

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

November 19, 2017 | The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Receive the Holy Spirit

This Sunday, November 19, Bishop Edward Deliman will be visiting Old St. Joseph's to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to 34 of our young people, completing their initiation into the Catholic Church that began at Baptism.

Every sacrament is linked with what is called an "outward sign." In Confirmation, that outward sign is twofold: The bishop calls the Holy Spirit down on the confirmandi by a laying on of hands (the first sign) and then he anoints them with the specially blessed oil that is called chrism (the second sign). These newly confirmed Christians will be inwardly sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit as especially bonded to the Church community and the person of Christ.

Each sacrament is a channel of special graces. The grace conferred in the sacrament of Confirmation has been traditionally described as the "Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit." These gifts were first listed in the book of Isaiah: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe (fear of the Lord). This sevenfold gift is really the gift of a lifetime because the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be fully appreciated and utilized only over the course of many years, through all the stages of a maturing life. So we pray that these young people will fully "unwrap" their gifts as they move through their lives, directing their decisions and actions under the guidance of the Spirit, always remaining true to that deepened identity that God grants them at their Confirmation.

The ordinary manner in which the sacrament of Confirmation is usually celebrated today by "cradle Catholics" (those baptized as babies) unfortunately obscures the most authentic nature of this sacrament. The practice of the early Church was different.

Converts were adults and initiation into the community of the Church occurred with the simultaneous reception of all three sacraments — Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil presided over by the bishop. This practice clearly displayed the organic unity between the three sacraments of initiation. Confirmation completes the graces offered in Baptism and prepares one to join in the eucharistic banquet. (It was not until the second Vatican Council restored this process for adult converts with the RCIA program that the original practice of the Church was recovered.)

Why did the Church lose touch with the practice of administering the three sacraments of initiation as an organic unity? It was mostly the result of history and circumstances.

As the number of converts grew in the early Church, especially after the Emperor Constantine established Christianity as the state religion in the fourth century, the number of converts grew far beyond what could be accommodated at a single ceremony. Moreover, the unavailability of a bishop at every baptism delayed the conferral of Confirmation to a more opportune time. Finally, and probably more importantly, once the practice of infant baptism became the ordinary way for people to

enter the Church, it was felt that delaying the other sacraments of initiation to a later age was more appropriate. The Eastern rite has maintained the ancient tradition, even to our own day, with infants receiving all three sacraments at one time. But in the Roman Catholic, or western, Church, Baptism alone is normally administered to infants, Eucharist or "First Communion" to children at age seven (a practice that was introduced by Pope Pius X in the early 20th century) and Confirmation at a still later time with the Bishop as minister.

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Due to differences across countries and centuries, the theology of Confirmation has become less precise than that of Baptism and Eucharist. There is no disagreement as to the essential grace of receiving the Holy Spirit. However, there are variations in emphasis that are expressed in variations in practice. Those who focus on the grace itself as an important support in safeguarding one's faith advocate an early age for Confirmation. This has led to the practice in some places of linking Confirmation with First Communion, recovering in some respects the ancient tradition.

An alternate approach is to focus on the grace of Confirmation as a call to discipleship for young people who have reached a degree of maturity that allows them to understand the gift they are accepting, to acknowledge the responsibility that comes with full Church membership and to dedicate themselves to Christ's mission. Such an emphasis leads to a later age for Confirmation, often eighth grade or high school. Thus in Roman Catholic pastoral practice, there is little consensus on the appropriate age for Confirmation which ranges from 10 to 16 years of age.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia takes the younger approach with Confirmation generally occurring in fourth through sixth grades, though given the divergence in some surrounding dioceses one suspects that this approach is hardly carved in stone. Here at Old St. Joseph's we have been confirming our young people in the fall of sixth grade.

But there is a problem: Children in our parish religious education program, called "PREP," are usually enrolled in schools not affiliated with the Church. Once confirmed, the usual custom is that their formal religious education ceases after completing just five full years of formation and a six-week course specifically for Confirmation. Students in Catholic school, on the other hand, receive further religious instruction as part of their school curriculum. So the question presents itself whether Confirmation at such a young age for our children is the best pastoral approach.

Two parts of our Confirmation preparation program are especially effective. We sponsor a retreat for families. Although at their relatively young age our children are not ready to take on adult responsibilities, the retreat stresses their call to discipleship within the context of the family by including a family activity that promotes the exchange between parents and children.

Another important part of the program is the choice of a sponsor who is to support the young person in his or her living out the gospel and the adoption of a saint's name that identifies a patron who can serve as a model in the child's life.

Please pray for our confirmandi as they sacramentally receive the Holy Spirit into their lives. May they grow in the gifts of the Spirit to become joyful, mature disciples of Christ.

Christine Szczepanowski
Director of Religious Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

It is time for the Old St. Joseph's Giving Tree! Take a tag and buy a present: books, pajamas, bathrobes, blankets and gift cards. Beneficiaries include: children at the Gesu School or Rowan Homes, Little Brothers Friend of the Elderly and Dawn's Place.

Bring **your gift WRAPPED WITH THE TAG** back to the tree no later than **Sunday, December 17**. If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, contact Charles Capaldi at ccapaldib5@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Parishioners are organizing a party at the Guild House West (1221 Fairmount Ave) with Little Brothers on December 18, 1-3 PM. Want to volunteer?





Mark your calendars early and join us for a liturgical and musical highlight of the season! Our parish will present **Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 PM**. The liturgy foretells Christ's coming in sacred scripture and in song, proclaimed to rouse our spirits in preparation for Christ's coming this Christmastide. In addition to festive Advent and Christmas carols for congregational singing, choral music will include works by Victoria, Willcocks and Rutter and organ works by Bach and Elmore. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted. A reception will follow.

The OSJ Book Group will meet on **Tuesday, December 5, at 7:30 PM in the Loyola Room**. Our book is *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. Beloved and taught throughout the U.S., this is a story of immigrant life in America. New members are welcome. For information, contact, shlosscarol@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

The OSJ Young Adult Community (YAC) is an inclusive community of people in their 20s and 30s, single and married. To learn more about our upcoming events sign up for our weekly e-newsletter by emailing us at osjyac@gmail.com

YAC Heads to Solidarity on Tap: For the **Tuesday, November 28** Spirituality Night, YAC heads to 2nd Story Brewing Co. (117 Chestnut St) from **7-9 PM** along with other Jesuit-affiliated groups and organizations. Enjoy a reflection on the theme "Racial Mercy: From the Upper Room to Pentecost" by Maureen O'Connell, Ph.D., Chair, Religion and Theology Department at La Salle University. See you there!

Ignatian Daily Examen: The examen is a prayerful reflection made toward the end of each day. Its purpose is to assist in discovering how God has been present in one's life and how to learn to be more responsive to His presence. Copies of the examen printed on card stock available in the back of the church.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

The Ignatian Spirituality Committee invites all to participate in the annual Advent At-Home Retreat. This year's selection is: Daily Devotions for Advent 2017. *Devotions* offers guidance from the first Sunday of Advent to Christmas Day through a daily reflection on the Gospel reading, a focused spiritual exercise and a brief prayer that sums up the day's theme and asks for God's blessing. Author Charles Paolino will challenge you to celebrate Advent with patience and help you to be ready for a happy and holy Christmas. **Members of the Ignatian Spirituality Committee will distribute the guide the weekend of December 2 and 3.**

The Ignatian Spirituality Committee would like to thank all that participated in our Half Day Retreat on the Examen. Special thanks to our retreat leader, Fr. Dan Ruff, SJ for leading the group of 27 through a thoughtful discussion and reflection on the Examen, a truly wonderful way of praying each day to bring us closer to God. We will look forward to additional Ignatian Spirituality retreats next year, so stay tuned!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and Ushers: we need new volunteers; scheduling is flexible and training will be provided! Sign up through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. Thank you!



November is the month of the Holy Souls. The 2017 Book of Remembrance has been placed on the Blessed Mother's altar. In it you may inscribe the names of those deceased whom you would like to be remembered during the month.



Thanksgiving Schedule:

Thursday, November 23 and

Friday, November 24

Confessions: 11:30 AM, Mass: 12:05 PM

Rectory Hours: 11 AM – 1 PM

Financial Report: Please find our Financial Report for the 2017 Fiscal Year in the back of the church. The Financial Report is also available online.

Welcome, New Parishioners!

Christopher Bradie, Erica Pirolli,
Joseph McFalls & Laura Householder, Sarah Colins, Eileen Bonner, Lynn & Mark Zettler,
Adam Scanlan & Audra Hugo,
Alison Fedoris & Tyler Leslie, Cara Brindley, John Ryan, Deborah Fluehr

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

Catherine Keddie	Deborah Brooks	Colleen Raymond	Sara Orkline
Rick Bravo	Allen May	Sean Pearson	Adeline Acerno
Bernardo Goldrosson	Anna Krachman	Lynda Blum-Kahn,	James McBride
MaryLou Jennings	Richard Polosky	Michael Sheston	Jerry McBride
April DeMatto	Ed Tomezsko	Garry Moros	Joanna Pearl
Lydia Staley	Ava Iezzi	Patricia Yusko	Lucy Pearl
Jennifer Moore	Sharon Sylvester	Brice Verdier	Marjorie Heald
D. Minter	Jack Lees	Mary Jacobs	Marie Jacobs
Joseph Burke	Roberto Pupo	Jerry McAndrews SJ	Louis Balestrucci

Pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

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



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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

ONLINE GIVING

Offertory Collection for the week ending November 5
 Percentage of Online Giving: 51%

NOTE: The Online Giving total this week includes monthly donations

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$212.00	n/a	\$212.00
Sunday Mass	\$7,005.00	\$7,283.00	\$14,288.00

All Saints	\$1,081.00
All Souls	\$848.00



WEEKLY READINGS

Readings from...

- Monday:** 1 Maccabees 1; Psalm 119; Luke 18
- Tuesday:** 2 Maccabees 6; Psalm 3; Luke 19
- Wednesday:** 2 Maccabees 7; Psalm 17; Luke 19
- Thursday:** 1 Maccabees 2; Psalm 50; Luke 19
- Friday:** 1 Maccabees 4; 1 Chronicles 29; Luke 19
- Saturday:** 1 Maccabees 6; Psalm 9; Luke 20
- Sunday:** Ezekiel 34; Psalm 23; 1 Corinthians 15; Matthew 25

Complete text of the daily readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

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.

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/> (If you have a friend who may be interested, do him the favor of passing this along to him.)



Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 20	12:05 PM <i>Stanley Plummer (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O’Donnell, S.J.	6:00 PM: PREP (St. Mary’s)
Tues 21	12:05 PM <i>Felicia Rzeznik (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 6:30 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Wed 22	12:05 PM <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Thurs 23	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 12:05 PM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 24	12:05 PM <i>Winifred Grace (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Sat 25	12:05 PM <i>Thomas L. Farris (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O’Donnell, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 26	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed O’Donnell, S.J. 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 11:30 AM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 6:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed O’Donnell, S.J.	9:30 AM: CLOW (Barbelin) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Drexel)

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, on the bookcases in the back of the church 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: Deborah

Hluchan (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 (joetcasey@aol.com)

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 Ministry: 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)