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January 28, 2024 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Unclean Spirits

“It’s the American way.” So said a friend as we pondered the many demons that seem to be torturing our society—family estrangement, addiction, loneliness, indebtedness, pornography, violence, militarism, conspiratorialism, racism, “the Big Lie”, among many others. This week’s gospel invites us to contemplate Jesus’s authority to rebuke and cast out the unclean spirits that maliciously seek to undermine us and drive us apart. He is the one power who can destroy them, as the demons themselves acknowledge.

Mark opens the scene with Jesus in the Capernaum synagogue, a word that had dual meanings for ancient Israel, referring to both a building where the community gathered for prayer and the community itself. One possessed was shunned and kept apart, lest the uncleanness contaminate others, which makes it particularly ironic that the evil spirit chooses to manifest itself here. It’s as if this little devil of division is flaunting its destructive impact. Jesus, by healing the poor man, restores him to communion with his neighbors, his faith community, and his nation. Cut off from his “synagogue”, the unclean man was dead; he is alive again through the healing grace of Jesus.

Like the possessed man at Capernaum, “the American way” has become characterized by alienation from each other, an alienation that has infected our politics, our churches, our families. Reliable research reports, for example, that nearly 30% of Americans are estranged from a family member, 1 in 5 condone using violence against their fellow citizens to further political agendas, and 1 in 4 young adults report feeling lonely and without significant connection to others. Moreover, nearly a third of us believe the “Big Lie” that the 2020 election was stolen. While talk of demons and evil spirits might be *gauche* among the intellectually sophisticated, it does seem that there is a divisive, deceiving, malevolent force at work among us.

Our time is not the first the world has faced the dark power of “unclean spirits.” In August of 1942, when the Nazis appeared to be winning, the eminent and insightful Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung wrote, “Is there still a chance to save ourselves from this spiritual decay? Yes, but a miracle will have to happen. And miracles only happen when one believes in miracles. Small islands like mountaintops would have to grow out of the chaotic sludge; islands of contemplation and of a sense of justice. Perhaps a new world will develop from these islands.” Jung understood that powers of demonic darkness were wrapping their tentacles around a vulnerable world, but that light could ultimately prevail if intentionally chosen and cultivated.

Communities such as our parish can be these islands of which Jung wrote. We together serve as a counter-witness to these “unclean spirits” through our ministries of solidarity and justice, through our breaking the bread and breaking open the word, through our dedication to lives of prayer and morality, and through our commitment to being a place where all are welcome. Jesus empowers us, as the Body of Christ, to cast out these demons, but as with all miracles, it will require our cooperation with Jesus’ healing grace. We are called to make a daily choice to say “yes” to the way of Christ, and “no” to “The American way,” my friend sighed over—when that American way means collusion with the unclean spirits.

Our journey to healing begins by bringing ourselves before Jesus with those unclean spirits that torment us—the spirits of hatred, anxiety, isolation, mistrust, violence, fear, and all that keeps us separated from others and ourselves. Naming and facing these within and without, allowing God’s healing light to penetrate those darkest places of the heart, can transform us into channels of grace for our world. I invite you to spend time in prayer this week with Jesus, the exorcist of unclean spirits.

— Brian B. Pinter  
Pastoral Associate

## This Week at a Glance

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31st

Lecture | Mobilizing 'Thoughts and Prayers'  
to Secure Our Freedoms.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details on page 3.*

Meeting Christ in Prayer.

7 PM. Parish House & Zoom. *Details on page 3.*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House.

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1st

Concert | The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir.

8 PM. Church. *Details on page 3.*

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

Pizza and Bingo Fundraiser: In Support of the  
Cheyenne River Reservation Service Project.

6 PM. Wallace Hall. *Details below.*

## Pizza and Bingo Fundraiser: In Support of the Cheyenne River Reservation Service Project

Saturday, February 3rd

6 PM to 8:30 PM

Wallace Hall

Join us for pizza, games, and a silent auction,  
along with bingo games with prizes.

### Ways to Participate:

- Get a table: \$120 (8-10 people), includes  
pizza, salad and desserts, or
- Bring a \$20 check per person

Please Note: This is a BYOB (Wine and Beer only)  
event. Water, coffee, and tea will be provided.

To RSVP, click here or email  
[parentcommittee.familyministry@gmail.com](mailto:parentcommittee.familyministry@gmail.com).

*Volunteers are also needed who can help with preparation/  
food serving or activities. Items for our silent auction  
are also needed. Please let us know if you can help.*

## Parish Digital Publications

To access our Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report,  
visit [ignatius.nyc/annual-reports](http://ignatius.nyc/annual-reports).

The Vision Statement Implementation Plan  
and the Laudato Si' Action Platform can be  
found at [ignatius.nyc/mission-and-values](http://ignatius.nyc/mission-and-values).

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### Blood Drive

Sunday, February 25th, from 9 AM to 3 PM

McKinnon Hall (Grammar School)

48 East 84th Street



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

## Journey Into Exile: An Interactive Simulation Exercise

Saturday, February 10th

10:30 AM to Noon

Wallace Hall

*Sponsored by the Parish Council*

Jesuit Refugee Service Canada created an interactive  
simulation exercise called Journey Into Exile that aims  
to provide a greater understanding of the realities faced  
by refugees seeking safety, security, and a better life.

As a participant, you will be assigned a refugee  
character with a brief biography, enabling you to make  
decisions based on your character's circumstances.  
Through these decisions, you will learn about some of  
the challenges and choices refugees encounter.

During the activity, you will make decisions individually  
and as a group, listen to real refugee testimonies, and  
view videos that shed light on the journeys, obstacles,  
and resilience of refugees across the globe.



To participate, register by Wednesday,  
February 7th, by scanning the QR code at left.

Questions or comments? contact Kenn Kerns or Laura de  
Boisblanc at [lauradeboisblanc@yahoo.com](mailto:lauradeboisblanc@yahoo.com).

## In God We Trust: A Spirituality of Money

Monday, February 12th at 7 PM

Parish House & Zoom

Money is among the most powerful, mesmerizing  
objects of the human experience. The quest to acquire  
money, keep it, and spend it stirs deep passions,  
potentially constellating both the best and worst in us.

This presentation and conversation will explore  
biblical, psychological, and spiritual viewpoints on  
money. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To RSVP, email [brianbpinter@protonmail.com](mailto:brianbpinter@protonmail.com).

## Lectures at St. Ignatius

### Mobilizing 'Thoughts and Prayers' to Secure Our Freedoms

Wednesday, January 31st at 7 PM  
Wallace Hall

#### PRESENTER

**Professor Basil Smikle, Jr., Ph.D.**

*Director of the Roosevelt House Institute for Public  
Policy at Hunter College and Member of the  
FDR Library Board of Trustees*

The lecture will present the historical context of the Four Freedoms Speech, the formulation of Roosevelt's vision, and its impact on the post-war world and its relevance today.

#### ABOUT THE PRESENTER

With over 15 years in higher education and 25 years of a career dedicated to public service, **Basil Smikle, Jr.**, regularly shares insights on electoral politics, governance, and public policy on national media outlets such as MSNBC, CNN, and Bloomberg TV. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics and Education and an MPA from Columbia University and received a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University.

## Concerts at St. Ignatius

### The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir

Thursday, February 1st at 8 PM  
Church

The Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir has become the only professional choir from overseas to tour the U.S. on a regular basis, thanks to its unique repertoire, distinctive sound, and high-performance standard. They are best known for their recordings of the works of fellow countryman Arvo Pärt, who is the most popular living classical composer worldwide.

The program for this concert was carefully curated by Maestro Tõnu Kaljuste. It focuses on Pärt while interlacing selections from Palestrina, the 16th century composer whose purity and concision influenced the Estonian during his search in the early 1970s for a new voice.

The Arvo Pärt Project, now part of the Institute of Sacred Arts at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, has celebrated and explored the music of the great Estonian composer since 2012. Since 2014 the Project has been at the heart of major Arvo Pärt events at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other venues, especially the Church of St Ignatius Loyola.

Tickets are available at [ignatius.nyc/concerts](http://ignatius.nyc/concerts).

## Meeting Christ in Prayer

Wednesdays, January 31st to March 20th

7 PM to 8:30 PM

Parish House & Zoom

Are you longing for a deeper relationship with God through Christ? Is your childhood way of relating to God insufficient now that you are an adult?

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, via Zoom and in-person.

A good faith offering will be appreciated, as the cost of materials ranges between \$30-\$50.

To register, email [MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:MCIP@saintignatiusloyola.org) and pick up the MCIP book from the Parish House by Sunday, January 28th. The retreat is in-person and via Zoom; please specify your choice when registering.

## 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.*



## Sign-up for Our Weekly E-Newsletter!

To receive regular updates on parish news and events, scan the QR code or visit [ignatius.nyc](http://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 February 4th

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

## 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, January 29th

(4th Monday in Ordinary Time)

2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13

Psalms 3 Mark 5:1-20

**8:30 MEM** Madeline Chapman

**12:10 MEM** Nicholas Armand  
Buisson

**5:30 MEM** Kaitlyn Lynch

### Tuesday, January 30th

(4th Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a,

30-19:3 Psalm 86

Mark 5:21-43

**8:30 MEM** Robert Blackstock, Jr.

**12:10 MEM** Frank Carroll

**5:30 MEM** William Powers

### Wednesday, January 31st

(St. John Bosco)

2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17 Psalm 32

Mark 6:1-6

**8:30 MEM** Helen & Charles  
Regan

**12:10 MEM** Hilda Handal

**5:30 MEM** Rosa Patrizio

### Thursday, February 1st

(4th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12

1 Chronicles 29 Mark 6:7-13

**8:30 MEM** Ciro Saracino

**12:10 MEM** Rose De Berardine

**5:30 MEM** Giuseppe Zuccarello

### Friday, February 2nd

(The Presentation of the Lord)

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 24

Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

**8:30 MEM** Nancy Brooker

**12:10 MEM** Chester Uszakiewicz

**5:30 MEM** Michael Kelly

### Saturday, February 3rd

(4th Saturday in Ordinary Time)

1 Kings 3:4-13 Psalm 119

Mark 6:30-34

**8:30 MEM** Agnes Kiernan

### Sunday, February 4th

(5th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 147

1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Mark 1:29-39