



# Ignatian Spiritual LifeCenter

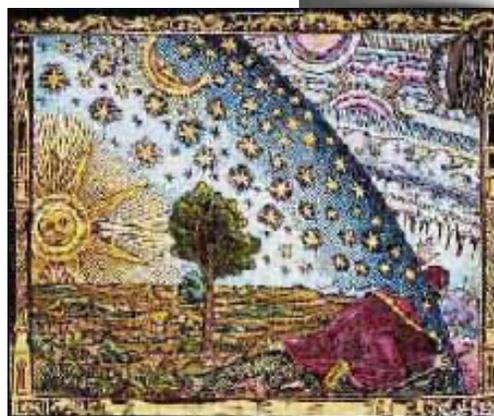
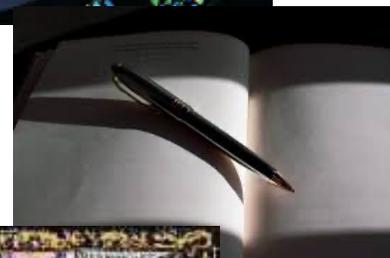
A Jesuit Urban Ministry

*Space for contemplation, conversation, movement and action*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday Nov 3 6:30pm**  
**Monthly LGBTQ+ Group Meeting** - Please, feel warmly invited to join the group every **FIRST THURSDAY** of the Month. Good conversation, good wine and great snacks guaranteed.
- Saturday Nov 5 6:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**Dia de los Muertos skull paint and sip!** The **YOUNG ADULTS** invite you to one of their most extravagant events in the year: learn about the tradition, decorate sugar skulls, make an altar to honor our departed loved ones displayed in the church.
- Tuesday Nov 8 6:00pm - 8:30pm**  
**ESL classes!** Did you know a lively group of USF student-teachers and volunteers are teaching ESL every Tuesday at ISLC? Want to know more? Would like to support? Contact us.
- Wednesday Nov 9 7:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**Taize prayer** in the sanctuary. Are you restless about the world? Would you like to spend an hour with like-minded people praying for the global and local situations of conflict and violence? You are invited to an international musical and silent hour of fresh breath of hope and peace.
- Thursday Nov 17 6:30pm - 8:00pm**  
**Sophia - The Hidden Divine Feminine**  
 A unique opportunity with Pamela Prime who truly wandered the world and her inner life being called by the Divine Feminine.
- Sunday Nov 27**  
**Launch of the new ISLC website - needing feedback of the good and the bad and the better!!** Please, contact us with your suggestions, ideas and questions.
- Wednesday December 7 7:00pm-8:00pm**  
**Taize prayer** in the sanctuary for peace - inviting you to join us for an hour of Advent hope and contemplative protest for peace.
- Thursday December 8 6:30pm - 8:00 pm**  
**Spiritual Director Hub** - An inspirational peer meeting of spiritual directors connected with the 19th annotation retreat program and other spiritual directors connected to ISLC.
- Saturday December 10 9:00 am - 1:30pm**  
**Advent retreat** on the request of the Yoga group that met before COVID at ISLC the Advent retreat will be guided by Darren Main, who is the Yoga point person/teacher at Grace cathedral and trained with Bobby Karle, SJ well know for Ignatian Yoga that many practiced before COVID at ISLC.
- Wednesday December 14 7:00 pm - 8:00pm**  
**Advent prayer** by Frank Uranich & Julia Prinz provides a beautiful experience of Advent hope expressed in music, silence, symbol and text.

## Images of the spirituality of Meister Eckhart



*Reflection:*

The days of ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS are one of my favorite liturgical times during the year. Perhaps it is because I feel it is one sole three day celebration: Remembering all the heavenly saints all around us in Vigil and at day and all the ones who have died on the third day. As a child I always imagined all my loved ones that had died as part of the choir of heavenly saints. Meister Eckhart a mystical theologian from the 12th century was condemned by the Church because he insisted on the reality that we should live as if we lived without a “why” without a “what for.” He thought God is in everybody and connecting with this God can make it “holier to step on a stone than to take communion while thinking evil.” For Eckhart it was not about holy acts, about reaching holiness through pious gifts or forms, but the awareness of union with God that we are already participate in. It was for him about *being* not doing. Probably no wonder that that did not sit well with a Church, which has the idea of indulgences and of a sacramental ladder to heaven. I was pondering: Would not Being be what of life remains, once we are dying and pass through the veil of this world into the pure-presence of God? Where is the difference then between all souls and all saints? If there is a purgatory I am sure it only can be dealing with the last detachments in us, the last acceptance of our utter poverty holding God, being God. Another paradox that Meister Eckhart got in trouble for: the human being being God as God is a human being. Who are we? To be clear for Eckhart this human identity was not isolated contemplation, but rather “leaving the altar if a hungry soul needs to be feed at the entrance of the Church.” However, nothing that we do will add or subtract from who we are.

Thomas Merton picks up on this idea hundreds of years later. The trees and flowers and animals have no problem to live their holiness, he writes, since they are who they are created to be. But us human beings are exhausting ourselves trying to be people who we are not. Merton writes: “Many poets are not poets for the same reason that many religious men are not saints: they never succeed in being themselves. They never get around to being the particular poet or the particular monk they are intended to be by God. They never become the man/woman or the artist who is called for by all the circumstances of their individual lives. They waste their years in vain efforts to be some other poet, some other saint...They wear out their minds and bodies in a hopeless endeavor to have somebody else’s experiences or write somebody else’s poems.” Perhaps, this month of memory, which is connected in the USA with the feast of gratitude, can be also the month of possibilities. The most amazing possibility to be God as God is human.

May peace be given to us as we remember the souls of our beloved friends and relatives and also to remember the ones nobody is thinking about.

Julia

*Also to share - we had the First Advisory Board Meeting:*

*I am truly grateful for the dedication and time of the people who agreed to serve on the advisory board for the ISLC. The first meeting was getting to know each other and to ask more questions than providing answers, which was very helpful. We circled especially around the question of the profile of the ISLC post-COVID and also as a space of community, spiritual independence/identity and social presence to society beyond traditional parish life.*

*Again, my heart is filled with gratitude for the people who agreed to walk with the ISLC team into the future:*

*Annette Lomont, Erin Brigham, Luke Hansen, Megan Pryor Lorenz, Tim Cunha*

*Thank you!*

*Please, if you have any questions, suggestions or ideas let us know at [islc@saintagnessf.com](mailto:islc@saintagnessf.com) - Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you!!*