

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 3, 2017 | The First Sunday of Advent

The Coming of Many Advents

Advent, the Church's time of preparation for Christmas or the season of the Lord's coming, has been celebrated in various places since at least the fifth century, though it appears in liturgical texts only in the eighth century. The season of Advent varies in length, between twenty-two and twenty-seven days. Originally, before daily Mass became a common custom, Advent was celebrated in the liturgy only on the four Sundays preceding Christmas so these four Sundays defined the season – as they still do. In any event, Advent is much shorter than the secular or commercial run-up to Christmas.

How advent is celebrated has varied. The Advent wreath is popular today, but the custom goes back only sixty years or so. I do not remember seeing an Advent wreath in my childhood either at home or in church. The only candle I remember at this time of year was a single candle in the front window of our house on Christmas Eve to let Joseph and Mary know that we had room for them, according to my mother. At times Advent had a stronger penitential component, fasting and abstinence from meat, like a little Lent. Even now the color of the priests' and deacons' vestments is a Lenten purple or violet, although a few decades ago there was some experimentation with blue for Advent.

A constant in the understanding of Advent has been the celebration of the multiple comings or arrivals of Christ. Much of our faith can be expressed under this imagery.

The first Advent looks to the past when the Lord came as a baby in Bethlehem two thousand years ago, weak and dependent on Mary

and Joseph for nourishment and protection. But this child received homage from angels, shepherds and Magi, as Matthew and Luke tell in the first chapters of their Gospels. As he grew, his majesty stayed hidden from the multitudes who saw him, but did not know who he was.

A second Advent looks to the future and points to that day and hour we know not, the end of time, when Jesus will come in power and glory. He will gather his elect from the four corners of the earth and judge the living and the dead. Then everyone will know that the Son of Man is the Son of God. No one, however, knows when that day will come. All we are told is that it will come like a thief in the night, when we least expect. We are told to watch for it, to be prepared. Despite the terrifying events that are said to accompany that day, Luke in his Gospel tells us to stand up straight and lift up our heads to see our salvation coming.

A third Advent looks at the present time. On this Christmas Day which is fast approaching, we recall and celebrate how Jesus' birth touches us today. His divinity was hidden and people saw only a baby sleeping in a manger, but our faith acknowledges that he is the King of

Kings and Lord of Lords holding all power in his hands and reflecting the glory of God. Jesus comes to us on Christmas Day in our celebration of the Eucharist, in our love for one another, in loved ones' gifts, in meals shared with family and friends, in joy that Christ our Savior has been born.

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Continued from front page...

Finally, this third Advent melds into a fourth Advent – one that also occurs now, not just on Christmas Day but every day. Christ is present now, right now. NOW may be the real “unexpected time.” It just might be that since we can so easily overlook the first three Advents, failing to anticipate his arrival, that this fourth Advent easily escapes us as well. We do not realize the presence of Christ all around us.

Matthew’s Gospel story on the Feast of Christ the King depicting the Last Judgment warns us how easily we can miss this Fourth Advent. Not even the just had noticed that it was Christ they were feeding or clothing or housing. How could they have missed the Christ in their midst? But not recognizing Jesus’ presence in and among us is why a somber tone always seems to accompany Advent. It is not quite the penitential tone of repentance and penance for sin as in Lent, but rather a lament expressing our longing for Christ. We know he is the Prince of Peace, the Wonderful Counselor, and the Mighty God for whom we long. And so we sing the Advent hymn: “Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here.” And as we sing those words, our faith urges us to awake from our sleep and confess that indeed Emmanuel is already with us.

Father Edward Dougherty, S.J.

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, our senior neighbors at Old City Presbyterian Apartments, and immigrant families in the Aquinas Center community.

Remember to bring your gift, **wrapped and with the tag attached**, to church by the Deadline stated on the gift tag:

For Presbyterian Homes: December 10

For Gesu, Rowan Homes and Aquinas Center: December 17

If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, contact Charles Capaldi at ccapaldib5@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Please come and join with other OSJ parishioners and help spread holiday cheer at the party on **December 17 from 2 to 4 PM** at the Presbyterian Apartments.



**The Immaculate
Conception of the
Virgin Mary**
Friday, December 8
Mass: 12:05 and
7:30 PM
**Please note: relaxed
parking is in effect for
both Masses.**



**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

On Sunday, December 17, at 3:00 PM our parish clergy, choir, and lectors will present **Lessons and Carols**. This 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. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted. A reception will follow.



Christmas Caroling: Led by our very own Mark Bani and members of the OSJ choirs, the group departs **TODAY, December 3, at 3:15 PM** from Old St. Joseph's Church to sing carols in the neighborhood. Our caroling walk will culminate at the Headhouse Square Shambles (2nd/Lombard Streets) for more carols before the Christmas tree lighting and Santa's arrival on a fire truck at 4:30 PM. All are welcome!



OSJ Young Adult Community invites everyone to join in the parish monthly **Sunday Cook-Out in Barbelin Hall on December 10, after the 6:30 PM Sunday Mass.** Come and enjoy good food and good company.

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY

The centering prayer group will meet on Wednesday, December 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor. **Note that we will meet on the second Wednesday for this month only.** The meeting will include discussion of centering prayer followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome to join us. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com .

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.

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 this weekend, December 2 and 3.**

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

Hats, Gloves, and Warm Socks Collection: Cold weather has arrived and YAC is responding to the need for warm clothing by coordinating a drive with Food, Faith and Friends. We are looking for donations of men's gloves, warm socks, hats, and scarves. Donations can be dropped off at YAC spirituality nights, pre-Mass reflection groups, and at the December Cook-In. **The last day for submission is at next weekend's cook-in on Sunday, December 10 after the 6:30 PM Mass.** Please email Megan at mprilutski@gmail.com with any questions.

Young Adult Pre-Mass Reflection Group, Sundays, Meet in Willings Alley: All young adults are invited to prepare and reflect as a group for the Sunday readings that will be proclaimed at the 6:30 Mass. Prayer will begin at **5:30 PM** in Greaton Parlor, end between 6:15/6:20, and materials will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact us at **osjyac@gmail.com**

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Volunteers are needed for decorating the church for Christmas in the afternoon on Saturday, December 23. Volunteers are also needed to help with hospitality after 4:00, 6:30, and 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Masses. Please contact Joe Casey at joetcasey@aol.com or 215-843-3573 to volunteer.

Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers: assignments for December and January are now posted online. We're also looking for new volunteers; scheduling is flexible and training will be provided! Sign up through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. Thank you!

Requiescat in pace



Sharon Sylvester

OSJ parishioner Sharon Sylvester passed away on November 23, 2017. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Columba Church in Bloomsburg, PA on December 2. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Catholic Worker Movement (catholicworker.org).

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her; may her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

AROUND THE CORNER

The Christmas Creche Committee and the Friends of the Nativity invite you to attend the **21st Annual Blessing of the City of Philadelphia Nativity Scene** on **Wednesday, December 13**, at 3:00 pm at 18th and Race Sts., adjacent to the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

Gesu School presents their annual Christmas Concert in the Church of the Gesu (corner of N 18th St. and Wiles St.) at **7:00 pm on Thursday, December 14**. Come to hear the angelic voices of the choir and share Christmas joy! All are welcome.

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

Mildred Barnett	Deborah Brooks	Louise CoCo
Arlene Vattimo	Ed Tomezsko	Sara Orkline
Catherine Keddie	Louis Balestrucci	Adeline Acerno
Rick Bravo	Jerry McAndrews SJ	James McBride
Bernardo Goldrosson	April DeMatto	Jerry McBride
MaryLou Jennings	Lydia Staley	Joanna Pearl
D. Minter	Jennifer Moore	Lucy Pearl
Joseph Burke	Marie Jacobs	Marjorie Heald

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

Offertory Collection for the week ending November 12
Percentage of Online Giving: 42%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$222.00	n/a	\$222.00
Sunday Mass	\$4,875.00	\$3,578.00	\$8,453.00

Offertory Collection for the week ending November 19
Percentage of Online Giving: 41%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$208.00	n/a	\$208.00
Sunday Mass	\$6,917.00	\$4,833.00	\$11,750.00

Offertory Collection for the week ending November 26
Percentage of Online Giving: 36%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$196.00	n/a	\$196.00
Sunday Mass	\$5,706.50	\$3,220.00	\$8,926.50

Weekly Readings



Readings from...

Monday: Isaiah 2; Psalm 122; Matthew 8 **Tuesday:** Isaiah 11; Psalm 72; Luke 10 **Wednesday:** Isaiah 25; Psalm 23; Matthew 15 **Thursday:** Isaiah 26; Psalm 118; Matthew 7 **Friday:** Genesis 3; Psalm 98; Ephesians 1; Luke 1 **Saturday:** Isaiah 30; Psalm 147; Matthew 9 and 10 **Sunday:** Isaiah 40; Psalm 85, Peter 3; Mark 1

Complete text of the daily readings can be found at
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 and click on the **Online Giving** tab underneath the Important Links column.

Second Collection

This week we will take up a second collection for the Retirement Fund of Religious (RFR). Catholic bishops of the United States launched the RFR to address the significant lack of retirement funding for Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests in religious orders. Your donation helps religious communities provide for aging members and plan for long-term need. Thank you for your generosity.

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 04	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 05	12:05 PM <i>Jack Goushian (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:30 PM: OSJ Book Group (Loyola)
Wed 06	12:05 PM <i>Dorothy May (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Thurs 07	12:05 PM <i>Daniel Herdman (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 1:00 PM: Scripture Study (Drexel) 6:30 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Fri 08	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 12:05 PM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. 7:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell	
Sat 09	12:05 PM <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 10	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell 11:30 AM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 6:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell	9:30 AM: CLOW (Barbelin) 11:00 AM: Ignatian Spirituality Mtg. (Drexel) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) 7:30 PM: YAC Cookout

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)