

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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www.OLDSTJOSEPH.ORG

February 4, 2018 | The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

I've probably read a thousand articles (I exaggerate) about what makes a really good parish. But one author I came across emphasized a point that is all too frequently overlooked, maybe because it seems so mundane. He said, make sure there's a good sound system. When people come to Church, they want to hear what's being said. Hopefully, what they hear will be meaningful, too, but that's a further matter. First, they have to hear.

Based on parishioner comments, here at Old St Joe's we need to pay heed to this advice. So we are now in the process of installing a new sound system. Hopefully, the all too familiar and deflating comment, "Father, I couldn't hear you," will be a thing of the past, or at least rarely voiced. I want to tell you how this has come about.

Almost immediately after coming to Old St Joe's, I realized we have a problem with the sound system. "Can we fix it?" I asked. "We already tried that" was the response. I was astounded, being told that

thousands of dollars had already been spent to no avail. "We just have to accept what we got and live with it," was the prevailing sentiment, as if modern technology cannot amplify sound in a space like Old St Joseph.

This sounded very fishy to me. So I did some investigating.

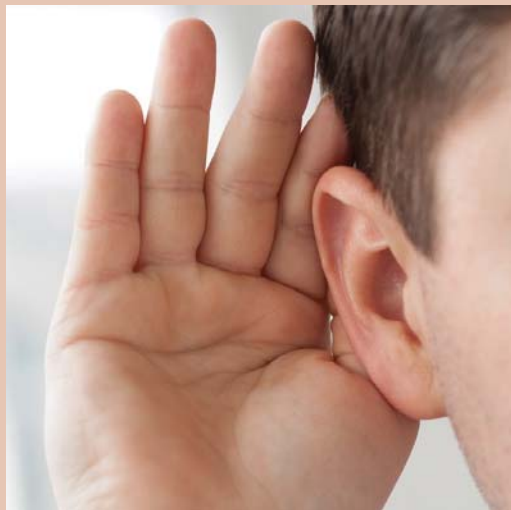
I've been working on Church sound systems for years. Just before coming to Old St Joe's, I worked with a company in New York called Monte Brothers. So I gave them a call. As it turns out, the manager of the company boasted that he had supplied the sound system that was used for the Pope's visit to Philadelphia. I further learned that the company does a lot of work in Philadelphia Churches, including the Cathedral. So they are no strangers to our city. They studied our situation at Old St Joe's and evaluated the equipment we were using.

They told me that the system is very old for the most part, though there are some components of more recent vintage that can be retained and incorporated into a new system. For example, the wire loop under the floor boards that activates hearing devices for the hearing impaired works fine. Similarly, a new amplifier was installed in recent years that is entirely satisfactory. Much of the rest of the system, however, (speakers, wiring, technology) is long past its usefulness.

I asked them to propose a new sound system that would bring us up to today's standard and would make a world of difference in a space like Old Saint Joe's.

Then I asked myself, where did all the money go that was allegedly spent in past years? I did some checking – going all the way back to 2010. Parish financial records indicate that in the past eight and a half years, we have spent \$9,474.56. I counted every penny I could find. The records showed that much of this money was spent on ordinary maintenance. And some money – about \$3,000 – was spent about five years ago on a "study" which frankly I think was not very useful. Some of the money must have been used to purchase the more recent equipment in the present system. But that's it, at least over the last seven years – and maybe beyond. No vast outlay of cash that

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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.

would make it embarrassing now to spend more money after bad.

**The conclusion: there is no record of large expenditures of parish money in recent years on the Church sound system.**

I spoke with Fr. Florio, our former pastor, who confirmed that conclusion. So I don't know why there is such a widespread impression in the Parish that "tens of thousands of dollars" were spent. In other words, I think it is time to move ahead. And after conferring with a number of Parish advisors, including the Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Council, that is what we have done.

I received a proposal from Monte Brothers, the firm I mentioned above. Their proposal specifies exactly what we need in the Church and amounts to slightly less than \$36,000.

In addition, we also need to upgrade the sound system in Barbelin Hall because the present system is virtually inoperative and beyond all repair. The cost for a new system is \$14,000. Since one of our parish goals is to continue – and even expand – the use of Barbelin Hall for all kinds of events, (including lectures and discussions and, in particular, this year's Lenten program), we can't ignore this Parish need. We cannot sponsor such programs without entirely revamping the present sound system in the Hall.

That's a lot of money. But I think it is money well spent. We don't want "band aids." And we don't want a second-rate sound system – they are readily available – that will never satisfy our needs. We are now working with a good company that has a very long track record. I personally have had significant recent experience with them in another setting. I am confident that this work is being completed in a satisfactory fashion and will provide us with high quality and reliable sound systems.

How will this expense be funded? I am happy to report that a significant part of the funding is already in place, though we need your support to complete the project to avoid drawing on Parish reserves. We have received a \$30,000 grant from an anonymous donor. Further, we have received a \$10,000 grant from a generous benefactor. That leaves a \$10,000 gap. My hope is that some kind person will come forward to help us close this funding gap - in whole or in part.

Centuries ago, we are told the Lord commanded the prophet to "go up on a high mountain to shout with a loud voice." Symbolic language to be sure, but the injunction to make oneself heard when proclaiming the Good News is a timeless command. Utilizing available technology to insure that everyone can hear does not trivialize the biblical command when we assemble in Church as the people of God to hear the word of God proclaimed "with a loud voice."

Father Walter F. Modrys, S.J.  
Pastor

## LOOKING TOWARDS LENT

**Ash Wednesday**, the start of Lent, falls on **Wednesday, February 14** this year. Confessions will be heard from 11:30am until Noon. Ashes will be distributed during our Masses at 12:05pm and 7:30pm.



### *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*

# TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES



*presented by* FR. MODRYS

February 6: *Formation of Conscience*  
February 20: *First Week of the Ignatian Exercises*  
March 13: *The History of Reconciliation*  
March 27: *Communal Penance Service*

The three lectures will take place in Barbelin Hall  
and the Penance Service will be held in the church. All will begin at 7:30 PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**The Presidents Day Holiday falls on Monday, February 19 this year.** Confessions and daily Mass will take place as usual. The parish office will be open from 11:00am to 1:00pm only.

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](mailto: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
Christine Mari-Mazzola	Mary Jacobs	

Pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

*Names will be removed after 4 weeks unless a request is renewed.*



**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

**Bringing Communion to the Homebound**

When people are ill or indisposed and so confined to home, one of the things they most miss is attending mass and receiving communion. Parish volunteers serve as Eucharistic Ministers to bring Communion to the homebound. If you – or someone you know as a family member, friend or neighbor – have such a need and would like to receive Communion, contact the Parish Rectory so that we can arrange a visit. It’s easy. Just call the Rectory, even on behalf of someone else (with their approval, of course).

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

**Offertory Collection for the week ending January 28**

**Percentage of Online Giving: 42%**

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$256.00	n/a	<b>\$256.00</b>
Sunday Mass	\$5,172.00	\$3,809.50	<b>\$8,981.50</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: 1 Kings 8; Psalm 132; Mark 6
- Tuesday: 1 Kings 8; Psalm 84; Mark 7
- Wednesday: 1 Kings 10; Psalm 37; Mark 7
- Thursday: 1 Kings 1; Psalm 106; Mark 7
- Friday: 1 Kings 11 & 12; Psalm 81; Mark 7
- Saturday: 1 Kings 12 & 13; Psalm 106; Mark 8
- Sunday: Leviticus 13; Psalm 32; 1 Corinthians 10; 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

OSJ Young Adult Community invites everyone to join in the parish monthly **Sunday Cook-In in Barbelin Hall NEXT SUNDAY, February 11, after the 6:30 PM Sunday Mass.** Come and enjoy good food and good company.

### ***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? Chris 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 Feb.28. Questions? Email [ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org](mailto:ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org).

## AROUND the CORNER



### **Catholic History Lecture**

**Next 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).

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 5	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: Women's Group (Loyola)
Tues 6	12:05 PM <i>Owen McCrudden (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:30 PM: Talk: <i>Formation of Conscience</i> (Barbelin)
Wed 7	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Thurs 8	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) 7:15 PM: RCIA (Drexel)
Fri 9	12:05 PM <i>James A. Ford (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Sat 10	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 11	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Chuck Frederico, 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) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) 7:30 PM: Cook-In (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 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))