



December 8, 2024 | Second Sunday of Advent

## Starting a New Chapter

*[This Second Sunday of Advent, St. Ignatius Loyola Parish celebrates the RCIA\* Rite of Entrance and Welcome, acknowledging a group of adults as they formally begin their journey toward becoming Catholic. This essay is written by Steven M., who was received into the Church at last year's Easter Vigil.]*

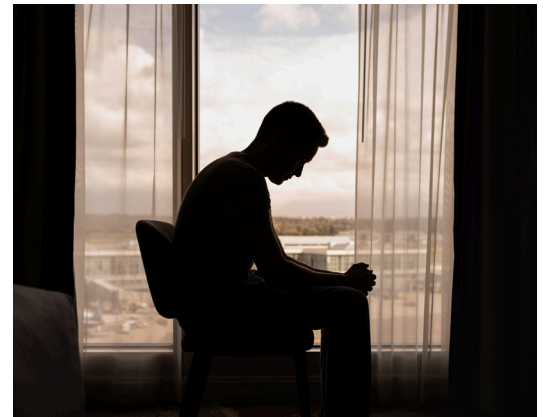
In December 2021, I accepted a six-month work position and was posted to New York City. It was a dream opportunity and satisfied my appetite for a new challenge. I realize now that it also appealed more deeply to my subconscious, which at the time, had to **JUST. KEEP. MOVING. FORWARD.**

As all of us have experienced and can relate to, the years leading up to my moving to New York City, were challenging: first, my brother-in-law's passing and then the turbulence of the pandemic. This contributed to this need for momentum.

I guess when I reflect upon my journey of becoming Catholic, it can be summarized very simply: it gave me a stillness that I hadn't ever been able to harness, a stillness to appreciate the present with the support and love of God.

It was my wife who ultimately brought me closer to my faith. I was raised by a Catholic father and a Church of England mother, but not baptized. Whilst privately I practiced my faith, I had never seriously pursued or committed to either. After attending a Catholic Church regularly with my wife, I decided I was ready to pursue a closer relationship with God.

After some quick research in my local area, I came across the St. Ignatius RCIA program and reached out. After an introductory meeting, I was signed up for the upcoming cohort starting in September. The program was an incredibly special experience. It provided me with a framework to explore my faith, and space and time each week to challenge my thoughts. Hearing from the RCIA leaders and sharing the journey with other participants was the most useful part. I felt appropriately vulnerable to sharing my thoughts and keen to hear other's perspectives. So much so that when the program ended I was missing the weekly sessions!



I first started to notice this inner stillness during Mass at St. Ignatius. At first, I was blown away by a homily that really spoke directly to me. Then week by week, I felt a fluctuation of intense emotions during the services I couldn't describe, but suitably punctuated by the incredible music of the choir and organ. And finally, I started to hear God's voice speak back to my prayers!

As my wife and I walked back down the aisle on our wedding day, I looked out to the pews to see my friends and family, including so many members of the RCIA team and cohort. It felt like a fitting conclusion to my chapter of becoming Catholic. I really encourage anyone who is considering the RCIA program to pursue it. It changed my life and will remain a special and incredibly important experience.

— Steven M.

*\*Beginning in Advent of 2024, RCIA's nomenclature will change to OCIA (from Rite to Order of Christian Initiation of Adults).*

## 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, DECEMBER 8th

#### Annual Christmas Caroling.

2 PM. Vista Assisted Living Residence. *Details on page 3.*

#### CONCERT | A Chanticleer Christmas.

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

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Masses at 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:30 PM.

*The Feast is a holy day of obligation.*

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th

#### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS | Hark! The Story Behind

#### Our Most Beloved Christmas Carols.

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

#### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

6 PM. Church. *Details at right.*

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11th

#### SCRIPTURE CLASS | The Ox and Lamb Kept Time:

#### A Spirituality of Animal Companions.

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

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th

#### Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.

7 PM. Parish House. *Details at right.*

## Bambinelli Sunday

December 15th

### 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 16th

Confessions will be heard in the Church  
from 3 PM to 5 PM and 6:30 PM to 8 PM.

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

6 PM to 6:30 PM  
in the Church

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

### Annual Toy Drive

Through Sunday, December 22nd

*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*

## Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays, through December 17th

6 PM to 8 PM in the Church

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6 PM. The  
church will be open for private adoration until shortly  
before 8 PM when the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed  
and the church will close.

## Ignatian Social Justice

Thursday, December 12th at 7 PM

Parish House

Ignatian Social Justice is a ministry of the Church of St.  
Ignatius Loyola made up 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.

**For more information, contact Jean Santopatre at  
[santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org](mailto:santopatrej@saintignatiusloyola.org).**

## Join Our Email Mailing List!

Sign-up for our e-newsletter to receive regular updates  
on parish news and events.



**To sign-up, scan the QR code at left  
or visit [ignatius.nyc](http://ignatius.nyc).**

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

## Annual Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 8th

2 PM to 2:45 PM

Vista Assisted Living Residence

1261 Fifth Avenue (between 107th and 108th Streets)

We've got the music and the songs. All we need is you!

Come join our annual Christmas Caroling event and start the holiday season with a song. And while you're having a great time, you will bring Christmas joy to others.

## Ignatian Interfaith Ministry

### Sat Sri Akal (Truth reigns eternal)

Monday, January 13th at 7 PM

Wallace Hall

PRESENTER

**Harmeet Kamboj**

*Senior State Policy Manager, Sikh Coalition*

Join us as we learn more about one of the world's largest faith traditions: Sikhism. Founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, it is the fifth largest religion in the world and also monotheistic.

To register,

email [ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com](mailto:ignatianinterfaithministry@gmail.com)

## Circle of Friends

### Hark! The Story Behind Our Most Beloved Christmas Carols

Tuesday, December 10th at 1 PM

Wallace Hall

Come and join Circle of Friends for "Cookies & Carols" and explore the origins and backstories of some of our favorite Christmas Carols with us and Father Ricardo da Silva, S.J., and our Director of Music K. Scott Warren.

Father Ricardo da Silva, S.J., is Associate Editor at America Media and the producer of the renowned podcast, *Hark!*, which airs over the four weeks of Advent and dissects a different Christmas Carol every week. On December 10th, Father da Silva will provide a brief history of our tradition of singing Christmas Carols and explore the backstory to several beloved favorites as well as less familiar Christmas songs.

Father da Silva will be joined by our very own Director of Music, K. Scott Warren. Scott will provide musical accompaniment and lead us in singing some of the Christmas Carols.

Registration is required.

To register, email [silcircleoffriends@gmail.com](mailto:silcircleoffriends@gmail.com).

## Concerts at St. Ignatius

### A Chanticleer Christmas

Sunday, December 8th at 4 PM

Church

"A Chanticleer Christmas" brings with it warmth, light, familiar carols, and joy. This year's program is full of new arrangements of well-known tunes, presented with impeccable style and virtuosity by San Francisco's "Orchestra of Voices."

Equally at home in the worlds of Classical, Jazz, or Pop, Chanticleer weaves back and forth between styles to present an evening of wonder and merriment. The group begins with their traditional candlelight processional, and concludes with a litany of crowd-pleasers, coming to a raucous close with Joseph Jennings's classic Spirituals. We can't wait to celebrate the season with you!

For tickets, visit [ignatius.nyc/concerts](http://ignatius.nyc/concerts).

## Scripture Class

### The Ox and Lamb Kept Time: A Spirituality of Animal Companions

Wednesday, December 11th & December 18th

7 PM in the Parish House & on Zoom

Animals have long been associated with the Christmas creche. Moreover, non-human creatures play significant roles in key stories of salvation history. Our presentations and discussions will explore biblical, theological and spiritual perspectives on our animal companions. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

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

## Meeting Christ in Prayer

### Holy Listening: Advent and Beyond

Mondays, December 9th to January 13th

7 PM

Zoom

Are you looking for an opportunity to share your response to Scripture with others? Join us for six weeks of faith-sharing in a structured and welcoming listening environment. We will share our responses to an upcoming Sunday reading and then our responses to each other's shares. This is ideal for past participants of Meeting Christ in Prayer, but all are welcome. The program will take place on Zoom.

To register, visit [tinyurl.com/SILHolyListening](http://tinyurl.com/SILHolyListening).

# 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.

### 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                      Robert Reuter  
Daniel Beckwith                      Michael Sheetz  
Christina Kay                          Elizabeth Van Os  
Douglas Purcell

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

Pattie Hughes

### 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 15th

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

## 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 9th

(*The Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*)

Genesis 3:9–15, 20 Psalm 98

Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12

Luke 1:26–38

**8:30 MEM** Simona Saracino Fendi

**12:10 MEM** Walter Dye

**5:30 MEM** Catherine Scanlon

### Tuesday, December 10th

(*2nd Tuesday of Advent*)

Isaiah 40:1–11 Psalm 96

Matthew 18:12–14

**8:30 MEM** For All Priests

**12:10 MEM** For All Priests

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

### Wednesday, December 11th

(*2nd Wednesday of Advent*)

Isaiah 40:25–31 Psalm 103

Matthew 11:28–30

**8:30 MEM** William & Ann Reilly

**12:10 MEM** Harry C. Egner

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

### Thursday, December 12th

(*Our Lady of Guadalupe*)

Zechariah 2:14–17 Judith 13

Luke 1:26–38

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

**12:10 MEM** Charles Cerussi

**5:30 MEM** Bill Hassett

### Friday, December 13th

(*St. Lucy*)

Isaiah 48:17–19 Psalm 1

Matthew 11:16–19

**8:30 MEM** Joy Blanton

**12:10 MEM** Ronald J. Donacik

**5:30 MEM** William Kelly

### Saturday, December 14th

(*St. John of the Cross*)

Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11 Psalm 80

Matthew 17:9a, 10–13

**8:30 MEM** Paul Galvez

### Sunday, December 15th

(*3rd Sunday of Advent*)

Zephaniah 3:14–18a Isaiah 12:2–6

Philippians 4:4–7 Luke 3:10–18