

1 January 2017
Mary, the Holy Mother of God



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**** TODAY'S READINGS ****

First Reading — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm — May God bless us in his mercy (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Galatians 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved

**** READINGS FOR THE WEEK ****

- Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Wed: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

The complete text of the daily lectionary readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/readings

**** MASSES FOR THE WEEK ****

- Monday January 2
 12:05pm **James & Katherine Henderson (D)**
 Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.
- Tuesday January 3
 12:05pm **Nelly M Brown (D-50th Anniversary)**
 Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.
- Wed. January 4
 12:05pm **Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society**
 Presider: Fr. Phil Florio, S.J.
- Thursday January 5
 12:05pm **Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society**
 Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.
- Friday January 6
 12:05pm **Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)**
 Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.
- Saturday January 7
 12:05pm **Anna D'Angelo (D)**
 Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.
 5:30pm Presider: Fr. Phil Florio, S.J.
- Sunday January 8
 7:30am Presider: Fr. Phil Florio, S.J.
 9:30am Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.
 11:30am Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.
 6:30pm Presider: Fr. Stephen Surovick, S.J.

**** THIS WEEK AT OSJ ****

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| Tues
3 | 12noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Al-Anon (Drexel)
6:30p: CLC2 (Barbelin) |
| Wed
4 | 7:00p: PIC Event (Barbelin) |
| Thu
5 | 12noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) |
| Sun
8 | 9:30a: CLOW (Barbelin)
11:00a: Spirituality Formation Mtg (Loyola)
5:30p: YAC Pre-Mass Reflections (Drexel) |

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers: Mike Connolly, Jack Lee, Anna Marie Montone, Hugh McNicholas, Joanne Press, Nada Sizgorich, Rosemarie Tucillo; Kristin Marrow, Marie Malloy, Will Morrow, Betty Pfeiffer, Jenny Moore, Marie Wojcik, Amy Harrison, Margaret Ward, Mike Margarite, Michael Upton, Marjorie Heald, Walter Schalleur, Marie Jacobs, JoAnna Pearl, Lucy Pearl, James McBride, Fr. James McAndrews, S.J, Irene Stone, Judy Woodson, Amy Harrison, Dr. Barbara Cahill Giannaccari, Marge Filmyer, Karen Lockyer, Joseph Burk, Ed Tomezsko. Pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Names will be removed after 4 weeks unless request is renewed.

**** FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP ****

Please see next week’s bulletin for the offertory for the week ending December 25.

Online Givers – Funds have been set up for the following special collections:

Christmas Collection	Now through Jan. 15
Solemnity of Mary	Now through Jan. 15

**** ONLINE GIVING ****

Old St. Joseph’s provides Online Giving – a convenient, flexible and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation to the fund of your choice (e.g., Sunday Offertory, FF&F, HPC, Ars Sacra). For Online Givers who are uneasy about not putting anything in the collection basket, “I gave online” cards are available at the back of the church. Simply put a card in the basket to represent your gift.

See the flyer at the back of the church for frequently asked questions about Online Giving and for instructions on how to sign up. To sign up for Online Giving, go to our website: www.oldstjoseph.org and click on the Online Giving tab underneath the Important Links column.



**** FROM THE PASTOR ****

AMDG

Dear OSJ Family,
Happy New Year!

Today, in addition to ushering in 2017, our Church throughout the world celebrates the Solemn Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God which is in the Octave of Christmas. Interestingly, only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an “Octave” or an eight-day extension of the feast. The Church, in her wisdom, gives us this solemn feast on January 1st so that with Holy Mary as our model, we can better prepare for the beginning of a new year. The scripture readings and the prayers of our liturgy today bless us with images of peace, life, and joy. These are the same gifts of God that the shepherds in today’s gospel discover upon coming to Bethlehem where they find Mary and Joseph, and the Baby Jesus. Imagine the peace and joy that the shepherds experienced upon encountering the Holy Family!

In a special way, too, the Church asks us to draw inspiration from Mary as the “Mother of God.” This beautiful title “Mother of God” has its roots in the Greek *Theotokos*, which means “God-bearer”. On this day, we are reminded of the unique role that the Blessed Virgin played as the “God-bearer” in the plan of our salvation through Jesus Christ. It is through the faithfulness and sacrifice of Mary (“blessed among women”) that the Divine Savior is unlocked to the world. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the sacred dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could reside among all people. Mary alters history as we know it by her “fiat” or her “acceptance and affirmation” of her role as the Mother of God. To the Archangel Gabriel she declares, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Therefore, in our Catholic tradition, calling Mary the “Holy Mother of God” is the highest honor that we can rightly give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace.” Additionally, New Year’s Day is also designated as the “World Day of Peace,” further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

Today as we begin a “new year” let us each strive to look forward to the opportunities, challenges and experiences that await us in the year to come.

With Holy Mary and all of the saints at our side and with Jesus Christ as our faithful companion and guide

we can face the New Year with greater faith, confidence and zeal. Today we pray that the peace, life, and authentic joy of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and our great patron Joseph—might come into our lives and into our world during the coming New Year.

Blessed 2017!

Fr Phil Florio, SJ

Pastor

*** ** PARISH LIFE ** ***

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• Old Saint Joseph's Church would like to invite
• more of our parishioners to serve in a ministry
• during our beautiful weekend liturgies!
• Scheduling is flexible and training will be
• provided! Sign up online at www.oldstjoseph.org.
• Thank you!
•••••



All are invited by the OSJ Young Adult Community to join in the parish monthly Sunday **Cook-In** in **Barbelin Hall** after the **6:30pm Sunday Mass** on **January 15**. Come and enjoy good food and good company!

Music and Worship Notes

As we close 2016 and usher in the new year 2017, the musicians at OSJ recall the words of Johann Steuerlein's hymn *Das alte Jahr vergangen ist* (The old year now has passed away):

*The old year now has passed away;
We thank you, O our God, today
That you have kept us through the year
When danger and distress were near.
We pray you, O eternal Son,
Who with the Father reigns as One,
To guard and rule your Christendom
Through all the ages yet to come.*

The new year is a perfect time to consider a call to join our Music Ministry. There are many ways to express your faith here: singing with the Schola or the Loyola Choir (or both!), Cantoring, or playing an instrument. Ask any of our ministers, the personal rewards are rich, and the service you provide our congregation is without measure. **Contact Pat Montenegro at music@oldstjoseph at any time with your interest.**

COLD AND FLU SEASON
PRECAUTIONS AT OSJ

Recently several parishioners raised to my attention their concerns about the cold and flu season (Nov. – Mar.), and the spread of germs through such things as Mass like the Sign of Peace and drinking the Precious Blood from the Chalice.

I fully support preventing illness and encourage individuals to act as they see fit to protect their health. Trust me, I never want to be sick as I cannot afford to be anything but a healthy pastor! Moreover, I never want to pass along germs that could potentially make others sick.

With that, please know that I will refrain from shaking hands as I greet you all before and after Mass and will instead offer a kind word and bow of respect. I will do this through the end of March. That way I am less at risk of picking up any flu/cold germs and passing them on to literally dozens of parishioners. I may suggest the same for you at the sign of peace, if you are so inclined. If someone doesn't shake your hand at Mass it is not because they are being rude or disrespectful—just the opposite. One can smile, bow or wave instead of shaking hands as they wish you peace. It is your choice and we have good options that show respect and kindness to our neighbors. The Church's directive is to offer a "Sign" of peace and that includes but is not limited to a handshake. I would also ask that if you are sick, please refrain from shaking hands with others before or after Mass and during the sign of peace out of concern for the health of others.

Realistically there is no way of avoiding all the ways that germs are spread, but these precautions may prove helpful.

Finally, if you are concerned about drinking from the Chalice during the flu season, you may simply receive the Sacred Host on your hand or directly on your tongue. Again, if you are sick: coughing, sneezing, sniffing, or generally not feeling well, you should strongly consider not approaching the Chalice to receive out of a sincere concern for the health and well-being of others.

I hope these precautions may prove helpful and I thank you for your understanding.

Stay well, and healthy!
Fr Phil Florio, SJ
Pastor



**** ADULT ED ****



The OSJ Book Club will be reading Shusaku Endo's *Silence* for its January meeting. Endo is one of Japan's foremost novelists and this book is

considered his masterpiece. It explores the faith of two Portuguese priests in 17th century Japan, whose faith is tested by warlords who try to force them to renounce their religion. Martin Scorsese has just released a movie based on this book, so our plan is to read the text together and then see the film.

Because of the holidays, we will meet on January 10, the second Tuesday of the month, instead of January 3, in the Faber room in the rectory, from 7:30-9:00 PM.

**** IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY ****

Thanks to all that participated in our One Day Advent Retreat! Eighteen participants braved the first snow of the season to head to the Cranaleith Spiritual Center in NE Philadelphia. Fr. Florio led the group in prayer, reflection and music. What started out as a slushy, cold morning ended with our hearts truly on fire for the Coming of the Lord! Stay tuned for our next retreat in the spring, when the weather warms up!



**** INTERFAITH ****

Please join the Philadelphia Interfaith Community at Old St Joseph's on Wednesday, January 4 from 7-9 PM for a discussion on community and relationships. With whom do you share community? What religious beliefs and/or practices contribute to the formation and sustaining of your community? Do you see your

religious group as community and, if so, in what sense? When differences or splits occur in your community or among communities, how are they reconciled? Do you see your community as separate from the world or as part of the whole? How do you perceive your religious community in relation to communities of other religions? Discussion will be facilitated by long time PIC member William Stewart.

**** YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY ****

January OSJ YAC Happy Hour!

For the January YAC Happy Hour, we'll be heading to West Philly! Join us at New Deck Tavern (3408 Sansom Street) on Friday, January 6th where we'll be enjoying good food and great company. Come spend the evening with old



friends and hopefully meet some new people. If you have any trouble finding us, feel free to shoot Jenn a text at 917-930-9851. We'll plan to arrive at 5:30pm stay till at least 8pm, so come early or late -- we would love to see you!

OSJ YAC MOVIE Night: Escape the winter cold with a YAC movie viewing! All young adults are invited for our next Tuesday Spirituality Movie Night on Tuesday, January 10 in Barbelin Hall! We'll be watching *The Way*, starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez. The movie centers around "a father [who] heads overseas to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling El Camino de Santiago and decides to take the pilgrimage himself." El Camino de Santiago de Compostela is a network of routes across Spain and Europe that all lead to Santiago de Compostela, in the northwest of Spain. For centuries, these routes have been walked as a pilgrimage to the tomb of the apostle St. James, where many of his relics are believed to be interred. The movie runs two hours, so we'll be starting right at 7:30 and hope to see you there! Spirits at 7, movie starts promptly at 7:30!

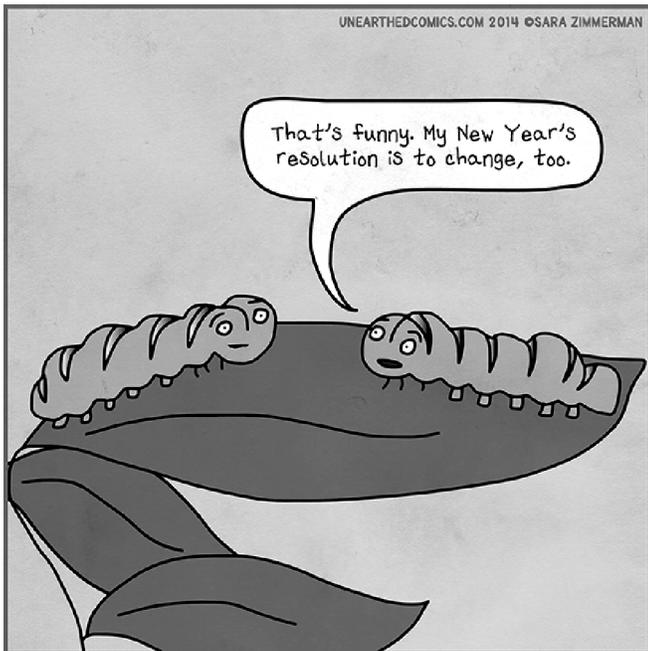
Young Adult Pre-Mass Reflection Group, Sundays at 5:30pm, OSJ Courtyard or Drexel Parlor: All young adults are invited to prepare and reflect as a group for the Sunday readings that will be heard at the 6:30 Mass. Prayer will begin at 5:30, end between 6:15/6:20, and materials will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact us at osjyac@gmail.com.

❄ MISCELLANEOUS ❄

Give Thanks When You Shop! Please be sure to thank the generous advertisers in our bulletin. Through their participation, our parish receives our weekly bulletin free of charge.

Do you know anyone who needs bed bug treatment, but can't afford it? "Taking the Bite Out of the Holidays," which started in 2009, is a charitable program sponsored by BedBug Central that offers free bed bug services to people who are suffering from bed bug infestations and cannot afford the treatment required. Anyone in financial need may apply for the charitable program, including group homes, shelters and nursing homes. For more information go to www.bedbugcentral.com/holidays.

❄ A LITTLE HUMOR ❄



St. Ignatius' Prayer for Generosity

Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve:
To give and not to count the cost,
To fight and not to heed the wounds,
To toil and not to seek for rest,
To labor and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that I am doing your will.

❄ OSJ STAFF ❄

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AMDG