

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

October 8, 2017 | The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let the children come to me...

Jesus dramatically taught his disciples a lesson he wanted them never to forget. It's a familiar and touching story:

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me. Do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Every generation of disciples has struggled with the best way to carry out this stern command to welcome our children into the company of Jesus. Our response at OSJ, as a Jesuit parish, is to follow the Ignatian principle that to live the Christian faith is essentially to live close to the person of Jesus. So the educational goal of PREP - our Parish Religious Education Program - is quite simply to lead our children to experience the loving and tender presence of Jesus in their lives.

We bring children to Jesus by bringing them to the sacraments, the primary way that we encounter Jesus. We celebrate our union with Jesus in the liturgy and in the rich devotional life of our Catholic faith. We help our children to share the Father's love with others - their family members and classmates and friends, and especially with the poor for whom as children they so frequently seem to exhibit an almost spontaneous empathy.

PREP parents and teachers, when we observe our children, are regularly reminded why Jesus admonishes us to receive the Kingdom as a little child.

Our PREP program at OSJ provides Ignatian-based religious formation to children from first grade through Confirmation (usually sixth grade) who are not attending a Catholic school. The program has four components:

TO TEACH children the principal doctrines of our Catholic faith.

TO GUIDE children to grow in their personal relationship with God, including how to make moral choices based on that relationship.

TO PREPARE children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, the Eucharist and Confirmation.

TO FOSTER in the children a close bonding to the community of faith that is the Church and to the parish community in particular.

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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.

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Each grade level has its own class. First through fifth grades meet for an hour at 6 PM on Mondays at St. Mary's School. The sixth-grade Confirmation class meets for six weeks prior to reception of the sacrament on Thursday afternoons. Preparation for the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation includes a retreat for families. The Church teaches that parents are indeed "the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith." To support the parents in this role, our pastor, Father Modrys, will be meeting with the parents of children preparing for their first sacraments.

Our PREP teachers are volunteers who are called to share their own faith with children. Some have a background in teaching. Some are parents of children in the program. Every teacher must call upon the special graces that God bestows to make us fitting instruments of his grace. And so our teachers communicate the truths of the Catholic faith while relying on their own experience of God in prayer. If you are interested in learning more about this beautiful ministry, please contact me at prep@oldstjoseph.org.

Given the weakened character of Catholic culture today, our children are no longer exposed to the experience of earlier generations of Philadelphia Catholics in which the parish was at the center of their lives. We all must make up for that loss, and in fact even deepen Christian community as an environment that nurtures the faith. It is up to all of us parishioners to build a community at OSJ that supports families and keeps the faith vibrant for our young people. Future generations depend on it.

Christine Szczepanowski
Coordinator of Religious Education

THIS WEEK AT OSJ

Tuesday, October 10	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:30 PM: Reading Grp. (Loyola)
Wed., October 11	7:30 PM: Pope Francis Talk: <i>Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)</i> , (Barbelin)
Thursday, October 12	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 4:30 PM: PREP Confirmation Class (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Saturday, October 13	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Sunday, October 14	9:30 AM CLOW (Barbelin) 1:30 PM Popieluszko Presentation (Barbelin) 5:00 PM Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Drexel)

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Zechariah 8; Psalm 102; Matthew 18
Tuesday: Zechariah 8; Psalm 87; Luke 9
Wednesday: Nehemiah 2; Psalm 137; Luke 9
Thursday: Nehemiah 8; Psalm 19; Luke 10
Friday: Baruch 1; Ps 79; Luke 10:
Saturday: Baruch 4; Psalm 69; Luke 10
Sunday: Isaiah 5; Ps 80; Philippians 4; Matthew 21

Please Note:

The pre-Baptism class will be held on the third Tuesday in October (10/17) instead of the second Tuesday.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Offertory Collection for the week ending
October 1, 2017

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$222.00	n/a	\$222.00
Sunday Mass	\$5,977.00	\$3,342.00	\$9,319.00

Percentage of online donations: 36%

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:

MaryLou Jennings, April DeMatto, Lydia Staley, Jennifer Moore, D. Minter, Joseph Burke, Louis Balestrucci, 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, Brice Verdier, Mary Jacobs, Jerry McAndrews SJ, Sara Orkline, Adeline Acerno, James McBride, Jerry McBride, 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.

PARISH LIFE

Fr. Martin to Speak at OSJ

Fr. James Martin, S.J., has accepted an invitation to speak at OSJ on **Monday, October 30 at 7:30 PM**. Fr. Martin will be speaking about his recent book, *Building a Bridge*, which concerns the respectful and sensitive relationship he wants to foster between the Catholic Church and the LGBT community. Many of our parishioners have greatly benefited from the writings of Fr. Martin so we are very grateful that he will be with us.



Pope Francis Talk, Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 PM in Barbelin Hall



Join Fr. Modrys for the last lecture in his Pope Francis series where he will be discussing *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, Pope Francis' writing where he employs Ignatian discernment to propose a more flexible approach to some pressing pastoral problems that are very close to home to many people in our own parish community.

Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers

For early risers there are additional opportunities to serve. Please log in to <http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/osj> and check out the available positions at the 7:30 AM Mass under the My Schedule tab. Opportunities at later Masses are also available. Thank you for your faithful service to our parish!

The October/November ministry schedule has been posted online at <http://www.rotundasoftware.com/ministry/osj>. New volunteers are also welcome to sign up online!

Welcome new parishioners! Thank you for joining our parish community:
Michael & Jackie Connor
Valerie Noce

Women Faith Fellowship
Join us for conversation and faith sharing. We meet every other Wednesday from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. Our next meeting is October 18. For more information, please contact Rana at rmcnamara915@comcast.net

OSJ Book Club

Old St. Joseph's Book Club 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.**



CENTERING PRAYER

The centering prayer group will meet on Wednesday, October 18, 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. Anyone interested in this contemplative prayer is welcome to join us. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

YAC Welcoming Happy Hour for New Parishioners and Members!

Come to O'Neals Pub (611 S. 3rd St) on **Thursday, October 19** for a special YAC Happy Hour where we would like to welcome any new young adult parishioners at Old St. Joseph's Church and new members of YAC. Current members and other friends are all welcome too. We'll arrive at 5:30 PM and plan to stay till at least 8 PM, so come early or late -- we would love to see you. Contact Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com with any questions.

October OSJ Happy Hour! October 13

Fall is here, and we're toasting to turning leaves and pumpkins at **McGillin's Olde Ale House (1310 Drury St)**, the oldest continuously operated tavern in Philadelphia. We'll head to the second floor of the historic bar for a special **Friday the Thirteenth (10/13) starting at 5:30 PM**. Contact Christopher Ross (g.chris.ross@gmail.com, 610-952-7317) with any questions, See you there!

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

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

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

On September 27, Pope Francis launched a global campaign to support immigrants and refugees around the world called "Share the Journey." Our brothers and sisters often make perilous journeys, leaving their homelands because they are forced to flee their homes to escape conflict, poverty, persecution and violence. We invite you to join Pope Francis and the Catholic Church around the world by "sharing the journeys" of our fellow children of God. Learn about their journeys: read stories, watch videos, and pay attention to news that can help sensitize us to their reality:

♦ Join the **#sharejourney** campaign on social media! ♦ Meet immigrants and refugees. Contact Catholic Social Services at <http://welcomethererefugee.org/> to learn how you can join or support their programs that serve immigrants and refugees in our area ♦ Say a daily prayer for all people, and especially children, who have fled their homes in search of peace and safety. ♦ Support the work of local and international Catholic agencies, like Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services, who help to care for the needs of immigrants and refugees in the United States and around the world.

Learn more about and get involved in the "Share the Journey" global migration campaign at www.sharejourney.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Visiting Artist

The Shepherds of Bethlehem, a group who travels from the Holy Land to sell carved olive wood statues, will visit Old St. Joseph's Church and sell their work **after each of the Masses October 14 and 15**. The revenue generated helps to restore justice to an oppressed Palestinian Christian minority, supports over 300 families of skilled carvers and helps in keeping a Christian presence in the Holy Land. Please see their website, shepherds-bethlehem.com, for more information.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Monday October 9

12:05pm **Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)**
Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

Tuesday October 10

12:05pm **Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)**
Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

Wed. October 11

12:05pm **Dec. Members of the Fioravanti Family**
Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

Thursday October 12

12:05pm **Joseph Mohen (D)**
Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

Friday October 13

12:05pm **Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society**
Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

Saturday October 14

12:05pm **Benefactors of the Maryland Province**
Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

5:30pm Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

Sunday October 15

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

9:30am Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

11:30am Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.

6:30pm Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

Luther & Ignatius

Two Reformers, Faith to Faith

Saturday, October 14,

St. Rose of Lima Church

(428 S. Main Street, North Wales, PA).

Dinner at 6 PM, Talk and Panel at 7 PM.

To RSVP, email stroselima@srol.org.

Want to Join the Jesuits?

In every generation, God calls people to follow Jesus as dedicated disciples. If you are a man young in spirit, have you ever thought about following that call as a Jesuit priest or brother? **The Society of Jesus is ready to help you discern if the Jesuit life is what God wants for you.** For almost 500 years Jesuits have been serving the Church in pastoral ministry, in education, as missionaries – or wherever the need is greatest. For Jesuits, that is their mission.

Want to explore this opportunity for you? Visit our Vocation Website at <https://jesuitvocations.org/> Explore the future! (If you have a friend who may be interested, do him the favor of passing this along to him.)

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: Mark Bani

(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)

Homebound Ministry: Neal Hébert
(neal9536@gmail.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)