

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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September 9, 2018 | Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rejoice and Be Glad?

What exactly is there to rejoice and be glad about these days? There's no need to list the discouraging, disastrous, disgraceful things that clog the airwaves and internet. Where to look for that tiny green shoot of hope? Where for the love of God?

Exactly there, suggests Pope Francis' *Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World*. Look for the love of God—that is, God's love for us. The Latin title of Francis' work is *Gaudete et Exsultate*; in English, it is *Rejoice and Be Glad*. Published in March, this *Exhortation* is considerably shorter and freer of formal language than some of Francis' earlier writings. What he calls his "modest goal" is to make "the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time" (2). To do so, he goes back to the source from which everything else flows. In *Rejoice and Be Glad*, Francis is concerned above all with the transforming gift of the love of God, the gift that makes all the difference in the world:

Only on the basis of God's gift, freely accepted and humbly received, can we cooperate by our own efforts in our progressive transformation. We must first belong to God, offering ourselves to him who was there first, and entrusting to him our abilities, our efforts, our struggle against evil and our creativity, so that his free gift may grow and develop within us (56).

God's love gets there first, Francis suggests, and absolutely everything else about us as individuals and as a people is God's gracious gift. It all comes from God. Nothing, not even our potential for holiness, is the result of anything we know or do. This is an important point for Francis, because it underscores how easily Christians still fall into

ancient heresies. One of these is traditionally known as Gnosticism, the contention that some specialized knowledge or understanding is a precondition for holiness. The other is traditionally known as Pelagianism; it is the belief that some particular set of practices are the only path to holiness. Although the terms Gnosticism and Pelagianism are not everyday language, the experience that holiness belongs to some privileged group of insiders is not. Holiness is itself God's gift given freely to all, and it is a gift that contains an internal dynamism, shaping the way we live. "Christianity," Francis writes, "is meant above all to be put into practice" (109).

To understand this transforming power of God's love, Francis turns to Matthew's Gospel, in particular to the Beatitudes in chapter 5, verses 1-11 and the Great Judgment in chapter 25, verses 31-44. He finds there "the one clear



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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.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
10				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
11			6:00 PM	Prep Teacher Meeting (Barbelin)
			7:00 PM	Pre-Baptism Class (Drexel)
			7:30 PM	Parish Town Hall Meeting (Church)
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
12				
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
13				
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	5:30 PM	Young Adult Happy Hour (off-site)
14				
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Antonio Velcic (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Food, Faith, and Friends (Barbelin)
15				
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word
16	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	10:00 AM	Young Adult Fall Hike (off-site)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	5:30 PM	YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)
			7:30 PM	Cookout Dinner (Barbelin)

Financial Stewardship

Offertory Collection for the week ending September 2
will be reported in next week's bulletin.

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 taken up in church on today, **September 9**, and 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

—*Rejoice and Be Glad?*
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criterion” that Christians must accept without compromise if “we seek the holiness that is pleasing to God’s eyes. . . ‘I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was in prison and you visited me (Mt 25:35-36).” (95) These works of mercy, Francis says, are the very foundation of the Church’s life. Even the authenticity of our prayer must be judged by the “extent our life is being transformed in the light of mercy” a mercy that is “the fullness of justice” (105). Francis finds no distinction between justice and mercy. It is as if Matthew had gone on to say, ‘I was overlooked and you included me; I was ignored and you spoke up on my behalf.’

For all its brevity (a mere 177 paragraphs), *Rejoice and Be Glad* is not a simple document and these few words can hardly do it justice. There is plenty to consider in depth, including how often Francis quotes contemporary writers and bishops’ conferences from around the world and the final chapter’s call for vigilance and ‘spiritual combat’ against evil personified. *Rejoice and Be Glad* is more like a laser, focused on the one true thing: does absolutely every aspect of our lives make the world a place of justice, mercy and truth? Does how we worship together, pray, behave as a church, act in our families, workplaces, economy, community, nation? If the answer is in anyway No, then it is past time for serious change. If the answer is Yes, then that itself is God’s gracious gift, reason for hope, something for which we can rejoice and be glad.

—BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

The image on the front is of Christ separating the sheep and goats, ca. 6th century, mosaic, Basilica of Sant’ Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy.

**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, John Hart, Fred Hembree, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, Edward Jacobs, Marie Jacobs, Mary Jacobs, Janet Jeitner, Catherine Keddie, Jack Lees, David Luerksen, 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, Colleen Raymond, Kim Reed, Joan Russo, 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

Town Hall Meeting

On **Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 PM**, all members of Old St. Joseph Church are invited to an open meeting in the church. This will be an opportunity to listen to each other's thoughts, sentiments, and concerns for victims of sexual abuse in the Church and for the future of the Church in light of the PA grand jury report. We will use a 'town hall' format to listen to each other without formal presentations; anyone wishing to speak will have an opportunity to make a brief statement.

Archdiocesan Prayer Vigil

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia invites all to an evening of prayer on **Friday, September 14**. The doors of the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul (1723 Race Street) will be open from **5:00 PM until Midnight**. September 14 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a particularly appropriate time to pray for healing for people who have suffered from abuse within the Church and that Christ's mercy will transform the sin and failure within our Catholic leadership and community. For more information about the prayer vigil, visit archphila.org/vigil.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

will resume at **9:30 AM Mass** starting on September 16.

Considering Catholicism?

The inquiry process begins soon for anyone interested in becoming Catholic. For more information, please contact Fr. Ed O'Donnell at eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org.

Blessing of Liturgical Ministers

All Old St. Joseph's liturgical ministers: altar servers, Eucharistic ministers—including those who bring the Eucharist to the hospital and homebound people—lectors, ministers of the Children's Liturgy of the Word, musicians, and ushers, are invited to stand for acknowledgement and blessing by our community on **Sunday, September 16 at the 9:30 and 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM Masses** as they begin another season of service. Representatives of these ministries will be at the Coffee Hours and Cookout Dinner that follow the liturgies to speak with anyone interested in becoming part of these ministries.

Please join us!

Young Adults Happy Hour and Hike

All young adults are invited to join the Young Adult Community on **September 14**, starting at **5:30 PM** for our September Happy Hour.

For our fall Hike will be from statue to statue in Wissahickon Valley Park on **Sunday, September 16 10:00 AM-1:00 PM**, (rain date Sunday, 9/23). Contact Rebecca at bergh.rebecca@gmail.com or check out our e-newsletter or follow our Facebook page at [oldsaintjoesya](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaintjoesya) for more details, including volunteering to drive and starting locations. Hope to see you there!

Parish Cookout Next Week!

Join us for good food and good company in Barbelin Hall immediately following the **6:30 PM Mass on September 16** for Old St. Joseph's monthly Cookout.

As at the Coffee Hours that morning (see notice above about **Blessing Liturgical Ministers**), representatives from the various liturgical ministries will be on hand to talk about how to get involved.

Willing to help host our cookouts? Contact Thomas Nailor at thomas.nailor@gmail.com.

Music Ministries at Old St. Joseph's

The start of the choir year next weekend is an ideal opportunity to join the music program at Old St. Joseph's Church.

The *Schola Cantorum* provides classical sacred music for the **11:30 AM Mass** each Sunday and for holy days throughout the year, as well Advent Lessons and Carols and Lenten Vespers. They rehearse Thursday evenings in Barbelin hall from 7:00 -9:00 PM and on Sunday mornings at 10:45 AM.

The *Loyola Choir* are young adults who provide a wonderful variety of contemporary hymns for the **6:30 PM Mass** each Sunday. They rehearse each Sunday at 5:30 PM in the church before 6:30 PM Mass.

For more information, please speak with OSJ Music Director Mark Bani following the weekend Masses or email him at markbani@gmail.com.

Book Club

Join readers exploring what it means to have faith through the fiction and memoirs of noted Catholic writers. The OSJ Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month, beginning on **October 2, 7:30-9:00 PM**, in the Loyola Room. October's book will be Bo Caldwell's *City of Tranquil Light*. New readers are always welcome! For more information, contact Carol Schloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

Fr. William Byron SJ will join us at Old St. Joseph's on **Saturday, October 20 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**, for a time of reflection based on his book, *A Book of Quiet Prayer, For All the Seasons Stages, Moods, And Circumstances of Life*.

Haven't read it yet? Copies will be available for purchase for \$15.00 after all Masses next weekend, **September 15-16** from the Ignatian Spirituality Committee.

The Farm Bill, SNAP and You

As summer ends, the US Congress is back in session and its agenda includes the Farm Bill. While you may wonder what this has to do with an urban parish like Old St. Joseph's, it makes a big difference in Philadelphia. Reauthorized every five years, the Farm Bill sets food and farm priorities including funding safety nets for agricultural producers and for low-income Americans. The Farm Bill directly affects many families, disabled individuals and older adults. Of particular concern for parishioners of Old St. Joseph's is the appropriation of funds for nutrition programs, especially the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP (the program formerly known as food stamps).

In southeastern Pennsylvania over 600,000 individuals benefit from SNAP, of whom more than 477,000 live in Philadelphia County. In dollars and cents, residents of Philadelphia receive \$62.5 million each month in SNAP assistance. While helping recipients stretch their food dollars, SNAP also indirectly benefits local food stores, landlords, utility companies and farmers. Here are a few more SNAP facts:

50% of recipients are enrolled in SNAP for less than one year. They turn to SNAP in emergency situations like job loss, and unexpected medical expenses.

SNAP benefits help seniors stay healthy. With SNAP benefits they are more able to pay for prescription medicines, keep medical appointments, and eat a healthy diet.

Children living in homes utilizing SNAP are 18% more likely to graduate high school than their peers from homes that do not.

National anti-hunger advocates, including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bread for the World, a collective Christian voice for ending hunger, are calling on Congress not to cut SNAP eligibility. Local advocates include the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Nutritional Development Services, the Coalition Against Hunger, and **Old St. Joseph's Church**.

That's right, Old St. Joseph's Church! In coming weeks, watch this space for additional information on the Farm Bill and SNAP, and how to lend your voice in support of hungry people in Philadelphia. And mark your calendar for **October 7**, when OSJ will hold an **Offering of Letters** to our congressional representatives to join those advocating to end hunger in our city and nation.

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)