

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia PA 19106
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www.oldstjoseph.org

October 21, 2018 | Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Not to Be Kept in A Box

I have a keeper box, a large Rubbermaid container stuffed with things I somehow can't part with: my high school yearbook, piles of yellowed newspaper clippings, a greasy note that was once wrapped around a very large chocolate chip cookie. There's also a handful of political campaign buttons, including one that demonstrates that my earliest political stirrings were uncomplicated by the real world: I proudly supported the Congressional bid of Ginny Slade, a character in the *Doonesbury* comic strip.

Endorsing a comic strip character relieved the smart-aleck teenager I was of a lot of work. I never attended one of Ginny Slade's speeches or town hall meetings; I didn't go to the polls to actually cast a ballot. I didn't have to read the rest of *The Washington Post* to stay up-to-date on national or international affairs or to follow her Congressional career. I didn't question where she stood on any issues, nor where I stood for that matter. I never wrote or called her office as an informed and active constituent.

Much more recently than Ginny Slade's campaign, I stood in the doorway of Barbelin Hall and watched Old St. Joseph parishioners sitting at every table, pens in hand and paper before them, writing letters to their Senators and representatives, advocating for a program that offered some food security to vulnerable members of their community. And I couldn't help but wonder about the path that leads from cartoon politics to acts of thoughtful, faithful participation in the democratic process.

If you turn to the Catechism of the Catholic

Church, you will find lofty directions, like section 1913:

It is necessary that all participate in promoting the common good. The obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person.

Here, the social justice geek in me wants to point out that the authors of the catechism have referenced 'the twin pillars' of Catholic social teaching: the dignity of the human person and the common good and have raised the value of participation to a necessity. But the truth is, few of us are moved to care about anyone else by encounters with such theological language. More often, we are inspired by personal invitation.

One such intensely personal invitation is the voice of conscience, the 'secret core and sanctuary' of our hearts where we are alone with God (geek alert: that language is drawn from one of the documents of the Second

—continued inside



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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon	12:05 PM	<i>Michelina Marino (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
22				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
23				
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Mary M. Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
24				
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
25			6:30 PM	Women, Faith and Fellowship (Drexel)
			7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
26				
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Conor Patrick Devlin (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
27				
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word))
28	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		

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

Adeline Acerno, Teresa Aponte, 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 Luerksen, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, James McBride, Jerry McBride, Christine Mari-Mazzola, Allen May, Angelo Miczza, D. Minter, Catherine O'Brien, Bernie Paquett, Joanna Pearl, Lucy Pearl, Betty Farris Pfeiffer, Colleen Raymond, Kim Reed, Ursula Reed, Joan Russo, Steve Saunders, Barbara Schmidt, 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.

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Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*). There is an apocryphal saying, attributed to Reformed theologian Karl Barth, that Christian conscience is formed with a newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other, meaning that scripture provides a framework that guides how Christians respond to the issues and challenges of their world. Catholic Christians also draw on another source: we learn to recognize the voice that speaks in our hearts through our common experience in worship. Hearing Scripture proclaimed and sharing the Eucharist is a standing invitation to identify more closely with the God who demands justice for the widow, orphan, and stranger and who transforms death into life. It is here, surrounded by other worshippers, that we are able to see the world through God's eyes; we are inspired to love who God loves and as God loves—without exception, and extravagantly.

This may be an irresistible invitation, but accepting it is not a process that fits neatly into a day's three-panel comic strip. The newspaper (or newsfeed) that is in one hand has to be read critically: Whose point of view is presented and whose is missing? What's the history, the background story? Who benefits on this issue and who misses out? To be an active citizen requires work: speaking up before, during, and after elections through letters, emails, public meetings, maybe even running for office, and of course, voting. To be a faithful citizen is to acknowledge that the Scripture and the Eucharist that form and guide us also somehow refuse to be kept away in a box. They draw us in and send us forth, to care for each other and our common home.

—BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

Additional Resources

Looking for additional material for reflection before election day? Consider these:

- Pax Christi USA has published a 2018 Voter Guide, "A Call to Holiness." It can be found under Resources at paxchristiusa.org.
- Network's website has a wealth of information on specific issues and active citizenship, including its reflection "We are the Voters" under Educate in its Advocacy Toolbox at networklobby.org.
- Bread for the World's *I Vote to End Hunger Campaign* resources are at bread.org/elections.
- The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' resources, including its document "Forming Consciences for Faithful Service" can be found by searching 'faithful citizenship' at usccb.org.

Front page photo by Eric German of the zinnias in Old St. Joseph's north garden. Flowers planted and tended by Joe Casey.

Where's the Financial Report?

Beginning this week, Financial Stewardship will be reported quarterly, in order to give a more accurate picture of the parish's financial status.

Online giving remains customizable for your convenience, on the timetable and to the parish fund of your choice. Sign up at oldstjoseph.org by clicking on the button under Important Links.

Announcements

New Mass Setting

We continue this month learning additional parts of the *Mass for A Servant Church* by Michel Guimont. By Christmas we will sing the entire Mass for our liturgies.

Virtual Food Drive

Nutritional Development Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's **online food drive** continues now through **October 26**. Donate at <https://yougivegoods.com/drive-7994>. 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!

Holy Name Camden Celebration

Holy Name of Camden Ministries will host a celebration on **Wednesday, November 7** at Tavistock Country Club in Haddonfield NJ. The guest speaker will be Don DiJulia, longtime athletic director at St. Joseph University.

The annual Reaching Out to Those in Need awards will be presented to St. Joseph's Prep and St. Joseph's University for their generous support of the ministries at Holy Name of Camden. Proceeds from this event will support ministries that serve families and children in North Camden and surrounding communities: Holy Name School, Holy Name Scholars, Camden Center for Law and Justice, and Guadalupe Family Services. Tickets are \$100/person; for information and reservations call 856-365-1001 or visit www.holynameofcamdenministries.org.

St. Katherine Drexel at the Cathedral

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput OFM Cap invites all to celebrate the installation of the tomb with the sacred remains of Saint Katharine Drexel at Solemn Mass **on Sunday, November 18 at 11:00 AM** at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. Mass will be interpreted in ASL.

Save the Date for Advent by Candlelight!



Women Faith and Fellowship invites all women in the parish to join in hospitality and friendship to enjoy a candlelit evening of spiritual reflection focused on the special, unique gifts women bring to the celebration of Advent. Please mark your calendars and join us for Advent by Candlelight in Barbelin Hall on **Wednesday November 28, 2018 at 7:00 PM**. More details to follow.

OSJ Book Group

Here are the readings for November and December: **Tuesday, November 6**: Junot Diaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. You might want to pair this, if you have time, with Diaz's "The Legacy of Childhood Trauma" in *The New Yorker*, April 9, 2018. The fiction and the public admission form a noteworthy contrast. **Tuesday, December 4**: Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*. All meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, **7:30-9:00 PM**, in the Loyola Room in the rectory. For questions, contact Carol Shloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Nuns on the Bus Come to Philadelphia

NETWORK, the lobby for Catholic Social Justice, and its Nuns on the Bus tour is hitting the road and coming to Philadelphia on **October 24-25**. The Nuns on the Bus: The Tax Justice Truth Tour is traveling from California to Mar-a-Lago, Florida ahead of the 2018 midterm elections to focus on tax justice and reasonable revenue for responsible programs. There will be a Town Hall for Justice at the Chapel of St. Joseph, St. Joseph University at **6:00 PM October 24** and a site visit and rally at Women's Community Revitalization Project Grace Homes (2201 E. Auburn Street Philadelphia 19134) at **10:00 AM October 25**. For information, visit www.nunsonthebus.org.

Announcements

Share the Journey/Be Unafraid

Catholic Relief Service's #Share the Journey campaign is coming to 6th and Race Streets on **Saturday, November 3 from 1:00-5:00 PM**. In order to amplify voices of welcome and hospitality, CRS invited 14 migrants and 11 US citizens to meet and converse about what made them afraid and what made them hopeful. Portions of these conversations were documented by photographer Jeremy Cowart, who then created a mobile exhibit to spark continued discussion. Join others who welcome migrants and refugees to Philadelphia to view the mobile exhibit on November 3!

Catholic Climate Covenant

Did you know that Old St. Joseph's signed on to the Catholic Climate Covenant, which indicates our commitment to uphold the Paris Climate Accords? (You can read the full text of the covenant at catholicclimatecovenant.org).

This week, the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology is asking the membership of all signers to comment on a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule change that would allow power plants to increase the carbon dioxide particulates that they release into the air. According to the EPA's own analysis, the negative health consequences of this rule change could cost more than 1000 deaths a year by 2030.

To learn more about the proposed rule change and to email your response during the public comment period that ends October 31, visit ignatiansolidarity.net and scroll down to Action Center.

Medicare Workshop and Flu Shots Today!

OSJ's Eldership Community invites all to the north end of Barbelin Hall **today at Coffee Hour after 11:30 AM Mass** for a demonstration and workshop with Jeanmarie Zippo RN on signing up for Medicare. Flu shots will also be available to those who bring their insurance information.

Welcome, Jesuit Alums!

Old St. Joseph's welcomes all alums of Jesuit schools to **6:30 PM Mass today, October-21**. Come join other Jesuit educated grads for worship and fellowship at a light reception afterwards. (Need a brief refresher on what that Jesuit education was all about? Visit oldstjoseph.org to access Fr. Bill Byron SJ's short article, "The Enduring Evidence of a Jesuit Education.")

For Faith, Food & Friends

In two weeks, on November 3-4, Old St. Joseph's will collect essential supplies for the guests of our Faith, Food, and Friends Outreach. Baskets will be available in the rear of the church for donations of men's socks, soap, toothbrushes and disposable razors, and warm hats and gloves. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Requiescat in pace

Mike O'Brien

OSJ parishioner and State Representative Mike O'Brien died at home on the morning of October 15. His Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Old St. Joseph's on October 19. Our prayers and condolences go out to Mike's friends and family, especially his wife Rita, and children Bridget and Michael.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on him; may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, Amen.

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)

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Faith, Food & Friends Director

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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

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Women, Faith and Friends

Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community

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Altar Servers

Maria Ramirez (mathra71@yahoo.com)

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Bill Stewart (wstewart@kaplaw.com)

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Luanne Balestrucci (lbalestrucci@yahoo.com)

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Lectors

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Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (pmcon@comcast.net)