



February 26, 2023 | First Sunday of Lent

“Let My Prayer Be Incense Before You”

This First Sunday of Lent, St. Ignatius celebrates two Rites for 18 adults: the Rite of Sending for our catechumens (preparing for baptism) and the Call to Continuing Conversion for our already baptized candidates. In the afternoon at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Dolan welcomes the catechumens, accepting their desire to be baptized into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. This essay is written by Kelly McLees, who was received into the Church last year.

Watching the plumes of incense smoke dancing upward toward the gilded ceiling of St. Ignatius, week after week, is what saved me.

I embraced Catholicism later in life. Raised in an environment that was hostile toward religion, I knew that my father had been brought up Irish Catholic, my mother Methodist. The only time we ever discussed religion, they told me that they hated the hypocrisy and that I could choose for myself when I became an adult. Their wounded bias was hardly enough information for a thoughtful decision.

As the years passed, I sought remedies for the growing agony of mental illness. Some were fruitless, and some were devastating.

Not until I started researching my ancestry did I find a beacon to God and to solace.

My paternal grandfather's first cousin was Monsignor Archibald Vincent McLees, a Catholic priest in predominantly Black parishes in Brooklyn and Queens at the height of the Civil Rights Movement who worked tirelessly for racial justice. The more I discovered about him, the more he beckoned me to follow him into service through the Catholic faith. So, I enrolled in RCIA at St. Ignatius.

Throughout our months of instruction, Mass enthralled me: the pageantry, the homilies, the music, and the sweet incense smoke swirling and rising in the vault. Before this, I had only attended one other Mass. I have a vague but precious memory of my father's mother, Nana, taking me to church when I was very small. I remember my lacy ankle socks because they were itchy and her gently explaining how to rest on the kneeler covered in maroon Naugahyde. It was likely an act of subterfuge, spiring me away out of concern for my eternal soul.

Despite my deep desire to enter the faith, I struggled to surrender. I had nagging about my upbringing, preventing me from joining my voice with the congregation in prayer and song.

On Holy Thursday, that wall finally crumbled. Standing beside one of our beloved instructors who couldn't hold the music sheet while steadying herself against the pew, I shared mine with her, heard her voice, and raised my own. So began the magic that carried me through the Rites of Initiation and welcomed me into God's home.

I chose Dymphna as my baptismal name after the 7th-century Irish martyr. She is the patron saint of the mentally ill, and I needed her intercession sooner than I had expected.

After Easter, summer passed, autumn descended, and the pendulum of my mood swung dark. My spiritual practices and rituals fell away. I became consumed by the familiar bleak despair. Yet I kept returning to Mass.

I sat in the pew every Sunday, suffocated by the knot in my chest, rolling my mind's eyes at the infuriating message of God's love. Like a petulant child, I argued with it, insisting on my exceptionalism of being too horrible for even God to love.

God is patient, though, and does not forsake even the brattiest among us. And God kept parking me in the pew and letting Jesus do the talking.

Months passed, and the only moments I saw any light or felt any warmth were during Communion. That physical connection to Jesus gave me the will to keep fighting.

One Sunday, just before Advent began, the shroud finally began to lift. I was watching the incense smoke again and realized that they were prayers. My prayers, our prayers. The prayers we say each week for the intentions in one another's hearts.

And, finally, rising with those prayers was all my sadness, and I was saved.

— Kelly McLees, Parishioner

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

**Tuesday Night Book Group:
Sunday In-Person Lent Series.
12:15 PM. Parish House.**

*To register to attend and to receive details, email
TuesdayNightBookGroup@gmail.com with "God's Will"
in the subject line (and indicate your preference
of in-person or online participation).*

**St. Luke's Call Team.
8:30 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27th

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

**LECTURE: Peacebuilding as Cornerstone of
Pope Francis' Vision for the Church.
7 PM. Wallace Hall & Livestreamed.
*Details on page 3.***

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

**BROWN BAG LUNCH LENTEN DISCUSSION:
Face to the Rising Sun: Reflections on Spirituals
and Justice by Rev. Mark Bozzuti-Jones.
12:45 PM. Parish Lounge.
*Details on page 3.***

**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, MARCH 1st
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Let's get back to basics.

It is time for us to refresh our understanding of matters of faith and religion. There is a growing trend in the universal church that people in the pews are increasingly "religion illiterate," that many Catholics have either forgotten or never learned the fundamental concepts of Catholicism, of why we do what we do and the significance of what we do. Sometimes habit dims our understanding of why, for example, we attend Mass, receive Holy Communion, are baptized, engage in devotional practices, and so on.

Beginning on Wednesday, 19 April, the priests of the parish will offer an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be Catholic. **Back to Basics** will be presented on four consecutive Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish Lounge. The four topic areas that will be covered are:

1. **Faith and Religion 101.** An overview of faith and how it is manifested in religion. Fr. Yesalonia (19 April)
2. **Catholicism 101.** What distinguishes Catholicism from other religions. Fr. Casciotti (26 April)
3. **Ignatian Spirituality 101.** Fundamental principles. *The Examen.* Discernment. The meaning and significance of AMDG. Fr. Hilbert (3 May)
4. **The Liturgy of the Mass 101.** Each part of the Mass will be explained, along with its accompanying prayers. Fr. Hallinan (10 May)

There is no need to worry. There will be no quizzes or exams. The goal is to learn more about (or re-learn!) what we believe as Catholics and how we manifest that by the ways we pray and worship.

God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Yesalonia

Eucharistic Ministers Needed

We are in need of additional Eucharistic Ministers for all of our Masses. This is especially true as we return to offering the chalice at each Mass. Young persons who have received the sacrament of confirmation are eligible to serve.

If you are interested in serving as a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Fr. Hallinan who will schedule a simple, easy training: hallinanm@saintignatiusloyola.org or call the Parish House.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

Roundtable Discussion on Forgiveness

**Wednesday, March 15th at 7 PM
Parish Lounge**

Sponsored by the Parish Council

A necessary ingredient to peace, whether in our personal lives, our relationships, or in the world, is forgiveness. It will be an opportunity for us to learn from one another about the need for forgiveness and our capacity to be forgiving.

To RSVP, email discussforgiveness@gmail.com.

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.

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

Join us for weekly discussions of 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.



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

LGBT Catholics & Friends

Screening of the Documentary

Wonderfully Made: LGBTQ+R(eligion)

Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:45 PM in Wallace Hall

Join LGBT Catholics & Friends for a screening of the documentary *Wonderfully Made*, which explores the challenges and aspirations of LGBTQ+ Catholics and, more broadly, the hurdles that religious doctrine presents to full acceptance of LGBTQ+ people everywhere.

A Q&A will follow the screening, with
Fr. James Martin, S.J. & Fr. Bryan Massingale.

To RSVP, email lgbtcafscreening@gmail.com.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Fourth Annual Iftar Dinner

Friday, March 31st at 6:35 PM in Wallace Hall

Join us for an evening of "Observing the Holy Seasons of Fasting in Daily Life—From the Perspective of Women Scientists of Faith."

SPEAKERS

- Dr. Seyma Aslan, L'Oréal Research & Innovation
- Dr. Maria Jasin, Memorial Sloan Kettering

MODERATOR: Adele Gallo, Convent of the Sacred Heart

The Peace Islands Institute & the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry will host our annual Iftar dinner—open to all—in Wallace Hall. The evening will include live traditional Sufi music by the group Amir Vahab and Ensemble.

While there is no charge, advance registration is required.

To RSVP, email ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com
by Monday, March 27th.

Seeing with the Heart: A Conversation with Kevin O'Brien, S.J.

Wednesday, March 8th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

*Sponsored by Meeting Christ in Prayer
and Boomers & Beyond*

The Ignatian tradition offers valuable resources to those seeking meaning and purpose today, whether they are steeped in a religious tradition or uncertain about where they fit in the religious landscape.

Drawing on his recently published book, *Seeing with the Heart*, Fr. O'Brien will review some of the fundamental insights offered by St. Ignatius and other wisdom figures through the ages, including our own, to help us navigate life's adventures.

To RSVP, email frobrienbooklaunch@gmail.com.
An RSVP is required.

About the Speaker

Kevin O'Brien, S.J., is a Jesuit priest and educator. He is currently serving at Fairfield University.



the **CARDINAL'S**
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in the service of others.

Please consider a gift in support of this year's Appeal.
Gifts can be made online at cardinalsappeal.org.

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 Christina Kay

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 March 5th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Casciotti
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
9:30 AM Fr. Hilbert
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Bergen
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
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.

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 27th

(First Monday of Lent)

Leviticus 19:1–2, 11–18 Psalm 19
Matthew 25:31–46

8:30 MEM David Gordon

12:10 MEM Bernard Enright

5:30 MEM Simone Gueguen

Tuesday, February 28th

(First Tuesday of Lent)

Isaiah 55:10–11 Psalm 34
Matthew 6:7–15

8:30 MEM Mary Grace Capo

12:10 MEM Toni Brown

5:30 MEM William Powers

Wednesday, March 1st

(First Wednesday of Lent)

Jonah 3:1–10 Psalm 51
Luke 11:29–32

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon
Families

12:10 MEM Ciro Saracino

5:30 MEM Ann Nawn

Thursday, March 2nd

(First Thursday of Lent)

Esther C:12, 14–16, 23–25 Psalm 138
Matthew 7:7–12

8:30 MEM Esperanza C. Valero

12:10 MEM Sydney Weiss

5:30 MEM Joseph Mazriaco

Friday, March 3rd

(First Friday of Lent)

Ezekiel 18:21–28 Psalm 130
Matthew 5:20–26

8:30 LVG Satake Weng Family

12:10 LVG Snell Family

5:30 MEM Bill Hassett

Saturday, March 4th

(First Saturday of Lent)

Deuteronomy 26:16–19 Psalm 119
Matthew 5:43–48

8:30 MEM John Patrick Arrigo

Sunday, March 5th

(Second Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 12:1–4a Psalm 33

2 Timothy 1:8b–10 Matthew 17:1–9