If you lived in Rome around the year 250, and if you wanted to become a Christian, the first thing you had to do was get a sponsor, someone already a Christian who could testify to the community that you were capable of the high moral standard required, especially as compared to the general immorality of the time, and that you were not a Roman spy. The preparation period was long, particularly in years when a persecution was taking place.

Eventually on the First Sunday of Lent, you would celebrate the Rite of Election with the Bishop, during which you would sign the Book of the Elect, indicating your intention to be baptized at the coming Easter.

This was significant; if a new persecution broke out Monday, and the Roman soldiers got the book, you could be arrested just like those already baptized. On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, special Johannine gospels would be read: the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus, followed by scrutinies, not as bad as it sounds because you would not have gotten that far if you did not already know the answers. At the Easter Vigil, after you were baptized by immersion, you would put on a white robe and be given a candle lit from the Easter candle and then receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In 1963 the Second Vatican Council decreed that "The catechumenate for adults...is to be restored." One change is that the scrutinies are now blessings; also you begin the process as an inquirer and then there is a parish Mass where the Rite of Acceptance makes you a catechumen.

At first just for the unbaptized, the rite was extended to baptized non-Catholics and uncatechized Catholics; the latter two however are not re-baptized, though they are confirmed. (There is also a Rite of Christian Initiation for Children which we have not done here.)

- People come to the RCIA in varied ways. Here are some of their stories: (Please note that these stories did not occur here.)

- A woman raised in Japan with no religious upbringing comes to the United States for graduate studies and has an intellectual conversion to Catholicism.

- One Monday at the mid-morning coffee break, a woman talks about something special that happened the day before at her Catholic parish. Later that day, a co-worker, a non-practicing Episcopalian, asks the woman if she knows how he can become a Catholic. She did, and after he completed the RCIA, he became an adult Mass server.

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Continued from front page...

- A girl was baptized as a baby, but had no further Catholic upbringing, because when she was 5, her older brother was killed by a drunken driver and after the funeral her parents never returned to the church, even though the father's sister was a nun. Twenty-some years later, the woman becomes engaged to a fellow-teacher at their public high school, a somewhat practicing Lutheran who has decided to become a Catholic. She accompanies him to the RCIA. When it comes time for him to be received into the church, he asks her father to be his sponsor, bringing both parents back to the church. Six months later I happily presided at their wedding where I gladly let the nun choreograph everything.

I have been involved with RCIA ministry for 16 years and presently I am the Coordinator of the program at our parish. I find it quite beautiful and energizing. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, perhaps you can add another inspiring story to those I have recounted above.

- Father Ed O'Donnell, S.J.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. This is NOT a ticketed event. Doors will open at 7:00 PM. Please enter through Willings Alley/Courtyard. Relaxed parking will be in effect.

All Saints Day Masses:
12:05 and 7:30 PM
Please note that relaxed parking is in effect for these Masses.

Old St Joseph’s Church will continue to host its annual Ministry Fair over the next two weekends (October 29 and November 5). Our ministry volunteers will be available following each Mass to describe their activities and outreach. It is wonderful a opportunity to live your faith and to serve and grow.
UPCOMING EVENTS, Cont’d

OSJ Young Adult Community invites everyone to join in the parish monthly **Sunday Cook-Out in the courtyard, November 5, after the 6:30 PM Sunday Mass**. Come and enjoy good food and good company.

**YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY**

**All Saints’ Day Mass**: For one night only, YAC is moving our standing Tuesday spirituality night to a Wednesday! Please join our young adult community as we join the OSJ parish community to celebrate All Saints’ Day Mass for our next Spirituality Night on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 PM. All Saints’ Day is a holy day of obligation, and mass starts at 7:30 pm in the church. Meet up with young adults in the courtyard after Mass to head out for dinner/drinks to further discuss and reflect on this important feast day.

**Join our Choir!**

Singing in a choir is an excellent way to enter more fully into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church. As an added benefit, joining a choir also provides wonderful camaraderie with fellow musicians. Fortunately, at Old St. Joseph’s, there are numerous opportunities to “find your niche” as a singer. We have two choirs you can choose to join.

**The Schola Cantorum** sings at the 11:30 AM Sunday Mass each week and at special holy days throughout the year. We also sing at special concerts in our Church. Our 14 singers support a varied repertoire of outstanding classical sacred music. Rehearsals are held each Thursday night.

**The Loyola Choir** offers contemporary music combining with instrumentalists at our 6:30 Sunday evening Mass. Rehearsals are each Sunday afternoon at 5:30 PM.

**Want to learn more?** Join us for an upcoming rehearsal! No Obligation. Or, you are welcome to speak with me following Mass some Sunday. You can also contact me at the church music office: music@oldstjoseph.org.

-Mark Bani
Director of Music

The **Old Saint Joseph’s Book Group** will meet on **Tuesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM in the Loyola Room**. We will be discussing a series of short stories by Tim Gautreaux called **Signals**. Gautreaux writes about working families in the southern United States, people trying to get through ordinary, everyday life.
Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

- Rick Bravo
- Deborah Brooks
- Colleen Raymond
- Sara Orkline

- Bernardo Goldrosson
- Allen May
- Sean Pearson
- Adeline Acerno

- MaryLou Jennings
- Anna Krachman
- Lynda Blum-Kahn,
- James McBride

- April DeMatto
- Richard Polosky
- Michael Sheston
- Jerry McBride

- Lydia Staley
- Ed Tomezsko
- Garry Moros
- Joanna Pearl

- Jennifer Moore
- Ava Iezzi
- Patricia Yusko
- Lucy Pearl

- D. Minter
- Sharon Sylvester
- Brice Verdier
- Marjorie Heald

- Joseph Burke
- Jack Lees
- Mary Jacobs
- Marie Jacobs.

- Louis Balestrucci
- Roberto Pupo
- Jerry McAndrews SJ

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.

**OSJ Weekend Relaxed Parking Update**
SE Corner of S. 4th & Walnuts Streets
The area inside the diagonal white line is not included in the relaxed weekend parking. There are no parking signs located at each end of this area. Please do not park within this area as you run the risk of a ticket. Thank you.

**OSJ Parishioner John Trumbore to Receive Award:**
*Holy Name of Camden Ministries is hosting a celebration on Thursday, November 9, at Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield, NJ.* An award will be presented to OSJ Parishioner John Trumbore. Proceeds support the ministries of Holy Name School, Holy Name Scholars, Camden Center for Law and Social Justice, and Guadalupe Family Services. Tickets are $100 per person. For information and reservations, visit www.holynameofcamdenministries.org or call 856-365-1001.

**The Our Father**
Starting today, Sunday, October 29, the Our Father will be sung at the 11:30 AM Choral Mass each week. The familiar setting was the one written by Robert Snow.

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**Join Fr. Dougherty for a Scripture Study** on the book of Deuteronomy on Thursdays in Drexel Parlor at 1:00 PM. The group will meet November 3, 10, 24 and December 7 in the Drexel Parlor.
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP
Offertory Collection for the week ending October 15
Percentage of Online Giving: 40%

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<th>Collection</th>
<th>Regular</th>
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<tr>
<td>Daily Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday Mass</td>
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<td>$4,020.00</td>
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WEEKLY READINGS

Readings from...
Monday: Romans 8; Psalm 68; Luke 13
Tuesday: Romans 8; Psalm 126; Luke 13
Wednesday: Revelations 7; Psalm 24; 1 John 3; Matthew 5
Thursday: Wisdom 3; Psalm 23; Romans 5, 6; John 6
Friday: Romans 9; Psalm 147; Luke 14
Saturday: Romans 11; Psalm 94; Luke 14
Sunday: Malachi 1; Psalm 131; 1 Thessalonians 2; Matthew 23

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

Second Collection
You will be receiving an Archdiocesan solicitation for St. Charles Borromeo’s annual seminary collection in the mail. St Charles Borromeo Seminary remains one of the outstanding schools of Sacred Theology in the United States. In its desire to be of service to the Church, the Seminary places the formation of young men discerning a call to life as a priest as a first priority.

In more recent years many seminaries have come to play a more comprehensive role in intellectual formation of all Catholics in their respective localities. St. Charles Borromeo Seminary embraces this dual role, as a hub of priestly formation and a center of intellectual life for all. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Intention and Presider</th>
<th>Calendar Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 30</td>
<td>12:05 PM Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.</td>
<td>7:30 PM: Fr. Martin Talk (Church)</td>
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<td>Al-Anon (Drexel)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1:00 PM: Scripture Study (Drexel)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 03</td>
<td>12:05 PM Wm. Henry &amp; Rose Mary Eels &amp; Family (D) Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.</td>
<td>10:00 AM: Prep Confirmation Retreat (Barbelin)</td>
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<td>YAC Planning Retreat (Loyola)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:00 PM: Ignatian Spirituality Mtg. (Drexel)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>4:00 PM: Contemplative Leaders (Drexel)</td>
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<td>5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church)</td>
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<td>YAC Weekly Reflections (Greaton)</td>
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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 (jaotcasey@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)