

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Phone: (215) 923-1733  
[www.OLDStJoseph.org](http://www.OLDStJoseph.org)

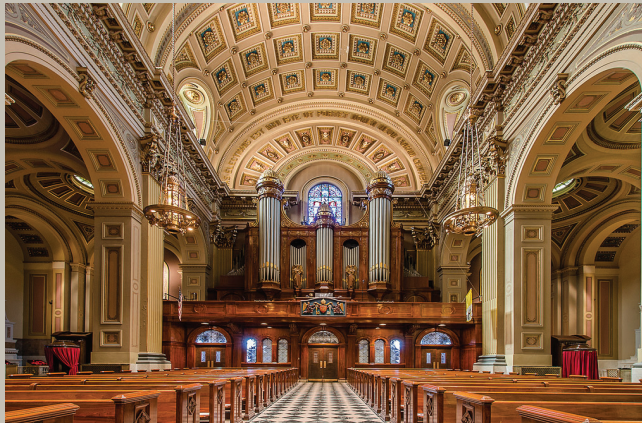
October 22, 2017 | The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## A Visit to the Archdiocese

Recently I was summoned to the Archdiocese. Well, actually it was a meeting for “new pastors,” though most of the other ten priests in the room seemed to be rather seasoned veterans from Philadelphia. Coming from New York, I wondered what would be the same and what would be different in what canon law calls two “local churches” - New York and Philadelphia. It wasn't an auspicious start when before the meeting I heard one priest proclaim to another how much he hated the Yankees. Where I come from, only a Mets fan is allowed to speak like that. And this priest was no Mets fan!

The meeting took place at 222 North 17th Street, the headquarters of the Archdiocese. If you haven't been there, it's a tall office building just behind the Cathedral. On my way, I stopped off at the Cathedral to see it for the first time, to make a visit and say a prayer. It's an impressive edifice, marked I'm sure with a great deal of history. It seemed impeccably cared for, all shined up. Knowing something about what is required to maintain a church building, though on a much smaller scale, I can only imagine the effort that has been expended on the proper maintenance. Perhaps not the most romantic eye to direct to a magnificent holy space, but the practicality of a pastor. Sometimes St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York can seem like a tourist trap with all the visitors. But here in Philadelphia in mid-morning there were only five or six people in sight, making it a good space for meditation, if also a tad lonely. From there it was on to the Archdiocesan headquarters and another adventure.

From the outside, one gets an impression of a company headquarters, not like a church building. Certainly not a “holy space,” like the cathedral. I was immediately ushered up to the 12th floor, to what they call the Archbishop's Board Room. I've been to a few corporate board rooms, which is what this space reminded me of. But it was nicer than any I've been to. There was a warmth in the room, with pictures of the last three popes on the wall. I sat across from the picture of a smiling Pope Francis.



The meeting began with a few Archdiocesan officials speaking to us about “procedures.” The tone was friendly and reflected more a concern for our shared mission than the imposition of one sided authority. They spoke with the

self-confidence of knowing their jobs well so they made their points without hesitation, never failing to underline their desire to help us meet our own responsibilities and to avoid the pitfalls that can set back a parish. I've learned to listen especially for the “pitfalls.”

Then the next three hours were handed over to the lay workers, most of whom were women. As you know, there's much discussion in the Catholic Church today about the role of laity, and of women in particular. As the day wore on, it became clear that in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, when the work of the Church is to be displayed, it's time to call in the women.

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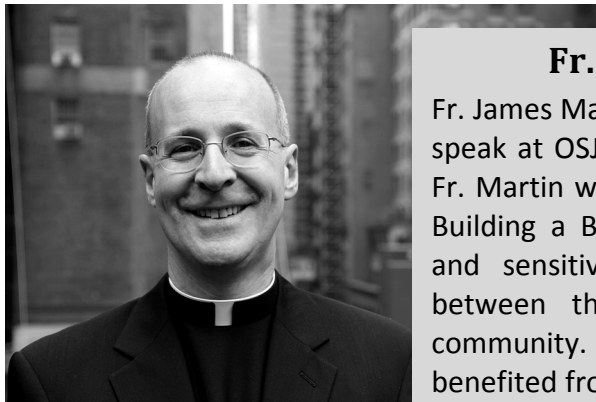
And all these services were being offered to constituencies of every language and ethnic group. I thought of Steve Bannon's charge that the Catholic Church needs "illegal aliens to fill the churches." There must be an easier way to fill a Church, I thought to myself, than working so hard to respond to the poor. In fact, it sounded more like St Luke's description of the first Pentecost event, people from all over the world hearing "in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God." The refrain from the presenters was constant: "This is what we're doing – how can we help you in your parish?" If this is corporate headquarters, what company wouldn't want its bureaucracy to be as open, flexible and responsive as this one? I don't know these people who were speaking to us, but the competence and dedication were quite apparent.

The priests interacted, some more than others. Pastors tend to be the most down to earth and practical of men, and their questions reflected that. Their parishes run soup kitchens and clothing drives and day care programs and all the rest. And yet the number of priests is falling and the parish facilities are being merged or diminished because of financial pressures. I remember a time when the contraction the Church is now facing could be covered over and even denied. But we have moved beyond that. The crisis is here and everyone admits it.

At one point towards the end there was a statement I didn't feel was fully responsive to one troubling issue. I mumbled something under my breath, thinking that no one could hear my dissenting voice. But the priest next to me turned towards me and whispered in my ear. "I agree with you," he said to my surprise. All in all, a pretty good day that expanded my horizons and taught me much about the City of Brotherly Love and the Church that serves it.

Walter F. Modrys, S.J.  
Pastor

## UPCOMING EVENTS

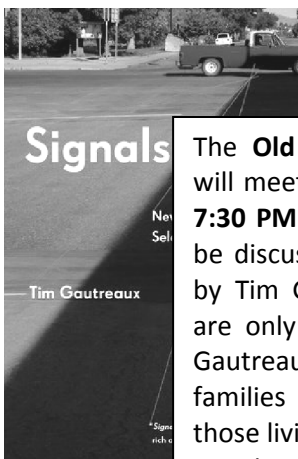


### Fr. Martin to Speak at OSJ

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.



Old St Joseph's Church will host its annual Ministry Fair over the next three weekends (October 22 and 29, and November 5). Our ministry volunteers will be available following each Mass to describe their activities and outreach. It is wonderful opportunity to live your faith and to serve and grow.



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*. We are only reading the first six stories. Gautreaux writes about working families in Louisiana, North Carolina, those living along the Mississippi River, people trying to get through ordinary, everyday life.

## Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

Bernardo Goldrosson

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.

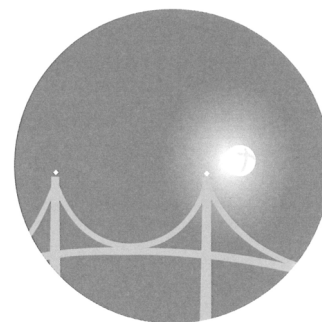


### Parish Home Ministry

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 Parishioner John Trumbore to Receive Award:

**Holy Name of Camden Ministries is hosting a celebration featuring Dr. Ali R. Houshmand, President of Rowan University, on Thursday, November 9, at Tavistock Country Club, Haddonfield, NJ.** An award will be presented to OSJ Parishioner John Trumbore, Volunteer, Holy Name of Camden Ministries. 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.holynamenameofcamdenministries.org](http://www.holynamenameofcamdenministries.org) or call 856-365-1001.



## YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY



**YAC Goes Hiking!** YAC will be heading to **Valley Forge National Park on the morning of Saturday, October 28**, to hike some of the beautiful historic trails there, including the Mt. Misery loop (named, according to legend, because William Penn was once lost there at night). We'll hike for 2-3 hours—mostly easy-moderate topography, with a few steeper inclines along the way. We recommend hikers bring water, wear hiking boots or sturdy walking shoes, and dress for outdoor exercise. Afterwards, we'll head to a restaurant nearby to grab a bite to eat. We will plan to meet at Willings Alley at 9:30 AM, RSVP to Christopher Ross ([g.chris.ross@gmail.com](mailto:g.chris.ross@gmail.com), 610-952-7317). If you have a car and would be willing to drive others, please note that. Contact Chris with any questions, or if you plan to meet us at Valley Forge. Rain date will be Sunday, November 5th. Hope to see you there for some fresh air and autumnal scenery!

**YAC Semi-Annual Steering Committee Retreat:** The OSJ Young Adult Community is coming together to plan and organize for the next 6 months at our Semi-Annual Steering Committee Retreat on **Saturday, November 4 from 10 AM - 4 PM in the Loyola Room.** We invite you to participate and join us for as much of the day as your schedule permits. Our goals for the meeting are to discuss:

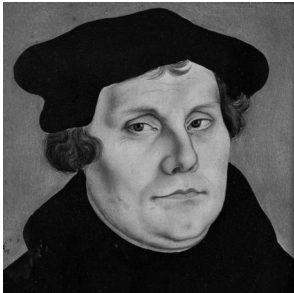
1. Where YAC has been over the past 6 months to 1 year as well where it has been historically
2. What is going well with YAC and what needs improvement
3. Ways to make changes to reflect the needs recognized by the group
4. Who might feel called to take on a leadership role within specific events, projects or within leadership

**If you are unable to attend the meeting in person on November 4, please send any thoughts or recommendations to be brought up in discussion by November 3 to Megan at [mprilutski@gmail.com](mailto:mprilutski@gmail.com).**

Thank you for your participation and dedication to the OSJ Young Adult Community. We hope to see you there!

### An Ecumenical Note:

Martin Luther famously nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. A recent document jointly issued from the Vatican and the Lutheran Church states:



*Catholic and Lutheran Christians will most fittingly look back on events that occurred 500 years earlier by putting the gospel of Jesus Christ at the center. The gospel should be celebrated and communicated to the people of our time so that the world may believe that God gives Godself to human beings and calls us into communion with Godself and God's church. Herein lies the basis for our joy in our common faith.*

To mark this anniversary, the following events are being held in the Philadelphia area. Everyone is invited to attend and participate:

**An Ecumenical Commemoration Reformation Service, Saturday, October 28, 3:00 PM, Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion | 2110 Samson Street, Philadelphia PA, 19103:** This service will commemorate the last 500 years of history of the Reformation through worship and song. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen from Trinity Lutheran Church in Perkasie.

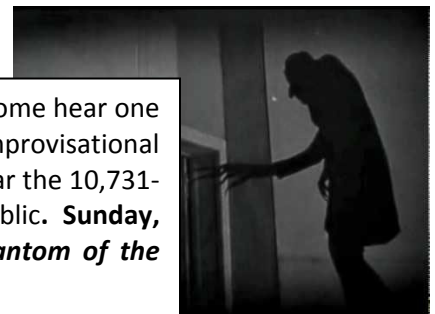
**"Celebrating One Baptism in Christ" | Sunday, October 29 3:00 PM | Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral, 19 South 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia PA, 19104:** Homilists will be The Rev Dr Gordon Lathrop, Pastor Evangelical Lutheran Church of America; and Fr. G. Dennis Gill, Rector and Pastor, Cathedral Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul.



**A Memorial Mass for parishioner Irene Stone will be celebrated on Saturday, November 4, at 10:00 AM.** Father Neil Ver'Schneider, SJ, will celebrate the mass at the Chapel of the Gesu School, 1700 W. Thompson Street, Philadelphia. Light refreshments will be served after Mass. All are invited to join in praying for Irene and entrusting her to the Lord's warm embrace. **RSVP to Cynthia Locke: [cynthia.locke49@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.locke49@gmail.com).**

### AROUND THE CORNER

Experience these silent film classics the way they were meant to be enjoyed. Come hear one of the largest pipe organs in the world with internationally-acclaimed improvisational organist, Peter Krasinski, at the console. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear the 10,731-pipe Curtis Organ. This FREE Penn Halloween tradition is open to the public. **Sunday, October 29 at the Irvine Auditorium 3401 Spruce Street. 2PM Show: *Phantom of the Opera* (1925) 7PM Show: *Nosferatu* (1922)**



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

### Offertory Collection for the week ending

**October 8** (Note: Online donations include monthly donations)

Percentage of Online Giving: 60

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$277.00	n/a	<b>\$222.00</b>
Sunday Mass	\$5,190.25	\$7,815.50	<b>\$13,005.75</b>

### Offertory Collection for the week ending

**October 15**

Percentage of Online Giving: 35%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$231.00	n/a	<b>\$222.00</b>
Sunday Mass	\$6,404.50	\$3,508.69	<b>\$9,913.19</b>

### Second Collection

This weekend, October 21/22, we take up a second collection for **World Mission Sunday**. Each year, the entire Church is invited to support the young mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the poor.

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Readings from...

**Monday:** Romans 4; Luke 1; Luke 12

**Tuesday:** Romans 5; Psalm 40; Luke 12

**Wed.:** Romans 6; Psalm 124; Luke 12

**Thursday:** Romans 6; Psalm 1; Luke 12

**Friday:** Romans 7; Psalm 119; Luke 12

**Saturday:** Ephesians 2; Psalm 19; Luke 6

**Sunday:** Exodus 22; Psalm 18; 1

Thessalonians 1; Matthew 22

*Complete text of the daily readings can be found at [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings).*

## 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](http://www.oldstjoseph.org) and click on the **Online Giving** tab underneath the Important Links column.

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 23	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	6:00 PM PREP (St. Mary's)
Tues 24	12:05 PM <i>Mary M. Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel)
Wed 25	12:05 PM <i>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Thurs 26	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 1:00 PM: Scripture Study (Drexel) 4:30 PM: PREP Confirmation (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Fri 27	12:05 PM <i>Michela Marino (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Sat 28	12:05 PM <i>Clara Romanelli (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 29	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, 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. Walter Modrys, S.J.	9:30 AM: CLOW (Barbelin) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Weekly Reflections (Barbelin)

# 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 book cases in the back of the church and online at [www.oldstjoseph.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@oldstjoseph.org))

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

([eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org))

**Fr. Edward Dougherty S.J.**

([dougherty@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:dougherty@oldstjoseph.org))

**In Residence: Br Robert Carson, S.J.**

**Business Manager: Eric German**

([germane@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:germane@oldstjoseph.org))

**Interim Director of Music: Mark Bani**

([music@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:music@oldstjoseph.org))

**Liturgy Coordinator: Sr. Asunta Thanh, acj**

([liturgy@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:liturgy@oldstjoseph.org))

**Administrative Assistant: Eleanor Margaret**

([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

**Faith, Food & Friends Director: Mary Freedman**

([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

**PREP Coordinator: Christine Szczepanowski**

([prep@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:prep@oldstjoseph.org))

## OSJ Councils and Boards

**Parish Pastoral Council:** ([osjpc@oldstjoseph.org](mailto: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 ([adulsted@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:adulsted@oldstjoseph.org))

**Parish Life:** Joe Casey ([joetcasey@aol.com](mailto:joetcasey@aol.com))

**Ignatian Spirituality and Formation:** John

Bitterman ([osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org))

**Social Justice:** Bethany Welch

([socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org))

## Ministry Leaders

**Altar Servers:** Maria Ramirez,

([mathra71@yahoo.com](mailto:mathra71@yahoo.com))

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Bill Stewart ([wstewart@kaplaw.com](mailto:wstewart@kaplaw.com))

**Hospital Ministry:** Luanne Balestrucci

([lbalestrucci@yahoo.com](mailto:lbalestrucci@yahoo.com))

**Homebound Ministry:** Neal Hébert

([neal9536@gmail.com](mailto:neal9536@gmail.com))

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

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

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:** Peggy Connolly

([pmcon@comcast.net](mailto:pmcon@comcast.net))