

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

March 4, 2018 | The Third Sunday in Lent

Beware St. Paul!

There's a side of St. Paul that few people know about. When I started studying Scripture, I was surprised to learn this about . It turns out, Paul was what we would call today a fund-raiser.

As you know, Paul was a kind of traveling salesman for early Christianity. But the situation he faced was interesting. It was the early 50's AD. Headquarters, at the time, was in Jerusalem. There was tension on many levels between what Paul was doing in the field and the interests of the Jerusalem authorities. (Not the last time this kind of conflict has arisen in our Church.) Many attempts were made at the time and in later Christian tradition to downplay and cover-up this early controversy, but we know that at times it could become heated, if not bitter. Paul found something that could break through the partisan feelings.

The economy in Jerusalem had collapsed, at least as far as the Christians huddled together there were concerned. Maybe it was the outbreak of a famine caused by some epidemic. Or maybe it was an outbreak of anti-Christian persecution. We don't know. Whatever the cause, the Church in Jerusalem turned for help to the other Churches and that of course involved Paul who was the primary builder of the gentile communities outside of Jerusalem. So, Paul made a strenuous effort to raise money for the beleaguered Church in Jerusalem. But why should Greek gentiles in southern Turkey or northern Greece care about Jews in Jerusalem? For that matter, why should Paul himself care, given how he had been treated? But Paul saw not an obstacle, but an opportunity.

I often think of St Paul's fund-raising abilities when I'm asked by the bishop to raise money for some Archdiocesan collection, in this case, Catholic Charities. (Yeah, that's what this is about!) Well, you can say, Walter Modrys is no St. Paul! True enough. But the situation does have some parallels. Relations aren't always perfectly smooth between the field outposts and headquarters. And the needs of people who are asking for help are undeniable, just like the situation Paul faced. But what's our connection to them?

So, I checked out Chapters 8 and 9 of his Second Letter to the Corinthians, where Paul puts on his fund-raising hat. He starts off saying how the Macedonians, who are rather poor, have given more than you Corinthians could ever dream of. Not a good tactic, invoking guilt, but Paul does it gently. He tells the Corinthians to just give a moderate amount. Here in the Archdiocese, they want to raise 12.5 million dollars, and our assigned parish goal is thirty-eight thousand dollars. That's just 0.3% of the goal, so there must be a lot of other parishes who are contributing more than we are.

Then Paul insists he has put good people in charge of the collection and everything is on the up and up. You'll have to make a judgment about the integrity of Catholic Charities. From what I know there are a lot of poor people



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Booklets with the Sunday readings are in the rear of the church.

who have been greatly assisted by the people who work with Catholic Charities. Paul would use that to his advantage.

Then Paul plays on their pride. I have been boasting all over Macedonia, he says to the Corinthians, about your enthusiastic generosity. No Corinthian in good standing wanted to make Paul look bad, so Paul was clearly using his leverage. I don't know what the Archdiocese does with underperforming pastors, so we'll pass over that point. Not much leverage!

But then Paul moves on to close the deal. He puts the whole transaction in terms of our relationship with the Lord. If you sow sparsely, you will reap sparsely, too. That's the way God treats us, Paul argues. And when you give whatever you've decided, give cheerfully. Then God will take care of your needs, but only if you have done your share to take care of the needs of others. That's the way God works. The help you give, Paul says, not only satisfies the needs of God's holy people, but leads to widespread thanksgiving to God, because the people you help will give glory to God when they think of you.

Leave it to Paul to find some profound religious insight into something we so easily overlook. It's all about how God looks upon all of us together as his people and wants us all bonded together across all the lines that divide us: race, class, ethnic identity, economic standing, etc. Hey, just take care of one another, seems to be Paul's ultimate message, so that the Lord will take care of you.

Just to prove my point about Paul's fund-raising skills, he talked me and the other Jesuits at Old St Joe's into kicking in \$1,000 to the Catholic Charities collection. There are envelopes in the back of the Church if you find you, too, can't resist giving something. And if you're a registered parishioner, you should have gotten something in the mail. Imagine if Paul had had access to the internet!

Father Walter Modrys, S.J.

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Adults

Lenten Prayer and Reflection: All young adults are invited to come to reflect on the Lenten season so far with YAC on **Tuesday, March 6 from 7-9 pm in Barbelin Hall**. We'll gather over good food and fun Easter/Lenten crafts, and great company, and then share in a special Lenten reflection and discussion. All are welcome - but certainly not required - to bring a food or beverage to share. (Please note, there is an oven/microwave in Barbelin, if needed). Take a moment to reflect on Lent with the OSJ Young Adult Community. Have questions? Reach out to Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

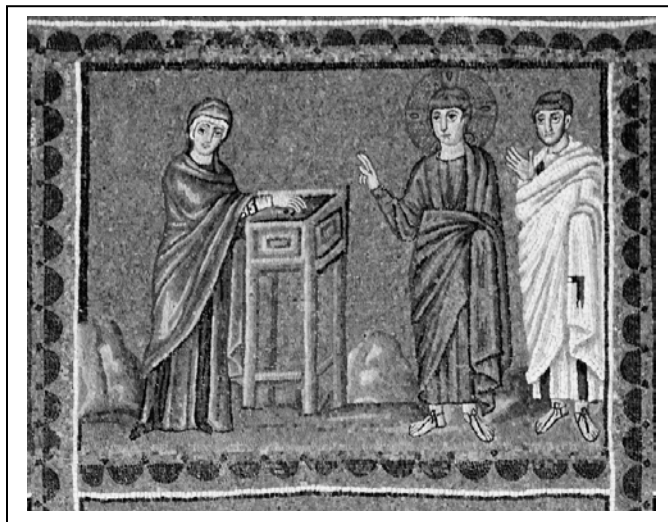
Waldron Mercy Academy will host open houses on Tuesday March 6 at 9:00 AM and Tuesday April 10 at 9:00 AM. Waldron Mercy, a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence located in Merion Station PA, is a Catholic, co-educational, independent pre-school through Grade 8 sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Waldron Mercy provides a nurturing and enriching environment for children. A challenging and well-rounded curriculum offers opportunities to develop the whole child academically, athletically, and artistically. Students are prepared to face the challenges of the world today with an enriched spiritual life, fluency in language, and advanced technology and science. To learn more about Waldron Mercy Academy, please call Sr. Joellen at 610-664-9846 ext. 112 or visit www.waldronmercy.org

Two Invitations for Young Women to Explore Vocations to Religious Life

At **Sisters' Night** on Friday, March 16, single young women ages 18-35 are invited to spend an evening of prayer, pizza, and St. Paddy's Day fun with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is a great opportunity for young women who may be curious or thinking about a vocation to the religious life to spend some time informally with the IHM sisters, novices, and postulants. Join us from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at Camilla Hall, 1145 W. King Rd., Malvern, PA 19355.

Single young women ages of 18-35 are also invited to a **Discernment Retreat**, from 6:00 PM March 23 to 1:00 PM on March 25 at the Villa Maria House of Studies, 1140 King Rd., Malvern, PA 19355. Join us for a weekend of prayer, spiritual conferences, meals, and times of recreation with the sisters, novices, and postulants of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at our IHM Motherhouse. Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic adoration are included in our weekend retreat.

For more information about either opportunity, please contact 610-889-1553 or ihmvoc@gmail.com



Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers

Karen Lockyer	Ed Tomezsko	Tony Corvaia
Rick Bravo	Mary Jacobs	Joanna Pearl
Joseph Burke	Jerry McAndrews SJ	Lucy Pearl
Christine Mari-Mazzola	Lydia Staley	Marie Jacobs
Pat Farris	Charlotte Croce	Mary Lou Jennings
Allen May		Jack Lees
Please pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital		
<i>Names will be removed after four weeks unless a request is renewed.</i>		

Note from the Pastor

Bringing Communion to the Homebound

When people are ill or indisposed and confined to home, they can remain connected to our shared worship by receiving Communion at home. If you or a family member, friend or neighbor (with their approval of course), would like to receive Communion at home, contact the Parish Rectory so that we can arrange for a parish Eucharistic Minister to visit.

Financial Stewardship

**Offertory Collection for the week ending
Percentage of Online Giving: 41%**

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$315.00	n/a	\$315.00
Sunday Mass	\$6104.00	\$4823.00	\$10,927.00

Old St. Joseph's provides Online Giving, a convenient, safe, and flexible way to make one time or recurring donations to the fund of your choice--Sunday Offering, FF&F, and so on. Sign up on our parish website on the Online Giving tab under Important Links.

A Second Collection on March 17 & 18 will be for The Fund for the Church in Africa. Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. Your support assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care which includes religious education, seminary formation and youth ministry. It also supports important projects such as pastoral care for the sick.

Weekly Readings

Monday: Deuteronomy 9; Psalm 79; Luke 6
 Tuesday: Isaiah 1; Psalm 50; Matthew 23
 Wednesday: Jeremiah 18; Psalm 31; Matthew 20
 Thursday: Jeremiah 17; Psalm 1; Luke 16
 Friday: Genesis 37; Psalm 105; Matthew 21
 Saturday: Micah 7; Psalm 103; Luke 15
 Sunday: Exodus 20; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1; John 2

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

RCIA Scrutiny Rites

Brief rites of prayer and blessing for our candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation will be celebrated on March 11 at 6:30 pm, and March 17 at 5:30 pm. Readings for these Masses will include the Gospels used in the early church for these rites: the man born blind (John 9) and the raising of Lazarus (John 11).

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 5	12:05 PM: <i>James & Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:00 PM: PREP (St. Mary's) 6:30 PM: Women's Group (Loyola)
Tues 6	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 6:30 PM: CLC2 (Drexel) 7:00 PM: YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin) 7:30 PM: Reading Group (Loyola)
Wed 7	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Thurs 8	12:05 PM: <i>James A. Ford (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: PIC Planning Mtg. (Greaton) RCIA (Drexel)
Fri 9	12:05 PM: <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 10	12:05 PM: <i>Hugh & Pauline Scott (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 3:30 PM: PREP Home-School Gathering (Babelin)
Sun 11	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ 9:30 AM Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 11:30 AM Presider: Fr. Frederico SJ 6:30 PM Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12:45 PM Schola Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM: Liturgy Mtg (Drexel) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM: YAC Weekly Readings 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.

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.

The 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 (adulded@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)