



April 20, 2025 | Easter Sunday

## *Easter: The Blossoming of Hope*

The recent fires in Los Angeles County scorched the earth in unimaginable ways. There was devastation over thousands of acres. Homes were destroyed. Lives were lost. Livelihoods vanished in a matter of minutes. The lush vegetation incinerated into heaps of ash that blackened the landscape. Several weeks after the fires were brought under control and eventually extinguished, *The New York Times*, not unlike other media outlets, featured a story about the resilience not only of those who had lost everything in the fires, but also of nature itself. Included in the NYT story was a photograph of a single flower blossoming in the ashes.

As I was preparing my homily for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and reflecting on the words of the Prophet Isaiah that were to be read that day, “*See I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*” (Is. 43: 18b–19a), I was reminded of the NYT story and the photograph that accompanied it. Out of the ashes, a brilliantly colored harbinger of new life was flowering.



Let us recall the backstory to the words written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. The people of Israel, God’s chosen ones, were being held captive in a foreign land. Jerusalem lies in ruin. Their homes are reduced to heaps of ash. Their great temple and its Holy of Holies are nothing more than piles of stone and mortar. They are traumatized by their defeat, by what appeared to them as the death knell of their kingdom, abandoned by God and adrift in a torrent of despair. The message of God that Isaiah delivered to them at their darkest moment was one of challenge. *Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?* It became for them a rekindling of hope for the future—to return to their homes, to reclaim their identity that could never be robbed from them, and to rebuild a city and nation destroyed by treachery, corruption, and greed. The shackles of despair were broken. Even in a foreign land, a country

unrecognizable to them, they confidently looked to the future, knowing that their captivity would come to an end, that God was ever faithful to God’s promise.

We live in a time not unlike that of the ancient Israelites. Overwhelmed by ferocious and vengeful forces, we are like captives in a foreign land. Our attempts to block out or ignore the din of doom only leads us to a feeling of helplessness. We are carried by circumstances beyond our control to the dark place of despair. Hope is relegated to the pages of the Bible, to stories of long ago. Nonetheless, there are lessons to be learned from the message of Isaiah and the blossoming of a single flower out of a bed of ashes, if we but dare to resist the arrogance of despair and that of the false prophets of doom among us. For without hope, there is no future.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the abyss of death itself is the wellspring of our hope. It is the fulfillment of Isaiah’s message to the Israelites. God’s love for us will carry us through the hardships we may face and the wanton upheavals that surround us to a future filled with promise. Because of the Resurrection of Jesus, we need not succumb to fear and the sinister forces of darkness. It is the false prophets who are doomed because they know not hope.

To rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus is to revel in God’s love for us. It is to enjoy a foretaste of the kingdom of God during our lifetime. Hope sustains us and allows us to break through the darkness of despair. With hope to guide us in all our words and actions, we will be like a forest flower rising out of the dry, charred earth to trumpet a new beginning where decency, truth, justice, and compassion matter.

May our celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ this year be filled with the radiant light of hope! Happy Easter!

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

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Easter!

I am delighted to inform you of three exciting developments at the parish that reflect the robust spiritual health of the parish.

*Roxanne De La Torre*

I have appointed Ms. Roxanne De La Torre as Pastoral Associate, Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation. In her role in this newly created position, Roxanne will work with the leadership of those ministries of the parish that currently promote Ignatian Spirituality and faith formation. Working collaboratively, they will look for ways to develop and enhance their programs. I will also look to Roxanne to recommend programming that will appeal to a wider cross-section of parishioners so they may gain an experiential understanding of Ignatian Spirituality and grow in their faith. As a Spiritual Director herself, Roxanne is well prepared to coordinate and manage referrals to those seeking a Spiritual Director as well as provide resources that will assist our team of Spiritual Directors in their important work.

I believe Roxanne's professional background has well prepared her to take on the responsibility of creating a new and significant pastoral office for the parish. She comes to us from her current position of Director of Outreach, at Xavier Mission, Inc. and the Regional Coordinator for Contemplative Leaders in Action, a program of the Office of Ignatian Spirituality of the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus.

Please extend a warm welcome to Roxanne when she arrives at the parish in mid-June.

*Father Bill Bergen, S.J.*

I have not forgotten our need to acknowledge in a permanent way Father Bill Bergen for his 35 years of service to the parish. Yes, 35 years! In his honor I have, with the concurrence of the Parish Council, established the *Father William J. Bergen, S.J. Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation*. To be located on the 1st floor of the Parish House, the office will be a welcoming place for those who wish to learn more about Ignatian Spirituality and explore questions of faith. I have asked Roxanne De La Torre to take responsibility for this new initiative.

As a way to show your appreciation for his extraordinary service to this parish, your donation will provide the necessary funding for the resources and programming of the office that now bears his name. Please note in your donation, "Office of Ignatian Spirituality and Faith Formation."

It is my hope that I can entice Father Bergen to return to the parish when we have the dedication of the office that will bear his name.

*St. Catherine's Church of the Shrine of the Nativity, Bethlehem*

For the past several months I have been discussing with the representatives of St. Catherine's Church the parameters of creating a sister parish relationship between St. Catherine's and the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola. With the enthusiastic blessing of the Parish Council, I am happy to report that we have agreed to become sister parishes. Since a good part of our discussions with St. Catherine's focused on virtual faith-sharing between both parish communities, Roxanne De La Torre has graciously agreed to be our liaison to St. Catherine's. As you might suspect, such a relationship entails a financial commitment on our part. I assure you that it will be a modest amount that we will initially offer. Once the specifics of this relationship are agreed to, I will inform you.

With these announcements it is my hope that you will appreciate not only the inspiration that has come from the parish's Vision Statement Implementation Plan, but also the vitality of our parish. We are truly blessed by God in many ways. With those blessings come the responsibility of sharing our faith in ways that bring greater glory to God.

God bless you!

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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26th**

**Laudato Si' Ministry | Earth Day Event  
for Children and Parents.  
11 AM. Wallace Hall.**

### Third Annual Parish Art Show

**Thursday, May 8th to  
Saturday, May 10th  
Wallace Hall**

Are you ready to unleash your inner Picasso or Ansel Adams and dazzle the parish community with your artistic flair? Then, grab your pencils, your paintbrushes, or your finest lens, for it's your time to shine. Be they masterpieces or happy accidents, we invite you to submit your work to our annual Parish Art Show.

Any non-digital media can be submitted: photographs, paintings, drawings, pastels, watercolors, etchings, linocuts, lithographs, collages, mixed media, sculpture.

All artists aged 18 and over are invited to submit.

You can submit up to two pieces (more if we have the space). All submissions (except sculptures) must be framed and ready to hang. Maximum size is limited to 3 feet by 3 feet; sculptures are limited to 25 pounds.

Pre-registration is required. **Sign up online at [ignatius.nyc/artshowreg](http://ignatius.nyc/artshowreg).** *The last day to register is Wednesday, April 30th. Don't miss out!*

**Submissions are to be dropped off at the Parish House on Thursday, May 1st (6 PM to 9 PM), Friday, May 2nd (6 PM to 9 PM), and Saturday, May 3rd (10 AM to 2 PM).**

You can offer the work for sale or display it. If your work is sold, all sale proceeds will go to the parish. All art must be family-friendly.

The Art Show will open in Wallace Hall on Thursday, May 8th, at 6:30 PM. The art will remain on display until Saturday, May 10th, at 2 PM.

**For more information, email [silartshow@gmail.com](mailto:silartshow@gmail.com).**

### The Spring Appeal is Underway!



To give online, visit [ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal](http://ignatius.nyc/annual-appeal) or scan the QR code at left.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

### Lectures at St. Ignatius

#### Doctor, Will You Pray for Me?

Monday, April 28th at 7 PM  
Wallace Hall

PRESENTER

**Prof. Robert Klitzman, M.D.,  
Director of the Masters of Bioethics Program,  
Columbia University**

Patients and families often struggle with religious, spiritual and existential quandaries, especially when confronting the end of life. This lecture will explore how these individuals seek and find sources hope, meaning, purpose and connection, and how hospital chaplains often help.

#### To Walk Humbly and Act Justly

Monday, April 28th, 6 PM to 7:30 PM  
Parish House

Please join us for a wine and cheese social with members of the Temple Shaaray Tefila congregation as we explore ways in which we can join forces to address issues of social justice in New York City and beyond.

### Back to Basics 3.0

#### Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

Wednesday, May 7th at 7 PM  
**Grammar School's McKinnon Hall**

PRESENTER

**Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.**

Join us for this presentation on sacraments of healing as part of our series on what it means to be Catholic.

#### To Dare the Audacity of Darkness:

#### Selected Writings of Hope from Pope Francis and Fethullah Gülen

Wednesday, April 30th at 7 PM  
Wallace Hall

Mr. Hakan Yesilova, Editor of *The Fountain Magazine*, and Father Dennis Yesalonia, S.J., Pastor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, will discuss the nexus between faith and hope from a Muslim and a Christian perspective. The abiding relevance and the need for hope will be explored through the writings and teachings of both Islamic scholar, Fethullah Gülen, and Pope Francis.

*Co-sponsored by Peace Islands Institute New York and  
the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola*

# 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.

### 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 to Friday)

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM

**Saturday:** 8:30 AM

### Masses for Next Weekend:

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

## 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, April 21st

(Easter Monday)

Acts 2:14, 22-32 Psalm 16

Matthew 28:8-15

**8:30 ANN** Robert Blackstock

### Tuesday, April 22nd

(Easter Tuesday)

Acts 2:36-41 Psalm 33

John 20:11-18

**8:30 MEM** Carla Fendi

**12:10 MEM** Jay Moyer

**5:30 MEM** Nathan Davidson

### Wednesday, April 23rd

(Easter Wednesday)

Acts 3:1-10 Psalm 105

Luke 24:13-35

**8:30 MEM** Dinh Duong

**12:10 MEM** Ton Ha

**5:30 MEM** Lois Siegel

### Thursday, April 24th

(Easter Thursday)

Acts 3:11-26 Psalm 8

Luke 24:35-48

**8:30 MEM** George Adams

**12:10 MEM** Humberto Dinson

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

### Friday, April 25th

(Easter Friday)

Acts 4:1-12 Psalm 118 John 21:1-14

**8:30 MEM** Living & Deceased  
Members of the Regan & Burke  
Families

**12:10 MEM** Mary Lou McManus

**5:30 MEM** Thomas Flammer

### Saturday, April 26th

(Easter Saturday)

Acts 4:13-21 Psalm 118

Mark 16:9-15

**8:30 MEM** Nora Blackstock

### Sunday, April 27th

(Second Sunday of Easter)

Acts 5:12-16

Psalm 118

Revelation 1:9-11, 12-13, 17-19

John 20:19-31