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**December 4, 2025**

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**A JOURNEY OF FAITH**

**December 5**

First Friday Mass

Church of the Holy Family -  
8:20 a.m.

**December 6**

Admissions Entrance Exam

8:00 a.m.

Advent Morning of  
Reflection

Cuneo Chapel, Brunswick -  
9:00 a.m.

**December 8**

Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception Mass

Church of the Holy Family -  
8:20 a.m.

The turn from Thanksgiving's gratitude to Advent's anticipation always feels swift, and this year is no exception. As we ready our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ, our campus enters a season filled with meaningful culminations - exams, performances, activities and well-earned celebrations.

One such moment will honor a remarkable achievement by a beloved member of our community: Sister Edelquine Shivachi. Affectionately known as Sister "Queen," she has written a memoir, *Land of the Brave*, recounting her journey from a small village in Kenya, to studying theology at the University of Notre Dame, to her ministry at Saint Ignatius, where she teaches World Religions and serves as First Years Chaplain. Her story is one of hope, loss, resilience, community - and above all, the steady presence of God.

Please join us in celebrating this achievement at a **Book Signing Reception on Monday, December 8**, immediately following the Mass of the Feast of the

## December 9

Walsh Bridge Building  
Competition

Tully Hall - 3:00 p.m.

## December 11

Christmas Music  
Extravaganza

Church of the Holy Family -  
6:00 p.m.

## December 16 - 19

Semester Exams

For a full list of events,  
please see our [school  
calendar](#).

[PRAY](#)

[SPIRIT](#)

[QUEST FOOD  
SERVICES](#)

GRAD-AT-GRAD  
VALUES

Open to Growth

Intellectually Competent

Immaculate Conception in the Tully Room of the  
Church of the Holy Family.

Please RSVP for the reception [here](#).

If you are unable to attend, *Land of the Brave* is  
also [available on Amazon](#).



**Religious**

**Loving**

**Committed to Doing  
Justice**



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## **ACADEMICS**

### ***Semester Exams***

All students have received their personalized schedule for semester exams. Students will have 90 minutes to complete an exam designed for 60 minutes.

Students are not required to attend the scheduled class meeting time unless they are taking an exam. The exam schedule follows:

- Tuesday, December 16 - A, B, I
- Wednesday, December 17 - C, D
- Thursday, December 18 - E, F
- Friday, December 19 - G, H

### ***Class of 2026 - Graduation Cap and Gown Order Information***

While there is no charge for a cap and gown, all seniors must still place a cap and gown order to ensure correct sizing by visiting the [Saint Ignatius store at Jostens.com](https://www.saintignatiusstoreatjostens.com).

**Graduation orders are due today, December 4.**

To select just a cap and gown, scroll to and click "Shop" under "Graduation Products". Scroll to the "Cap and Gown" section (below "Apparel") and select "Cap, Gown, Tassel, and Stole Unit" listed at \$0. Edit size information accordingly. Graduation announcements and additional items may be added if desired.



***Admissions Entrance Exam***

This Saturday, December 6, is the entrance exam for students seeking admission to Saint Ignatius. Click [here](#) to register. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2030!

***iPad Repair & Replacement***

For any device problems or technical malfunctions with school-issued iPads (classes of 2028 and 2029), please visit the Help Desk located at the back of the Beigel Room.

**Please do not visit an Apple Store to repair an iPad.** The Help Desk staff will assess the concern and take appropriate action swiftly.

The Repair and Replacement policy is [attached here](#) for further details.

***Ray Dass Math Reviews***

Our test prep partner Ray Dass is offering free math reviews for all levels of Algebra as well as Geometry and PreCalculus. These sessions run in the evenings through December 11 and cover key strategies and high-value content to help students prepare for upcoming tests.



Please consult [this document](#) for the schedule and Zoom links.

### ***Free AI Class and Credential***

The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) is offering a free, semester-long online AI course for all grade levels. The class is asynchronous and flexible and requires no prerequisites. Students learn how AI functions and its ethical and societal impacts through interactive modules and weekly office hours with IMSA faculty. Students receive a certificate upon completion. Advanced learners may be considered for summer research opportunities.

[Click here](#) to register and learn more. Registration closes December 15.

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## **ATHLETICS**



Our Varsity Football team put an exclamation mark on our fall sports calendar with a victory in the 95th annual [Chicago Prep Bowl](#).

We'd also like to shoutout our Varsity Basketball team who took home the Windy City Turkey Classic Championship and our ten student-athletes who celebrated at our second Commitment Day the opportunity to play their sports at the college level.

For a full recap, check out Mike Hurley's [Athletic Newsletter](#).

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## CLUBS + STUDENT ACTIVITIES + EVENTS



### ***Choir and Orchestra Christmas Show***

Saint Ignatius Choir and Orchestra is proud to present **The Christmas Extravaganza 2025**. The concert will take place on **Thursday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. in Church of the Holy Family**.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and admission is free. The program features 140 student performers.

Use [this link](#) to live stream the event.

### ***Christmas Tree Decorating Competition***

Student Council is thrilled to kick off the annual Clubs of Ignatius Christmas Tree Decorating Competition. Mini trees from each club will be on display in the Link

starting next week.

Keep an eye out for a Google Form where you can vote on your favorite tree!



### **42nd Walsh Bridge Building Contest**

The annual competition takes place **Tuesday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m. in Tully Hall.**

Physics and Engineering students have been busy building bridges and are eager to test their designs. Thank you to the Walsh Group for their partnership and support of this annual event since

1983.

### **San Ignacio Society Coat Drive**

In conjunction with FAM, ALAS, Latinx and Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, the San Ignacio Society is accepting donations of like-new or new coats for homeless and immigrant populations in Chicago.

**Collection boxes are in the Link and will remain there until Friday, January 9.**

Coats will be distributed through community organizations and non-profit social service providers in the Chicagoland area.

Please contact [Mary Hughes](#) for more details.




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## **COUNSELING**



# ST. IGNATIUS FOOD DRIVE



**HELP US FIGHT HUNGER! DECEMBER 8-10**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items in the appropriate box for your class
- The class that donates the most items will receive a dress down day on Monday, 12/15



## WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to 4 local food pantries who will host our seniors in January for the Senior Service Capstone Project!

## MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta, mac and cheese & cereal
- Shelf-stable or dry milk
- Peanut butter, jelly & canned protein
- Cooking oil, flour, & spices



## QUESTIONS?

*School Counseling Dept.*

## DROP OFF LOCATION:

*Outside of Tully between  
7:30-9am on December 8<sup>th</sup>,  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>*

We are challenging all grade levels to help fill the bins by donating food items **from Monday, December 8, to Wednesday, December 10.**



The class with the highest total will earn a dress-down day on Monday, December 15!

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## **DEANS' OFFICE**

### ***Leaving Campus***

Once students arrive to campus they are not permitted to leave the premises - even if they have a free period. Leaving campus without permission will result in a Saturday JUG.

### ***Dress Code Reminders***

Please wear **Mass Attire** tomorrow, December 5, and Monday, December 8.

Students are reminded that **backless shoes, hoodies and athletic pants or skirts are prohibited** in our dress code. Students wearing these items will receive a JUG.

Students **must wear a collared shirt** during the school day. Crewneck and quarter zips alone do not meet the collar requirement; they must be worn over a collared shirt.

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## **PARENT ORGANIZATION**

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL

# Cookie Kindness

DECEMBER 10, 2025

7:30 AM

FRONT ENTRANCE  
SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE  
PREP

This is a chance to say "Thank You" to the dedicated "Men and Women for Others" who support our kids everyday! Please drop off 2-4 dozen cookies (homemade or store-bought) at the front entrance of school on December 10 at 7:30 am to be shared with our faculty and staff at the annual Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Kindness. Teachers will fill holiday tins with your contributions to take home to enjoy with their families.

*Hosted by:*



**PARENT  
ORGANIZATION**

Questions? Contact Parent Org  
[sicpvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sicpvolunteers@gmail.com)

Feel free to include a personal  
note or card to be displayed at  
the luncheon.

Drop off your cookies and other baked goods **Wednesday, December 10 at the Front Entrance at 7:30 a.m.**

We appreciate your kindness and continued support of the Saint Ignatius community!

### ***Gloriam 2026***

Join us on Saturday, March 7, 2026, for Gloriam with the theme *Lumen Quod Relinquimus*. Please learn more about Gloriam 2026 [on our website](#) and consult the [sponsorship opportunities](#) and [access in-kind donation](#) forms.

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## **FORMATION AND MINISTRY - STUDENT**

### ***Freshman and Sophomore Service Deadlines***

Congrats to all freshmen and sophomores who completed their service hours before the deadline this week! We hope students have grown in faith while serving their communities.

Please note that students will receive **an incomplete “I” on their transcripts** at the end of the semester if they fail to complete their service, log their hours or fill out an extension form.



### ***Juniors - Faith and Justice Programs***

Please fill out this [Google Form](#) by January 12, 2026 to indicate interest in possible faith and justice programs this summer, such as immersion trips or justice conferences. Keep an eye out for an email from Mr. Nunez with more information about faith and justice opportunities at Saint Ignatius College Prep and other Catholic institutions.

### ***Senior Service Capstone***

Our formation sessions concluded with a seminar focused on learning more about the specific ministry context into which students will enter in January as well as mechanics around dress code and attendance at sites. Each student was also paired with a Capstone Formation Leader - a faculty or staff mentor who will guide them throughout the program.

We will send our seniors forth with an official blessing during Mass on Friday, December 5.



### ***Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice***

Nearly 2,000 individuals from Jesuit institutions gathered for the 28th Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C from November 15 to 17.

Ms. Kathleen Shapiro and Mr. Nathan McPherson led a delegation of fifteen students to learn, pray and advocate, all rooted in Ignatian spirituality and a

commitment to shared justice.



### ***Advent at Saint Ignatius***

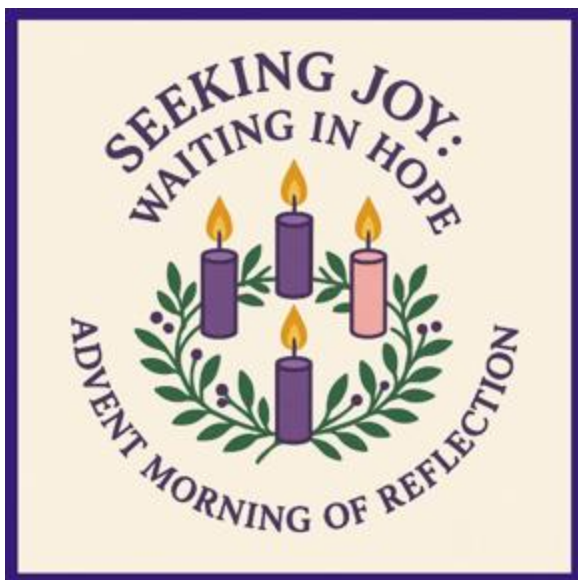
Please wear Mass Attire to the First Friday Mass tomorrow and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass on Monday.

All students will likewise have the chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during a designated theology period this week and next week.

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**FORMATION AND MINISTRY - ADULT**





### ***Advent Morning of Reflection - Saturday***

We invite all community members to our Advent Morning of Reflection this **Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

We will celebrate Mass, pray with Scripture, journal and have both group and solo reflections. Lunch will be provided.

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Come Pray With Us**

All are welcome to join our school community in prayer on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Our next virtual gathering will be **December 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** Please message [Gail Krema](#) for the Google Meet link.

You are likewise welcome to register [here](#) for our First Friday Mass (tomorrow) and Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass (Monday) with the coffee receptions that follow.

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Join us to celebrate the Feast of  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
Old St. Mary's Catholic Church  
1500 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605



*Friday, December 12, 2025*

**6:30 AM** Mañanitas/Sunrise Serenade\*

**8:00 AM** Rosary

**8:30 AM** Mass (Cantor/Piano)

**6:30 PM** Mass\* (with Mariachi)

\*With live reenactment of apparition  
-Reception following all services-



Old St. Mary's Catholic Church  
A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS

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## COLLEGE COUNSELING

### *Important Reminders for Seniors*

**All requests for transcripts and recommendations should be made by Monday, December 15** for Regular Decisions applications due in early January.

Please use Calendly to sign up for a **Discernment Meeting** about your current list of college applications. December, prior to semester finals, is the ideal time for this quick meeting.

Apply for need-based Financial Aid with [FAFSA](#) and/or [CSS Profile](#).

Three good ways to search for scholarships are to check your email for "Scholarships to Consider" messages, browse the scholarship aggregators [on our](#)

[website](#) and look for school-specific scholarships on your colleges' Financial Aid pages.

### ***The Junior Questionnaire***

The questionnaire sent to all students in the Class of 2027 is **due before January 16**. Once you thoughtfully and thoroughly complete it (you'll receive a copy upon submission), you may schedule a Junior Family Meeting with your College Counselor through their Calendly links.



### ***ACT and SAT Prep Classes***

We will host ACT and SAT prep classes on campus in partnership with Academic Approach.

Classes will be **Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.** Classes begin in January and will run up until the March 11 SAT and April 11 ACT. Three practice tests are offered with the class.

[Click here](#) to register. Financial aid is available.

### ***Other College Counseling Dates***

- Mock Admissions Night - February 11, 6:30 p.m.
- Sophomore Family College & Course Planning Webinar - February 10 (tentatively)
- 35th Annual Spring College Fair - March 26, 7:00 p.m.

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## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

### ***2026 SILS Planning Committee***

The Student Ignatius Leadership Seminar (SILS) is an overnight leadership seminar for rising sophomores, juniors and seniors that takes place every summer.

SILS-certified students who are interested in serving on the planning committee for the 2026 SILS summer program should email both [Mr. Michael McKeon](#) and [Dr. John Igwebuike](#).

### ***DEIB Opportunities for 2026***

**Becoming One Wolfpack Seminars** - Leadership sessions continue for freshmen, sophomore and juniors in 2026. Check your Blackbaud schedule for dates and times.

**Lake Forest Academy FIRE Conference** - Register [here](#) for the January 23 conference focused on dialogue, empathy and intercultural understanding at Lake Forest Academy.

**Princeton Prize in Race Relations** - Students who have been leaders in advancing racial equity and understanding are encouraged to apply [here](#) to win \$2,500 and a trip to Princeton University's Symposium on Race. Contact [Dr. Igwebuike](#) for support with your application.

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### **SPIRIT STORE**





It's that time of year! The Spirit Store's 12 Days of Christmas runs now through December 19.

Find us on [Instagram](#) or [Twitter/X](#) and visit [our website](#) for store hours and additional details.

**Go Wolfpack!**

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## CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

### *Mass and Reception Schedule*

**First Friday Mass** - tomorrow, December 5, at 8:20 a.m.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass** - Monday, December 8, at 8:20 a.m.

We will host coffee receptions directly following both services in the Tully Room located in the church office center. Our Monday reception will include a book signing with Sr. Queen.

Please RSVP for the Masses and receptions [here](#).

### *Cardinal's Christmas Concert - Sunday*

We are honored to once again host Cardinal Blasé J. Cupich's Christmas Concert featuring the City Lights Orchestra conducted by Rich Daniels **this Sunday, December 7, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.**



Tickets are not required.

### *Apollo's Fire Christmas Concert*

Join us at Church of the Holy Family on **Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 p.m.** for a special performance of **Praetorius: Christmas Vespers** by Grammy award winning baroque orchestra **Apollo's Fire**. Click [here](#) to learn more and [here](#) to purchase tickets from the Apollo's Fire website.

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## SIMUN

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations Team (SIMUN) invites all 6th, 7th and 8th graders to **PACKMUN** on **Saturday, January 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

This free event includes lunch and requires neither previous experience nor needs advance preparation, SIMUN team members will teach students the basics of Model United Nations, including public speaking, negotiation, collaboration, and leadership.



[Register here](#) and direct questions to [Diane Haleas](#).

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Ignatius College Prep, a Jesuit Catholic school in the heart of Chicago, is a diverse community dedicated to educating young men and women for lives of faith, love, service and leadership. Through outstanding teaching and personal formation, the school challenges its talented student body to intellectual excellence, integrity, and life-long learning and growth. Inspired by the gospel of Jesus Christ, this community strives to use God's gifts to promote Catholic social justice for the greater glory of God.

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Please note, clicking on the unsubscribe button below will remove ryan.bergin@ignatius.org from **all** Ignatius emails. If you would like to opt back in, please [click here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Saint Ignatius College Prep](#)

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