



April 5, 2026 | Easter Sunday

A Darkened, Empty Tomb

In the pre-dawn hours, when the deepest darkness of the night shrouded what would have been familiar and where the silence echoed an eerie stillness, the women who wanted to anoint the bloodied body of Jesus summoned within themselves the courage to walk to his tomb. Undoubtedly filled with fear, their gait was nonetheless deliberate and their destination sure. Each footfall was surely accompanied by a quickening heartbeat. What would they find at the end of their short journey to the hillside overlooking Calvary? Resolute and brave, they arrived at the tomb and entered it with only a moment's hesitation. Within that dark and empty tomb, they discovered a bright world of hope and experienced the thrill of being touched by the hand of an angel. As the dawn of a new day was revealing its vibrant hues, how could they not but run with joy in their hearts to tell the others? They no longer had any reason to fear the darkness and silence of the night.

As I reflected on the experience of those who entered the tomb of Jesus, these words of Helen Keller came to mind:

*Once I knew only darkness and stillness...my life was without past or future...
but a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched
at emptiness, and my heart leaped to the rapture of living.*



For Helen Keller, the fingers of Anne Sullivan, her tutor, opened for her a world that was surely beyond her imagination. Throughout her childhood, she lived in the void of a darkened, empty tomb, but did not allow that to define her. Her tenacity and courage had to have been rooted in her belief that God had something more in mind for her. Unafraid of the dark, she was touched by an angel and was born anew into a world of limitless possibilities. Hope did not fail her, rather it invited her *to leap to the rapture of living*.

Interestingly, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday with accounts from the Gospels of those who entered his tomb. They were not simply passive witnesses. They were active participants in the unfolding events surrounding his Resurrection. Their stories had to be told. What they did undergirds our faith and belief in Jesus Christ. These intrepid disciples are also models for us in our time of darkness.

Anchored in the belief that Jesus was truly the Son of God, these disciples placed their trust in the words of Jesus Christ that he would rise from the dead and be with them again. Peering into the open tomb, they did not run from it. Rather, they confronted the darkness and exposed its powerlessness. In that moment, they were touched by the hand of an angel and were born anew into a world of rapture as they realized what had occurred in the early hours of that morning. Hope did not fail them. They emerged from the tomb and experienced the radiant brilliance of a new day as they encountered the Risen Jesus.

On this Easter Sunday, let the story be told that we entered that empty void of indifference of today's troubled world, grasped the hands of those living in darkness, and led them into the light of hope. Let us be as giddy with excitement as were those fearless disciples and joyfully leap into the world to proclaim the message that Our Savior lives, that darkness has been shattered and death itself defeated.

May your celebration of Easter this year be filled with every blessing and the radiant light of God's love. Happy Easter!

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

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

MONDAY, APRIL 6th

The Parish House will be closed.

One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM in the Church.
There will be no 12:10 PM or 5:30 PM Masses.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9th

Ignatian Social Justice Meeting.
7 PM. Parish House.

The Sisters of St. Joseph Brentwood: Spirituality, Ecology, and Justice in Action

Thursday, April 30th at 6:30 PM
Wallace Hall

Christine Massi and Nico Carl of the Ecology Department will offer an overview of sustainability, setting the stage for a deeper conversation. Following the presentation, Fr. Hallinan will interview Sister Karen Burke, CSJ, EdD, Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph Sustainability Department, who will reflect on the passion, commitment, and perseverance that guide efforts in preservation and conservation.

SAVE THE DATE

From Generation to Generation: An Ethical Will Workshop

PRESENTER

Brian Pinter, Pastoral Associate

Some of your greatest wealth resides within you—your wisdom, your experience, your values—and is too valuable to be lost. While a legal will defines what you want your heirs to have, an ethical will, also called a legacy letter, articulates what you want them to know. Our gathering will explore the ancient biblical roots of ethical wills, guidance on themes to consider, and provide workshop time to get started writing. To write a legacy letter is to share the wealth of your life, while creating an invaluable family heirloom.

More details to follow in an upcoming bulletin.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at *stignatiusnyc*.

The Overlooked Books of the New Testament

Wednesdays, April 22nd to May 13th at 7 PM
Parish House & Zoom

What are the qualifications to be a leader in the church? How should Christians handle wealth? How do we find meaning in suffering? How do we challenge unjust social structures? The letters to Philemon, Timothy, and Titus contemplate these still-relevant questions. Our gatherings will explore historical and spiritual interpretations of these often overlooked yet deeply fascinating texts.

Brian B. Pinter, Pastoral Associate, will present.

To register, email pinterb@nycignatius.org.

Laudato Si'/Care of Creation Ministry

Earth Day Walk in Central Park with George

Sunday, April 19th, following the 11 AM Masses
Meeting Point: Wallace Hall

We'll gather in Wallace Hall following the 11 AM Masses for a brief introduction, then head into Central Park to explore select highlights, including the Conservatory Garden and the North Woods.

Along the way, we'll step away from the pace of city life and immerse ourselves in two distinct yet equally inspiring landscapes—from the formal beauty of the Gardens to the rustic, woodland serenity of the deep Woods. All while reflecting on the glory of God's creation! Designed to evoke the Adirondacks, the 40-acre North Woods offers a peaceful retreat of soaring trees, winding paths, and natural water features. We'll encounter historic arches, listen to cascading streams, observe birdlife at the Pool, and experience the quiet majesty of this urban oasis—God's gift to us!

Put on your walking shoes and join us for a Spring Sunday in the Park with George! Following the success of our Fall Walk, we're delighted to continue what is quickly becoming a cherished St. Ignatius Loyola tradition.

Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy before or during the walk. The tour will last about 90 minutes.

Please RSVP to Jean Santopatre, Pastoral Associate,
at santopatrej@nycignatius.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.

The Importance of Faith: Muslim & Christian Perspectives

Wednesday, April 15th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall

PRESENTERS



Fr. Dennis Yesalonia,
S.J., Pastor &
Hakan Yesilova,
Editor, *The Fountain*



It is faith that settles the soul in times of uncertainty and opens one's heart to behold the inherent goodness of all God's creation and the promise of good things to come. Faith is the lens through which the radiance of hope is experienced. For without faith, there can be no hope. Join us for a discussion of what faith means to Muslims and Christians as a gift from God that is shared in common.

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

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.

Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners wishing to receive a low-gluten host at the distribution of Holy Communion, please speak with a Hospitality Minister.

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?

A Visit From the Holy Land:

Fr. Rami Asakrieh, OFM

Friday, April 17th at 7 PM
Wallace Hall



Join us for a conversation with the former pastor of St. Catherine's at the Church of the Nativity, our sister-parish in Bethlehem.

Fr. Rami will share about his experiences ministering to the Palestinian-Christian community, the "living stones" of the land where Jesus walked.

Film Screening and Conversation with Dan Corrou, S.J.

Sunday, April 26th
1 PM to 3 PM
Wallace Hall

Fr. Dan Corrou, S.J., Regional Director for JRS Middle East & North Africa, will show a film and moderate a conversation on the work of Jesuit Refugee Services in the Middle East. He will also offer a personal reflection on refugee accompaniment in Jordan and Lebanon.

Sponsored by Ignatian Social Justice and Ignatian Young Adults Ministries

IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

Sunday, April 19th, 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.

CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

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(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. Hallinan

Sunday:

8:00 AM Fr. Hallinan

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

Solemn Mass

11:00 AM Fr. Pennacchia

7:30 PM Fr. Pennacchia

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, April 6th (Easter Monday)

Acts 2:14, 22–33 Psalm 16

Matthew 28:8–15

8:30 MEM Bruce & Christine
Davitt

Tuesday, April 7th (Easter Tuesday)

Acts 2:36–41 Psalm 33

John 20:11–18

8:30 MEM Patricia Stewart

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark
Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Michael & Owen
Murphy

Wednesday, April 8th

(Easter Wednesday)

Acts 3:1–10 Psalm 105

Luke 24:13–35

8:30 MEM Florence Riccie
Johnson

12:10 MEM Veronica Juliana

5:30 MEM Bridget Burke

Thursday, April 9th

(Easter Thursday)

Acts 3:11–26 Psalm 8

Luke 24:35–48

8:30 MEM Simona Saracino Fendi

12:10 MEM Michael Andrew
Kaelin

5:30 MEM Peter Joseph Burke, Jr.

Friday, April 10th (Easter Friday)

Acts 4:1–12 Psalm 118

John 21:1–14

8:30 MEM Maria Fe Feliz Garcia

12:10 MEM Ha Ton

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

Saturday, April 11th

(Easter Saturday)

Acts 4:13–21 Psalm 118

Mark 16:9–15

8:30 MEM Samuel Lewis Gordon,
Jr.

Sunday, April 12th

(Second Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 118

1 Peter 1:3–9 John 20:19–31