

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 13, 2018 | The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Baptism

If you attended the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday night, you took part in and witnessed what St Augustine called the "awe inspiring rites of initiation." Augustine was referring to the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. In Augustine's time, a priest or a deacon baptized the new Christians and clothed them in white garments. Then the bishop would confirm their initiation by welcoming them with a kiss and embrace and by pouring ointment over their heads. Then for the first time the new Christians would join the community in the celebration of the Eucharist.

As the Church grew in numbers, most people became Christian not by conversion but by birth into a Christian family. And so eventually infant baptism in a parish church became the norm. In the Latin Rite, the confirming of the baptism became a separate ritual reserved to the bishop and delayed until adulthood. The reception of Christ's body and blood was also delayed, though not participation in the Eucharistic celebration. It was only in the first decade of the twentieth century that the reception of the Eucharist in the Latin rite was moved to an earlier age and before confirmation. The Eastern Rites of the Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, have kept the old order and unity of the rites of initiation even for infants.



Some elements of the baptismal rite have never changed. Water is always used and the baptizer always says "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." But other elements have changed. Sponsors of the person to be baptized have become godparents, helpers of the parents (and gift givers for the child). When once the whole community attended a baptism, now only family and close friends of the parents do. Not too long ago, infants were baptized within two weeks of birth. Mothers did not go to church so soon after giving birth, so they rarely witnessed their child's baptism. Such was the tradition in my own family.

For most Christians, baptism is still awe-inspiring, not just because all newborn babies are awe-inspiring, but also, or more so, because baptism is a sacrament, a holy action, or a mystery, a divine revelation, a sign that effects what it signifies. And Baptism signifies various realities.

Baptism is a welcome, as people in Jesus' time welcomed a guest to a meal: with water to wash, with a kiss on the cheek, with oil poured on the head. (In the seventh chapter of Luke's Gospel, Jesus points out to a host the lack of these signs of welcome.)

But baptism is even more than a welcome. Paul in his letters – the first mention of baptism in the Bible – speaks of "Baptism into Christ." Baptism is a clothing in Christ, a union with him and with all the baptized. It is baptism in the Spirit into one body, Christ's body (Galatians 3:27; I Corinthians 12:13).

But even more precisely, baptism is not just union with Christ in a general sense. It is union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Paul writes in his last letter, to the Romans:

--continued on next page



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.

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

It is easier to see the symbolism of death and resurrection when someone is baptized by immersion: going down into the water and coming up again. I have never seen baptism by immersion although it is still allowed and is done in some places and is usual in the Eastern Rites. A relic of immersion is in the rubric that the water has to be poured over the head of the person baptized.

Baptism is also spoken of as a washing, a taking away of sin (I Cor 11). Sin is conceived as a sort of stain that could be washed away, as the ritual baths of Judaism took away ritual impurity. Since baptism was a once-only event, as was reconciliation after baptism, people often put off baptism until old age or until they were dying. That seems to be the reason for Augustine not being baptized as a youth, and for the Emperor Constantine being baptized on his death bed.

God does not normally cast his grace upon us, as if He were throwing a bolt of lightning or pouring grace into us like some sort of elixir. God usually works through other human beings. And so it is in infant baptism: parents, godparents, the whole family, friends, parish community, the universal church, the communion of saints – all of these agents have played a role as instruments of God’s grace. So, too, in the case of baptism of adults. Here we may substitute “sponsors” for “godparents” and add to the above list those who have led the adults to the faith: those who loved them with the love of God; who showed them how to love with the love of Christ; who taught them how to pray, to speak and listen to God; who accompanied them on the way; who forgave; who led them to the awesome beauty of the liturgy.

Today is Mother’s Day. No better way, therefore, to conclude these remarks than to quote the beautiful blessing for mothers in the baptism liturgy for infants. After the baptism and the anointing and the presentation of the candle, the priest stands before the mother of the child and recites these words:

*God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child,
Has brought joy to all Christian mothers,
As they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children.
May he bless you, the mother of this child.
You now thank God for the gift of your child.
May you be one with him/her in thanking God for ever in heaven,
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

To all the mothers who have nurtured new life, we wish them a very joyful day filled with gratitude from all their loved ones.

Fr. Dougherty SJ

Announcements

Catholic Charities Update

Catholic Charities does phenomenal work for the benefit of the poor of our city. The Catholic Charities Appeal, therefore, is a principal way that we express our Christian faith and respond to the cries of the poor in imitation of Jesus. Based on 74 donations, our parish is just \$7,000 short of reaching our \$39,00 goal. Please help us reach or even surpass our goal. *Please note:* If you contribute through your employer, such as through the United Way, please follow up with the CCA office (215-587-5650) to ensure that OSJ gets credit for your donation.

Let’s Root-Root-Root for the Home Team!

Join OSJ for a Phillies baseball game on **June 25th**. A portion of all tickets sold will go to Catholic Charities. Just about 40 tickets remain! Tickets are available after each of the Masses—please see an usher if you are interested in purchasing tickets. The cost is \$23 per ticket. Come and cheer on Philadelphia’s own boys of summer!

Socks, Soap and a Shave:

A warm thank you to those who generously donated socks, outerwear, and toiletries for distribution by **Faith, Food & Friends** during the winter months. Since the need for clean, dry socks and basic toiletry items is year-round, we are asking again for donations of the men's socks, bars of soap, and packages of disposable razors. Donations of travel-size containers of shampoo and lotion are welcome as well. Donation baskets are at the back of the church, or drop off donations in the church office during business hours. You can email faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer Meeting

The **Centering Prayer Group** will meet on **Wednesday, May 16 from 6:30-8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the rectory. All are welcome! For more information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or christinesz52@gmail.com.

Book Club

The final book of the year for the Old Saint Joseph's Reading Group will be *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott. We meet next on **Tuesday, June 5, at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room.

McDermott's novel, which, among many awards and honors, was named *Kirkus Review's* Best Historical Fiction for 2017, represents life in Brooklyn as told through the voices of the children and grandchildren of immigrants, who struggle through the trials of a new country. It has been described as "beautifully observed and quietly absorbing." For more, information, please contact Carol Shloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

MANNA Canned Food Collection

This month, Old St. Joseph's will participate in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's food drive for Manna. This drive will restock emergency food cupboards across the archdiocese's five counties for the summer months, when food donations traditionally decline. MANNA grocery bags are available in the back of the church. Please take a bag, fill it with groceries (such as canned fruit, pasta sauces, dry pasta, canned tomatoes, shelf-stable milk, whole grain cereals, oatmeal, peanut butter) and return it to the baptismal area located in the back of the church **by Sunday, May 20, 2018**. Thank you!

Young Adults

The OSJ Young Adult Community invites everyone to the Parish Monthly **Sunday Cook-In in Barbelin Hall on May 13 after the 6:30 PM Mass**. This month we will be hosting graduating seniors from St. Joseph's University. Come and enjoy good food and good company!

YAC Goes to Solidarity on Tap: For one Spirituality Night only on **Tuesday, May 15, 7:00-9:00 PM**, YAC moves from Barbelin to **Field House** for Solidarity on Tap along with other Jesuit-affiliated groups and organizations. See you there!

May OSJ YAC Happy Hour! All young adults are invited to join us for some frosty German beers in this warm spring weather for our **May Happy on Friday, May 18 at Frankford Hall** (1210 Frankford Ave), Fishtown's popular open-air *biergarten*. There's 11 German beers on tap (half or full liter) plus American drafts and a great selection of canned beers. Giant pretzels, sausages, and potato pancakes round out the delicious menu of bites. **We'll be there starting at 5:30 PM** and will stay until at least **8:00 PM**. Contact Christopher Ross at 610-952-7317 or at g.chris.ross@gmail.com with any questions or to find us at the bar. Hope to see you there!

Penn Glee Club Sings at OSJ This Week!

All are cordially invited to a concert held here at OSJ, presented by the University of Pennsylvania Glee Club on **Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 PM**. The concert will include a varied program of both classical and contemporary compositions. Admission is free.

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

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.

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 14	12:05 PM: <i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	6:00 PM PREP
Tues 15	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM YAC Spirituality Night (off-site)
Wed 16	12:05 PM: <i>Geraldine Marren & Family</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:30PM Center Prayer (Drexel) 6:30 PM Women's Group (Loyola)
Thurs 17	12:05 PM: <i>Charles Muldoon (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 18	12:05 PM: <i>Edward and Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 19	12:05 PM: <i>Richard Carlton King (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 5:30 PM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 20	7:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ 9:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 11:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 6:30 PM: Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	10:30 AM Adult Education Meeting (Drexel) 11:00 AM Ignatian Spirituality Meeting (Loyola) 5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM: YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending April 29

Percent of online giving: 43%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$445.00	n/a	\$445.00
Sunday Mass	\$9,243.16	\$6,991.50	\$16,234.66

This week's collections include both monthly and annual gifts.

*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

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 are reminded to update their profile by May 15th for the June 1st - July 31st ministry schedule. **NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO SIGN UP ONLINE!** Please visit www.oldstjoseph.org and click Ministry Scheduling Program. Thank you!

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@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)