



December 10, 2023 | Second Sunday of Advent

The Waiting is the Hardest Part

After reading this essay title, Tom Petty fans are probably humming the chorus to one of my favorites of his. The second Sunday of Advent, indeed ALL of Advent, is about waiting. Each week, we light the candles of the Advent wreath to commemorate the 4,000 years God's People waited for the Messiah. For a child, however, Advent can be a sort of "holy countdown" to the main event—Christmas and Santa. When you are little, the waiting truly IS the hardest part of December.

As I get a little older and the more commercial and secular Christmas becomes, the more I treasure Advent. It's as if the Church has given us extra time to prepare for the sacred season. It's like when you have guests coming over for dinner, and that 5 PM work meeting has been canceled. Suddenly, you have a little more time to prepare and be ready to welcome your guests with calm and joy. This is the gift of the season.



I love everything about Advent—the readings, the colors, and especially the music. Today's reading from Isaiah is particularly beautiful. It starts with words of comfort—desperately needed when Isaiah wrote them, and especially now, given the trauma of terrorism and loss of life in the Holy Land. How can we respond to these words? Isaiah gives us a roadmap—to prepare the way of the Lord by dedicating ourselves to loving Him and our fellow neighbor. We should measure our holiday hustle against these benchmarks: do our activities help us better love God and serve our neighbor? If not, maybe some of them this year and see how it affects our view and experience of Christmas.

What are some concrete ways to do this?

Get to know God better. In addition to Mass during Advent, commit to attending one of the educational events at St. Ignatius. Reading the Bible is another way to better understand God and His plan for us all. This can be daunting, but this year, I have done *The Bible in a Year* on the Hallow app. You can start any time of the year and go at your own pace—each session is about 22 minutes. Doing this over the year has helped me recognize the readings in Mass and their overall place in salvation history. Finally, find God through the experiences of others of faith. In working on the Mary Project, an interfaith discussion of Mary from the Catholic and Muslim traditions, I have seen the faithfulness of Mary and the presence of God in our world through a different lens, and I am making new friends, too!

Sing a new song. Advent has arguably some of the most beautiful music of the season. Take some time and learn a new hymn and ALL its lyrics. Be sure to sing in Mass no matter what you think of your musical ability! My favorite is *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*, which is like today's reading. One beautiful setting is the video by Ignatius Scola on YouTube. St. Augustine said, "He/She who sings prays twice." Think about that the next time you are in Mass! Be sure to attend one of our parish's Christmas concerts—today at 3 PM and December 17th at 3 PM. Both are beautiful and have ample opportunity for audience participation.

Reach out to your neighbor. Yes, there is plenty of opportunity for charitable donations this time of year, but in addition to those, reach out to family or friends you haven't heard from in a while or a neighbor down the hall. Invite a friend feeling overwhelmed by the holiday to Mass or one of our concerts.

Each of these is a way for you to do a little bit to make straight the highway for our God. Happy Advent, happy waiting!

— Simone Vinocour McKeever
Chair, Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

This Week at a Glance

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

Annual Christmas Concert: Holy Light.
3 PM. Church. *Details on page 3.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th

**Scripture Class | Praying With the
Men and Women of Advent.**
7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.

To register, email brianbpinter@protonmail.com.

Tuesday Night Book Group:

The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God.
7 PM. Zoom.

*To receive the Zoom link, RSVP with the subject line
"Rebirth of Belief" to tuesdaynightbookgroup@gmail.com.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.
7 PM. Parish Lounge.

Bambinelli Sunday

December 17th

Following the 11 AM Masses

We will bless Infant Jesus figurines that
will be placed in crèches.

We invite parishioners to bring their figurines
in for the blessing.

Advent Day of Reconciliation

Monday, December 18th

Confessions will be heard in the Church
from 3 PM to 5 PM and 6 PM to 8 PM.

Masses of December 24th

Sunday, December 24th, is both the Fourth Sunday of
Advent and Christmas Eve.

The Sunday Mass obligation is not displaced by the
observance of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Attending
one of the Christmas Eve Masses does not satisfy the
Sunday obligation.

Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter!

We invite you to join our email mailing list to receive
updates on parish news and events.



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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the parish's recently published *Vision Statement Implementation Plan* we acknowledged our commitment to "reverence God in the wonder of creation" as a fundamental cornerstone to our mission. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis called upon the world to care for our common home, the planet that we share with all God's children. It is both an individual and communal responsibility.

As the first formal action to be taken since publishing the parish's implementation plan, I am delighted to announce that the parish has adopted the *Laudato Si' Action Platform*, a program of initiatives developed by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development. Modelled after the Vatican's program, the parish's Ignatian Social Justice Ministry drafted our action platform. It is posted on the parish's website at ignatius.nyc/laudatosiplatform. Committed to the reduction of our use of significant quantities of paper, a limited number of copies have been printed. These copies will enable those who do not have access to electronic devices, such as a computer or mobile phones, to read the action platform.

I encourage you to read the parish's *Laudato Si' Action Platform*, reflect on how your choices affect those whose resources are unjustly limited, and adopt ways in which you can answer the call of Pope Francis that we act now to care for our common home. As Pope Francis wrote in his subsequent apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, the clock is ticking. If we do not act now, it may be too late to reverse the destructive path we are on.

Finally, I invite you to participate as a member of a new parish ministry, now being formed, that will develop programs and activities focusing on the care of our common home. Please write or e-mail Jean Santopatre, Pastoral Associate, and let her know of your interest.

Consistent with our mission and committed to the tenets of our *Vision Statement Implementation Plan*, may we reverence God in the wonder of creation by the manner in which we live our daily lives, and in that way bring greater glory to God.

God bless you!

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

Concerts at St. Ignatius

Annual Christmas Concert: Holy Light
Sunday, December 10th & Sunday, December 17th
3 PM in the Church

Featuring Cecilia McDowall's *Christus Natus Est* and culminating with *O Holy Night* and the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*, our Holy Light Christmas concerts will inspire you and your family during the height of New York City's dazzling holiday season. Includes beloved carols for everyone to sing.

To purchase tickets,
visit ignatius.nyc/concerts.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Christmas Angels Gift Project
Through Sunday, December 10th

Benefiting Our Lady of Lourdes Church, the Church of the Immaculate Conception, and the migrants accompanied by the Ignatian Social Justice Ministry

Angel Cards listing recipients' Christmas wishes will be on the trees in the Narthex and Wallace Hall.

There will be volunteers to help parishioners with their Angel registration at all Masses. It's very important to register your Angel card(s) with one of the volunteers so we can keep track of the hundreds of gifts.

Please bring your wrapped Angel gift(s) to the Parish House by *Sunday, December 10th*.

We ask each person or family to limit their number of Angel Cards to four.

Annual Toy Drive
Through Sunday, December 17th

Benefiting the children of St. Mary of the Assumption-Our Lady of Mt. Carmel-St. Benedict Parish on Staten Island

Please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for children between the ages of 3-12 to the Parish House. IREP students: May bring unwrapped gifts into class for collection

Toys must be new. No used toys, please.

Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Interparish Religious Education Program

Back to Basics 2.0: What It Means to Be Catholic

Through April 2024, the priests of the parish will offer an opportunity to learn more about what it means to be Catholic.

THE CHURCH'S GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND THE ROLE OF THE LAITY
Thursday, February 22nd
7 PM

Wallace Hall

Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS OF THE CHURCH
Monday, March 18th
7 PM

Wallace Hall

Fr. James Casciotti, S.J.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL ENCYCLICALS
Monday, April 15th
7 PM

Wallace Hall

Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.

Hospitality Ministry

Volunteers Needed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
Christmas Eve

- 4 PM Family Mass • 6 PM
- 8 PM Mass of Christmas • Midnight Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH
Christmas Day

- 10 AM • 12 PM Noon

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2024
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
• 10:30 AM

If you can assist, please email
liturgicalministers@saintignatiusloyola.org
with your availability.

A sign-up table will be in the Narthex after all Masses this weekend.

Lost & Found

If you have lost an item while visiting the church, please stop by the Parish House to check if your misplaced article has been turned in.

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

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*

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 December 17th

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

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, December 11th

(Second Monday of Advent)

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 85

Luke 5:17-26

8:30 MEM The Meehan Family

12:10 MEM Valentino Mazzia

5:30 MEM Catherine Scanlon

Tuesday, December 12th

(Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Zechariah 2:14-17 Judith 13

Luke 1:26-38

8:30 MEM Lauren Valero DeVera

12:10 MEM Lynn Markowski

5:30 MEM Deceased Members of
the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

Wednesday, December 13th

(St. Lucy)

Isaiah 40:25-31 Psalm 103

Matthew 11:28-30

8:30 MEM Joy Blanton

12:10 MEM Bernard L. Canepari

5:30 MEM Bill Hassett

Thursday, December 14th

(St. John of the Cross)

Isaiah 41:13-20 Psalm 145

Matthew 11:11-15

8:30 MEM Robert L. Cahill, Jr.

12:10 MEM John Figge

Friday, December 15th

(Second Friday of Advent)

Isaiah 48:17-19 Psalm 1

Matthew 11:16-19

8:30 MEM Jack O'Leary

12:10 MEM Ruth Klarman

5:30 MEM John & Margaret
Reilly

Saturday, December 16th

(Second Saturday of Advent)

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Psalm 80

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

8:30 MEM William & Ann Reilly

Sunday, December 17th

(Third Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 Luke 1

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28