

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

May 27, 2018 | The Most Holy Trinity

What to Remember on Memorial Day

I remember standing at attention—the best we young kids could do to make ourselves look like real soldiers—since we had no training except to imitate what we had seen in the movies. I had helped to carry the American flag down Palisade Avenue to the town monument in the Memorial Day parade. And the scout leader had kindly arranged that I was the one bearing the Stars and Stripes just as we marched past my family's house. I knew my parents had been standing outside and saw me as we passed by. The whole class marched, at least all the boys, because in those days every boy was expected to be a Cub Scout. And marching on Memorial Day was one thing every "Cub" was expected to do. Besides, it was fun to march along, knowing that the town's fire engines were slowly rolling along behind us. They were all shined up for the occasion.



Back then, I'm not sure I knew what Memorial Day was all about. Something about fighting in wars, I guessed. But World War II was something I saw on TV and was something that happened before I was born. Like a lot of kids, I watched endless reruns of *Victory at Sea* and thought it was really exciting, especially with that musical score that was so perfectly coordinated with the pictures of the war. And the Korean War? Well, nobody spoke much about that. So to me I was convinced that war took place in the past and could never happen again. With Eisenhower as our President—the same general who had won the war—we were entirely safe and even the Russians could never touch us.

Only later did I learn what every generation has to learn—the horrible scourge of war. And every generation seems to take it in as if it is an entirely new and original discovery.

My learning began about ten years after that Memorial Day on which I had so proudly carried the flag. By now I was a Jesuit seminarian and despite the relative isolation of the seminary we were just beginning to hear the rumbles of a war in Vietnam. A year or two previously we had all filled out our draft registration cards, again never thinking it mattered much—just an out-of-date remnant of that long-ago World War II era. My two older brothers-in-law had both served in the army—as accountants at Fort Dix. A minor postponement to their careers, but no great hassle. But now it was 1965, early February. Then my father sent me a letter with a clipping from the local newspaper. It was a big story in the town and something I never expected to see. Pfc. Robert J. Betz was reported missing. He had been stationed in a barracks that was bombed by the Viet Cong. This was the attack that led to the US launching Operation Rolling Thunder, the first systematic air campaign against North Vietnam. Robert Betz became one of the first American casualties of the Vietnam War.

Bobby had been a classmate of mine. I'm sure he had been standing with me in the town park on that Memorial Day that for some strange reason was so indelibly impressed on my memory. Now for the first time, the

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

innocence and naivete of our youth was shattered by the news that one of us young boys was dead—in a war! It was now our turn. My generation was now lining up to learn the terrible lesson—the horrible scourge of war.

Cleverly, the country has dulled the impact of that lesson by relegating the risk of war only to those who have voluntarily assumed the burden, and to their loved ones, of course. Most of the present generation, therefore, can escape the terrible sting of learning the lesson firsthand. It's as if the naïveté of my youth can now be preserved while the country indulges itself in a national illusion. A dangerous condition for our country that may invite a still wider calamity in the long run—something that may have almost happened in Iraq.

This year I will once again spend part of Memorial Day thinking of Robert and praying for him and his family. I want always to honor him in my memory. I am thankful that so many of the wounds of that terrible conflict have been healed by subsequent expressions of friendship and mutual sympathy for the pains and sorrows that each side had to endure. But in performing these Memorial Day observances now I am—I hope—far wiser than that small boy who once carried the flag and made that rather clumsy attempt to stand at military attention. I will never think of war except as a tragic contradiction of our common humanity. I will never cheer on the saber rattling that some of our political leaders use to rally support for their proposed solutions to the world's conflicts. I will never conflate weapons of war with emblems of patriotism. I am not a pacifist, so I pray to God that my acquiescence—reluctant as it is—even to the possibility of a justified taking up of arms is not a sinful compromise of my allegiance to the gospel of peace.

Walter F. Modrys, SJ
Pastor

A Prayer for Memorial Day

God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.
Keep in your mercy those men and women
who have died in the cause of freedom
and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*
a publication of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Announcements

For All Uninsured and Under-Insured Patients

The Annual Health Expo will be held on **Saturday, June 2 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM** at Methodist Hospital, 2301 South Broad Street. Free health screenings will be provided, including cholesterol and glucose (fasting recommended), blood pressure and stroke, and osteoporosis. For women patients, mammograms, (sponsored by the Linda Creed Foundation) will be provided. Registration is only required for mammograms and osteoporosis screenings. Call **215-952-9169** for more information.

Catholic Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art!

Young adults are invited to join YAC on **Wednesday, May 30th** as we head to the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** to explore its collection of Catholic art! We'll check out the collection together, with members of the Young Adult Community explaining various pieces. **We will meet at 7:00 PM in the lobby.** Also note: Wednesday is "pay what you will night." Have questions? Reach out to Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com.

Catholic Charities—Almost There!

With 87 donations, Old St. Joseph's has reached 91% of our \$39,000 goal. Catholic Charities of Philadelphia provides a long list of social services aimed at transforming lives and bringing about a just and compassionate society. The annual Catholic Charities Appeal is a way to express our Christian faith and respond to the cries of the poor in imitation of Jesus. *Please note:* If you contribute through your employer, such as through the United Way, please follow up with the Catholic Charities Appeal office (215-587-5650) to ensure that OSJ gets credit for your donation.



Thank You!

Old St. Joseph's collected fifty full grocery bags for the Manna collection, which will be delivered to the Archdiocesan Nutritional Development Service's food pantries. In addition to its Community Food Program, NDS touches the lives of thousands of children from infancy through high school through the breakfast, lunch, snack, after-school and summer programs it sponsors. Last year over 10 million people of all ages were recipients. Thank you for helping to make these good works possible!

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Breakfast

Old Pine Community Center is seeking help to serve Sunday breakfast and pack take-away lunches for homeless and low income members of the community. Please consider lending a hand **on Sundays from 7:00-10:00 AM** at 401 Lombard Street. More information is available at 215-627-2493 and center@oldpine.org.

Rosary and Mass

The National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia will host special services for healing on **Friday June 8 at 7:00 PM** in honor of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Details at 215-546-8333.

Please remember our sick and homebound sisters and brothers

Rick Bravo
Christine Mari-Mazzola
Pat Farris
Allen May
Debbie Brooks
James McBride
Fr. Mike Hricko SJ
Marjorie Dugan
Stephen Paesani

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

Tony Corvaia
JoAnna Pearl
Lucy Pearl
Marie Jacobs
Edward Jacobs
John Hart
Patricia Yusko
Angelo Miczza
D. Minter

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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will take a summer break beginning on **June 3 until September 16**. If, come fall, you would like to be part of this ministry to the children of Old St. Joseph's as a leader or musician, please contact Peggy Connolly at pmcon@comast.net or look for her at the coffee hour after Sunday Mass.

On Memorial Day, May 28, the Parish Office will be open only between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Confession will be available at 11:30 AM and Mass will be at 12:05 PM.

Traveling? Wondering if there's a Catholic Church nearby and what time Mass is? Check CatholicMassTime.org for a nationwide listing—that includes Old St. Joseph's!



The flowers on the altar this week
were donated by Neal Hébert in loving memory of Allen Aiken.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 28	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Tues 29	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed 30	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	
Thurs 31	12:05 PM: <i>Silvester Lombardi (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 1	12:05 PM: <i>Maude M. Farris-Peters (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 2	12:05 PM: <i>Edward and Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 5:30 PM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 12:30 PM: Anointing of the Sick after Noon
Sun 3	7:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 9:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Frederico SJ 11:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 6:30 PM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM: YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

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 the home page or click on the 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 on the RSS Feed.

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending May 20

Percent of online giving: 49%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$213.00	n/a	\$213.00
Sunday Mass	\$5,372.00	\$5,255.50	\$10,627.50

The Catholic Home Mission and Ascension Thursday Collections are active on the Online Giving Website through May 27.

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

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 SJ

(pastor@oldstjoseph.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@kaplaw.com)*

Hospital 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)