

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia PA 19106
215-923-1733
www.oldstjoseph.org

August 19, 2018 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Death Penalty, Reconsidered

The third section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Life in Christ*, addresses the death penalty under the heading *Respect for Human Life*. On May 11, Pope Francis approved a revision of this section, which was made public August 2. Here is revised text:

2267. Recourse to the death penalty on the part of legitimate authority, following a fair trial, was long considered an appropriate response to the gravity of certain crimes and an acceptable, albeit extreme, means of safeguarding the common good.

Today, however, there is an increasing awareness that the dignity of the person is not lost even after the commission of very serious crimes. In addition, a new understanding has emerged of the significance of penal sanctions imposed by the state. Lastly, more effective systems of detention have been developed, which ensure the due protection of citizens but, at the same time, do not definitively deprive the guilty of the possibility of redemption.

Consequently, the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that "the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person"¹ and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.

¹Francis, *Address to Participants in the Meeting organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, 11 October 2017: L'Osservatore Romano, 13 October 2017, 5.*

This revision was neither uncontroversial nor unexpected. The August 7 National Catholic Reporter notes that a majority of US Catholics (53%), like a majority of the US public (54%), favor the death penalty.

At the same time, the revised section of the Catechism reflects the way Church teaching has crystallized around

opposition to the death penalty over the past four decades. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *The Gospel of Life* affirmed that "Not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God himself pledges to guarantee this." (n.9) In 2011, Pope Benedict XV called for "every effort to eliminate the death penalty." The US bishops first called for the abolition of the death penalty in 1980 and reaffirmed that call in a 2005 statement, *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*. The US bishops considered Scripture, the social teaching of the Church, and the actual practice of capital punishment in the US before concluding that the death penalty, by its nature, violates respect for human dignity and is deeply flawed in its application because it is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and where the crime was committed.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center (deathpenaltyinfo.org) there are 2800 people on death rows in the US, with 31 states imposing the death penalty and 14 executions to date in 2018. There are 169 people on death row in Pennsylvania, but Governor Tom Wolf has created an effective moratorium since 2015 by granting reprieves at the time of scheduled executions, a practice applauded by the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Additional resources for study and action on death penalty abolition are available from catholicismobilizing.org. The Catholic Mobilizing Network works in close collaboration with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to abolish the death penalty and promote restorative justice in ways that respect the human dignity of victims, offenders and the community.

All Vatican and papal statements are searchable at www.vatican.va; US bishops' statements can be found at usccb.org.—BJ Brown



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.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date	Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events
Mon 20	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	
Tues 21	12:05 PM <i>Edward and Mary Britt (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin) 6:30 PM Women, Faith & Fellowship (Drexel) 7:00 PM YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed 22	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:30 PM Centering Prayer (Drexel)
Thurs 23	12:05 PM <i>Mary Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 24	12:05 PM <i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	
Sat 25	12:05 PM <i>Frank Washnak (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ 5:30 PM Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon Food, Faith and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 26	7:30 AM Presider: Fr. O'Donnell 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)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending August 11
Percent of online giving: 50%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$211.00	n/a	\$211.00
Sunday Mass	\$3919.00	\$3942.50	\$7861.50

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

**In your prayers,
please remember our sick and
homebound brothers and sisters and
our ministry at Pennsylvania
Hospital.**

Adeline Acerno, Rick Bravo, Debbie Brooks, Christopher Browne, Tony Corvaia, Charlotte Croce, Ann Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Fred DiStefano, Marjorie Dugan, Pat Farris, Lenny Felixson, John Hart, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Edward Jacobs, Marie Jacobs, Mary Jacobs, Janet Jeitner, Catherine Keddie, Jack Lees, David Luerssen, Jerry McAndrews SJ, James McBride, Jerry McBride, Christine Mari-Mazzola, Allen May, Angelo Miczza, D. Minter, Catherine O'Brien, Lucy Pearl, Joan Russo, Joanna Pearl, Sara Smith, Lydia Staley, Janet Street, Ed Tomezsko, Craig Walsh, Patricia Yusko, Mickey Zippo.

Announcements

Young Adults

Introduction to Centering Prayer: Want to learn about a new form of prayer? Heard about Centering Prayer but not quite sure what it is? Join us on **Tuesday, August 21 in Barbelin Hall** as we welcome OSJ Coordinator of Religious Education, Christine Szczepanowski. Christine will introduce us to Centering Prayer, a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, in which we experience God's presence within us. Centering prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. **Spirits and socializing start at 7:00 PM; program starts at 7:30 PM.** Questions? Contact Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer

The Centering Prayer Group will meet on **Wednesday, August 22 from 6:30 PM-8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome to a discussion followed by a period of centering. Questions? Contact Louis Oschmann, 267-872-0568 or louosch@aol.com.

Considering Catholicism?

If you or anyone you know would like to become a Catholic, please contact Fr. Ed O'Donnell at eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org. The inquiry process begins soon!

Help Wanted

When **Coffee Hours** resume after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses on **September 9**, volunteers will be needed once a month to prepare and serve coffee, juice, and baked goods and to clean up after either the 9:30 or the 11:30 Mass. Training and partners will be provided. Interested? Please contact Joe Casey at joetcasey@aol.com or 215-843-3573.

New Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers are always welcome, especially at the 5:30 PM and 9:30 AM Masses! Learn more at the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org.

Class Reunion

Neumann-Goretti all classes reunion, **Saturday, September 29, 4:00-8:00 PM** at the Sugar House Casino-Fishtown Hops. For information, visit themillayclub.org.

The Catholic University of America Collection

The Catholic University of America, located in Washington DC, is the national university of the Catholic Church. Founded in 1887, CUA's mission centers on the discovery of knowledge and truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church. The annual Collection for The Catholic University of America underwrites scholarships to assist financially deserving students in completing their education at CUA in over 50 disciplines. The collection will be taken up at Old St. Joseph on **August 18-19** and online through **September 9**.

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 or 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.

Pastor

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Edward O'Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence

Br. Robert Carson SJ

Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate

BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager

Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music

Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices

(office@oldstjoseph.org)

PREP Coordinator

Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director

Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Pastoral Council

Rana McNamara and Richard Le, co-chairs
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council

Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president.

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)

Altar Servers

Maria Ramirez (mathra71@yahoo.com)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart (wstewart@kaplaw.com)

Hospital Ministry

Luanne Balestrucci (lbalestrucci@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)