



October 22, 2023 | Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I See People Looking Like Trees and Walking”

In Mark’s Gospel there is a story of an encounter between Jesus and a blind man. The blind man’s friends brought him to Jesus and simply asked Jesus that he touch their friend. Jesus led the man outside, spat on the ground, and wiped his muddied spittle on the eyes of the blind man. He then asked him, “Do you see anything?” The blind man answered, “I see people looking like trees and walking.” After wiping the eyes of the blind man a second time, his sight was restored and, in the words of the evangelist, “he saw everything distinctly” *Mark 8:22-26*.

Sitting at my computer to write this essay, this scriptural passage came to mind as I prepared for cataract surgery. Of course, it is nothing as serious or dramatic as the cure of the blind man, and God willing, the use of the surgeon’s spittle will not be used during the surgery, but it does remind me of the precious gift of sight and the importance of faith in seeing things distinctly. My vision may have been blurred physically, but how has my vision been blurred in other ways? Do I ever see people looking like trees? Perhaps it depends on where I choose to fix my gaze.

At times, our vision is blurred for any one of a myriad of reasons. If you depend on eyeglasses and put them aside, even for a moment, you know what it is like. What was so familiar becomes a shadow of itself. When firmly perched once again on the bridge of the nose, a whole new world opens. The familiar becomes mixed with the possibility of discovering what may have been missed before. Similarly for those whose cataracts have “ripened,” like mine, what was lost in soupy silhouette will be brought into sharper focus through the replacement of an old lens with a new one.

When we look at the world or ourselves, what do we focus on? The narrower the focus, the greater the likelihood we will fail to see what is on the periphery. What lens do we use when we look either outward or inward? Our biases can stealthily infiltrate our vision, catapulting us into making a quick judgment as a matter of convenience or habit. In other words, we see people or ourselves looking like trees, stick figures walking in a murky world of shadows. At times, gaining clarity of vision may require surgery, replacing the lens through which we encounter the world.

Pope Francis has called to the Vatican delegates from around the world, now meeting at the Synod on Synodality, to take a closer look at the church today, to widen their focus so that it includes those who have been marginalized both by society and the church. He invited members of the laity, priests, members of religious orders, and representatives of other faith traditions, to join the bishops of the church and participate in the month-long sessions of the Synod on Synodality. In preparation for the Synod there were local diocesan meetings throughout the world. These meetings were listening sessions intended to inform the ongoing discernment process. To those who participated at the local level and at the Synod itself, and, in fact, to all Catholics, the Pope offers a new lens to replace the lenses of the past that have mired the church in scandal and abject clericalism. It is a lens of compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. This is indeed the lens through which the Pope has approached the world throughout his papacy.

More than a miracle story, the blind man’s encounter with Jesus invites us to examine what we see in the ordinary routine of our lives. A patina of faith will only cloud our field of vision. We will focus only on the things that we want to see. The periphery will be filled with people looking like trees and walking in the background of our own narrow world of self-interest. Like the second wiping of the blind man’s eyes, when we allow ourselves to be touched by the healing presence of Jesus in our lives, we will have the ability to look deeper and see things distinctly without the impairment of the faulty lenses of ego, prejudice, and judgment. Our world will be encountered anew.

With God’s help, we, like the friends of the blind man, will lead others to be touched by the love and healing presence of Jesus. We will walk side by side with other people of faith to proclaim with joy the kingdom of God.

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

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

Community Coffee Hour.
Following the 11 AM Masses.
Outside the Parish House.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th

The Sage and the Skeptic – Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.
To register, email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

Tuesday Night Book Group:
C.S. Lewis and the Doctrine of Deification.
7 PM. Zoom.

*To receive the Zoom link,
RSVP with the subject line "C.S. Lewis"
to tuesdaynightbookgroup@gmail.com.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25th
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th
The Bollandists: Historians of the Impossible.
7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

War and Peace Discussion Group:
Viewing of the Film *Threads* | Part 1.
7 PM. Parish Lounge.

The Solemnity of All Saints & All Souls' Day

Tuesday, October 31st
Mass of Anticipation at 5:30 PM in the Church

Wednesday, November 1st is the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation.
Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7:30 PM.
All Masses will be celebrated in the Church.

Thursday, November 2nd is All Souls' Day.
Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM.
All Masses will be celebrated in the Church.

Annual Memorial Liturgy

Tuesday, November 14th at 7 PM in the Church

In remembrance of deceased parishioners and/or their family members who have died since November 2022.

We invite you to submit the names of your deceased loved ones by Noon on Friday, November 10th either by email to silmemorialmass@gmail.com or by calling the Parish House at 212-288-3588.

The Amazing Race

Sunday, November 12th, Noon to 2:30 PM
Starting Point: McKinnon Hall (48 East 84th Street)

Hosted by LGBT Catholics & Friends, Interparish Religious Education Program, Ignatian Social Justice & the Family Ministry

The Amazing Race returns to St. Ignatius! Part race, part scavenger hunt, this year, the event starts and ends in McKinnon Hall, with the route covering the Upper East Side. It's open to all parishioners and friends, adults and children. Sign up with your team, or be assigned to a team the day of the race and meet some fellow parishioners.

Fee: \$10/adult, \$5/child



To register individually or as a team, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc/amazingrace.

Snow Ball Dance

Saturday, December 2nd at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

Come eat, drink, and dance to live music by The Morris Brothers Band with your friends and fellow adult (21+) parishioners.

Tickets are \$75 per person/\$65 for seniors (age 60+). Premium Tables for 10 guests (featuring a VIP package) are available for \$1,000.



To purchase, visit ignatius.nyc/snow-ball-dance or scan the QR code at left.

Discovering Women of Our Faith Tradition: The Scriptures and the Saints

Thursday, November 16th
6:30 PM
Wallace Hall

*Join us for dinner & dialogue with
Dr. Teresa Berger and Dr. Paul Lakeland*

Women have played profound roles in our Church's development over the centuries. Their gifts have enriched the faith of generations. They have been acknowledged as saints as well as cast in roles of influence throughout the scriptures. Have we been faithful in continuing their roles as saints, prophets, leaders, voices of courage?

To register, visit ignatius.nyc/women-of-our-faith-tradition.

The RSVP deadline is Friday, November 10th.

The Mary Project
Beginning Sunday, October 29th at 2 PM
Wallace Hall

*Presented by the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry
and the Peace Islands Institute*

Join the Ignatian Interfaith Ministry as they partner with our Muslim friends from the Peace Islands Institute to embark on an in-depth exploration of Mary in both faith traditions.

Subsequent sessions include:

- Wednesday, November 29th, 7 PM to 8:30 PM (Zoom)
- Wednesday, January 10th, 7 PM to 8:30 PM (Zoom)
- Thursday, February 8th, 7 PM to 8:30 PM (Zoom)
- Sunday, May 19th, 2 PM to 4 PM (Wallace Hall)



Registration is required.
To register, scan the QR code at left or visit ignatius.nyc/the-mary-project.

**The Bollandists:
Historians of the Impossible**

Friday, October 27th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

Speaker: Professor Carlos Eire

Founded in 1607, The Bollandists are a discreet group of scholars who have applied their intellectual rigor to the study of the saints in a systematic, in-depth, scrupulous, disinterested research and are considered the pioneers of documenting the impossible in the lives of saints.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Professor Carlos Eire is the T. Lawrason Riggs Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University. He is the author of *A Very Brief History of Eternity*, *Reformations: The Early Modern World*, *The Life of Saint Teresa of Avila: A Biography*, and *They Flew: A History of the Impossible*.

Blessing of the Sneakers
Saturday, November 4th
5:30 PM
Church

Before running the New York City Marathon on Sunday, November 5th, join us the day before at our 5:30 PM Mass for a special blessing for runners and all who are participating in the Marathon.

Roundtable Discussion on Loneliness
Tuesday, November 21st at 7 PM
Parish Lounge

Sponsored by the Parish Council

Let's come together for a roundtable discussion on the issue of loneliness and how it affects our lives and those of our loved ones, regardless of age.

"Loneliness stands out to me as an epidemic in the West; so many wear veneers of joy, to mask and cover their true state as peoples living lives of quiet desperation," a quote taken from Lewis Connelly's commentary of Henri Nouwen's *The Wounded Healer*. Recommended reading would be Lewis Connelly's full commentary and the *Notre Dame Magazine* article "Age of Anxiety."

Antonio del Rosario and Kenn Kern will lead this discussion, providing a space for all parishioners and friends to come together to share their thoughts and learn from one another.

**Please RSVP at Adelrosario@bhsusa.com
to secure your spot. Space is limited.**

**Back to Basics 2.0:
What It Means to Be Catholic**

Beginning on Thursday, November 9th, the priests of the parish will offer an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be Catholic.

The five topic areas that will be covered are:

THE MASS, *explained from the altar*

Thursday, November 9th at 7 PM | Church

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES, *praying the rosary, novenas, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of the saints, etc.*

Thursday, December 7th at 7 PM | Wallace Hall

Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

THE CHURCH'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND THE ROLE OF THE LAITY

Thursday, February 22nd at 7 PM | Wallace Hall

Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS OF THE CHURCH

Monday, March 18th at 7 PM | Wallace Hall

Fr. James Casciotti, S.J.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ENCYCLICALS

Monday, April 15th at 7 PM | Wallace Hall

Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.



To receive our weekly email newsletter, scan the QR code or visit ignatius.nyc.

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 October 29th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Ferus
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Ferus
9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan
7:30 PM Fr. Yesalonia

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, October 23rd

(29th Monday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 4:20–25 Luke 1

Luke 12:13–21

8:30 MEM Maria Grant

12:10 LVG Maxim Shiyani

5:30 MEM John & Catherine
Howley

Tuesday, October 24th

(29th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 5:12, 15b, 17–19, 20b–21

Psalms 40 Luke 12:35–38

8:30 ANN Joan Gordon

12:10 MEM Donald Melanson

5:30 MEM Janet Rickenbacker

Wednesday, October 25th

(29th Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 6:12–18 Psalm 124

Luke 12:39–48

8:30 MEM Antonio Magliocci

12:10 MEM Maria Grant

5:30 MEM Gerald Pietroforte

Thursday, October 26th

(29th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 6:19–23 Psalm 1

Luke 12:49–53

8:30 ANN Mary Cecilia Sullivan

12:10 MEM Ellen Coughlin

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

Friday, October 27th

(29th Friday in Ordinary Time)

Romans 7:18–25a Psalm 119

Luke 12:54–59

8:30 MEM Arthur Fischer-
Zernin

12:10 MEM Daniel Cronin

5:30 MEM William Powers

Saturday, October 28th

(*Ss. Simon & Jude*)

Ephesians 2:19–22 Psalm 19

Luke 6:12–16

8:30 MEM Dawn O'Connell
Chandler

Sunday, October 29th

(30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Exodus 22:20–26 Psalm 18

1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10

Matthew 22:34–40