



September 10, 2023 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Rhapsody of Hope for Our Time

There is invariably a cacophonous buzz that precedes most musical performances, whether for a concert at Carnegie Hall or a musical on Broadway. It is the clash of discordant notes of what seems like a battle of musical instruments, each trying to showcase the distinct virtuosity of its master. As the din reaches a crescendo, there is a sudden moment of stark silence followed by something rapturous. One majestic harmony of sound is created through the same instruments that moments earlier seemed to be at war with one another. A melody elevating the soul to a tranquil realm of beauty unabashedly reveals itself through the unique sound of each musical note. In that moment, there are no longer separate threads, but rather an elegantly woven tapestry of sound.

We live in a world where cacophony appears to be the norm. Discordant voices seek to sow division among us. We experience it on a daily basis, both close to home and from distant shores. We are awash with rhetoric that either attempts to stifle the human spirit or enflame a sinister urge within us to strike back impulsively. Unknowingly, we are being duped into believing that we are doomed to live in a polarized world, where you are either with us or are irrelevant. We lecture rather than listen, impose rather than collaborate, demand rather than discuss. To fall victim to this belief not only denigrates human dignity; it denies the presence of God in the world.

Cacophony, in and of itself, is not a bad thing. It can be the foundation of something beautifully melodic. Similarly, differences among us, whether of opinion, politics, ethnic background, gender identification, race, religion, and so on, are exactly where God is to be found, where true harmony will be experienced. In his book, *The Dignity of Difference*, written in the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11, Rabbi Jonathan Sachs reflected on the divine nature of the differences among us that require our understanding and demand our respect. When this occurs, we grow closer together and closer to God. He used as an example the biblical story of the Tower of Babel. When seen through his lens, it is not a tragic story at all. Rather, it is one of creative possibilities. We are enriched by our differences, not limited because of them.

The Church has not been immune from the contagion of polarization. There are voices, both loud and strong, especially in the United States, that are trying to undermine the authority of Pope Francis. They view him as leading the Church in the wrong direction and the synodal process as a waste of time. The Pope, however, has not succumbed to parry with them at their level. Rather, he sees within the wellspring of different opinions a way to discern the will of God for the church in the 21st century. Rather than stifling voices within the church, in October at the Vatican, he is bringing together representatives from around the world, including some of his harshest critics, and inviting them to listen respectfully to one another, bishop and lay, traditionalist and liberal, women and men, gay and straight, Catholic and non-Catholic, and to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The present cacophonous buzz in the Church is approaching the threshold of a profound silence, of listening in excited anticipation of what will assuredly be a rhapsody of hope for the universal Church in the modern world.

Similar to the synodal process initiated by Pope Francis, the parish has been engaged in a discernment process since 2019. Several committees of parishioners, representing the various voices of the parish, met to discuss what it means to be a Jesuit Catholic parish in New York City today. It is my hope that with the release of the parish's *Implementation Plan* in the Fall we will pause to savor the sound of our uniquely joyful rhapsody, before rolling up our sleeves and joining in the work of building a new paradigm of church, while remaining faithful to our rich traditions and noble past. As I reflect on what lies before us, I am reminded of Luke 12:48—*Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.*

The challenge of remaining alive to God's spirit and relevant in today's world will undoubtedly be daunting both for the universal Church and for our parish. Let us join in prayer that we may be buoyed by the strains of a rhapsody of hope and boldly proclaim the kingdom of God so that all we do redounds to the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

To those of you who have been away for the summer months, welcome home! For those who remained in the City throughout the summer, congratulations! You survived another one. And to those who join us remotely through our livestreamed Masses, we are delighted you are members of our parish community.

The pace of the parish certainly slowed during the summer months. However, that is not to say that the parish staff and many of the ministries of the parish were not hard at work. I am grateful for the dedication of our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and altar servers throughout the summer. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continued its good work. Our Ignatian Social Justice Ministry was particularly invested in accompanying migrant families in the City. Many of our parish ministries enjoyed social events among themselves to re-charge their batteries and plan for the coming year.

I am also grateful for the dedication of the parish priests who worked throughout the summer and also enjoyed some time away for their vacations. We were blessed by the presence of a few Jesuits who filled in the gaps during the summer, especially Father Matt Cortese who interrupted his doctoral studies at the University of Notre Dame to be with us for several weeks.

We begin our “new year” this weekend as we resume our full weekend schedule of Masses. Our coffee hour begins again, following the 11:00 AM Masses. We will also have the opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the various ministries of the parish, and hopefully join at least one of them. I understand there will also be some live musical entertainment to accompany our milling about on Park Avenue and 84th Street.

Next weekend the Wallace Hall Family Mass and 11:00 AM Solemn Mass communities will come together for our *Festival Mass*. We will use that occasion to celebrate Father Hilbert's 50th Jubilee as a Jesuit. There will be a reception in McKinnon Hall immediately following the Mass.

Finally, the final phase of our parish planning process will conclude in the Fall with the publication of our *Implementation Plan*. I mentioned this in this weekend's bulletin essay and will write more about what this means for all of us as we roll out the plan.

What a joy it is for us to return home to our parish and begin afresh, filled with hope for the coming year and the future of our beloved parish.

God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

Religious Education

Registration Open for the 2023-2024 Session of IREP

Register for the next session of our Interparish Religious Education Program (IREP). IREP is an ongoing formation process for Kindergarten to 8th-grade students.

IREP is intended for children who do not attend Catholic school but would like to be guided in the Catholic faith.



To register, visit
ignatius.nyc/irep-registration or
scan the QR code at left.

Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

Finding Your Inner Peace: Lessons from Zen (Soto) Buddhism Thursday, September 28th at 7 PM Wallace Hall

Join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry as Hajime Issan Koyama, a Buddhist priest and disciple of Shōhaku Okumura Rōshi, enlightens us on Buddhism and what it can teach us.

A reception will follow in Wallace Hall.



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

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at *stignatiusnyc*.

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

Welcome Home Sunday.

Following the 11 AM Masses. Park Avenue & 84th Street.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

Screening of the Documentary Film *Remembering Mychal*.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details at right.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

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

7 PM. Zoom.

To receive the Zoom, email tuesdaynightbookgroup@gmail.com with the subject line "Bishop Barron".

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.

7 PM. Gonzaga Meeting Room.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th

Ignatian Social Justice Social & Meeting.

6:30 PM Social/7 PM Meeting. Parish Lounge.

Emmaus Bereavement Support Group

Begins Tuesday, September 26th at 7 PM
Parish House

A six-session support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

The sessions, both educational and supportive, are run by experienced facilitators.

To register, email

EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com or call the Parish House at (212) 288-3588 and leave your name and telephone number with the receptionist.

Meeting Christ in Prayer

Wednesdays, September 27th – November 15th
7 PM to 8:30 PM on Zoom

Are you longing for a deeper relationship with God through Christ? 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.

To register, email MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org and pick up the MCIP book from the Parish House by Monday, September 25th.

Festival Mass &

Fr. Hilbert's 50th Jubilee Celebration

Sunday, September 17th

The Wallace Hall Family Mass and 11:00 AM Solemn Mass communities will come together for our Festival Mass in the Church.

Following the Mass, join us in the Grammar School's McKinnon Hall for a reception as we celebrate Fr. Hilbert's 50th Jubilee as a Jesuit.

LGBT Catholics & Friends

Screening of the Documentary Film

Remembering Mychal

Monday, September 11th at 7 PM

Wallace Hall

Join us for the screening of the documentary film *Remembering Mychal* about the late FDNY Chaplain, Father Mychal Judge, the first documented victim of the September 11th attacks.

The film recalls the 'Months Mind' gathering, where friends joined together to grieve and remember Fr. Judge.

Through stories, prayer, and song, parishioners, firefighters, Franciscan friars, Irish musicians & the LGBT community unwrap the life of their priest and friend.



To RSVP, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc/rememberingmychalfilm.

Courageous Women of Faith

Thursday, October 12th at 7 PM
Church

Join us as we present our second annual *Courageous Women of Faith: Celebrating Catholic Laywomen*, where we will honor environmental activist **Molly Burhans**, human rights activist **Sr. Jeannine Gramick**, civil rights activist **Diane Nash**, and immigration advocate **Sr. Norma Pimentel**.

We will commemorate their extraordinary work with the conferral of the Mary Magdalene Award to each honoree and the unveiling of large-scale banners of the women, created by artist Julie Lonneman.

But we're not content with just these four stories—your voice matters as well! We're eager to learn about the women who inspire you with their remarkable lives.



Share their stories with us at ignatius.nyc/courageouswomen or by scanning the code at left.

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 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 September 17th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Bergen
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan
9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Festival Mass 11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert
7:30 PM Fr. Hilbert

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

noonank@saintignatiusloyola.org

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, September 11th

(23rd Monday in Ordinary Time)

Colossians 1:24–2:3 Psalm 62

Luke 6:6–11

8:30 MEM Dorothy Casey

12:10 MEM Valentino Mazzia

5:30 MEM Richard Fraser

Tuesday, September 12th

(23rd Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

Colossians 2:6–15 Psalm 145

Luke 6:12–19

8:30 MEM James P. Lowe

12:10 MEM Joseph Sullivan, Jr.

5:30 MEM Living & Deceased

Members of the Scanlon &

McLoughlin Families

Wednesday, September 13th

(St. John Chrysostom)

Colossians 3:1–11 Psalm 145

Luke 6:20–26

8:30 MEM Living & Deceased

Members of the Brenninkmeijer

Family

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Alma Roller

Thursday, September 14th

(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

Numbers 21:4b–9 Psalm 78

Philippians 2:6–11 John 3:13–17

8:30 MEM Paul Choix

12:10 MEM Ceferina Juntereal

5:30 MEM Andrea Joy Morgan

Friday, September 15th

(Our Lady of Sorrows)

1 Timothy 1:1–2, 12–14 Psalm 16

John 19:25–27

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Charles A. Spadafora

5:30 MEM Silas Gonzalez

Mezquita

Saturday, September 16th

(Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian)

1 Timothy 1:15–17 Psalm 113

Luke 6:43–49

8:30 MEM Cameron Laird

Sunday, September 17th

(24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Sirach 27:30–28:7 Romans 14:7–9

Psalm 103 Matthew 18:21–35