

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 18, 2018 | The Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Holy Week Triduum

In the spring of 1954, as a young nine-year-old boy, I found myself standing in the vestibule of our local parish church. I had walked to the church through the early morning darkness, but now the dawn had broken so the new fire could be blessed. No one told us altar boys – in those days, girls need not apply – what a new fire was supposed to be, as we observed the parish priests huddled together over a piece of charcoal that, despite their strenuous efforts, remained stubbornly stone cold. As I remember it, at some point one of the frustrated priests discarded the primitive looking flint he was striking and pulled out a cigarette lighter to ignite the charcoal and move the ceremony along without further delay.

Latin words were recited with no particular audience in mind, hurled like magic incantations into the air. I was dressed by the Sister of Charity in charge of the altar boys in a white robe, tied with a red cord around my waist and with a red bow around my neck. (Ever since then I have had an aversion to overly decorative vestments.) For some inappropriate reason, perhaps as the youngest boy present, I was handed a huge candle to carry. Someone pointed me up the center aisle, so I hesitatingly began what was to prove a perilous journey.

Every step grew increasingly more painful as the heated wax from the candle dripped onto my wrists, tightly wrapped around the candle that seemed to grow heavier with every step. Drip by drip, like the torture in a horror film, the melted wax splashed onto my hands and then rapidly dried into a translucent glaze over my ever-reddening skin. Finally, relieved of my sacred duty at the top of the aisle, I could care for my wounds over the sacristy sink by peeling off the dried wax and praying for healing. Little did I know, until years later, the honor to which I had been accorded as the bearer of the Easter candle, symbolizing the light of Christ, into the Church. But if this was the proclamation of the resurrection, it was only the empty pews and the few priests and the unknowing young boys who were present to herald the arrival of the risen Lord.

What today we call the Easter Vigil was in 1954 an empty early morning ritual that had lost all connection with the faith or devotion of both the ministers and the people. Such was the state of the Church's public prayer leading up to Easter prior to the liturgical reforms that were implemented by Pope Pius XII the following year. In 1955 the renewal of the Sacred Triduum-- the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter--was the beginning of the liturgical renewal which reached its zenith at the Second Vatican Council in 1963 and was applied to all forms of public prayer in the Church.

That was sixty-four years ago. And so there have been sixty-four Holy Weeks since then, and in many of them I have been a principal celebrant. They have become for me the most meaningful days of the year. And I hope that is true for you as well. While preparing for this year's Holy Week liturgies, I came across one of the instructions in the Roman Missal:

Pastors should . . . not fail to explain to the Christian faithful, as best they can, the meaning and order of



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.

the celebrations and to prepare them for active and fruitful participation.

So, this bulletin essay is my halting attempt to begin to carry out the Church's mandate.

I have learned that Old St. Joseph's fortunately has a long and rich tradition of celebrating the Holy Week liturgies. This tradition has taken root, at least partially, through the wonderful resources we enjoy as a parish community: a beautiful liturgical space, an inspiring music program, experienced and dedicated lay ministers. But most of all, we must bring to the liturgies a faith that is open to mystery that goes beyond words.

That is why I love the liturgical symbols of Holy Week, now hopefully presented in a more accessible manner than I first experienced them long ago. The Church directs us to use light from a candle and music and silence and gesture and physical objects like the wood of a cross and the waters of baptism and the bread and wine of the eucharist. It is the genius of our Catholic tradition to be so open to physical reality as a sign of Christ's presence among us. These simple objects carry such rich meaning. The theologians call this sign value we attach to natural objects "the analogy of being."

As Andrew Greeley once pointed out:

The Catholic mind-set tends toward analogy, where one reality corresponds to another. From our earliest days, we recall churches filled with incense and candles, statues and flowers, ashes, oils and fountains of holy water; each standing alone as natural objects of the world, yet each signifying a deeper mystery of faith.

In this sense, the liturgy itself is "analogical." The visible rites by which the liturgy is celebrated signify and make present the grace that God is sharing with us. Beyond the liturgy itself, we should look at everything in our world like that – as signs of God's presence and vehicles of his grace.

I urge you to make a special effort to attend the Holy Week services. The schedule appears in our parish bulletin. The liturgies are an artistic rendering of how we were redeemed by Christ. Through symbol and Scripture, they tell our story: from Last Supper through the Passion to Easter Sunday and the Resurrection. But, of course, it's not about long past events, but the on-going reality of Christ living in our midst and calling us this Holy Week into ever closer companionship with him as his disciples.

Walter F. Modrys, SJ
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tuesday Evening Lenten Series
Concludes



March 27: *Communal Penance Service*

In the church at 7:30 PM.

There will be relaxed parking!

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:
March 22 & 29.
All are invited!

The **Centering Prayer Group** will meet on Wednesday, March 21 from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor of the rectory. 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.

The annual OSJ Easter Egg Hunt will take place immediately after the 9:30am Mass on Easter Sunday, weather permitting, in the North Park area next to the church off Walnut Street. **Donations of candy-filled plastic eggs can be dropped off at the front desk of the rectory up until Saturday, March 31st.** Thank you for your generosity! Volunteers are needed to place the eggs and help coordinate the hunt. Please contact Luanne Balestrucci at lbalestrucci@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Hallahan High Alums

John W. Hallahan CGHS Alumnae Association is sponsoring their annual "50 years & Beyond" luncheon on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at Connstatter Volksfest-Verein, 9130 Academy Road. Cost is \$35.00 per person and \$20.00 for religious. If you are a graduate of Hallahan for over 50 or more years and are interested in attending this event, please contact, Chairperson, Marge West Kiefski '66 at 215-913-4482 or at mmkiefski@aol.com or the Alumnae Office at 215-568-3081 for more information.

Roman Catholic High School Open House

Roman Catholic High School will hold a Spring Open House intended for 6th and 7th grade students and their families on Sunday, April 8th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Registration available online at RomanCatholicHS.com. For additional information or questions regarding the event contact 215-627-1270 x 146/159 or admissions@romancatholichs.com.

Feast Day!

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, serving, and cleanup 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 or 215-843-3573 to volunteer. Thank you! See you there!



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 | Catherine Keddie | Jack Lees |
| Debbie Brooks | Hannah Poole | Patricia Yusko |

Please pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital

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

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.

| Date | Mass Intention and Presider | | Calendar Events | |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Mon 19 | 12:05 PM: 6:00 PM: | Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ | 6:00 PM: 6:30 PM: | PREP (St. Mary's) St. Joseph's Feast Day Dinner |
| Tues 20 | 12:05 PM: Presider: | <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Fr. O'Donnell SJ | 12 Noon: 7:00 PM: 7:30 PM: | Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin) Talk for PREP Parents on First Communion (Church) |
| Wed 21 | 12:05 PM: Presider: | <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Fr. Dougherty SJ | 6:30 PM: | Centering Prayer (Drexel) Women's Group (Loyola) |
| Thurs 22 | 12:05 PM: Presider: | <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Fr. O'Donnell SJ | 12 Noon: 7:00 PM: | Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) RCIA (Drexel) |
| Fri 23 | 12:05 PM: Presider: | <i>Thomas Convery (D)</i> Fr. Dougherty SJ | | |
| Sat 24 | 12:05 PM: Presider: 5:30 PM: | <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ | 12 Noon: | Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) |
| Sun 25 | 7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM | Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ | 5:30 PM: 5:30 PM: | Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Weekly Readings Reflection (Greaton) |

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending
Percentage of Online Giving: 39%

| Collection | Regular | Online | Total |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Daily Mass | \$441.00 | n/a | \$441.00 |
| Sunday Mass | \$6522.00 | \$4110.50 | \$10,632.50 |

The following collections are now active on the Online Giving Website:

Church in Latin America through April 1
Church in Africa through April 1
Easter Flower Memorials through April 8
Easter Music Memorials through April 8
Holy Thursday Collection through April 15
Good Friday Collection through April 15
Easter Collection through April 22

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.

Second Collection

The Fund for the Church in Africa: March 17 & 18. 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, youth ministry and care for the sick. Please give as generously as you are able.

Catholic Charities Update

If you are a registered parishioner, you should have already received your Catholic Charities mailing from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. If not, there are forms and envelopes in the back of the church for you to use to make your pledge. Old St. Joseph's has been asked to contribute \$38,800. To date, we have donated \$11,500, or 30% of our assessment. Thank you for your generous support of the Archdiocese's social ministries!

Readings for the Week

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | 2 Samuel 7, Psalm 89, Romans 4, Matthew 1 |
| Tuesday | Numbers 21, Psalm 102, John 8 |
| Wednesday | Deuteronomy 3, Deuteronomy 3, John 8 |
| Thursday | Genesis 17, Psalm 105, John 8 |
| Friday | Jeremiah 20, Psalm 18, John 10 |
| Saturday | Ezekiel 37, Jeremiah 31, John 11 |
| Sunday | Mark 11, Isaiah 50, Psalm 22, Philippians 2, Mark 14 |

RCIA Scrutiny Rites

Brief rites of prayer and blessing for our candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation will be celebrated again on March 17 at 5:30 pm. Readings for this Mass will be the Gospel used in the early church for these rites: the raising of Lazarus (John 11).

HOLY WEEK 2018

Tuesday, March 27 - **Communal Penance Service:** 7:30 PM
 Holy Thursday, March 29 - **Confessions:** 11:30AM – 12:30PM;
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30PM; **Compline:** 10:00PM
 Good Friday, March 30 - **Stations of the Cross:** 12:05PM;
Commemoration of the Lord's Passion: 3:00PM
 Holy Saturday, March 31 – **Easter Vigil** at 7:30PM
 Easter Sunday, April 1 - **Masses** at 7:30AM, 9:30AM, & 11:30AM
There is no 6:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday!

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.

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.

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)