

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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www.oldstjoseph.org

February 11, 2018 | The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

How to Celebrate Valentine's Day on Ash Wednesday

This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day. An unfortunate coincidence – maybe! Perhaps if we think about it, we may discover a hidden connection between the two.

Valentine's Day, which has a tenuous connection to a St. Valentine who may or may not have existed, began to evolve in the 14th century into the holiday so familiar to us today. The love originally celebrated on that day was courtly love, in which desire was expressed through chivalry and nobility of purpose and ritually enacted. The ardent young suitor would strive to win the favor of a virtuous young lady through acts of service and she would either accept or rebuff his efforts. A genre of romance



literature, poetry and song fueled this development. St. Ignatius, who before his conversion was a courtier and soldier, was much taken with this notion and had his sights on a lady to whom he wished to give his fealty. Vestiges of his model of devotion can be seen in some of his references to Our Lady, the Blessed Mother.

Ash Wednesday, on the other hand, arises from a Jewish tradition, mentioned throughout the Old Testament, of covering oneself in sackcloth and ashes—and often fasting—as an expression of grief and/or repentance. As one example, God sent the prophet Jonah to Nineveh with a message threatening the city with total destruction because the people there were so sinful. To Jonah's disappointment, the people surprisingly responded by donning sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes. Even the king called a fast and “sat in ashes”. And so the city was spared.

The early Church adopted this Old Testament tradition. For hundreds of years grave sinners who had been excluded from the Church did public penance by dressing in sackcloth and ashes, especially during Lent. Eventually, as public penance was discontinued, Lent evolved into a more widely practiced but less rigorous penitential season. But still, harking back to ancient tradition, ashes were placed on people's heads at its start. By about 1100 the first day of Lent became known as Ash Wednesday. In Christian tradition, the ashes were made by burning the previous year's palms, symbolically connecting the celebration of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem as messiah with the sacrifice and suffering he endured to fulfill his messianic call.

So what connects these two observances, one so ebullient and the other so somber? In a word, love — its presence and its absence.

We experience love in many ways. Romantic love with its intense emotions is one form of love, which is what we associate with Valentine's Day. Another form is the love within families or between friends, the people we call are “loved ones.” This is different from love as compassion which may be felt toward unknown individuals or groups of people and ultimately all people, even those we don't like.

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There are other forms of love, of course, but the deepest insight into love comes from our Christian faith when we are told that “God is love.” For if love and God are one, then not to love is to turn away from God. And conversely, turning back to God is to embrace the love that we have tragically lost. This is a common occurrence in human experience; our love is veined with imperfections. Love can be even displaced by other feelings—hate, anger, fear, resentment, pride—or it can be nipped in the bud by neglect or inattention. Jesus became human to free us from the stranglehold of these unloving inclinations, which become patterns of behavior in us. He taught us instead how we can love as God loves. “Be perfect,” Jesus tells us, “as your heavenly father is perfect.” If Valentine’s Day reminds of the ecstatic kind of love that romantic poetry so joyfully celebrates, Ash Wednesday reminds us that love can be recovered when it has been lost by returning to our God who is the source of all love.

Easier said than done, of course! We become crippled with our bad habits and even come up with “righteous” reasons for our unloving choices. This is what happened to Jonah. He didn’t think the Ninevites deserved to be forgiven and was angry at God for being merciful toward them. But God’s perfect love is always merciful—and just. Ironically, Jonah had to learn that he, too, perhaps even more than the Ninevites, needed to repent if he was really to embrace the love of his life.

The psalm for Ash Wednesday (the 51st, called the *miserere*, or psalm of repentance) captures that moment when we are caught out of love and desperately need to fall back in love:

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and steadfast spirit within me.
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

The ashes are an outward sign of our contrition, our recognition that we have failed to love always as God desires and a commitment to focus during Lent on the ways we have loved imperfectly and the inclinations and patterns that have hampered us.

So on Wednesday I invite you to see in your valentine the gift of God’s infinite love and to see in the ashes regret for falling short in responding to that love and a sincere desire to do better, to “repent and believe in the Gospel”—the good news that God wants us to be eternally in his loving presence – the greatest romance of all!

— Christine Szczepanowski

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 Penance Requirements:

- ❖ Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent: days of abstinence from meat for those 14 or older
- ❖ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: days of fasting for those 14 through 58



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 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

Lenten Choral Vespers



We invite you to join us here at Old St. Joseph's for a choral Vespers liturgy **on the second Sunday of Lent, 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 plan to 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.

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers:

Karen Lockyer
Jack Lees
Mildred Barnett
Arlene Vattimo
Catherine Keddie
Rick Bravo
Bernardo Goldrosson
MaryLou Jennings
D. Minter
Joseph Burke
Christine Mari-Mazzola

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

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.



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 4
 Percentage of Online Giving: 57%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$266.00	n/a	\$266.00
Sunday Mass	\$5,457.00	\$7,148.00*	\$12,605.00
<i>*The monthly online donations were received this week.</i>			
Second Collection Funds now active on Online Giving:			
<i>Catholic Relief Services now through February 11</i>			
<i>Ash Wednesday now through March 4</i>			
<i>Care of Aging & Ill Priests now through March 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 and click on the **Online Giving** tab underneath the Important Links column.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT 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.

WEEKLY READINGS



Readings from...

- Monday: James 1; Psalm 119; Mark 8
- Tuesday: James 1; Psalm 94; Mark 8
- Wednesday: Joel 2; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5; Matthew 6
- Thursday: Deuteronomy 30; Psalm 1; Luke 9
- Friday: Isaiah 58; Psalm 51; Matthew 9
- Saturday: Isaiah 58; Psalm 86; Luke 5
- Sunday: Genesis 9; Psalm 25; 1 Peter 3; Mark 1

Complete text of the daily readings can be found at www.usccb.org/bible/readings.

YOUNG ADULTS

Fun Run to Brunch: Back by popular demand! Join fellow YAC runners on a morning fun run followed by brunch. **We'll meet at Dilworth Park on Saturday, February 17th at 10:00 am and set out on a 3-ish mile run, ultimately ending at the Melrose Diner** (1501 Snyder Ave) where we will get back all the calories! All running paces are welcome, and our chosen start/end locations are near subway stops to make getting around easy. Questions? Email Tom at tpumile@gmail.com.

February OSJ YAC Happy Hour + Sock Fundraiser! Like West Philly and craft beer? Then join us at **Local 44 (corner of 44th and Spruce)** for the OSJ February Happy Hour, where 20 beers are on tap and the menu is full of tasty and vegetarian-friendly bar bites. Our February Happy Hour will be on **Friday, February 16th and we will be there from 5:30pm until at least 8pm.** The 5-7pm happy hour—\$3 local drafts and \$3-4 snacks— isn't too shabby either! Contact Christopher Ross (g.chris.ross@gmail.com, 610-952-7317) with any questions or to find us at the bar. **SPECIAL FUNDRAISER:** This month we'll be collecting socks OSJ's Food Faith and Friends outreach program. Buy a pair (or two), bring them (or a cash equivalent) to happy hour on the 16th, give them to Jenn, and then cheers to supporting a great OSJ cause. Hope to see you there!

ELDERSHIP



Eldership St. Patrick's Day Celebration: Join us on March 4, from 6 to 8 p.m. for a traditional St. Patrick's Day celebration at the PLOUGH AND THE STARS, 123 Chestnut St. (entrance on 2nd St.). 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 our group right by the fireplace. See you there!

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 12	12:05 PM <i>Geraldine Marren & Family</i> Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	6:00 PM: Prep (St. Mary's School)
Tues 13	12:05 PM <i>Benefactors of the MD Province</i> Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, S.J.	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon (Drexel) 7:00 PM: Pre-Baptism Class (Drexel) 7:30 PM: CLC-1 (Faber)
Wed 14	12:05 PM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J. 7:30 PM Presider: Fr. Walter Modrys, S.J.	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>No Announced Mass Today</i>
Thurs 15	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 16	12:05 PM <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Ed Dougherty, S.J.	
Sat 17	12:05 PM <i>Rosemary Latess (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 18	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Ed O'Donnell, 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.	9:30 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: 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)