

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 7, 2018 | The Epiphany of the Lord

Thirty Years of Epiphanies at OSJ



I have always been partial to Epiphany and the Three Wise Men, and every year I look forward to receiving a Magi card at Christmas time. This year, the card arrived on December 22. Someone told me years ago that it was always a sign of good luck to receive these cards.

The day after Epiphany, on January 4, 1988, 30 years ago, I started working full-time when Fr. Bill Watters hired me to be the cook for the Jesuit community. I was 26. There were eight resident priests living in the rectory then with half of them assigned to St. Joseph's Prep. Never having cooked full time before, I sweated quite a bit for the first few months and wondered if I'd made the right move. I learned quickly that prep and timing were crucial to cooking.

While I cooked for the first 10 years, I also filled in as the director of music for the 9:30 Mass adult and children's choirs between 1994 - 1999. And over the years I also played for approximately 200 funeral Masses here. Back in the early to mid-90s, when Fr. Jim Casciotti was

pastor, OSJ was about the only Catholic church in the city which allowed alienated Catholics who were victims of the AIDS epidemic to have a proper Catholic Mass and burial. OSJ has always been somewhat ahead of the curve when it comes to compassion, acceptance and forward thinking. Truly, "All are welcome here."

In 1998 I was promoted to parish administrative assistant by Fr. Bill Rickle and I held that position for 15 years until the spring of 2013 when I became the business manager under Fr. Dan Ruff.

For the majority of my years at OSJ I had the great fortune of working with Pat DiLauro, who was hired back in 1987 as the secretary to Fr. Watters. Pat's job soon morphed into business manager for the parish. Without Pat's help, friendship and humor over the years, I doubt I'd still be here.

I credit my longevity at OSJ as proof that God truly does work in mysterious ways. If you had told me when I graduated high school that I'd be working for the Catholic Church for 30 years I would have told you to trade in your wise men! I also learned over the years that humor is one of God's greatest gifts to humankind. E. M. Skinner, the builder of our lovely 1923 pipe organ and many other instruments of great beauty, might agree based on a dream he recounts from early in his career:

"I dreamed that I died and met the Most High who took me up in his arms as 'tho I were an infant and talked to me for quite a long time and finally answered a question I asked in so witty a manner that I had to laugh and laughed so heartily that I woke up laughing and was grieved beyond words to realize it to be a dream which ...I have never forgotten ... It has really influenced my whole life..."

Over these three decades I have experienced personal epiphanies, witnessed innumerable acts of kindness and compassion, and have made many wonderful friends. Possessing a job for which Monday mornings were not a grind but a pleasant return has been a tremendous stroke of luck. I thank everyone for their help and support over the many years and I wish you to know that whatever the job, I have always given my best efforts to Old St. Joseph's and will continue to do so. I wish each of you a very Happy Epiphany and New Year.

—Eric C German

—Photo: Summer 1988 with OSJ parishioners and benefactors Tish & Gene Principato (RIP)



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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING

One in five Americans will experience psychiatric symptoms in a given year. Learn the warning signs and how YOU can help!

This 8-hour course teaches how to assist a person experiencing a behavioral health problem. It presents the skills needed to identify, understand and respond to signs of behavioral health challenges, and how First Aid is administered until appropriate treatments and supports are received or until the crisis is resolved.

The program extends over four evenings from **6:30 – 8:30 PM in Barbelin Hall:**

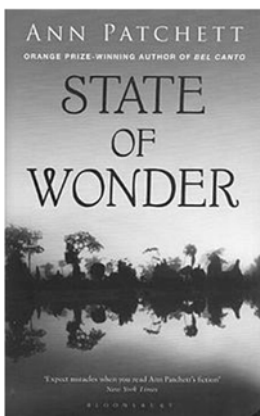
Monday, January 22

Wednesday, January 24

Monday, January 29

Wednesday, January 31

The presenter will be parishioner, Stephen Paesani. Everyone completing the full 8 hours will be certified to provide Mental Health First Aid. We need a minimum of 10 people to sign up for the training. **Please RSVP to adulted@oldstjoseph.org by Friday January 19, 2018.**



The OSJ Book Group will NOT meet in January. We will reassemble on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:30 PM in the Loyola Room. **Our book is *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett.** This novel takes a Midwesterner to the Amazon in search of a lost colleague, a journey that calls all her values into question.

The OSJ Book Group consists of avid readers, lively discussion and provides a chance to examine spiritual values in the context of fictional narratives. It meets once a month and provides parishioners with both intellectual challenge and a chance to know each other through sharing their reading experience. If you are interested, please contact shlosscarol@gmail.com or simply pick up a copy of the book and come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Resolve to get more involved in your parish in 2018! **Our beautiful liturgies need Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and Ushers!** Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided! Sign up through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. That's the Magis!



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 15
Confessions: 11:30 AM - 12:05 PM Mass
Rectory Hours: 11 AM – 1 PM

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

YAC Resumes Today! The group will resume this weekend at 5:30 PM in Greaton Parlor on Sunday, January 7. Our spirituality nights will resume on Tuesday, January 9. Questions? Email us at osjyac@gmail.com

Relaxed Parking Update:

The city had not renewed our Sunday relaxed parking on Walnut St. between 3rd and 4th Sts. Relaxed parking is now only on the west side of South 4th Street between Walnut and Spruce and on the north side of the 400 block of Locust Street (yellow placard). The placard for the 4th 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 4th Street from Walnut to Spruce Streets & both sides of Locust Street from 4th to 5th 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.) Holiday 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 3RD & 4TH 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.~~



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for including Aquinas Center in the Giving Tree this Advent. Your generosity benefited three families with small children, two from Mexico and one that arrived from Nepal on Dec 21. This refugee family, which includes an infant less than two months old, has fled the very worst that humans do to each other. Thank you for making room in your hearts for those, who like the Holy Family, have had to migrate under threat of violence.

Peace and blessings in 2018!

Bethany J. Welch, Ph.D.
 Parishioner & Executive Director
 Aquinas Center

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

Richard Polosky
 Jack Lees
 Mildred Barnett
 Arlene Vattimo
 Catherine Keddie
 Rick Bravo
 Bernardo Goldrosson
 MaryLou Jennings
 D. Minter
 Joseph Burke

Allen May
 Deborah Brooks
 Ed Tomezsko
 Louis Balestrucci
 Jerry McAndrews SJ
 April DeMatto
 Lydia Staley
 Jennifer Moore
 Marie Jacobs
 Patricia Yusko
 Karen Lockyer

Ann Frances Tozzi
 Louise CoCo
 Sara Orkline
 Adeline Acerno
 James McBride
 Jerry McBride
 Joanna Pearl
 Lucy Pearl
 Marjorie Heald
 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

ONLINE GIVING

Offertory Collection for the week ending December 31
Percentage of Online Giving: 40%

| Collection | Regular | Online | Total |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| Daily Mass | \$101.00 | n/a | \$101.00 |
| Sunday Mass | \$6,397.00 | \$4,330.00 | \$10,727.00 |

WEEKLY READINGS



Readings from...

Monday: Isaiah 42; Psalm 29; Mark 1
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 1; Mark 1; Mark 1
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 3; Psalm 40; Mark 1
Thursday: 1 Samuel 4; Psalm 44; Mark 1
Friday: 1 Samuel 8; Psalm 89; Mark 2
Saturday: 1 Samuel 9; Psalm 21; Mark 2
Sunday: 1 Samuel 3; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 6; John 1

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? 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 8 | 12:05 PM <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J. | 6:00 PM: PREP Classes (St. Mary's) 6:30 PM: Women's Group (Loyola) 7:30 PM: Liturgy Mtg. (Drexel) |
| Tues 9 | 12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. | 12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:00 PM: Pre-Baptism Class (Drexel) YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin) 7:30 PM: CLC1 (Faber) |
| Wed 10 | 12:05 PM <i>Vito Caprio (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. | |
| Thurs 11 | 12:05 PM <i>Joan Panaccio (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J. | 12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin) PIC Planning Mtg (Drexel) 7:15 PM: RCIA (Church) |
| Fri 12 | 12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J. | |
| Sat 13 | 12:05 PM <i>Dr. Daniel Boyle (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. | 12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) |
| Sun 14 | 7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J. 11:30 AM Presider: Fr. Frederico, 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 (Greaton) |

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)

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)