

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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Philadelphia PA 19106
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www.oldstjoseph.org

November 11, 2018 | Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tolling the Bell

World War I took place between July 1914 and November 1918 and was one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. If ever there was a conflict that both sides lost, this was it. Over 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians died as a result of the war. The United States officially entered the war on April 6, 1917. Some 4.7 million Americans stepped forward to serve in uniform during the war; 2 million of them were deployed overseas to fight; 116,516 of them never made it home; and more than 200,000 were wounded.

Pennsylvanians bought more than 3 billion dollars' worth of Liberty and Victory Bonds to support the war effort and produced nearly one-half of the munitions supplied to the United States Army. More than 297,000 Pennsylvanians served in the Great War, with 10,278 combat deaths and 26,252 wounded.

Next Sunday the world will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the fighting in World War I at 11:00 AM, November 11, 1918—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Following a request by the United States World War I Centennial Commission and a Proclamation by Governor Tom Wolf, Old St. Joseph's will join the "National Tolling of Bells to Honor Those Who Served in the Great War." At exactly 11:00 AM this Sunday, we will toll our church bell at Old St Joseph slowly 21 times with a five-second interval between tolls.

Perhaps relatively few of us can feel much

personal connection with events that transpired so long ago. We relate to it as an historical event, tragic in its own terms, but far distant emotionally.

Having been born almost 30 years after the Armistice, my only personal connection with the war comes from a story my mother used to tell. She remembered when she was just a young girl, 10 years old, that her older brother, Dewey (his real name was Henry), came back from the war. She recalled that he seemed utterly changed. He had left for the war a vivacious young man, she said. He returned older beyond his years, melancholy, and weighed down. He had lost all his hair, apparently from being gassed during a battle. My mother would listen from another room as her own mother tried hour after hour to comfort and console her very broken son.

Dewey went on to marry and had two daughters, but he sank hopelessly into alcoholism and ended up abandoning his family. A recent search by family members was unable to find any trace of Dewey, an uncle of mine who almost certainly was dead before I was born and probably was buried in an unmarked



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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's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	No PREP today.	
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Conor Patrick Devlin (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
			7:0 PM	Pre-Baptism Class (Drexel) YAC Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	6:30 PM	Centering Prayer (Drexel)
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Geraldine Marren and Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
			7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	10:30 AM	Waldron Mercy Academy Open House (Barbelin)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church)
			5:30 PM	YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)

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

Adeline Acerno, Teresa Aponte, Louis Balestrucci, 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, Tamae Kan, Catherine Keddie, David Luerssen, 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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grave, for all the family knows. In those days no one thought of wounded warriors or PTSD, nor is my uncle Dewey officially listed as one of the 116,516 casualties of the war. But my mother always was convinced he had pretty much died in the war. It was the war that killed him, though his death came later.

That family story taught me that a war never really ends on a particular day because its destructive effects extend far into the future. There is the story of the British baby who was born at exactly 11 AM on Armistice Day and so was christened Pax, the Latin word for peace. At the age of twenty-one, he would be killed in the next war, whose root causes many people trace to the Great War that supposedly ended in 1918, at the moment of his birth.

If anyone needs convincing that war is the ultimate folly and the cruelest evil, reviewing the actual events of November 11, 1918 provides all the proof one needs.

The Germans first requested peace negotiations five weeks before the Armistice was finally signed. But the French refused to break off hostilities. In the intervening five-week period, half a million casualties were added to the war's toll.

The Armistice was finally signed at 5 AM on that fateful day and the news was immediately radioed and telephoned up and down the front lines of both sides. But British, French and American commanders insisted that the bloody combat continue until 2,738 additional casualties were suffered by both sides and 8,206 were wounded during that brief period before the

Armistice became official. As one recent commentator explained, "The day's toll was greater than both sides would suffer in Normandy on D Day, 1944. And it was incurred to gain ground that Allied generals knew the Germans would be vacating days, or even hours, later."

The last American to be killed in combat was Private Henry Gunther of Baltimore. He died at 10:59 AM "when he charged a German machine-gun crew with his bayonet fixed. In broken English, the Germans shouted at him to go back, the war was about to stop. When he didn't, they shot him." Thousands of men like Henry Gunther were killed or maimed during the last six hours of the war for no political or military reason whatever.

So why are we ringing the bells across this land on Sunday? Certainly not to glorify this carnage. Is it to herald the men who died as heroes? No doubt many died heroic deaths, largely because despite circumstances far beyond their control, they performed their duty. But this powerlessness made them both heroes and victims, as were the innocent civilians who died in almost equal numbers. Let the sound of those bells, therefore, be an expression of outrage and sorrow and a commitment from each of us that war must stop. Whether we cry out at the top of our lungs or just whisper the words inaudibly to ourselves, let our cry echo the famous command hurled at the world by Pope Paul VI at the United Nations in 1965, "War, never again!"

—Walter Modrys, SJ
Pastor

*Background information for this essay was taken from "The Eleventh Hour" by Adam Hochschild, published in **The New Yorker**, November 5, 2018.*

The photograph on the front page is of Old St. Joseph's bell.

Announcements

Thank You!

Many, many thanks for all the hospitality shown to our guests at Faith, Food and Friends! Your generous gifts of everyday essentials help make their lives a little more comfortable and dignified. Thank you!

Lectors, Your Workbook is Here!

The 2019 *Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word* is here! It's in the sacristy, and your copy has your name on it on a sticker in the lower right-hand corner. Pick it up any time, and please cross your name off the list on the clipboard.

Share the Journey

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Pastoral Center at 222 N. 17th Street will host a prayer service in solidarity with refugees and migrants on **Tuesday, November 13 at 11:00 AM**. Prayer in the ground floor auditorium will be followed by a meditative walk to 18th and Vine Streets and back. The Catholic Relief Services' *#Share the Journey/Be Unafraid* traveling photo exhibit will also be set up in the Pastoral Center Auditorium from **10:00 AM-3:00 PM**. All are welcome to mark the November 13 feast of St. Francis Cabrini, patron of immigrants, in this way. For more information, contact Anne H. Ayella at aayella@archphila.org.

Catholic Social Teaching

Jesus' Call and Our Response

On **Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**, St. Gabriel Parish at 2917 Dickinson Street, will hold a workshop exploring themes of Catholic social teaching from the perspectives of Scripture and Church documents. Lunch will be provided and free will donations are welcome. Register at saintgabrielpm@gmail.com or 215-463-4060.

No PREP This Week

There will be no PREP classes on Monday, November 12. See you next week!

Advent by Candlelight on November 28

OSJ's Women Faith and Fellowship invites all women in the parish to an evening of reflection, song and

prayer at

Advent by

Candlelight in

Barbelin Hall



on **Wednesday November 28, 7:00-8:30 PM**.

Rev. Julia Sheetz Willard PhD, Associate Director of Campus Ministry for Ecumenical and Interfaith Outreach at Villanova University, will reflect on "From Scared to Sacred: Receiving the Gifts of Darkness". The evening's prayer and candle lighting will be followed by dessert, coffee and tea. For more information and to RSVP (the evening is free), contact Women, Faith and Fellowship at wff@oldstjoseph.org.

Laugh with the Young Adult Community:

Exploring Faith and Humor

"Joy, humor, and laughter should be part of everyone's spiritual life. They are gifts from God and help us enjoy creation." So says Father James Martin SJ in his book, *Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life*. On **Tuesday, November 13**, come explore humor and laughter as a way of understanding our faith and growing in relationship with God. After reviewing the topic, watch some of today's great Catholic comedians discuss their faith, including John Mulaney, Jim Gaffigan and more. Spirits and socializing start at **7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. (Official) laughter commences at **7:30 PM!** Email Tom at thomas.nailor@gmail.com or Colleen coneil0909@gmail.com with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Announcements

Waldron Mercy Academy Visits Today!

Sister Joellen McDonnell RSM of Waldron Mercy Academy will be at Coffee and Donuts at **10:30 AM on Sunday, November 18**. She will be available to introduce the pre-K—grade 8 coed independent school to the families of prospective students.

Centering Prayer This Week

The Centering Prayer group will meet on **Wednesday, November 14, 6:30 to 8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the rectory. The meeting will include discussion of centering prayer followed by a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome to join us. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at christinesz52@gmail.com or 267-250-3049.

Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, & Extraordinary Communion Ministers

Please update your profile by **November 15** for the December-January 31 ministry schedule. New volunteers are always welcome; sign up online through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. Thank you!

Dead Man Walking:

The Journey Continues

Come hear Sr. Helen Prejean CSJ, author of *Dead Man Walking*, on **November 14 at 7:00 PM** at the Chapel of Saint Joseph at Saint Joseph's University. Sr. Helen is a world-renowned crusader against the death penalty and spiritual advisor to men and women on death rows around the nation. She will speak of her lifelong journey as companion, advocate, and animator of national dialogue on capital punishment and the Catholic Church's newly adopted teaching that the death penalty is unacceptable in all cases. This lecture is presented by SJU's Faith-Justice Institute and the Joseph William and Madeline Eberle Klein Fund. Admission is free.

Interfaith Witness for Detained Families

Today, Sunday, November 11, there will be an Interfaith Vigil in support of immigrant families being detained at the Berks County Detention Center, 1040 Berks Road, Leesport PA. (Information on transportation to the vigil is available at tinyurl.com/berks/vigil and at sju.edu/campus/ministry.)

Berks Detention Center is holding immigrant families without a child care license from the PA Department of Social Services and in defiance of a state law banning incarceration of children who are not facing criminal charges. More background information is available at facebook.com/shutdownberks from the Shut Down Berks Interfaith Witness.

The US Catholic Conference has repeatedly joined Pope Francis in demanding that the fundamental rights and dignity of migrants—especially families and children—must be protected and defended. More background on Catholic social teaching on immigration can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/usccb-immigration>.

USCCB to Meet this Week

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will gather for the 2018 Fall General Assembly in Baltimore, November 12-14. Their agenda is expected to include discussion and voting on a series of concrete measures to respond to the abuse crisis, including a third-party reporting mechanism, standards of conduct for bishops, and protocols for bishops resigned or removed because of abuse. The bishops are also expected to vote on a Pastoral Letter Against Racism. Please consider holding this meeting in your prayers, asking that the assembled bishops be guided by the Spirit of truth and charity.

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

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Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

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Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices

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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 Fellowship

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)

Homebound Ministry

Neal Hébert (neal9536@gmail.com)

Lectors

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Ushers

Nikola Sizgorich (niksiz@icloud.com)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (pmcon@comcast.net)