

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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www.oldstjoseph.org

April 1, 2018 | Easter Sunday

Every Day is Easter

These essays that appear on Sundays usually have to be written a good ten days in advance before they are published in the bulletin. That can be a little confusing for the writer. In the present case for example, it's five days before Passion (Palm) Sunday and this is an article that is intended for Easter Sunday. My mind is focused on proclaiming the passion and celebrating Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter seems so far away liturgically, if not in strict chronological terms. How to switch gears? Lord, help me!

While musing in such manner, the phone rang. It was the hospital requesting a priest for a patient who was unconscious, with his anxious family standing vigil around him. Another distraction from Easter, I thought to myself. Ministering to a dying patient would take me even further away from an upbeat message for Easter. Granted, that was not the most edifying thought I've ever had about a ministerial assignment or request, but under the pressure of meeting the publishing deadline it was understandable.

So, I picked up the oils (the oil of the sick that we use for anointings) and started the short walk to the hospital. As always, the first thing to check on the way is the formula for the Sacrament of the Sick. You never want to forget those words when anointing someone *in extremis* while distraught family members are watching with rapt attention. Fortunately, the words came readily to mind:

*Through this holy anointing,
may the Lord in his love and mercy
help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord, who frees you from sin,
save you and raise you up.*

Got it! Memory didn't fail me. I was relieved. But then something finally dawned on me.

This whole Sacrament of the Sick, walking to the hospital to anoint a dying patient, trying to comfort a family about to experience an excruciating loss, is in fact all about the resurrection. In making my way to the hospital, I wasn't walking AWAY from the resurrection, but TOWARDS it. How dense one can be even when God is trying to make something so obvious? What did I think the prayerful petition--*May the Lord raise you up*--was all about? What is happening when those words are spoken to an unconscious patient heavily sedated in order to ease the onslaught of death? It's as if the Lord had sent me to the hospital to teach me once again how the power of the resurrection is actually so prevalent in my life as a Christian and so much a part of my ministry as a priest. How could I ever think that somehow Easter was too far away, to be put on the back burner, that I could survive a single day failing to ponder the mystery of Christ's resurrection and our share in that power through the working of the Spirit?

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I had been thinking that the theme for this Easter essay would simply be *Happy Easter*. But now, better, I'd like the theme to be *May the Lord raise you up*. If your life is filled with consolation, may your present solace remind you of the joyful triumph Christ has won and shares with us. If you are troubled or anxious, may the healing Spirit that the risen Lord has breathed into all of us dispel the darkness of your mind. If you are discouraged when you look at the wave of injustice that sweeps across our world, may you perceive with the eyes of faith that even the most powerful force that rages against us--death itself--has been ultimately overcome by the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead.

Yes, indeed, *May the Lord raise you up* wherever you may be on the spectrum that we use to measure our state in life. That is what we celebrate this day. And, in fact, any day when we feel far from that celebration is a day that needs an extra moment of prayer and a deeper appreciation of our Christian faith.

Father Walter F. Modrys, SJ
Pastor

The cover illustration is Two Disciples at the Tomb, by Henry O. Tanner (1859-1937), who studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Arts and is known for his dignified and sympathetic portrayals of African-Americans and his biblical scenes.

Announcements

Congratulations!

At the Easter Vigil, Catechumens **William Coleman, Ryan Griffith** and **Mustafa Sualp** were welcomed into the Christian community through Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Old St. Joseph's is delighted to welcome them to the Christian Community!

And at the 9:30 Mass on April 8, we will joyfully welcome **Sharon Swadis**, who will be received into the Church through Confirmation.

As we rejoice with them, you--or perhaps more importantly someone you know--would be interested in following in their footsteps. Note that the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) program also welcomes uncatechized Catholics. Though the program does not begin until the fall, Father O'Donnell would be happy to answer questions or take names now.

“Come to Believe”~ Higher Education Re-Invented

Steve Katsouros is a Jesuit priest and the dean of Arrupe College, part of Loyola University in Chicago. Arrupe College is a truly creative effort to combat urban poverty and enhance the lives of countless young people in our cities through Jesuit education. Could a similar effort be mounted in our own city?

Father Katsouros will be speaking on *Come to Believe: How the Jesuits are Reshaping Education Again* at Barbelin Hall on Monday evening, April 9 at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to hear this inspiring story as told by a dedicated Jesuit priest and educator.

In Memoriam

On Sunday, April 8, the music at the 11:30 AM Mass will be dedicated to the memory of Pat Montenegro, Old St. Joseph's former music director.

Pat began as music director at OSJ in May 2015. He passed away unexpectedly on April 6, 2017 from complications of the flu. It was a devastating time for the Parish, but more so for his loving wife Lauren and their three lovely daughters.

Pat will always be remembered not just for his musical talents, but for his easy-going nature, optimism, and his kind and generous spirit. Pat was particularly fond of the music of Fauré. Emily Sheehan will sing the *Pie Jesu* from Fauré's Requiem as prelude music and Mark Bani and the Schola Cantorum will perform one of Pat's favorite pieces of music, Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine*.

Please keep the memory of Pat in your thoughts, prayers and hearts.



OSJ Book Group

Join us in the Loyola Room on **Tuesday April 3 at 7:30 PM** to discuss Edna O'Brien's *The Country Girls*. It's O'Brien's first book (and the first of a trilogy) and was "burned, banned and denounced" by the Church in Ireland. O'Brien left Ireland, but when she won a PEN/Nabokov Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature, former president of Ireland Mary Robinson called her "one of the greatest creative writers of her generation" Join us to discuss the book and its reception; if you like the trilogy's first book, read on!

Catholic History Lecture

Dr. Daniel Moran of Rutgers University will speak on his book "Creating Flannery O'Connor" **on Tuesday, April 17** at the American Catholic History Society at 263 S. 4th Street. Dinner at 6:00 PM, talk at 7:00 PM. RSVP at amchs.org.

Young Adults

Runners for Others: Join us on a 3.1 mile fun run on **Saturday, April 7th! We'll meet at LOVE Park at noon and end at Evil Genius** (1727 N Front St, a block from the Berks MFL station) for post-run refueling. Smaller groups can arrange to meet beforehand to log extra miles. We'll be part of "Runners for Others - An Ignatian 5K", which supports Jesuit organizations in Baltimore. The actual 5K is in Baltimore on that day, and you can sign up as a Virtual Runner for \$20 and get a t-shirt! For more information contact Tom at tpumile@gmail.com. Register at <http://www.charmcityrun.com/calendar/2018/4/7/runners-for-others-an-ignatian-5k>.

Contemplative Leaders in Action (CLA) is a two-year faith formation and leadership development program for young adults that is rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The program nurtures individual growth and strives to develop a cohort of leaders who can bring the dynamics of faith and justice to lead their families, co-workers and communities. Applications are being accepted now for next year's Philly cohort at <http://www.contemplativeleaders.org/philly2018>. Join YAC on **Tuesday, April 3 from 7-9pm in Barbelin Hall** as we welcome past participants of the program to speak about their experience and what has drawn them to Ignatian spirituality. Have questions? Contact Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com.

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers

Karen Lockyer
 Rick Bravo
 Joseph Burke
 Christine Mari-Mazzola
 Pat Farris
 Debbie Brooks
 James McBride

Ed Tomezsko
 Mary Jacobs
 Jerry McAndrews SJ
 Lydia Staley
 Charlotte Croce
 Hannah Poole
 Jerry McBride

Tony Corvaia
 JoAnna Pearl
 Lucy Pearl
 Mary Lou Jennings
 Jack Lees
 Patricia Yusko
 Angelo Miczza

Please pray also for our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital

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 2	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:30 PM: Women's Group (Loyola)
Tues 3	12:05 PM: <i>James & Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell 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 4	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Thurs 5	12:05 PM: <i>The Whitfield Family</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: RCIA (Drexel)
Fri 6	12:05 PM: <i>Edward & Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 7	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ <i>Anointing of the Sick</i> 5:30 PM: Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 8	7:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 9:30 AM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ 11:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 6:30 PM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	10:30 PM: Adult Ed (Drexel) 12:00 PM: Liturgy Mtg (Drexel) 4:00 PM: Contemplative Leaders in Action (Drexel) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM: YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) 6:30 PM: Parish Cook-In (Barbelin Hall)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending March 18
Percent of online giving: 44%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$331.00	n/a	\$331.00
Sunday Mass	\$4594.00	\$3630.50	\$8224.50

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

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

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 \$12,885 or 33% of our assessment. Thank you for your generous support of the Archdiocese's social ministries!

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

Weekly Readings

The daily readings are posted online in English and Spanish by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops at usccb.org. Click on the calendar on the right side of the home page or click on Bible in the green header and you will find text and audio as well as links to daily video reflections. While there, you can subscribe to daily emails of the readings by clicking on RSS Feed.

Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers!

The April/May ministry schedule is now online! New volunteers are welcome and can sign up through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.aldstjoseph.org!

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

(adulthood@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life: Joe Casey *(joetcasey@aol.com)*

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation: John Bitterman

(osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Ministry Leaders

Altar Servers: Maria Ramirez *(mathra71@yahoo.com)*

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Bill

Stewart *(wstewart@kaplanlaw.com)*

Hospitality 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)