

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

April 15, 2018 | The Third Sunday of Easter

How Cool Would That Be?

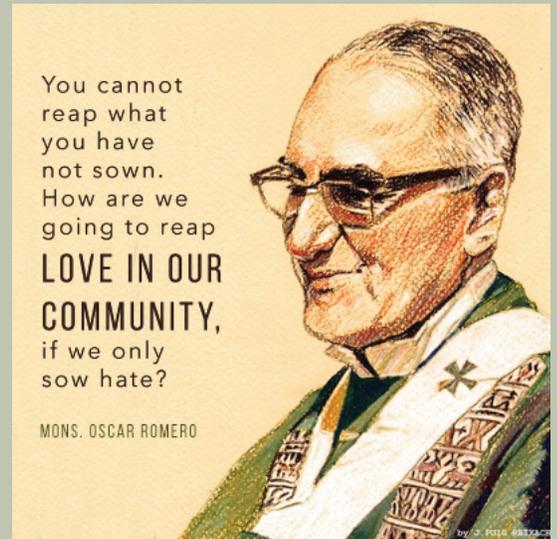
At Confirmation at Old St. Joseph's last November, I scanned the list of patron saints that the *confirmandi* had chosen. One name jumped out at me. So I did a quick Google search to confirm that there was actually a saint named Óscar, or at least soon to be one.

Choosing a confirmation name can mark a conversion, just like Saul became Paul on the road to Damascus. It can also reflect a desire to follow a particular way of imitating Christ. Explaining his choice of Blessed Óscar Romero, the young man to be confirmed wrote that

Óscar Romero was a peacemaker who protested injustice, worked with the poor, and denounced civil war in his country . . . He feared nothing, not even death, the right wing government, or the rich . . . It is cool that he is from a poorer country in Central America yet had such a big impact everywhere.

You cannot
reap what
you have
not sown.
How are we
going to reap
**LOVE IN OUR
COMMUNITY,**
if we only
sow hate?

MONS. OSCAR ROMERO



An excellent summary of Romero's holy example. Let me add only a little historical context: When Óscar Romero became archbishop of its capital city of San Salvador in 1977, El Salvador was an impoverished country on the brink of civil war. By all accounts, up to that point Romero had a fairly conventional career as a highly educated churchman. But in the spring of 1977, the murder of his friend Rutilio Grande, SJ, sparked a conversion process for Romero. Grande had preached and ministered among El Salvador's disenfranchised poor and was targeted by the local authorities for doing so. Inspired by Grande's example, Romero moved, not to the *side* of the poor people caught in the middle of El Salvador's violence, but **among** them.

Romero began to use his pulpit to address the forces perpetuating poverty and violence in El Salvador. He called on then-president Jimmy Carter to end US military aid to the right wing government. He appealed to Salvadoran militias to lay down their arms, reminding them "the people you kill are your brothers and sisters." Romero's outspokenness sealed his fate; he was assassinated on March 23, 1980 as he celebrated Mass on the grounds of a hospital where he lived.

Early last month, Pope Francis confirmed that Blessed Óscar Romero would be elevated to sainthood later this year. US news coverage focused on the internal politics of the announcement and missed what was quite clear to the eyes of one young *confirmandi*:

Óscar Romero was a peacemaker: even as he denounced violence, Romero did not perpetuate division. Instead, he called on the powerful to recognize and respect their deep familial bond with the people they oppressed.

—Continued on next page



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Óscar Romero feared nothing: He could not help but know the potentially lethal consequences of his conversion, but fear of death did not keep him from living the Gospel's call to make God's love and justice truly present among his people.

Óscar Romero came from a small country, but he had a big impact: The official announcement of his elevation to sainthood confirms the holy example Salvadorans have long recognized and offers it to the whole church for imitation. When I wonder how I (we) can accept this invitation to be inspired by Romero's particular way of imitating Christ, it is consoling to know that small things can matter greatly.

And so I ask myself: Whom do I live among? Whose lives and experiences do I allow to shape mine? Am I willing to speak up to the powerful, to call and write my representatives, to vote my conscience and with my wallet? Does fear of the small deaths of my convenience or complacency cause me to lose my way? And if I (we) could be even a little bit as open to conversion as was Blessed Óscar Romero—or as open as a young man among the *confirmandi* at Old St. Joseph last November—how cool would that be?

—Ms. BJ Brown
Parish Administrative Assistant

Announcements

Adult Education:

What Progress Has Been Made?

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther's condemnations of corruption in the Catholic Church's practices surrounding penance began the painful split that led to the birth of Protestantism. Last fall, the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation asked "forgiveness for our failures and for the ways in which Christians have wounded the Body of the Lord and offended each other." How did we get from there to here? Join the Adult Education committee on **Monday, April 23 at 7:30 PM** in Barbelin Hall to welcome William Madges, PhD, Professor of Historical Theology and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at St. Joseph's University. Dr. Madges will speak about *Five Hundred Years Since the Protestant Reformation: What Ecumenical Progress Has Been Made?* All are welcome to attend!

Half Day Retreat:

"The Sinner Loved by God"

On **May 5th from 10:00am to 2:00pm** in Barbelin Hall, Fr. Dan Ruff SJ will lead us in exploring a central theme of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, "*The Sinner Loved by God*". Following-up from Fr. Modrys' Lenten lecture series on reconciliation, the half day retreat will discuss the relationship we share with God and His love for us.

There is no cost for the retreat, but a **free will offering** is appreciated. Please RSVP by Monday, April 30th to: osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org.

Sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Committee at OSJ

Centering Prayer

The Centering Prayer group will meet again on **Wednesday, April 18, at 6:30 PM**. Discussion of centering prayer will be followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Interested in contemplative prayer? Please join us in the Drexel Parlor. For more information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com.

Young Adults

What is Your Catholic Voice? A Night of Journaling & Reflection: So you're Catholic, but how would you describe that to others? How do you live your Catholic faith? What is your Catholic voice? Spend some time journaling and reflecting on these questions and others on **Tuesday, April 17**. All young adults are invited to join the OSJ Young Adult Community for a night of guided reflection in **Barbelin Hall**. No preparation or materials needed, but do feel free to bring your own journal. **Spirits and socializing begin at 7:00 PM; programming starts at 7:30 PM**. Have questions? Reach out to Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Semi-Annual Steering Committee Retreat: Join us to plan and organize for the next six months at our Semi-Annual Steering Committee Retreat on **Sunday, April 22nd from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Loyola Room at OSJ**. We invite any young adult to participate for as much of the day as their schedule permits. Our goals for the meeting are to review the past six months, reflect on what is going well and what needs improvement, develop ways to make changes to reflect the needs recognized by the group, and discuss who may feel called to take on leadership roles with specific events, projects or within leadership. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person on April 22nd, please send any thoughts or recommendations to be brought up in discussion by April 21st to Megan at mprilutski@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation and dedication to the OSJ Young Adult Community. We hope to see you there!

Music at the Cathedral

World-class ensemble *Chanticleer* will perform in the glorious acoustics of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on **April 28 at 8:00 PM**. Tickets for this evening of acapella music are available at CathedralPhilaConcerts.org.

Merion Mercy Academy Invites You

to make the kindest cut of all! Join us as we donate our ponytails to Pantene Beautiful Lengths to be transformed into free, high-quality wigs for women undergoing cancer treatment. The cutting event will be **May 6 at 11:00 AM** at New Appearances in Drexel Hill, PA. To RSVP or make a donation in support of the event, please contact mdellavecchio@merion-mercy.com or call (610)-551-0900.

OSJ Book Group

We decided on an adventure for our next book, a novel by Isabel Allende, a writer from Chile, world renowned for her magical realism. The title is *Eva Luna*. Prepare for an unexpected ride! Eva Luna is orphaned at six and is sent out to work in the households of other people. Ralph Carle arrives in South America to start a new life after having been forced to work in Nazi concentration camps as a child. Storytelling and enchantment keep Eva Luna alive. The book asks us how art and literature can help our spirits flourish. We meet next on **Tuesday, 1 May, 7:30PM—9:00 PM**, in the Loyola Room. For questions, contact shlosscarol@gmail.com

Thank You!

*The last few weeks have been busy ones for those involved with Parish Life. On Monday, March 19, we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph with Mass and dinner. **Thank you** to all who attended and brought beer, wine or a dessert. Many **thanks** to Termini's Bakery for the donation of 150 St. Joseph Cakes for dessert! Special **thanks** to all who helped prepare and serve the food as well as the set up and clean up crews, especially Linda Ackerman, John Andrews, Luanne Balestrucci, Tish Byrne, Gerrie Blavat, Camille Fallon, Cynthia Locke, Kathleen Mathis, Rana and Andrew McNamara, Bob Orloski, Gaye Painten, Laura Salvatore, Susan Schraeder, Sandy Wasser, and Nancy Wood.*

*Then it was on to Holy Week with receptions after the Easter Vigil and the 9:30 Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday as well as the Annual OSJ Easter Egg Hunt. **Thank you** to all who donated eggs and to the members of Parish Council who helped hide the eggs in the North Park. **Special thanks** to our hosts who helped offer hospitality to fellow parishioners as well as our many visitors, especially Luanne Balestrucci, Tish Byrne, Chris and Amelia Hoffman, and Nancy Wood. — Joe Casey, Parish Life Committee*

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers

Rick Bravo
Joseph Burke
Christine Mari-Mazzola
Pat Farris
Allan May
Debbie Brooks
James McBride
Fr. Mike Hricko SJ

Ed Tomezsko
Mary Jacobs
Jerry McAndrews SJ
Lydia Staley
Charlotte Croce
Jack Lees
Catherine Keddie
Jerry McBride
Adeline Acerno

Tony Corvaia
JoAnna Pearl
Lucy Pearl
Marie Jacobs
Edward Jacobs
Hannah Poole
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.

Requiescat in Pace

Please remember in prayer the family of Mary Lou Jennings, who was buried from St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Newtown PA on Tuesday April 10. She is the sister of long-time parishioner Tom Farris.

Date	Mass Intention and Presider		Calendar Events	
Mon 16	12:05 PM:	<i>T.V. Whitfield (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM: 7:30 PM:	PREP Finance Committee (Loyola)
Tues 17	12:05 PM:	<i>Geraldine Marren and Family</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon: 7:30 PM:	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed 18	12:05 PM:	<i>Emily Hanycz (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:30 PM:	Centering Prayer (Drexel)
Thurs 19	12:05 PM:	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon:	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 20	12:05 PM:	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat 21	12:05 PM: 5:30 PM:	<i>Margaret Donahue (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon:	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 22	7:30 AM: 9:30 AM: 11:30 AM: 6:30 PM:	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	10:00 AM 5:30 PM: 5:30 PM:	YAC Planning Retreat (Loyola) Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending March 25
Percent of online giving: 52%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$232.00	n/a	\$232.00
Sunday Mass	\$6662.00	\$7221.50	\$13,883.50*
Holy Thursday	\$604.00	\$245.00	\$849.00
Good Friday	\$871.00	\$410.00	\$1281.00
Operation Rice Bowl			\$430.25

**Monthly Online Giving donations were downloaded this week.
The **Easter Collection** is active on the Online Giving Website through April 22
and will be published at the end of the month.*

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 \$20,785.00 or 53% 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.

A New Setting of the Mass Ordinary

During the Sundays of Easter we will continue learning settings for the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Agnus Dei from Randall DeBruyn's *Mass of the Resurrection*. Most fitting for these Sundays of Eastertide, it is an outstanding Mass setting. We will introduce a movement or two at time, while maintaining our familiar Mass settings as well.

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.

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 SJ

(pastor@oldst.joseph.org)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Edward O'Donnell SJ

(eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ

(dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence: Br. Robert Carson SJ

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)

PREP Coordinator: Christine Szczepanowski

(prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director:

Deborah Hluchan, (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

OSJ Councils and Boards

Parish Pastoral Council: (osjpc@oldstjoseph.org),

Rana McNamara and Richard Le, co-chairs

Parish Finance Council: Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board: Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, 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)

Ministry Leaders

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

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Bill

Stewart (*wstewart@kaplanlaw.com*)

Hospitality Ministry: Luanne Balestrucci

(lbasetrucci@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)