

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

June 10, 2018 | The Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Where Do We Go From Here?

I recently received a survey of statistics on the Catholic Church from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). CARA is a national, non-profit, Georgetown University-affiliated research center that conducts social scientific studies about the Catholic Church. To my knowledge it is considered the most reliable source of statistical data on the Church.

Among the large collection of data, five categories interested me most of all. I've listed them in the chart below (numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand).

	1965	1980	2017
Total Priests	59,000	58,000	37,000
Religious Sisters	180,000	127,000	46,000
Lay Ministers		(1990) 22,000	40,000
Parishes	18,000	19,000	17,000
Catholic Population	48,500,000	56,800,000	74,300,000

The number of priests in the US has declined 37% from the year 1965 to 37,000 today. My suspicion is that the median age of priests is presently in the 60's, so that the number of priests will continue to decline over the next decade.

But the decline—74%—in the number of religious sisters is even more drastic. Here, too, I suspect the median age of religious sisters is well into the 60's, so this decline, too, will undoubtedly continue.

But interestingly, look at the number of lay ministers. In 1980, CARA was not even tracking this category, but the number has almost doubled since 1990 and is now larger than the total number of priests. This means that there are more lay people working in parish ministry than there are ordained priests.

The number of parishes has remained fairly constant—down only 6% since 1965. If you find this surprising, it may be because parishes have been closing in the Northeast (in cities like Philadelphia) as new parishes are being founded in the South, reflecting the migration of so many Catholics to the South and Southwest. But overall in the US, the number of Catholics has increased by 53% since 1965, no doubt due to the increased number of Hispanics and other immigrants into the country.

I'm probably oversimplifying the data, but the patterns are clear: the numbers of priests and religious sisters are way down. The participation of the laity in church ministry is way up. And the Catholic population has increased, though this probably has to be balanced against the decline in Church participation among so many Catholics today.

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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.

What do you make of this? A couple of observations:

First, there's a lot to be alarmed about, in particular regarding "religious vocations." And so it's natural to ask who is at fault. I find that people tend to blame their ideological opponents for causing damage to the Church. And so we hear that everything was fine until Vatican II came along. Or the conservative popes held back the Church and turned away progressively-minded people. Or the relativism of secular culture has undermined religious fervor. Or young people today lack moral principles and have capitulated to materialism. Or trust in institutions of all kinds is weakened today by the rampant narcissism in American culture. Or. . .The list goes on. Maybe all or some of these factors have had an influence to some degree. I'm not adverse myself to lashing my favorite enemies to the whipping post and pointing an accusing finger.

Change is not unknown in the history of the Church. But for the Catholic Church in America, looking back, the twentieth century was a time of relative stability and rather extraordinary growth. So maybe we were lulled into a false sense of security. The twenty-first century, on the other hand, is probably going to be a time of critical challenges and major changes. Clearly, the future Church is not going to be a clergy-led institution even twenty years from now, the way it has been in our previous experience. This significant change seems to be just over the horizon, but surprisingly little is being done to anticipate this change. Maybe this is due to the impression that all that lies ahead is serious decline and diminishment. And who wants to prepare for that? Better to live in denial.

But I wonder if there's a deeper analysis that's called for. St Ignatius taught the practice of discernment, by which he meant that we should try to decipher where the "good spirit" is leading us as opposed to the influences of the "evil spirit." Can we look at the numbers and see any sign of the Holy Spirit moving among us? To recognize the Holy Spirit one must be free, open to challenging truths, because sometimes the Spirit breathes where it wills, not necessarily where we will. It may be hard to accept the real graces the Spirit is offering to the Church today because they are not the graces we want.

So at this point in time, given what you know of the present circumstances confronting the Church, where do you think the Spirit is leading the Church? Just a question worth pondering.

Fr. Walter F. Modrys SJ
Pastor

Note: Starting on June 17, the bulletin essays will take a summer vacation. The essays will return after Labor Day.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

On **June 25** our parishioners will be making their way to the Phillies game. One hundred and sixty tickets were purchased for the game, and part of the proceeds benefits Catholic Charities. If you would like to go to the game, you can still purchase tickets online at www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org.

See you at the game!

Fr. Modrys SJ

Announcements

Parish Cook-Out Today!

All are invited to the monthly Parish Cook-Out **today, June 10 at 7:30 PM** in courtyard, weather permitting (or in Barbelin Hall, if not!) Join us for good food and good company!

Jesuit Volunteer Corps

The Jesuit Volunteer Corps is recruiting in Philadelphia! JVC places young professionals at partner organizations to serve within poor communities across the country to create a more just and hopeful world. JVC anticipates that there will be volunteer communities in Philadelphia and Camden during their 2018-2019 program year. Interested? Find more information at jesuitvolunteers.org/howtoapply.

Share the Journey

Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Program is hosting a Thanksgiving Mass for World Refugee Day on **Sunday, June 17 at 10:00 AM** at St. Raymond Catholic Church, Vernon Rd., Philadelphia 19150. All are also invited to a World Refugee Day Celebration on **Wednesday, June 20 from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM** at 130 S. 7th Street in Chester. Please RSVP for lunch to sabu@chs-adphila.org.

Taizé Prayer Night

Back by popular demand: All Young Adults are welcome to a night of musical prayer and meditation on **Tuesday, June 12th from 7:00 PM-9:00 PM** to be led by members of our community in **Barbelin Hall**. Taizé prayer is a beautiful and unique tradition of meditative chanting of short phrases from the Bible and other texts in a variety of languages. Have any questions? Contact Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com.

Mothers' Home

Mothers' Home, a residential shelter for vulnerable pregnant women, is hosting its first annual gala fundraiser on **Friday, September 21** at the Drexelbrook Ballroom, 4700 Drexelbrook Drive, Drexel Hill PA 19026. Tickets and more information about Mothers' Home's ministries are at mothershome.org.

Marion Mercy Academy, an independent all girls high school, is seeking a fulltime science teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Qualified teachers of biology and chemistry should contact Mary Ann Danovich at madanovich@merion-mercy.com.

Experience a weekend of discernment **June 22-24** at the IHM Motherhouse in Malvern PA with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters, novices, and postulants. Single young women ages of 18-35 are invited to a weekend of prayer, spiritual conferences, meals, and times of recreation with the sisters. Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic adoration are included in our weekend retreat. For more information, contact: 610-889-1553 or ihmvoc@gmail.com.

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
Joan Russo

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

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

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.

If you or anyone you know would like to become a Catholic, Contact Father Ed O'Donnell at eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org. The process begins in the fall.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 11	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Tues 12	12:05 PM: <i>Edward and Mary Britt Family</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) 7:00 PM: YAC Spirituality Night
Wed 13	12:05 PM: <i>Geraldine Marren and Family</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	
Thurs 14	12:05 PM: <i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 15	12:05 PM: <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Sat 16	12:05 PM: <i>Richard Gaczinski (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ 5:30 PM: Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon: Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 17	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	5:30 PM: Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 5:30 PM: YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)
<p><i>This Week's Readings</i> ~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 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.</p>		

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending June 3
Percent of online giving: 31%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$372.00	n/a	\$372.00
Sunday Mass	\$5,615.00	\$2,558.50	\$8,173.50

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)