

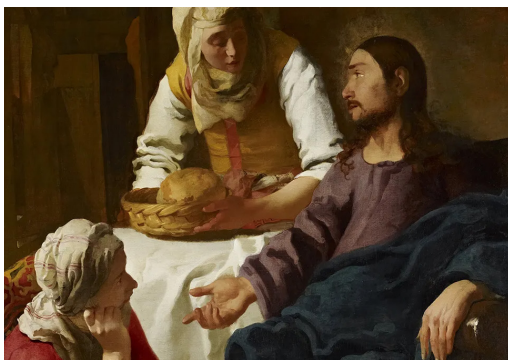


March 22, 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Anchored in Love and Faith

In this week's readings, once again, we meet Martha and Mary in the Gospel of John. John highlights actions of love and faith through Martha and Mary's feelings toward their brother, Lazarus, and their dear friend, Jesus. He also reveals both the human and divine action of love from Jesus towards Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

When Jesus hears of the death of Lazarus, he waits two days and then sets out on the road. Although we may wonder why Jesus did not leave straight away, he needed to wait for things to settle down in Judea. There was upheaval by the Jews towards Jesus, and he needed to make a safe passage with his disciples. I see this as a Kairos moment-in God's time- he will know when to leave and arrive safely to Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary.
Johannes Vermeer. 1655.

He said to the disciples, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Through death and resurrection, Lazarus was the one who would show them that through his actions, Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus affirms that he is the Messiah who will suffer, who will die, and who will be resurrected on the third day.

When Martha meets Jesus on the road, she is overcome with emotions. "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." The fullness of Martha's love and faith in Jesus and God is palpable. She is a true believer and therefore reminds us that we also can turn to Jesus to comfort us when

a beloved family member or friend passes from this life. Martha is anchored in love and faith in Jesus. She is the extrovert who goes to meet Jesus while Mary, the introvert, is waiting at home weeping and waiting for the Lord to arrive. She weeps at Jesus' feet and is anchored in love and faith for the one she knows is the Lord. Martha and Mary express different ways on how one might grieve the loss of someone who is beloved. They portray the both/and of human emotions. One way is not better than the other, both are merciful in the eyes of Jesus.

The story of Lazarus reminds us that through miracles, Jesus revealed who he is.

In his humanity, he wept with Martha and Mary upon the death of his friend, Lazarus. In his divinity, when the stone is rolled away, Jesus beckons Lazarus to come out of the tomb. Lazarus escapes death and Martha and Mary are overwhelmed with the love of Jesus for Lazarus. Jesus also made an impact on the Jews who came with Mary to the tomb and began to believe Jesus must be the Messiah.

The Lord still works miracles every day, not only with humankind, but also in Creation. Plants, flowers, trees, and bushes "die" in the fall only to bloom again, or come to life, in the spring. And vice versa. God resurrects the Earth every year in the cycle of our seasons. Now more than ever we are called to care for each other and our common home. As Catholics, it is our love for God's creation that we are charged to be good stewards of the Earth.

As we actively engage in our Lenten prayers, may we be reminded of Lazarus coming out of the tomb and tend to the beauty of humanity and creation that God has bestowed upon us.

— Jean Santopatre
Pastoral Associate

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, MARCH 22nd

Perfectly Paired.

Following the 7:30 PM Mass. Wallace Hall.

Details below.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24th

Lenten Book Discussion.

1 PM. Parish House. Details on page 3.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25th

**Lenten Bible Study | The Cross:
Meaning and Misunderstanding.**

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 26th

Movie Premiere: Communion.

7 PM. Wallace Hall. Details at right.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28th

Stations of the Cross.

9 AM. Church. Details on page 3.

Change for Change Drive

The proceeds for this year's Change for Change Drive will go towards supplying birthday cake boxes for the food pantry at the Church of the Ascension. The collection period runs to the end of Lent.

Loose change, bills, and checks (made out to "Church of St. Ignatius Loyola") are welcome.

Please bring donations to the Parish House.

Co-sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Interparish Religious Education Program

Perfectly Paired

**Sunday, March 22nd, following the 7:30 PM Mass
Wallace Hall**

Calling all Young Couples of St. Ignatius of Loyola, especially those newly engaged, newly wed, still in your early years of married life, or those dating & discerning marriage. You're invited to join us for PERFECTLY PAIRED, an evening to get to know other young couples of the parish over wine & cheese.



**To RSVP,
scan the QR code at left.**

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We are blessed to have an ever-increasing number of parishioners and guests attending Mass, especially on the weekends. We enter the church with a sense of reverence for what we will experience through the course of the liturgy. It is a sacred moment that nurtures our souls and strengthens our faith. As you might expect or have yourselves experienced, the quiet of the moment is often punctuated with distractions. I daresay that is to be expected in a parish of our size.

Our parish Mission Statement begins with these words: *The love of Christ impels us to welcome all.* The scope of that statement is daunting, and with God's help we embrace that opportunity with kindness and joy. It is heartwarming to see families with young children actively participating in the activities of the parish and attending Mass as a family. These parents have taken seriously the commitment they made at their children's baptisms to bring them up in the practice of the Faith.

The issue I must unfortunately mention is the behavior of young children who sometimes get out of hand. I want to be categorically clear. Children of all ages are welcome at all the Masses of the parish in pews of their parents' choice. However, with that comes the responsibility to address the behavior of their children when they create a significant distraction during the liturgy that impacts the solemnity of the moment.

Our Parish Statement also includes these words: *to worship joyfully and pray fervently.* The young children of the parish bring that sense of joy with them into the parish, but there are times when their exuberance needs to be monitored by their parents so that all of us can pray, both fervently and reverently.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Fr. Gesalonia

Movie Premiere: Communion

Thursday, March 26th

7 PM

Wallace Hall

Join us for the New York City premiere of the film *Communion*, a true story adapted for the screen from the sold-out Off-Broadway musical.

A discussion with the filmmakers will follow the screening.

**Registration is recommended but not required.
RSVP to communionscreening@gmail.com.**

Circle of Friends

Discover the Glories of Central Park
Tuesday, April 14th at 1 PM
Wallace Hall

Central Park may be New York's most beloved green space, yet even lifelong New Yorkers are often surprised by the secluded gardens hidden within its 843 acres. From the formal elegance of the Conservancy Garden to the poetic beauty of the Shakespeare Garden, these spaces reveal the artistry, history, and seasonal color that make Central Park one of the city's most enchanting landscapes.

Join Circle of Friends for a richly illustrated presentation by George Rudenauer, a dedicated member of the Central Park Conservancy and a tour guide of Central Park.

In this engaging talk, George will highlight spring flowers in bloom, uncover hidden gems throughout the park, and share ideas for peaceful strolls through this extraordinary urban oasis.

There is no charge for the program, though a free-will donation is appreciated. Registration is required at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.

Lenten Bible Study

**The Cross:
Meaning and Misunderstanding**
Through Wednesday, March 25th
7 PM
Parish House & Zoom

Christians have for generations pondered and puzzled over the meaning of Jesus' passion and death. We affirm that he "died for our sins", but what does this mean? Did God demand that Jesus suffer before we could be forgiven? Was Jesus punished in our place? How was his death a "sacrifice"?

Our sessions will explore these and related questions through a careful reading of biblical theologies of the cross. Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To register, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

From the Archdiocese

The Good Newsroom is the digital newsroom of the Archdiocese of New York.

Stay informed about the happenings and initiatives of the archdiocese by visiting TheGoodNewsroom.org.

Lectures at St. Ignatius

**Francis the Jesuit: A Look at the Jesuit
Roots and Ignatian Spirituality
of Pope Francis**
Monday, April 13th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

PRESENTERS



*Fr. James Martin, S.J. &
Fr. Sam Sawyer, S.J.*
Editors-at-Large of
America Media



What did it mean for the Pope to be a Jesuit? How did this influence his papacy and the church?

Lenten Book Discussion
Weekly through Tuesday, March 31st at 1 PM
Parish House

Join the St. Ignatius Loyola Laudato Si'/Care of Creation Ministry for our Lenten Book reading.

We will read the acclaimed *Healing Wounds*, by Bishop Erik Varden, OCSO, who, through his journey, examines why Christ's wounds were efficacious for the healing of humankind. Varden's book is structured to guide readers through a journey of reflection, beginning with the raw reality of suffering and moving toward the possibility of redemption and renewal.

To register, email Jean Santopatre at santopatrej@nycignatius.org.

Stations of the Cross: Saturdays in Lent
Through March 28th at 9 AM
Church

Led by Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J.

Join us for this devotion as we draw closer to Jesus through a prayerful reflection on his passion and death.

Note: There will be Stations of the Cross on **Wednesday, April 1st** at 7:30 PM in the Church.

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

Sunday, March 29th, from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Parish House

This program brings high school students together with senior parishioners for one-on-one technology support. Seniors are invited to bring phones, tablets, or laptops for help with everyday tech questions.

For more information or questions, visit ignite.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.

Assisting Priest

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Pastoral Year Priest

Rev. Jonathan P. Pennacchia, S.J.

In Residence

Rev. James A. Casciotti, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Roxanne De La Torre

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

Director of Communications

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Facilities Coordinator

Pattie Hughes

Parish Administrative Assistant

Caitlin Caruso

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses (Monday – 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. Yesalonia

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Casciotti

9:30 AM Fr. Hallinan

Wallace Hall Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

Solemn Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

7:30 PM Fr. Hilbert

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Kate Noonan, Director

(212) 288-3588 x609

noonank@nycignatius.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, 6:30 PM Sunday,
or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please contact Maureen Haley at
baptisms@nycignatius.org
to arrange for a Baptism and
the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Order 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@nycignatius.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@nycignatius.org.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, March 23rd

(Fifth Monday of Lent)

Daniel 13:1–9, 15–17, 19–30, 33–62

Psalms 23 John 8:1–11

8:30 MEM Nora & John Reilly

12:10 MEM Paul Stephen Decker

5:30 MEM Alfred LeBeau

Tuesday, March 24th

(Fifth Tuesday of Lent)

Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm 102

John 8:21–30

8:30 MEM Nora & John Reilly

12:10 MEM Emily Loubier

5:30 MEM Margaret Oswald
Manning

Wednesday, March 25th

(The Annunciation of the Lord)

Isaiah 7:10–14, 8:10 Psalm 40

Hebrews 10:4–10 Luke 1:26–38

8:30 MEM Catherine Lividini

12:10 MEM Emalie Feerick

5:30 MEM Gary Kelder

Thursday, March 26th

(Fifth Thursday of Lent)

Genesis 17:3–9 Psalm 105

John 8:51–59

8:30 MEM John Mancuso

12:10 MEM Marie Ruggiero

5:30 MEM Maureen Doolan

Friday, March 27th

(Fifth Friday of Lent)

Jeremiah 20:10–13 Psalm 18

John 10:31–42

8:30 MEM Michael R. Norton

12:10 MEM Patricia Valonis

5:30 LVG Anna Disbrey

Saturday, March 28th

(Fifth Saturday of Lent)

Ezekiel 37:21–28 Jeremiah 31

John 11:45–56

8:30 MEM Ann Oroszlany Brown

Sunday, March 29th

(Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion)

Isaiah 50:4–7 Psalm 22

Philippians 2:6–11