



December 31, 2023 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Our Light Overpowers the Darkness

As we come to the close of this year, darkness seems to shroud us—the ongoing war in Gaza will leave a humanitarian catastrophe which there is currently no plan to address, critical domestic and international issues are being ignored in Congress while our representatives and senators engage in performative politics, and the campaign for the 2024 presidential election foreshadows a potentially frightening future for our country. As a people of faith, what should be our response to the darkness enveloping our nation and the larger world?

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (1.5) This is from the prologue of the Gospel of John which is one of the Christmas gospels. This is a foundational truth of our faith. In Jesus, the light of God shone in our world and the forces of darkness—hate, evil, ignorance, and power—sought to extinguish that light by killing Jesus. Yet, by his suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus triumphed over this world. The light of God triumphed over the darkness of this world and that light will never be extinguished. The forces of evil have been defeated. Love has conquered hate. The heart of our Christian faith is the proclamation of the triumph of love, light, and goodness over the forces of hate, darkness, and evil. This is what should enable us to persevere in living our faith even when, as now, darkness seems to be enveloping us, evil seems to be more powerful than the good, and hate seems to be suffocating love. Every day, we have to remind ourselves of the truth of what we believe. Light, love, and goodness are now victorious and will prevail.



The challenge we face as Christians is whether we will succumb to the forces of this world, or, instead, stand fast for the values of Jesus Christ. Will you make it clear to others that hate has no home in your heart by registering your disapproval of racist, antisemitic, Islamophobic, or homophobic words or actions? Will you make it clear that your heart is open to all in the respect and courtesy you extend to all persons regardless of their race, their creed, their class, their sexual orientation, their immigration status, or their housing status? Will you have the courage to advocate for what is necessary for all persons to live in the

dignity with which God gifted each and every one of the children of God—life, health care, education, opportunities for employment, affordable and safe housing, opportunities for leisure, and an income sufficient to provide a life commensurate with human dignity when employment ends due to age or disability? Will you strive to offer mercy and forgiveness to those who hurt you in any way? Every day, in the concrete choices we make, we testify as to whether we have succumbed to the forces of this world, or are working to transform this world. We transform this world by our words of kindness, hope, encouragement, forgiveness, and by our deeds of love, compassion, mercy, and goodness. Each day we have to light the candle of our faith and let the light of our lives dispel the darkness that surrounds us.

As the New Year dawns, we acknowledge that there is much darkness in the world and that evil and hate seem to grow more powerful by the day. We, however, do not cower in fear, or surrender to despair. Instead, we turn to the One who is our light, Jesus Christ, and recommit ourselves to following the way he set before us—the way that has proven victorious over darkness, evil, and hate. We remember the counsel of Jesus in the gospel of John: “While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light” (12.36).

— Rev. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J.
Associate Pastor

This Week at a Glance

MONDAY, JANUARY 1st

| FEAST OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD |
One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM.

The Parish House will close at Noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3rd

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

Details at right.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6th

Lay Ministers Enrichment Program:
Pope Francis on Facing the Trials of Life.

9 AM. Wallace Hall.

Details on page 3.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday, January 3rd at 7 PM

Parish House

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been an active ministry at St. Ignatius Loyola since 1865.

Meetings begin with a prayer and spiritual reflection, followed by an agenda of items geared toward service toward the Poor.

Blood Drive

Sunday, February 25th, 9 AM to 3 PM

McKinnon Hall (Grammar School)

48 East 84th Street



To schedule your donation appointment,
scan the QR code at left.

Annual Appeal

As we begin 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.

Ignatian Social Justice

Thursday, January 11th at 7 PM

Parish House

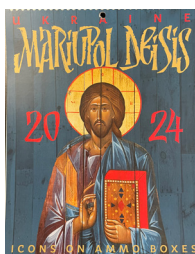
The Ignatian Social Justice ministry is comprised of parishioners committed to raising awareness of current Catholic social teaching and advocating for social justice on timely and underappreciated issues

The volunteer group embraces the responsibility to inform, engage, and mobilize parishioners to promote social justice in our local community as well as the global community.

Parish Digital Publications

To access our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report, visit ignatius.nyc/annual-reports.

The Vision Statement Implementation Plan and the Laudato Si' Action Platform can be found at ignatius.nyc/mission-and-values.



Icons on Ammo Boxes 2024 Calendar

The Icons on Ammo Boxes 2024 Calendar, featuring the work of Ukrainian artists Sofia Atlantova and Oleksandr Klymenko, are available for \$10 at the Parish House.

Proceeds support the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Home Communion Call

If you or a loved one is confined to home and would like to receive Communion on a periodic or regular basis, someone from the parish's Compassionate Care Ministry will come to your home and bring Communion.

If interested, email Fr. Hilbert at hilbertm@saintignatiusloyola.org or leave your name and phone number at the Parish House for Fr. Hilbert, and someone will be scheduled to visit.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

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.

The Mary Project
Wednesday, January 10th
7 PM
Zoom

*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
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.

Lay Ministers Enrichment Program:
Pope Francis on Facing the Trials of Life
Saturday, January 6th
9 AM to 12:30 PM
Wallace Hall

*A morning in reflection, faith sharing, and conversation,
led by Fr. James Casciotti, S.J.*

In a homily, while addressing young people about to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, Pope Francis stated: "And here I come to my last point. It is an invitation which I make to you, young confirmands, and to all present. Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide..." Fr. Casciotti will present on this topic and lead private and group reflection.

Continental breakfast will be served at 9 AM.
The program will commence shortly thereafter.

To register, visit tinyurl.com/LMEWINTER24.
Registration is required.

Music at St. Ignatius

**Support the Advent & Christmas
Liturgical Music Fund**

If you have been moved by the exceptional music ministry at St. Ignatius Loyola, please consider giving a special year-end gift to the Advent & Christmas Liturgical Music Fund, and help us reach our annual goal of \$70,000.

Gifts may be made online at ignatius.nyc/advent-christmas-music/, or by mailing a check to the address below, made out to "Church of St. Ignatius Loyola" with "Advent/Christmas Music 2023" in the memo line.

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola
Advent/Christmas Music
980 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10028

Gifts of \$100 or more that are received on or before Sunday, December 31st will be listed in the January 7th worship leaflets.

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 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.

The Heat is On at St. Ignatius

Please help us defray the increasing cost of providing heat and electricity to the parish.



To contribute, visit ignatius.nyc/makepayment (or scan the QR code at left) and note "Energy Collection" in the *Reason for Donation* box.

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.

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 January 7th

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

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.

4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Confessions

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, January 1st

(Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother
of God)

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 67

Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21

Tuesday, January 2nd

(Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory
Nazianzen)

1 John 2:22-28 Psalm 98

John 1:19-28

8:30 MEM Ciro Saracino

12:10 MEM Brian T. Madden

5:30 MEM Peter Joseph Burke, Sr.

Wednesday, January 3rd

(The Most Holy Name of Jesus)

Sirach 51:8-12 Psalm 8

Philippians 2:1-11

8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon
Families

12:10 LVG Trudy C. Boyovski

5:30 MEM Valerie Girven

Thursday, January 4th

(St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

1 John 3:7-10 Psalm 98

John 1:35-42

8:30 MEM Stanley Babiarz

12:10 MEM Edward Raidl

5:30 MEM Richard Zaiz

Friday, January 5th

(St. John Neumann)

1 John 3:11-21 Psalm 100

John 1:43-51

8:30 MEM Franca Fendi

12:10 MEM Ana M. Spadafora

5:30 MEM David Leung

Saturday, January 6th

(St. André Bessette)

1 John 5:5-13 Psalm 147

Mark 1:7-11

8:30 MEM Anthony Armagno

Sunday, January 7th

(The Epiphany of the Lord)

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12