

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

February 18, 2018 | First Sunday in Lent

## Lenten Lecture Series ~ Week 1

In the first of three lectures, given on Tuesday, February 6th, we asked the deceptively difficult and provocative question, What is a Sin?

One simple answer is a sin is a transgression of God's law. That's a valid answer, of course, but it only goes so far. To really answer the question we widened the context. To help our discussion along, I described three levels of moral living.

The first level may be called the "external compliance model." That's the world of laws and regulations – civil laws, Church rules, moral imperatives, social norms. These provide us with guidelines and protections and dampen the chaos that society could easily succumb to. Yet this level of our human experience does not capture the full import of our sinfulness.

The second level of moral living concerns personal integrity and high moral character. It includes the law abiding qualities of level one, but adds a further dimension. I am an honest person, not just because there are laws against stealing, but because I am unwilling to compromise my own personal standards of behavior. On this level, sin is not just breaking the law, but even more it is to go against the standards that a good and decent person should live by.

The third level is that of love and its perfect exemplar is Jesus. Sin is not just a personal compromise of an upstanding character. On this level sin is primarily the rejection of love – God's love first of all – but also the damage caused to other people whom I am called to love. It is only on this third level that the full horror of sin can be perceived.

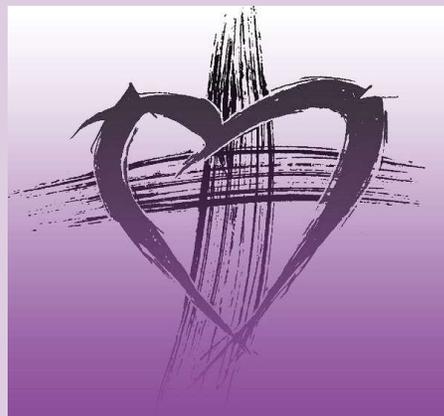
This analysis owes much to some well known psychologists who studied the development of moral conscientiousness in children. I argued that the same analysis can shed some light on the development of religious conscience in all of us.

We went on to discuss how sin affects us on this third level of moral living. Father Jim Keenan, S.J., in his book *Moral Wisdom* argues that sin is pervasive in our lives, but recognizing or naming our sins can be highly deceptive. So many gospel stories reveal how easy it is to fail to recognize our own sins, especially when we look primarily to our weaknesses as the seed bed of our sins, when in fact it is more frequently our strengths that lead us into sin. For Father Keenan, the definition of sin is "a failure to bother to love." And so every sin is by definition social in character. Even our "private sins" damage the community of God's people.

Our next lecture, on Tuesday, February 20th, will expand on these ideas when we turn to a closer analysis of the nature of human freedom and the moral responsibility we must assume for our actions. This will lead to a better understanding of the traditional categories of mortal and venial sins.

But the main topic of this second lecture will be a summary of what St. Ignatius reveals about sin in his Spiritual Exercises. We will find that Ignatius is most interested in freeing us from all debilitating forms of guilt by opening us to the experience of God's all embracing mercy. For Ignatius, the Christian is a redeemed sinner who knows

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the tender mercy of an all loving God. It is this experience described by Ignatius that leads one to the enthusiastic following of Christ. So the topic of sin, which without faith is such a depressing topic to be avoided and suppressed at all cost, is transformed for Ignatius into a liberating experience enabling us finally to say an unqualified yes to God's transcendent offer of love.

That's what we'll be discussing on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM. You're invited to attend, if you wish.

Walter Modrys, S.J.  
Pastor

## Lenten Scripture Study

Fr. Dougherty will continue with the Book of Qoheleth, also called Ecclesiastes, on Thursdays in the Drexel parlor at 1:00 pm: February 22, March 1, 15, 22, & 29.

All are invited!

*NOTE: There will be no session on March 8*

### The Tuesday Evening Lenten Series Continues



*presented by* FR. MODRYS

February 20: *First Week of the Ignatian Exercises*

March 13: *The History of Reconciliation*

March 27: *Communal Penance Service*

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

*Note: We have relaxed parking for series!*

### Lenten Choral Vespers



We invite you to join us here at Old St. Joseph's for a choral Lenten Vespers Service next Sunday, Feb. 25 at 4:00 PM. In addition to the singing of the Antiphons and Psalms, the Schola Cantorum will present choral music by Howells and Berger. Organ music will include Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. Please join us for this ancient prayer of the church and an opportunity for Lenten reflection and prayer.

## 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 Centering Prayer Group** will meet on Wed., Feb. 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Drexel Parlor. 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](mailto:christinesz52@gmail.com).

**Congratulations!** to Kelly A. King, daughter of James and Anne King, who earned distinguished honors this past semester at Merion Mercy.



Come celebrate the **Feast of St. Joseph** on Monday, March 19, 2018 with Mass at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm in Barbelin Hall. A limited number of 130 tickets are on sale now in the front office of the rectory. Tickets are \$10 for adults; children eat for free. Donations of wine and desserts and volunteers for food preparation, set up /clean up, and serving would be greatly appreciated! Most of these opportunities will be on Sunday, March 18, after the 11:30 am Mass and coffee hour. Please contact Joe Casey at joetcasey@aol.com/215-843-3573 to volunteer. Thank you! See you there!

### ***Requiescat in pace - Robert Knorr***

Longstanding OSJ parishioner Bob Knorr passed away on February 2, 2018. His family has planned a Memorial Mass for Bob on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 10:00AM at Old St. Joseph's Church. Please keep Bob's widow Mary Ann and their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

#### **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	Mary Jacobs	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 February 11**  
**Percentage of Online Giving 49%**

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$164.00	n/a	<b>\$164.00</b>
Sunday Mass	\$4,139.00	\$3,900.00	<b>\$8,039.00</b>
<b>Second Collection Funds now active on Online Giving:</b>			
Ash Wednesday now through March 4			
Care of Aging & Ill Priests now through March 11			

## 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.

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND:

On February 17 & 18, we will collect for the **Care of Aging and Infirm Archdiocesan Priests**. Our retired and infirm priests remember you in their daily prayers and Masses. Please remember them with your generous prayerful and financial assistance.

## Patience and Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability— and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Amen.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

## Weekly Readings

Monday: Leviticus 19; Psalm 19; Matthew 25

Tuesday: Isaiah 55; Psalm 34; Matthew 6

Wednesday: Jonah 3; Psalm 51; Luke 11

Thursday: 1 Peter 5; Psalm 23; Matthew 16

Friday: Ezekiel 18; Psalm 130; Matthew 5

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26; Psalm 119; Matthew 5

Sunday: Genesis 22; Psalm 116; Romans 8; Mark 9

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



## Book Reading Group

In March the OSJ Book Reading Group will gather to have conversation about a New York Times best seller and winner of the Man Booker Prize: "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders. This superb, surprising novel is spun from a newspaper article, which reported that President Abraham Lincoln repeatedly visited the body of his dead son, Willie, in the Georgetown Cemetery during the first year of the Civil War. It is a moving father /son story and it imagines the complicated process of letting go of life...from both the perspective of the grieving father and the departed son. "Bardo" is the term for a transition state of the soul in the Tibetan tradition.

The Reading Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 6 March, at 7:30-9:00 in the Loyola Room of the Parish Hall. For further information contact shlosscarol@gmail.com or simply pick up a copy of the book and come.

## Eldership

Join us on March 4, from 6 to 8 pm for a **Traditional St. Patrick's Day Celebration** at the Plough and the Stars, 123 Chestnut Street (entrance on 2<sup>nd</sup> street). There will be Irish Music (one of our members will be playing Irish fiddle with the group), traditional Irish food and of, course, plenty of Guinness and Jameson to purchase. We have tables reserved for us right by the fireplace. See you there!

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 19	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	Presidents Day: Rectory Office Open 11-1 only
Tues 20	12:05 PM <i>Eleanor M. Calabrese (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:30 PM: Talk: <i>First Week of Exercises</i> (Barbelin)
Wed 21	12:05 PM <i>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	6:30 PM: Centering Prayer (Drexel) 6:30 PM: Women's Group (Loyola)
Thurs 22	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) 7:00 PM: Schola Rehearsal (Barbelin) 7:15 PM: RCIA (Drexel)
Fri 23	12:05 PM <i>Mary Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Sat 24	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J. 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 25	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.	9:00 AM: CLOW (Barbelin) 10:30 AM: Social Justice Mtg. (Drexel) 4:00 PM Vespers Prayer Service (Church) 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

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## 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)*

**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: BJ Brown**

*(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)*