornerstone of Pope Francis' Vision for the Church

Monday, February 27th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall & Livestreamed

SPEAKER: BISHOP JOHN STOWE, OFM CONV.

Pope Francis brings both Ignatian and Franciscan sources to his vision for the church, strengthening it as a force for peace and reconciliation in the world.

About the Speaker



Bishop Stowe is a Conventual Franciscan Friar and the third bishop of the Diocese of Lexington since 2015. He is currently the Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Fourth Annual Iftar Dinner

Friday, March 31st at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

During the month of Ramadan—a holy period of fasting for Muslims from sunrise to sundown—each day's fast concludes with the main meal of the day, Iftar.

The Peace Islands Institute, along with the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry, will host our fourth annual Iftar dinner in Wallace Hall—open to all.

This will be an opportunity for us to learn more about this sacred time and share fellowship with our Muslim neighbors.

To register,
email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.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.



To sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc.

A Panel Discussion of Prevalent Mental Health Issues

Thursday, February 16th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

— PANELISTS —



DR. ELIZABETH FITELSON, M.D.
Director of the Women's Program,
Department of Psychiatry at Columbia
University Irving Medical Center/
Neurological Institute of New York



DR. ERIN ENGLE, PSY.D.
Clinical Director of Columbia
University Psychiatry Specialty Services,
Neurological Institute at Columbia
University Medical Center



DR. MARY SCIUTTO, M.D.
Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry
at Columbia University & Medical
Director of the Columbia University
Psychiatry Specialty Services

Brown Bag Lunch Lenten Discussion

Face to the Rising Sun: Reflections on Spirituals and Justice

by Rev. Mark Bozzuti-Jones

Tuesdays, from February 28th to April 4th
12:45 PM to 1:45 PM in the Parish Lounge

Beginning on Tuesday, February 28th, we will meet weekly to discuss Fr. Mark Bozzuti-Jones's book. Please bring your "brown bag lunch" and join Jean Santopatre, Pastoral Associate, and Fr. Hallinan in lively discussions.

Reading assignments, as well as what to focus on for our discussion each week, will be assigned and sent to you when you register. The books will be provided and will be available to be picked up before the first meeting.

Space is limited to 10 people.



To register, visit
ignatius.nyc/brown-bag-lunch-discussion
or scan the QR code at left.

Low-Gluten Hosts

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

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 February 19th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Yesalonia

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Bergen

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

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 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.

Ignatian Young Adults (IYA)

For more information about our IYA
ministry, email Jean Santopatre at
santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, February 13th

(Sixth Monday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 4:1–15, 25 Psalm 50

Mark 8:11–13

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

12:10 MEM Abigail Feerick

5:30 MEM Mae Tantillo

Tuesday, February 14th

(Ss. Cyril & Methodius)

Genesis 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10 Psalm 29

Mark 8:14–21

8:30 MEM Kathleen

Rommelsbacher

12:10 MEM Elizabeth Brevett

5:30 ANN Nora Terriberry

Wednesday, February 15th

(St. Claude La Colombière)

Genesis 8:6–13, 20–22 Psalm 116

Mark 8:22–26

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Edna Sandroni

Ulasewicz

5:30 MEM Kathleen H. McDermott

Thursday, February 16th

(Sixth Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 9:1–13 Psalm 102

Mark 8:27–33

8:30 ANN Cathleen McGoldrick

12:10 MEM David Hunter

5:30 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

Friday, February 17th

(Sixth Friday in Ordinary Time)

Genesis 11:1–9 Psalm 33

Mark 8:34–9:1

8:30 MEM Brooke Beldy

12:10 MEM David Campione

5:30 ANN Susan Meyer

Saturday, February 18th

(Sixth Saturday in Ordinary Time)

Hebrews 11:1–7 Psalm 145

Mark 9:2–13

8:30 MEM Daniel Cronin

Sunday, February 19th

(Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18 Psalm 103

1 Corinthians 3:16–23

Matthew 5:38–48