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September 8, 2024 | Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## *A Pilgrimage of Hope*

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *pilgrimage* as the journey of a pilgrim. Its secondary meaning is the course of life on earth. A *pilgrim* is defined as one who journeys in foreign lands or who travels to a shrine or holy place. *Hope* is defined as a desire accompanied by the expectation of or belief in fulfillment. A Christian's understanding of hope is that it is a virtue that comes from God and leads people back to God. It is the desire for eternal life and the kingdom of God as a source of happiness and joy.

As you may recall from an announcement I made in the Spring, Pope Francis has proclaimed the Jubilee Year 2025 as a Year of Hope. By tradition a Jubilee Year is a time for pilgrims to journey to Rome and visit the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul and to walk through the doors of the four major basilicas of Rome (St. Peter's, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, St. Mary Major, and St. John Lateran), thereby meriting an abundance of blessings.

Let's face it. Not all of us will be able to make a pilgrimage to Rome next year. That is not to say that we cannot participate in a pilgrimage of hope during the Holy Year. In fact, are we not already on that pilgrimage? Recall the definitions of pilgrimage, pilgrim, and hope. A pilgrimage is the journey of life to what we hold sacred. It is hope that points us in the right direction and guides our steps. As God's gift to us, hope will never fail because what we desire has already been fulfilled. It is our faith in Jesus Christ that allows us to journey with a strong stride to our walk and a joyful spirit in our hearts. The challenge that we face is to have the willingness to open our hearts and minds to the reality of God's presence in the world and in our lives.

As pilgrims, we will invariably journey through a foreign land, and sometimes it is at our very doorstep. The terrain will seem like the highest mountain or the darkest valley. Those encountered along the way will seem to us like barbarians, heathens who threaten our very existence. Personal hardships or tragedies, like massive blocks of granite blocking the path, may dampen our spirits and attempt to extinguish our fervor. It is at times such as these that we take refuge in our faith and are buoyed by hope, for we know that God is true to God's word. We will recognize God's kingdom in our daily lives amidst the din and the clamor and the rough edges of our world. We will have arrived at the destination of our pilgrimage, the world in which we live.

St. Ignatius Loyola exhorts us to see God in all things. All of creation reflects God's presence in the world. God's kingdom is here, not in some galactic realm of wispy clouds and ethereal bodies. Jesus Christ fearlessly proclaimed the kingdom of God in the here and now. He challenged those who would listen to him to a conversion of heart so they could experience that kingdom and, in turn, proclaim his message to everyone. Like those first joyful disciples, we are confronted by the same sceptics who would deny that reality and sow the seeds of fear and division. Our pilgrimage of hope in a world that often seems bent on self-destruction, however, is firmly rooted in the belief that the world, that all God's creation, is sacred and reflects the image of God.

In his apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis exhorted the Church and all who believe in Jesus Christ to proclaim in word and deed "the joy of the Gospel." As a community of disciples of Jesus Christ, we are on a pilgrimage of hope, bound together by our faith and our commitment to bring into our daily lives and to the world the joy of the Gospel. Nurtured by hope, we, as a parish, are now on the threshold of implementing the goals of the parish's Vision Statement. With God's help, our aspirations will be actualized through a large dose of grit and determination. What we desire to accomplish is within our reach if we but open our minds and hearts to the goodness and joy that abounds among us. Our task is to join the mission of Jesus Christ in establishing in our world that kingdom of happiness and joy, of peace and justice, that God intended from the moment of creation. Please join in this communal pilgrimage of hope.

As we rev up the engine to begin a "new year" in the life of the parish, let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and for one another that we may be joyful companions in our pilgrimage of hope, this year and always. And may all that we do be for the greater glory of God and the salvation of all!

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

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

To those of you who have been away for the summer months, welcome back! For those who remained in the City throughout the summer, congratulations! You survived another hot one. And to those who join us remotely through our livestreamed Masses, we are blessed by your remote presence at our celebrations of the Eucharist.

As in the past, the pace of things at the parish may have eased, but the work of the parish continued without interruption. The parish staff and many of the ministries of the parish were hard at work. I am grateful for the dedication of our Hospitality Ministers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and altar servers throughout the summer. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continued its good work. Many who are involved with our parish ministries gathered at social events to re-charge their batteries and plan for the coming year.

I am also grateful for the dedication of the parish priests who diligently worked in the vineyard of our parish and enjoyed time away for their annual retreats and vacations. Father Mathew Bomki, SJ, joined us for the months of July and August to help with our daily and weekend Mass schedule. He has returned to Edinburgh to continue his doctoral studies in biblical theology.

Allow me now to report on a few things that occurred during the summer months. The Second Annual Parish Art Show was held 20-23 June. In addition to the ammunition box icons of Ukrainian artists, Oleksandr Klymenko and Sofia Atlantova, more than 70 works of art created by parishioners were displayed and offered for sale. The total amount raised in support of the parish was \$8,788. Mark your calendars for next year's Third Annual Art Show which will be held on **8-11 May 2025**, just in time to buy your Mother's Day gift!

Now that you may be marking your calendar, please circle these other dates:

- **6 October 2024**, Care of Creation Prayer Service
- **17 October 2024**, New Parishioners' Reception
- **22 October 2024**, Ministry Appreciation Dinner
- **23 October 2024**, Courageous Women of Faith Presentations
- **2 November 2024**, Blessing of the Sneakers at the conclusion of the 5:30 PM Mass
- **7 December 2024**, Annual Snow Ball Dance

The summer was also a time to take a closer look at the major capital needs of the parish, mostly the sound system in the church, the lighting inside the church and narthex, and the repair and/or redesign of the front doors of the church. Consultants were hired in each of these areas. In the near term, we will have additional speakers installed in the church that will allow for a balanced distribution of sound throughout the church. As the reports of our consultants are submitted, I will report to you on what can be done, and what we can afford to do, to enhance the lighting inside the church and resolve the malfunctioning of the mechanical system that frequently prevents the opening of the bronze front doors of the church.

Now that our Vision Statement Implementation Plan has been distributed, we will begin in earnest with new initiatives and expanded scopes for many of our parish ministries. That is not to say that over the summer months there has been no movement in the implementation of exciting new programming. The *Laudato Si'* Care of Creation Ministry organized a neighborhood park clean-up. Probably the most exciting thing to anticipate in 2025 is the parish trip to Rome for the Holy Year, a Pilgrimage of Hope. There has already been a high level of interest shown by parishioners. Also in the planning stage is a trip to South Africa that will be co-sponsored by the parish and our Turkish Muslim friends at Peace Island Institute. This is one of the many programs being planned by the *Ignatian Interfaith Ministry*.

As we begin again, I invite you to roll up your sleeves and get involved. We are truly blessed to have an extraordinary parish precisely because of the dedication and commitment of all of you. As we look forward to the future, let us be filled with hope and joy, knowing that all that we do is for the greater glory of God.

Sincerely in the Lord,

*Fr. Gesalonia*

## Parish Mission Statement

The love of Christ impels us to welcome all, to worship joyfully and pray fervently, to walk together with those in need, and to reverence God in the wonder of Creation.

## This Week at a Glance

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

Welcome Back Sunday.  
Following the 11 AM Masses.  
Outside the Parish House.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.  
7 PM. Parish House.

## Emmaus Bereavement Group

Begins Tuesday, September 17th  
7 PM to 8:30 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 led by experienced facilitators.

Registration is required.

To register, email

[EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com](mailto:EmmausBereavementGroup@gmail.com) or call the Parish House at 212-288-3588 and leave your name, phone number and email address with the receptionist.

## Scripture Class

### When Bad Things Happen to Good People: The Book of Job

Four Tuesdays, beginning September 17th at 7 PM  
Parish House & Zoom

The book of Job ponders essential, timeless questions such as why do the righteous suffer? Is suffering a punishment for sin? How should humans respond to suffering? Is there a place for questioning or defying God? Is it possible to understand the plans and workings of the Divine? Our class gatherings will offer a historical introduction to the book and analysis of selected texts.

Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To RSVP, email [pinterb@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:pinterb@saintignatiusloyola.org).



## Fr. Yesalonia's 75th Birthday Celebration Sunday, September 15th at Noon Grammar School's McKinnon Hall

Please join us in celebrating Fr. Yesalonia's 75th birthday, following the 11 AM Masses.

## Parish Retreat

Friday, October 18th to Sunday, October 20th  
Jogues Retreat House, Cornwall, NY

The LGBT Catholics and Friends Ministry of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola announces a parish retreat, "The Creator Communicates with Us."

This weekend retreat, open to all parishioners, will be held at the Jesuit retreat house in Cornwall, NY, and facilitated by Ivan Briggiler, Hector Montoya, and Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J.

The retreat will include four conferences, shared prayer, and time for reflection. The retreat will conclude with the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.

There are 17 single rooms and 4 double rooms.

The donation for the weekend is \$150, to be paid at the time of the retreat. The parish will partially subsidize the costs.

If you are interested, please send your name, cell phone number, and preference for a single or double room to [silparishretreat@gmail.com](mailto:silparishretreat@gmail.com). In the latter case, indicate the name of your roommate.

## Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Do you have a friend, family member, or a loved one who is considering becoming Catholic? Encourage them to reach out to us to inquire about our parish program designed to initiate adults into the Catholic faith.

A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray & to prepare for the Easter Sacraments.

For more information, contact  
Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or  
email [church@stignatiusloyola.org](mailto:church@stignatiusloyola.org).



## 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).

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stignatiusnyc).

# 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

Jen Arvay Kefalas Douglas Purcell  
Daniel Beckwith Michael Sheetz  
Christina Kay Elizabeth Van Os  
Robert Reuter

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 September 15th

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Casciotti  
Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Casciotti  
9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan  
Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hallinan  
Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. Yesalonia  
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, September 9th

(St. Peter Claver)

1 Corinthians 5:1–8 Psalm 5  
Luke 6:6–11

**8:30 MEM** Simona Saracino  
Fendi

**12:10 MEM** Laurette Oldewurtel  
**5:30 MEM** Deceased Members of  
the Scanlon & McLoughlin Families

### Tuesday, September 10th

(23rd Tuesday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 6:1–11 Psalm 149  
Luke 6:12–19

**8:30 MEM** Kelly Reilly-Gillebaard

**12:10 MEM** Stuart Wedlake  
**5:30 MEM** Tricia Agosta

### Wednesday, September 11th

(23rd Wednesday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 7:25–31 Psalm 45  
Luke 6:20–26

**8:30 MEM** Dorothy Casey

**12:10 MEM** Michael Burke  
**5:30 ANN** Richard Fraser

### Thursday, September 12th

(23rd Thursday in Ordinary Time)

1 Corinthians 8:1b–7, 11–13  
Psalm 139 Luke 6:27–38

**8:30 MEM** Thomas D. Moriarity

**12:10 MEM** Joseph J. Sullivan  
**5:30 MEM** Alice Glenn

### Friday, September 13th

(St. John Chrysostom)

1 Corinthians 9:16–1, 22b–27  
Psalm 84 Luke 6:39–42

**8:30 MEM** John & Nora Reilly

**12:10 MEM** Living & Deceased  
Members of the Dinger Family  
**5:30 MEM** Living & Deceased  
Members of the Gibbons Family

### Saturday, 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** Jack O'Leary

### Sunday, September 15th

(24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 50:5–9a Psalm 116  
James 2:14–18 Mark 8:27–35