

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: (215) 923-1733
www.oldstjoseph.org

September 17, 2017 | The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hurricane Harvey and Its Aftermath

While everyone was careful to express an empathy for the victims of the terrible storm that struck the coast of Texas and the equally terrifying storm that struck Florida, many observers from President Trump to news commentators to ordinary citizens were also quick to point to the impressive outpouring of solidarity that was so apparent in the country. The news media were full of stories of people who rose to the occasion to rescue stranded neighbors or reach out to families huddled together in shelters, having lost all their possessions and sometimes frighteningly separated from their loved ones. The assistance offered transcended racial, ethnic and class distinctions, a refreshing counter image to the disheartening lessons of Charlottesville and the recently intensified affection for monuments to the old Confederacy.

Thus the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma has been an important moment for the country. We have learned again the lesson that we really do need one another. We need to come together not just as neighbors next door or down the street. But also, we need regions of the country to set aside local self interest and appreciate the fact that we are all part of one nation. Politically, even some of the most determined advocates of small government have been forced to concede that in an emergency government, too, must play an irreplaceable role. So talk of "shutting down the government" was suspended, at least for the moment, in order to empower Washington to respond to the pressing needs of our fellow citizens.

One important lesson to be learned again is to rethink the connection between public aid and private assistance. At various times in our national dialogue, a far too glib opposition has been drawn



between the two. On the one hand, government assistance to the poor has been characterized as inherently wasteful, inefficient or even a corrupting influence on those it is meant to help. On the other hand, private assistance is debunked as an ineffective band aid that may make generous donors feel good for the moment but in fact has no real long term effect. The truth, of course, as always is far more complex and needs a far more measured response. We can debate the proper assessment of various responses to social ills and natural disasters afflicting our fellow citizens. But we all have a responsibility to avoid the superficial prejudices that are so frequently manipulated by less than well intentioned political leaders or social commentators.

Which brings us back to this particular moment, facing the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Each of us needs to assess what is to be learned. Personally, I applaud the change of topic from building a wall to restoring a region. And we certainly see the force of nature and need to ask ourselves again what influence human activity is exerting on those awesome forces. But most importantly, the present moment teaches us again the value of private initiative and charitable response to human need.

I listened closely to instructions on "How you can help." I happened to notice how frequently mention was made of "Catholic Charities." Inevitably, in any list of organizations to contact and support Catholic charities was prominently included.

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Old St. Joseph's is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are in the rear of the church.

It was clear to everyone that Catholic Charities was on the ground as an effective responder and reaching out to everyone in need, regardless of religion or race or any other distinction that so frequently divides us from one another. Many of us have been offended at times by an anti-Catholic bias that makes the Catholic church the butt of jokes and ridicule (and sometimes, unfortunately, justified criticism). But in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, no one had anything to say except endorsement of Catholic Charities.

This week end we are taking up a special collection here in the parish for aid to the hurricane victims through Catholic Charities.

At the same time we are reminded that the needs of our brothers and sisters are on-going, not just in the aftermath of a natural disaster. That's why

our parish makes an annual commitment to support Catholic Charities. This year's assessment is \$38,000 and we are only 70% towards our goal. If you ever hear anyone criticizing this collection or belittling the value of contributing, just remind him or her what we have learned in recent weeks and how we want to continue to respond to the needs of the poor in our own city through the effective programs sponsored by Catholic Charities. It would certainly be a source of justifiable pride for our parish to achieve its goal of supporting the work of the Church that is so widely admired and respected. You can still send into the parish a contribution to our annual collection for Catholic Charities.

Walter F. Modrys, S.J.
Pastor

THIS WEEK AT OSJ

Monday, September 18	6:00 PM: PREP (St. Mary's)
Tuesday, September 19	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 1:00 PM: Eldership Steering Committee Meeting (Loyola) 7:00 PM: YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed., September 20	6:30 PM: Centering Prayer (Drexel) Women's Fellowship (Loyola)
Thursday, September 21	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 4:30 PM: PREP Confirmation Class (Barbelin)
Saturday, September 23	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 4:30 PM: PREP Home School Gathering (Barbelin)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday:	1 Timothy 2; Psalm 28; Luke 7
Tuesday:	1 Timothy 3; Psalm 101; Luke 7
Wed:	1 Timothy 3:14-1; Psalm 111; Luke 7
Thursday:	Ephesians 4; Psalm 19; Matthew 9
Friday:	1 Timothy 6; Psalm 49; Luke 8
Saturday:	1 Timothy 6; Psalm 100; Luke 8
Sunday:	Isaiah 55; Psalm 145; Philippians 1; Matthew 20

SECOND COLLECTION: Hurricane Harvey Relief

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked that we take up an emergency collection to meet the humanitarian and Church needs caused by Hurricane Harvey. This weekend, **September 16/17**, we will take up this collection with proceeds going to Catholic Charities USA. **Online Givers, please note that contributions to this collection can be given online through October 3.**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Collection for the week ending
September 10, 2017

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$289.00	n/a	\$289.00
Sunday Mass	\$6,946.00	\$7,630.62	\$14,576.62

Percentage of online donations: 52%

NOTE: The Online Giving total this week includes monthly donations

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).

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.

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers: Deborah Brooks, Allen May, Anna Krachman, Richard Polosky, Ed Tomezsko, Ava Iezzi, Sharon Sylvester, Jack Lees, Roberto Pupo, Colleen Raymond, Sean Pearson, Lynda Blum-Kahn, Michael Sheston, Garry Moros, Patricia Yusko, Cynthia Locke, Brice Verdier, Mary Jacobs, Jerry McAndrews SJ, Sara Orkline, Joanna Pearl, Lucy Pearl, Marjorie Heald, Marie Jacobs. Pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

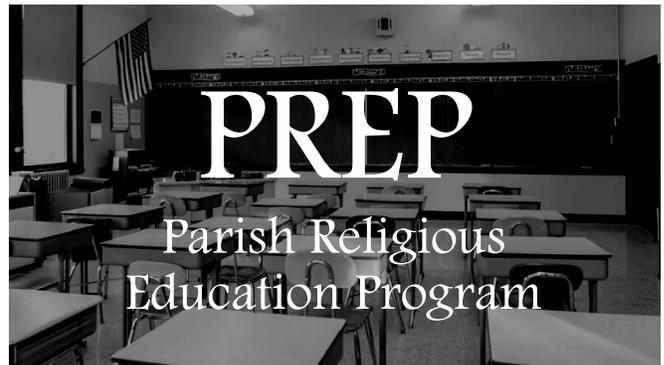
Names will be removed after 4 weeks unless a request is renewed.



The Parish Home Ministry

Eldership Community volunteers who are Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit homebound parishioners. These volunteers bring communion to the homebound. To request a home visit, please call the rectory office.

The centering prayer group will meet on Wednesday, September 20, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor. The meeting will include a discussion on centering prayer, followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. You are invited to join us. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com.



Registration for PREP (formerly CCD) is in process. If your child will be in 1st through 6th grades in a non-Catholic school this year, he or she should join the program for religious formation and sacramental preparation. Registration forms are available at the entrance to the church and in the parish office. Forms can also be downloaded from our website www.oldstjoseph.org. For more information (especially for 6th grade children who have not previously enrolled) **contact Christine Szczepanowski, Coordinator of Religious Education at 215-923-1733, 267-250-3049 (c), or prep@oldstjoseph.org.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE

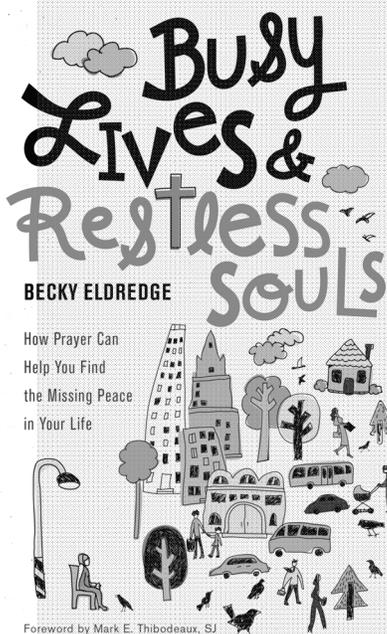
**Catholic Immigrant and Refugee Coalition
Convening | September 22 from 9:30 AM-4 PM
at Grace Hall, Cabrini University:**

- Personal stories of migration.
- Explore education, advocacy, and accompaniment opportunities.
- Devote time for prayer for those on the move.

This event is coordinated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Catholic Social Services and Welcome the Refugee. Opening remarks from Auxiliary Bishop Edward Deliman. Parking and lunch included. \$20 registration fee. **Register online at www.welcometherefugee.org.** Further information: Bethany Welch at 267-702-3454 or bwelch@staquinas.com.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

The Ignatian Spirituality Committee offers ways to gain a deeper understanding of Ignatian Spirituality:



One Book, One Parish Series: Our book selection this year is *Busy Lives & Restless Souls* by Becky Eldredge. Loyola Press says: "In her book, Becky Eldredge shares principles of Ignatian spirituality in a fresh way to equip us with prayer tools that are accessible and practical within the relentless realities of our daily routines. Just as important, she shows us how we can bring our relationship with God to life by becoming what St. Ignatius called 'contemplatives in action.'" **The book can be purchased after Mass September 16 and 17 for a reduced price of \$10.00, or at the rectory during office hours.** The book is widely available through Amazon and other online book retailers.

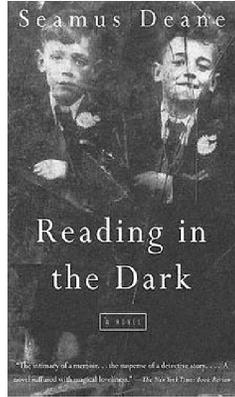
Half Day Retreat Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Old St. Joseph's Church: Fr. Dan Ruff, S.J. will lead exploring the Examen, a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day and how God is leading us. We will also spend time reflecting on the One Book One Parish selection, *Busy Lives & Restless Souls*, in small group settings. **NOTE:** Participants are encouraged to read the book before-hand if possible. **Please RSVP to osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org by Tuesday, October 17.**

Presentation on Blessed Fr. Popieluszko by Judith Kelly, October 15 at 1:30 PM in Barbelin Hall: The presenter is Judith Kelly, author of *Just Call Me Jerzy*, on Fr. Popieluszko, a leader of the Social Justice movement. He was associated with the opposition Solidarity trade union. On his travels in the U.S., Fr. Popieluszko offered Mass at our very own OSJ! Please contact osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org with any questions.



ADULT ED

The Old Saint Joseph's Book Group Tuesday, October 10, the Loyola Room at 7:30 PM: Our first book for the season is *Reading in the Dark* by Seamus Deane. This novel gives us a "mesmerizing picture of childhood set against the violence of Northern Ireland in the 1940s and 1950s." **New members are welcome.**



If you or anyone you know would like to become a Catholic, contact Father Ed O'Donnell at eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org or through the parish office. The process begins shortly.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday September 18

12:05pm **Geraldine Marren & Family (D)**

Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

Tuesday September 19

12:05pm **Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)**

Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

Wed. September 20

12:05pm **Joseph Mohen (D)**

Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.

Thursday September 21

12:05pm **Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society**

Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.

Friday September 22

12:05pm **Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society**

Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.

Saturday September 23

12:05pm **Jeanne Bradley (D)**

Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

5:30pm Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.

Sunday September 24

7:30am Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

9:30am Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

11:30am Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

6:30pm Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

AROUND THE CORNER

Catholic History Lecture:

On **Sunday, September 17, 2:00 PM**, Dr. Maggie McGuinness of La Salle University will speak on **St. Katharine Drexel** and the ministry of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Philadelphia at the American Catholic Historical Society (263 South 4th Street). House opens at 1:30. Free and open to the public. For information, please visit www.amchs.org.



On Saturday, October 14, St. Mary Interparochial School will celebrate its tenth annual Harvest Hoedown on Locust from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, featuring square dancing, hayrides, delicious food,

live music, face painting, moon bounce, game garden, and a petting zoo. To purchase tickets, please call the school at 215-923-7522 or purchase tickets online at www.saintmarys.us. All proceeds from this fundraising event benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School.



Welcome!

Welcome new parishioners. Thank you for joining our parish community:

Elizabeth Marbach, Lisa Reginelli, Brendan Kennedy, Jennifer Reilly, and Jacqueline Glace & Brendan Murphy

INFORMATION

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times

Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM

Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM

Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:30 PM

Medical Emergency

In the event of a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements

Old St. Joseph's is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are in the rear of the church.

Registration

Persons who want to register as parishioners should complete a parish registration form and return it to the rectory office by mail or in person. Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, in the pamphlet racks in the church vestibules and online at www.oldstjoseph.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday through Saturday: 11:30 AM to noon and by appointment

Sacrament of Baptism

Persons wanting to arrange for a baptism should call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Sacrament of Anointing

The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is administered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Persons wanting to be married in the parish should call Fr. O'Donnell at the parish office at least nine months before the desired date.

Rite of Christian Initiation

Unbaptized adults who are considering baptism into the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who have received no other sacraments and who want to be confirmed and to receive First Eucharist, and baptized non-Catholics who are considering full communion in the Catholic Church should call Fr. O'Donnell at the parish office.

To arrange Mass of Christian Burial, the funeral director should call the parish office.

OSJ Staff

Pastor: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

(pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Edward O'Donnell, S.J.

(eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Fr. Edward Dougherty S.J.

(dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence: Br Robert Carson, S.J.

Business Manager: Eric German

(germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Interim Director of Music: Marianne Lipson

(music@oldstjoseph.org)

Liturgy Coordinator: Sr. Asunta Thanh, acj

(liturgy@oldstjoseph.org)

Administrative Assistant: Eleanor Margaret

(office@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director: Mary Freedman

(faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

PREP Coordinator: Christine Szczepanowski

(prep@oldstjoseph.org)

OSJ Councils and Boards

Parish Pastoral Council: *(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)*

Rana McNamara (co-chair), Richard Le (co-chair)

Parish Finance Council: Paul Shay (chair)

Historic Preservation Corporation Board: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. (President)

Parish Committees and Chairpersons

Adult Education: Rita O'Brien and Jeanmarie

Zippo *(adulted@oldstjoseph.org)*

Parish Life: Joe Casey

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation: John Bitterman *(osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)*

Social Justice: Bethany Welch

(socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org)

Ministry Leaders

Altar Servers: Maria Ramirez,

(mathra71@yahoo.com)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

Bill Stewart *(wstewart@kaplaw.com)*

Hospital Ministers: Luanne Balestrucci

(lbalestrucci@yahoo.com)

Lectors: Lou Anne Bulik, *(labulik@yahoo.com)*

Ushers: Nikola Sizgorich, *(niksiz@icloud.com)*

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Peggy Connolly

(pmcon@comcast.net)