

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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May 20, 2018 | Pentecost

Hunger in Philadelphia

When I was in the youth choir some years ago, I watched one Sunday as the church organist worked up a sweat over a recessional hymn, his fingers and feet flying over the organ's keyboards and pedals. Perhaps influenced by that day's reading from Matthew 25, I slipped into the sacristy and returned with a cup of cold water, which I handed to him after the final chord. Surely church musicians are among the least of these, I thought, and now I'll inherit the Reign of God along with the rest of the sheep on Jesus' right hand.

Over time, I have come to understand that Matthew 25:31-40—a passage that Pope Francis calls the 'one clear criterion by which we will be judged'—asks far more of me. It is not enough to hand someone a cup of water or a ham sandwich or even a whole bag of groceries. Let me take the occasion of this month's Manna food drive to reflect on the challenge the persistence of hunger poses to a person of faith.

Bread for the World (bread.org) notes that in the last two generations, great progress has been made in eliminating world hunger. In 1960, as many as 1 in 3 people in the world were hungry; today, about 1 in 8 or 9 people experience chronic hunger. According to Philabundance (philabundance.org), a local food rescue and anti-hunger organization, hunger is more common in Philadelphia, where 1 in 5 people live without reliable access to enough nutritious food. Philabundance calls hunger "the harshest and most detrimental symptom of poverty," affecting life-long health, education and financial stability.

Anti-hunger activists like Bread for the World and Philabundance have come to understand that hunger is not about scarcity; it is about access. There is enough food; the problem is how food is distributed and who has the power to get the food they need. That is why another Philadelphia organization, the Coalition Against Hunger, (hungercoalition.org) is committed to preventing hunger with three strategies: immediate relief through food pantries and soup kitchens, short-term relief through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP, or what used to be called food stamps), and long-term policy advocacy for sustainable solutions to chronic hunger.

SNAP is a needs-based government assistance program that helps 1 in 7 Pennsylvanians afford a basic diet. Two-thirds of Pennsylvania's SNAP recipients are children or seniors or people with disabilities. The benefit they receive is modest; according to the Coalition Against Hunger, the average SNAP benefit is \$210 per month. But even that small benefit could soon be taken away. The 2018 Farm bill now before Congress would cut SNAP benefits by \$20 billion over ten years and impose increasingly punitive work requirements—and remember, two-thirds of SNAP recipients are elderly, children, or people with disabilities, that is, people who are powerless to provide for themselves through employment.

Christian faith also demands a multi-faceted response to the scandal of chronic hunger. In his March 2018



Apostolic Exhortation, Pope Francis is unambiguous about the “uncompromising demands of Jesus.” That familiar passage in Matthew 25 about dividing the sheep from the goats is not a simple invitation to charity, but a non-negotiable demand to seek the sort of just social and economic systems that US bishops called for over thirty years ago when they said, “the prime purpose of our special commitment to the poor is to enable them to become active participants in the life of society.” (*Economic Justice for All*, 88)

Faced with persistent, chronic hunger in Philadelphia, what then are some immediate, short-term and long run responses we can make as persons of faith? We can

- Offer immediate assistance by filling a Manna grocery bag with nutritious foods like whole-grain cereals and pasta, canned fish, low-sodium canned vegetables and water-packed fruits.
- Offer financial support to the Food, Faith and Friends hot lunch program hosted at Old St. Joseph’s Church every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Call Pennsylvania senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey Jr. to voice our opposition to cuts to SNAP and other food assistance programs in the 2018 Farm bill.
- Deepen our understanding of long-term social changes that address the poverty that leads to hunger. We can become active members of Bread for the World (bread.org) and Philadelphia’s own Coalition Against Hunger (hungercoalition.org).

Finally, we can acknowledge that ‘the one clear criterion’ is not something that is one-and-done with a single cup of cold water. The measure of our holiness is not only in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, or visiting the sick and imprisoned. It is also in learning to recognize Christ in the faces of those with whom he himself most wished to be identified. (*Gaudete et Exsultet*, 96)

BJ Brown
Parish Administrative Assistant

Pastor’s Note: *Our parish will be vigorously supporting the efforts of Bread for the World regarding SNAP and other issues. Your assistance will be requested.*

The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren.

--Code of Canon Law, c. 1397

Announcements

For the Win!

Only 16 tickets remain for an unparalleled opportunity to support the necessary works of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia while winning bragging rights over a certain American League team! Join OSJ for a Phillies baseball game on **June 25th**. A portion of all tickets sold will go to Catholic Charities. Tickets are available after each of the Masses—please see an usher if you are interested. The cost is \$23 per ticket. Come and cheer for the home team!

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.

Catholic Charities—Almost There!

With 83 donations, Old St. Joseph's has reached 90% 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.

St. Rita of Cascia's Feast Day

will be celebrated all day on **Tuesday, May 22** at the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia at 1166 S. Broad Street. All masses on the feast day will include procession of St. Rita's statue, blessing of roses, and her novena. For more details, please visit saintritashrine.org

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.

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.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 21	12:05 PM: <i>Edward and Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM PREP Mas - Church Reception - Barbelin Hall
Tues 22	12:05 PM: <i>Frank Andaloro (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM YAC Spirituality Night (off-site)
Wed 23	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:30PM Center Prayer (Drexel) 6:30 PM Women's Group (Loyola)
Thurs 24	12:05 PM: <i>Winifred Grace (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 25	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 26	12:05 PM: <i>Joseph Pirolli (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ 5:30 PM: Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 27	7:30 AM: Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ 9:30 AM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ 11:30 AM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ 6:30 PM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell 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)

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 6

Percent of online giving: 41%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$212.00	n/a	\$212.00
Ascension	\$586.00	\$105.00	\$691.00
Percentage of online giving: 15%			
Sunday Mass	\$5,372.00	\$3,720.50	\$9,092.50

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

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

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