

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

January 28, 2018 | The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Preparing for Easter

I've always found the question, "What did you give up for Lent?" kind of intimidating. It makes Lent sound like an exercise program for strong willed people – and that's never been my strong suit. I usually make it to the third day of Lent and I've already broken all my resolutions. So much for will power!

But there's some comfort for weak willed people. Lent is not the **most** important season of the Church's year. Lent is really important because it prepares us for Easter. The real Lenten question, therefore, should be, "How are you preparing for Easter?" It's sounds a little corny, but I've always liked the phrase, "We are an Easter people!" Easter should always be our focus.

Lent starts early this year – on February 14th. And I would like to suggest a way we can prepare for Easter this year at Old St Joseph's.

I've put together a program that extends over four evenings. The topic is a delicate subject. I've been thinking about it for a couple of months. And frankly, from what I have observed since coming to Old St Joe's as pastor, I think it's much needed and right on target. My impression was confirmed in a recent conversation with a parishioner.

She said to me, "You Jesuits never talk about sin except as a social evil. You give us 'Catholic light.' You never speak about our personal lives and what we do wrong, where we need help." Wow, I thought to myself, is that right? In fact, this parishioner touched on a nerve that had been bothering me, too. Let me explain what this has to do with Lent and preparing for Easter.

It really concerns first of all what moral theologians call the formation of conscience. And for us, this naturally segues into the question about sin. This Lent I want to talk about sin: Where is sin in our lives? How do we recognize it in our lives? How do we "name" our sins? What's the difference between mortal sin and venial sin? Pardon me if I'm wrong, but I have the impression that many of us have – perhaps – never heard an adult-level discussion of this topic. The result is that we walk around having to make mature judgments all the time, but with a formal education that goes all the way back to childhood, which of course is totally inadequate when we have to deal with adult challenges.

We've all been subjected to hundreds of hours of comedians making fun of us Catholics because we are supposedly so mired in guilt. "Catholic guilt" is a great punch line. So when we speak of sin, are we all going to be weighed down with the depressing thought that we are all going to hell? The truth is that because we are Christians, we can never talk about sin without speaking of God's forgiveness and mercy. On this topic St Ignatius in his *Spiritual*

(continued on next page)



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.

*Exercises* was an excellent guide. For Ignatius, confronting our own sinfulness in the presence of God is an occasion of grace. It inspires not depression, but moves us to embrace enthusiastically Christ's call to become a disciple. How can that be?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is meant to capture this grace-filled experience of contrition, mercy and the call to discipleship. But our previous formal religious education too frequently reduced this moment to either a guilt-ridden recitation of our "sins" or a laundry list of our faults. That's why one of Stephen Colbert's comedy routines is to make a parody of "going to confession" in a darkened closet to a priest behind a screen. Everybody laughs.

What we contend with all too frequently today is the celebration of the great encounter with a merciful God reduced to a religious exercise that few Catholics find appealing or meaningful and most actually shun. I'm asking, what can we do to recover the genuine spirit of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to restore it to its rightful place in our life of faith. Believe it or not, the Church has frequently in the past experienced difficulties with this sacrament. So is the real answer to our dilemma about Reconciliation to try to return to some alleged "golden age" of long lines of people "going to confession"? Or is there some deeper understanding of our sinfulness and the mystery of God's forgiveness and love that we should be celebrating in our life of faith today?

These are provocative questions. My plan for this Lent is to prepare for Easter by starting to reflect upon them. It's a big program. And it may not work. But if you want to join me, here's the schedule. (We'll begin the week before Ash Wednesday to make sure we fit everything in before Easter.)

Feb 6	Three Levels of Moral Living
Feb 20	What it Means to be a Redeemed Sinner
Mar 13	The Church's Long Struggle with Confession
Mar 27	Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation

—Fr. Walter F. Modrys, S.J.  
Pastor

As Father Modrys said recently, a generous spirit thrives at OSJ. Once again, you helped the **Social Justice Committee** gather and distribute armfuls of Christmas gifts this year **to our senior neighbors at Old City Presbyterian Apartments** at a Christmas party on December 17, 2017. Thanks to Denise and John for decorating and Tim and Lisa for baking and Bethany for welcoming all the guests. Caroling was led by Paul and several feisty seniors who were the warm-up act for a soprano saxophonist who rocked the place and got the seniors on their feet and dancing!! And for many, the greatest gift of the day was the chance to step outside the hustle and bustle of Christmas and sing, eat cookies and share an afternoon with our neighbors! Thanks to all of you for making this work out so well.

—Beth Shay

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Lenten Scripture Study*

Fr. Dougherty will be covering the Book of Qoheleth, also called Ecclesiastes on Thursdays in the Drexel parlor at 1:00 pm: February 15 & 22, March 1, 15, 22, & 29. All are invited! *NOTE: There will be no session on March 8*

**The OSJ Book Group has CHANGED ITS MEETING TIME!** We will gather at Frida's Cafe on Saturday 10 February at 10 a.m. for coffee and conversation. Frida's Cafe is on Walnut Street between 3rd and 4th Street. A table will be reserved for us. The book is still Ann Patchett's *State of Wonder*. Please contact shlosscarol@gmail.com with questions. This group welcomes new members.

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

Karen Lockyer	Allen May	Ann Frances Tozzi
Jack Lees	Deborah Brooks	Louise CoCo
Mildred Barnett	Ed Tomezsko	Sara Orkline
Arlene Vattimo	Louis Balestrucci	Adeline Acerno
Catherine Keddie	Jerry McAndrews SJ	James McBride
Rick Bravo	April DeMatto	Jerry McBride
Bernardo Goldrosson	Lydia Staley	Joanna Pearl
MaryLou Jennings	Jennifer Moore	Lucy Pearl
D. Minter	Marie Jacobs	Marjorie Heald
Joseph Burke	Patricia Yusko	Joan Nichol

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 January 21  
Percentage of Online Giving: 46%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$202.00	n/a	<b>\$202.00</b>
Sunday Mass	\$5,148.00	\$4,298.00	<b>\$9,446.00</b>
Catholic Relief Services	\$1,232.00	\$30.00	<b>\$1,262.00</b>
Christmas	\$31,122.00	\$2,797.00	<b>\$34,122.00</b>
Christmas Music	\$1,001.00	\$2,074.00	<b>\$3,075.00</b>
Christmas Flowers	\$1,001.00	\$328.00	<b>\$1,329.00</b>
Solemnity of Mary	\$598.00	\$300.00	<b>\$898.00</b>
<b>Second Collection Fund now active on Online Giving:</b>			
<i>Catholic Relief Services now through February 11</i>			

## 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.

## WEEKLY READINGS



### Readings from...

Monday: 2 Samuel 15 & 16; Psalm 3; Mark 5  
 Tuesday: 2 Samuel 18; Psalm 86; Mark 5  
 Wednesday: 2 Samuel 24; Psalm 32; Mark 6  
 Thursday: 1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 29; Mark 6  
 Friday: Malachi 3; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2; Luke 2  
 Saturday: 1 Kings 3; Psalm 119; Mark 6  
 Sunday: Job 7; Psalm 147; 1 Corinthians 9; Mark 1

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

### 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? 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.)

Please check out the newly updated Jesuit Vocation Website at <https://www.beajesuit.org/>

## YOUNG ADULTS

**Seekers' Retreat for Young Adults** Are you searching for deeper ways to integrate faith into your everyday life? Are you curious about how you can experience God in all things? Charis Ministries, a Jesuit ministry for those in their 20s and 30s, and St. Raphaela Center, a retreat ministry of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus located in Haverford, PA, are coming together to host a young adult Seekers' Retreat for men and women in their 20s and 30s. It will start on Friday, March 2nd, at 6:30pm and end on Sunday, March 4th, at 1pm. Registration is open and can be accessed online at [straphaelacenter.org](http://straphaelacenter.org). Cost is \$170, with a \$100 deposit. Registration deadline is February 28th. Questions? Email [ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org](mailto:ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org).

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 29	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	6:00 PM: Prep (St. Mary's School) 6:30 PM: Mental Health First Aid (Barbelin)
Tues 30	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel)
Wed 31	12:05 PM <i>Deceased Members of the Croft &amp; Farris Families</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	6:30 PM: Mental Health First Aid (Barbelin)
Thurs 1	12:05 PM <i>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Fri 2	12:05 PM <i>James &amp; Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	
Sat 3	12:05 PM <i>Irene Stone (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 12:05PM: First Saturday Anointing
Sun 4	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, 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) 11:00 AM: Ignatia Spirituality Mtg. (Loyola) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

## Relaxed Parking Update:

The city had not renewed our Sunday relaxed parking on Walnut St. between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sts. Relaxed parking is now only on the west side of South 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Walnut and Spruce and on the north side of the 400 block of Locust Street (yellow placard). The placard for the 4<sup>th</sup> St and Locust St parking (directly below) is available in the vestibule of the church and online. If you have any of the pink Walnut St. placards (bottom) in your car please dispose of them. **You will be ticketed if you park on Walnut St.**

### Attending services at Old St. Joseph's Church 321 Willings Alley, Philadelphia PA

**LOCATIONS FOR PARKING:** Both sides of 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Walnut to Spruce Streets & both sides of Locust Street from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. The bearer of this certificate understands that this does not include flagrant parking violations such as parking across a driveway or crosswalk; on the footway; next to a fire hydrant; double-parking, etc. This notice may only be used during 1.) Weekend Sunday Masses including the Saturday evening Vigil. 2.) Weddings falling on a Saturday or Sunday 3.) Holyday or special evening masses and/or receptions but not before 6:30pm which is the end of rush hour, Mon. thru Fri., except on holidays. 4.) Funeral Viewing and/or Mass.

### ~~Walnut Street Parking Relaxation Notice Attending Sunday Morning Services at Old St. Joseph's Church~~

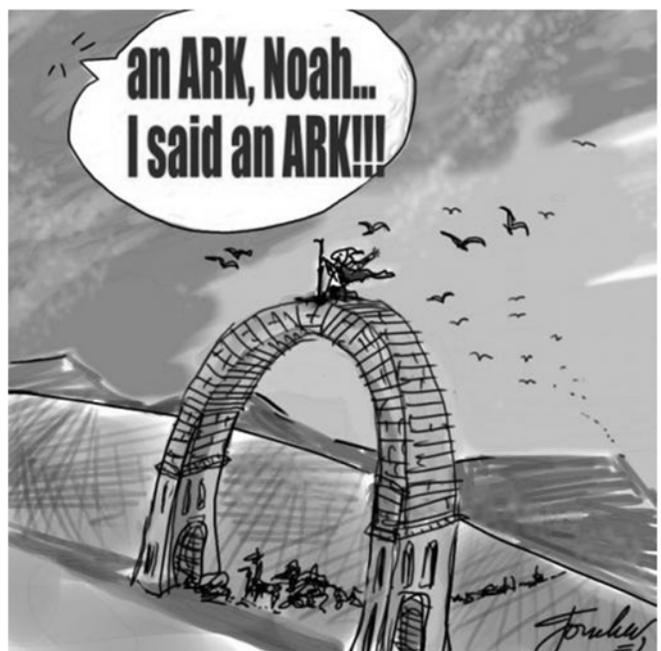
~~321 Willings Alley, Philadelphia PA~~

~~This notice may be used for relaxed parking on the NORTH SIDE OF WALNUT STREET BETWEEN 3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> STREETS ONLY AND BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 AM AND 1:00PM ON SUNDAYS AND MAY NOT BE USED ON ANY OTHER DAY OR ON ANY OTHER STREET. The bearer of this certificate understands that this does not include flagrant parking violations such as parking across a driveway or crosswalk; on the footway; next to a fire hydrant; double-parking, etc.~~

## Around the Corner



**Catholic History Lecture:** On Sunday, February 11, at 2:00 pm, Dr. Tia Pratt of Saint Joseph's University will talk about her sociological research into the legacy of racism in the urban parish at the American Catholic Historical Society (263 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street). The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit please visit [www.amchs.org](http://www.amchs.org).



# 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](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))

**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: Deborah**

**Hluchan** ([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 ([adulted@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:adulted@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))