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April 26, 2026 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

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## Through the Gate to an Abundant Life

During my theology studies in Boston, once a month, I would drive out to Weston to meet with my spiritual director, a senior Jesuit. On the way, I would turn off the radio and reflect on the past month. As I took the exit off the Mass Pike and drove through the countryside, I became more aware of my surroundings and noticed the New England stone walls winding along the road.

We see similar stone walls as we drive north into Westchester and Connecticut. Call one of them to mind and consider the different types of stones that make up that wall. On their own, none of the stones is particularly polished, pretty, or perfectly sized, but each one fits together. Each stone has a purpose. A good builder will only pick up a stone once and then put it in place.

I bet sometimes we feel like rocks—rough around the edges, gathering moss, hardened, and after a long winter, a bit heavy. But the Lord sees us like the builder of a New England stone wall. None of us is rejected. Each of us fits. Together we form something with character. That is how Jesus sees us.

One thing I learned when I was in New England is that if you want to build a more durable stone wall, you build a dry one, with no mortar between the rocks.

With a dry stone wall, sheep can lean against it and use it as shelter from the elements. The small gaps allow air to pass through and dry them off after the rain. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit fills and smooths the weak parts of our lives, if we lean in.

This weekend, the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. While encouraging all vocations, the Church gives special attention on this Good Shepherd Sunday to the priesthood, the diaconate, and religious life.

Today's Gospel from John lends itself to this prayer. Jesus says, "I am the gate for the sheep."

May we see God's handiwork in our lives, recognizing the gifts we have received in his love. We acknowledge our weaknesses and ask the Holy Spirit to move through the cracks. We can be confident that Jesus sees something in each of us, like a good builder who knows his stone, like a shepherd who knows his own.

Secure in the Father's love, Jesus is able to lie down at the gate to keep out wolves and threats. A good shepherd lays down worldly ambition to be of service to the flock.

Pope Leo XIV writes in his message for the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations about how crucial a faith community is to fostering religious vocations:

"I invite everyone...to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift to be embraced, nourished, protected and accompanied, so that it may bear abundant fruit. Only when our surroundings are illumined by living faith, sustained by constant prayer and enriched by fraternal accompaniment can God's call blossom and mature."

I know my own vocation was nourished by the shepherds and shepherdesses of the St. Ignatius Loyola parish community, as was the vocation of Jake Braithwaite, SJ, who will be ordained a priest this June. Perhaps a gentle invitation, or an intentional practice of prayer, can open us up to the Good Shepherd to use us as the gate, inviting many more shepherds and shepherdesses to embrace a religious vocation, which Pope Leo calls "an adventure of love and happiness."

— Rev. Patrick C. Nolan, S.J.  
Provincial Assistant and Director of Vocations, USA East Province of the Society of Jesus

## 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, APRIL 26th

##### **Guided Church Tour.**

**12:30 PM. Church.** *Details on page 3.*

**Film Screening and  
Conversation with Dan Corrou, S.J.**  
**1 PM. Wallace Hall.** *Details on page 3.*

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29th

##### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting.**

**6:30 PM. Parish House.**

**The Overlooked Books of the New Testament.**  
**7 PM. Parish House & Zoom.** *Details at right.*

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 30th

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

**6:30 PM. Wallace Hall.**

*Details below.*

### **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.

The Sisters tireless efforts have resulted in being named a finalist for the Sustainability and Environmental category at the 14th Annual Long Island Imagine Awards, recognizing their longstanding commitment to ecological stewardship and care for creation.

### 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).

### Laudato Si'/Care of Creation Ministry

#### **Earth Day Walk in Central Park with George**

**Sunday, May 3rd**

**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](mailto:santopatrej@nycignatius.org).**

### **The Overlooked Books of the New Testament**

**Wednesdays Through 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](mailto:pinterb@nycignatius.org).**

### **Lady Chapel Open for Private Prayer**

The Lady Chapel is open daily for private prayer from 1 PM to 4 PM. During those hours, the Church will be closed.

## Circle of Friends

### Michelangelo's Dark Night of the Soul:

#### *The Last Judgment*

Tuesday, May 12th at 1 PM

Wallace Hall

#### PRESENTER

**John Paoletti, Emeritus Professor of Art History,  
Wesleyan University**

Michelangelo is back for an encore! At our final program of this season, Circle of Friends again will be talking about Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), one of the most famous artists in the history of the world and the art he created after his sculpture of David. Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment* in the Sistine Chapel represents the biblical Second Coming of Christ and the final separation of humanity into heaven or hell. It is a dramatic, massive painting that evokes emotions of fear, awe and terror regarding the soul's destiny.

Professor John Paoletti, Emeritus Chair of the Art History Department at Wesleyan University, will decode for us the hidden imagery and meanings in this important painting and its connection to the Protestant Reformation and Michelangelo's final sculptures of the Dead Christ. Professor Paoletti also will briefly consider Michelangelo's contemporary poetry as a searing personal reflection of the uncertainties of the Church and its doctrines at the time.

Come join Circle of Friends for coffee, cookies and conversation and learn about the backstory of this brilliant and controversial masterpiece.

There is no charge for the program, though a free-will donation is appreciated.

**Registration is required at  
[silcircleoffriends@gmail.com](mailto:silcircleoffriends@gmail.com).**

## Sing & Celebrate

Sunday, May 3rd

3 PM

Wallace Hall

*Featuring the St. Ignatius Loyola Children's Choirs,  
Parish Community Choir, Wallace Hall Choir and  
Orchestra, & Canticum Sacrum*

Join us for an afternoon of singing and celebration of our yearlong liturgical music program! Featuring the volunteer choir members of St. Ignatius and accompanied by our Director of Music Ministries K. Scott Warren, this annual event will showcase the talent within our parish through joyous performance of choral favorites. Join us in Wallace Hall for Sing & Celebrate!

**Free and open to the public. No tickets needed.**

## From Generation to Generation: An Ethical Will Workshop

Saturday, May 9th, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Wallace Hall

#### 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.

Continental breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 AM. The program will commence shortly thereafter.

To register, scan the QR code.



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

Sunday, April 26th, from 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.

## Guided Church Tour

Sunday, April 26th at 12:30 PM

Church (Meeting Point: Narthex)



We invite you to explore and learn more about our beautiful church through our monthly tours.

To register, click the QR code above.

## IGNITE Tech Support for Seniors Program

Sunday, May 17th, 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](http://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. Pennacchia
Wallace Hall Mass	11:00 AM	Fr. Hallinan
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, April 27th

(4th Monday of Easter)

Acts 11:1–18 Psalm 42

John 10:11–18

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

**12:10 MEM** Pompeyo Roa Realuyo

**5:30 MEM** Patricia Stewart

### Tuesday, April 28th

(4th Tuesday of Easter)

Acts 11:19–26 Psalm 87

John 10:22–30

**8:30 MEM** Angela Moirea

**12:10 MEM** Sandra DeBartolo

**5:30 MEM** Apolinaria Dimapilis

### Wednesday, April 29th

(St. Catherine of Siena)

Acts 12:24–13:5a Psalm 67

John 12:44–50

**8:30 MEM** Robert Satow

**12:10 MEM** James Curran

**5:30 MEM** Melanie O'Neil

### Thursday, April 30th

(4th Thursday of Easter)

Acts 13:13–25 Psalm 89

John 13:16–20

**8:30 MEM** Philip Erdoes

**12:10 MEM** Salvatore Sparacio

**5:30 MEM** William Powers

### Friday, May 1st

(4th Friday of Easter)

Acts 13:26–33 Psalm 2 John 14:1–6

**8:30 MEM** Ciro Saracino

**12:10 MEM** Marjorie Chan

**5:30 MEM** Alina Kudelska &  
Anita Witek

### Saturday, May 2nd

(St. Athanasius)

Acts 13:44–52 Psalm 98

John 14:7–14

**8:30 MEM** Lori Lovallo

### Sunday, May 3rd

(5th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 6:1–7 1 Peter 2:4–9

Psalm 33