

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

September 23, 2018 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sharing our Faith

Old St. Joseph's Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) for children has resumed after the summer break. Religious education, however, takes no vacation. And while our first through six graders have received the textbooks that are the basis of the PREP curriculum, if all they learn is the contents of the books, then PREP will not truly be religious education.

It's true there is much to learn: the Word of God revealed in Scripture, our sacramental celebrations and prayer traditions, and the ways in which our Church is both a local and a global community. But book learning is not enough. Christian faith is all about relationship and in order for it to remain vibrant and relevant for both individuals and the Church—that is, for the whole people of God—it must be experienced in the context of relationships. That is how we share our faith—from one generation to the next, from those already in the Church to those entering it, from those who see their way clearly to those who are struggling—through the example of our lives and through our interactions with others.

Our PREP teachers nurture the experience of faith for our children, but the role is not exclusively theirs. This responsibility belongs first and foremost to parents. That is why the rite of infant baptism includes a reminder to parents that they are their child's first teachers in faith. Godparents support them in this work, as do grandparents, other family members and friends and, eventually, members of the wider community. All members of the Catholic



faith community are responsible for sharing our faith through the relationships we cultivate in word and deed.

The quality of the relationships our children experience with us is the foundation of their capacity to love God. The words and example of significant people in children's lives introduce them to the experience of love, of wonder, of the goodness of creation and their place in it, and of the awesome yet intimate presence of God. When a mother shares her son's delight in the discoveries of, for example, the properties of mud (but maybe not in the house), or a father helps his daughter overcome shyness and learn to make friends outside the family circle, these parents lay a foundation for their child's relationship with a Creator who is deeply in love with them. Supporting children as they engage in the world around them also encourages the sense of agency that is the basis of their discipleship.

—continued inside



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 24	12:05 PM	<i>Thomas Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 25	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon 6:30 PM	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Women, Faith and Friends (Drexel)
Wed 26	12:05 PM	<i>John S. Grady (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Thurs 27	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon 7:00 PM	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin) Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri 28	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat 29	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Claire Longeway (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 30	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM	Children's Liturgy of the Word Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending September 16
Percent of online giving: 40%

Collection	Regular	Online	Total
Daily Mass	\$232.00	n/a	\$232.00
Sunday Mass	\$5049.00	\$3398.65	\$8447.65

The annual collection for Black and Indian Missions, which provides grant support to evangelization among African Americans and Native Americans in the United States will be available online through **September 30**.

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.

—Sharing Our Faith
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It sometimes surprises children that to love God is inseparable from loving your neighbor—especially when it's pointed out that one's neighbor includes one's siblings! In the eyes of God, we have all been created equally and belong to one human community. We are called to treat one another with the dignity with which God's loving creation imbues us. The way we live out this call by making kindness and generosity the expected behavior at home shapes our children's capacity to experience God's love and their own goodness. The loving relationships our children experience within our families spills over into their relationship with God and their desire to be loving toward others.

The goodness of creation is a central aspect of our faith. Our scripture begins with it; our creed professes a savior both fully human and fully divine; our Eucharist is celebrated with the bread and wine that "earth has given and human hands have made" and the gestures of our bodies: standing, kneeling, the sign of the cross. Bringing children to Mass and praying together by saying grace at meals at home helps children experience the creation and the goodness of God.

But these are challenging times to share our faith. Perhaps some of us who have been looking to others to do just that are reminded again that it is our responsibility. A fifth-century Syriac wrote, "Be a proclaimer of the Gospel at all times. You will become a proclaimer of the Gospel when you lay upon yourself the Gospel's way of life. Show to the world that the other world exists." This other world acknowledges a greater, wiser, more compassionate power than that of flawed and limited human beings. This other world values each human life, whatever it looks like, in whatever circumstances it finds itself. This other world believes in the possibility of harmony among all people, of peace among all nations. The oft-heard attitude "that's just the way the world is", challenges us, as people of faith, to offer an experience of this other world.

Perhaps today we can take on an additional responsibility: to show to the world that another Church exists. Our lives can show what our Church can be, renewed and sharing a living faith with our children and a world that sorely needs it.

—Christine Szczepanowski
PREP Coordinator

(Image on front page is of Henry Ossawa Tanner's Christ and His Mother Studying Scripture, 1909 Dallas Museum of Art)

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, Melissa Counsellor, Charlotte Croce, Ann Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Fred DiStefano, Pat Farris, Lenny Felixson, Fred Hembree, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, 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, Phil O'Connor, Bernie Paquett, Joanna Pearl, Lucy Pearl, Betty Farris Pfeiffer, Colleen Raymond, Kim Reed, Joan Russo, Steve Saunders, Mida Skalamera, Sara Smith, Lydia Staley, Janet Street, Ed Tomezsko, Arlene Tomlin, Craig Walsh, Patricia Yusko, Mickey Zippo.

Bringing Communion to the Homebound

When people are confined to home, they can remain connected to our shared worship by receiving Communion at home. If you, a family member, friend or neighbor (with their approval of course), would like to receive Communion at home, contact the Parish Rectory to arrange for a parish Eucharistic Minister to visit.

Announcements

Missionary Coop Plan Appeal

The Diocese of Yaounde, Cameroon will benefit from the **September 30** Missionary Cooperation Appeal Plan second collection at Old St. Joseph's. This special collection is administered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Pontifical Mission Societies and supports mission work in over a thousand dioceses around the world, especially in places where Christianity is new. Thank you for your generosity!

Virtual Food Drive

Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is hosting an **online food drive** during September's national Hunger Action Month. You can help hungry neighbors in Philadelphia by purchasing healthy, non-perishable food items through You Give Goods at <https://yougivegoods.com/drive-7994> through **October 26**. All online purchases will be shipped directly to the Nutritional Development Services' Community Food Program and distributed to food cupboards located throughout the five-county Philadelphia area. Thank you for your help!

Open House

Waldron Mercy Academy is holding an Open House for prospective families on **Tuesday, October 2 at 9:00 AM**. Come and experience the advantage of a Mercy education for students in preschool through eighth grade. More information at www.waldronmercy.org/visitus.

Book Club

The OSJ Book Club will meet **October 2, 7:30-9:00 PM**, in the Loyola Room to discuss Bo Caldwell's *City of Tranquil Light*. New readers are always welcome! For more information, contact Carol Schloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Welcoming LGBT Catholics

At the Vatican's World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland last month, Fr. James Martin SJ spoke about how parishes can welcome LGBT Catholics and their families. Join us to watch and discuss that talk on **Wednesday October 3 at 7:00 PM** in Barbelin Hall. Links to the video and the text of Fr. Martin's talk will also be available at oldstjoseph.org.

An Offering of Letters

Join us at the **October 7** Coffee Hours and Cookin Dinner in Barbelin Hall as we gather and write letters to our congressional representatives about the ways their fall legislative agenda can help or hurt hungry members of our community. Writing materials, names and addresses, emails and sample texts will all be available A few minutes of your time can help can change minds, hearts, votes and lives!

St. Mary Interparochial School Fall Fundraiser

On Saturday, **October 13, 11:00 AM-3:00 PM**, St. Mary Interparochial School will celebrate its twelfth annual "Harvest Hoedown on Locust." Proceeds from this fall fundraiser will support St. Mary IPS' STEAM education and Technology needs. Two awards will also be presented that day, the Harding Alumni Award, recognizing an alum who exemplifies excellence in service to the community at large, and the St. Joseph the Worker Award, presented to an individual or organization who has demonstrated exceptional support to St. Mary's IPS. Purchase tickets by October 15 by calling 215-923-7522 or online at <http://www.saintmarys.us/events/harvest-hoedown>.

SNAP Makes a Difference & So Can You!

Over the last few weeks, Old St. Joseph's Sunday bulletins have sketched out the benefits of SNAP—the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—to members of our Philadelphia community, particularly families and older adults. Many people who are disabled and the families that care for them also rely on SNAP.

According to 2015 Census data, nearly 1.7 million people in Pennsylvania are disabled, many with multiple disabilities limiting their mobility, cognition, sight or hearing. That same year, 337,000 low-income, non-elderly people with disabilities participated in SNAP. Although about 21% of disabled SNAP participants are able to work part-time, their average monthly household income is \$1000, and their average monthly medical expenses are \$155. SNAP's benefit calculation can add \$138 to \$363 to their monthly income, depending on the household composition, a small but significant contribution to households that must sometimes chose among 'eat, heat or treat'.

The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate are at work reconciling the farm bill, including the scaled back House version of SNAP and the Senate's proposal to maintain the SNAP as it is. It is critical that people of faith speak up for the men, women and children, young and old, who depend on the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program to put food on their table. Eating is not a luxury, but a basic human right. Jesus invites us at every liturgy to share a meal. It is a meal that nourishes us spiritually. With faith in His promise to sustain us, let us join in an effort to provide physical nourishment to our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Visit Bread for the World ("a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad") at bread.org/information-for-activists for the latest updates on the status of SNAP and the phone numbers and emails of your Congressional representatives.

Many thanks to Lorraine McDermott Knight for providing the background on the difference SNAP can make for hungry people in Philadelphia. Past weeks' bulletins can be found at oldstjoseph.org/about-osj/bulletin/.

Women Faith and Friends

Women, Faith and Friends welcomes new members to join them at their next meeting, **September 25 6:30-7:30 PM** The meeting follows the Lectio Divina style of faith sharing, reading and discussing the daily Gospels, as well as drawing from the Ignatian tradition of seeing imagining ourselves there with Jesus.

Register and Vote!

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.—Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 13, US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

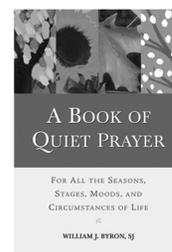
To register to vote in the November 6 election: In Pennsylvania, the deadline is October 9. Register online, in person or by mail. Details are at www.dos.pa.gov.

In New Jersey, the deadline is October 16. Details on registering in person or by mail are at www.state.nj.us.

The Delaware deadline is October 13. Online, in person and by mail options are described at <https://elections.delaware.gov/voter/votereg.shtml>.

Retreat with Fr. Bill Byron SJ

On **October 20, 12:05-3:00 PM**, OSJ's Ignatian



Spirituality Committee invites you to a half-day retreat with Fr. Bill Byron SJ, author of this year's One Parish, One Book selection, *A Book of Quiet Prayer*. Fr. Byron will preach at the noon Mass, and give an afternoon talk that explores his nine decades of experiences of prayer. Lunch will be provided and a free will offering gladly accepted. RSVP by October 15 to osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org.

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)

Eldership

Joan Slavin (joanslavin@aol.com)

Parish Life

Joe Casey (joetcasey@aol.com)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

John Bitterman (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Friends

Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community

Jenn Lydic and Megan Prilutski (osjyac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers

Maria Ramirez (mathra71@yahoo.com)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart (wstewart@kaplaw.com)

Hospital Ministry

Luanne Balestrucci (lbalestrucci@yahoo.com)

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Neal Hébert (neal9536@gmail.com)

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Nikola Sizgorich (niksiz@icloud.com)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (pmcon@comcast.net)