

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

November 4, 2018 | Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Parish Council

Parish Councils became popular in parishes as a result of the Second Vatican Council. As is well known, the Vatican Council altered the fundamental self-image of the Church, from the nineteenth century claim that the Church was “the perfect society” to a more egalitarian description of the Church. The people in the pews were upgraded to “the people of God” and so the people’s role in the Church had to change as well. Now they were to have a voice beyond mere acquiescence to the directives from priests and bishops.

Of course, all of these changes in the practical order ultimately depended on profound theological underpinnings articulated in the Council documents. The Council had opened new vistas on the role of baptism in the life of Christians and the significance of Holy Orders for ordained ministers, on how the Holy Spirit guides the Church, and how religious authority interacts with fundamental freedoms that belong to members of the Church. We have spent almost sixty years since the Council plumbing the meaning of all this. And one of the small but enduring issues has always been an organizational and management question: given the Council teachings, how do Parish Councils fit into the life of a parish?

Church authorities have always insisted that Parish Councils are “only advisory”, leaving intact the prerogatives of the pastor under the authority of the bishop. More liberal factions tied their hopes to the Parish Council movement as a potential crack in the

wall of clericalism, at least on the parish level. American Catholics integrated their cultural tradition of adversarial politics with Church polity, envisioning an elected Parish Council much like the legislature representing the people against a strong-willed executive in the person of an overbearing pastor. The lines were drawn.

For the most part, parish life has matured beyond these rather simplistic and overly politicized characterizations. But integrating a Parish Council into the life of the parish remains a significant challenge. How can a Parish Council serve as an effective instrument to advance the pastoral and spiritual life of the parish community?

I believe a Parish Council can make a significant contribution. But there is always the danger that even though some of the most generous parishioners volunteer to serve, they eventually walk away frustrated and disappointed because their experience has been so personally unrewarding. When that transpires, the fault lies with the Council members themselves, but even more with the pastor whose responsibility it is to guide, support and utilize the services of those who have volunteered to serve.

None of us will probably live long enough to

*—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		<i>Feast of All Saints of the Society of Jesus</i>		
5	12:05 PM	<i>James &amp; Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues		<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
6	12:05 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	7:30 PM	Book Group (Loyola)
Wed		<i>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Families (D)</i>		
7	12:05 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Thurs		<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
8	12:05 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	6:30 PM	Women, Faith & Fellowship (Drexel)
			7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri		<i>Vicentine Perricone (D)</i>		
9	12:05 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat		<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
10	12:05 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Fairfield University Choir sings at Mass
			6:30 PM	Fairfield University Choir Mini-Concert
Sun		Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
11	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	1:00 PM	Adult Ed: Rich Massaro (Barbelin)
	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	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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see all the ecclesiastical issues resolved, especially in light of the disastrous events of recent years. But we should be able to address some of the underlying organizational and management issues that have limited the effectiveness of Parish Councils and to build on the tradition and successes that have graced this vigorous parish of Old St. Joseph.

So last Spring I proposed a change in some of the procedures that have been governing the Parish Council here at OSJ. I am happy to report that the Council members overwhelmingly expressed their support for my proposals. So, here's an outline of what we are doing this year as a Parish Council. (It's very simple!)

- The new members of the Council will be the heads of the various Parish Committees (Adult Education, Ignatian Spirituality, Liturgy Committee, Social Justice Committee, etc.) If the Committee head cannot serve, the members of the Committee may choose another representative.
- Those Parish Council members with unexpired terms will continue to serve on the Council for the duration of their term.
- The Pastor, after consultation, may appoint up to four parishioners to the Council who serve as at-large members.
- The primary agenda of Council meetings is to receive reports from the Committees regarding past activities and future plans. The expectation is that this exercise will influence subsequent deliberations within individual Committees. Thus, a spirit of mutual support and cooperation will be fostered among committees, enhancing parish unity.
- The pastor will also offer a report on the state of the parish and hear reactions and suggestions from Council members.
- The Council will meet five times a year, though additional meetings may be called if the need arises.

I believe this simple format is practical and very down to earth. But it is also entirely open to addressing new parish issues as they arise, in a context that will encourage concrete reactions and specific actions. Furthermore, this method of selecting members of the Council better insures that the most active parishioners will be taking part in the deliberations. At the same time, as long as the Committees maintain an openness to new members and an effective recruitment effort, it is also open to new blood stepping forward.

We'll see what happens. As I write this, our first meeting is coming up. Say a prayer.

Walter F. Modrys, SJ  
Pastor

# Announcements

## The Mission Continues

If you, or someone you know, has ever considered serving the Church, as a Jesuit, then the Society of Jesus invites you to pray and discern if your passions and desires may lead you to a life with us. For almost 500 years Jesuits have been serving God's people as "men on mission." Through prayer, we aim to orient our own passions and desires with God's desires for the Church and the world. To explore if God is calling you to serve in Christ's mission as a Jesuit priest or brother, please visit our Vocation Website, [BeAJesuit.org](http://BeAJesuit.org) We are ready to help you to discern our Jesuit life. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!*

## OSJ Book Group

The OSJ Book Group will meet this **Tuesday, November 6** in the Loyola Room of the rectory to discuss *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Juan Diaz. If you want to read ahead, December's book is Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*. For questions, contact Carol Shloss at [shlosscarol@gmail.com](mailto:shlosscarol@gmail.com).

## Young Adult Community Runners

**The Return of the Runners:** By popular demand, the OSJ Run Club returns this fall! We'll kick off the new season with a 3-ish mile group fun run for brunch on **Saturday, November 10**. All paces and levels of runners are welcome! We will meet at City Hall's Dilworth Plaza at **10:15 AM**; at **10:45 AM**, we'll set off for **Local 44** at 44th and Spruce in West Philly. (Many trolley lines run nearby for easy access back to Center City or points beyond! Don't forget your SEPTA Key!) Contact Tom Umile at [tpumile@gmail.com](mailto:tpumile@gmail.com) for more information.

*Requiescat in pace*

## Jack Lees

Parishioner Jack Lees passed away last Friday, October 26, 2016, after a long illness. Jack was at home when he died surrounded by his wife, Pat, and family members and friends. Jack received the sacrament of the sick and viaticum (Holy Communion) in the days before his death.

His funeral mass will be celebrated at Holy Innocents Church (1337 East Hunting Park Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19124) on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 11 AM. Father Bob Carroll, a long-time family friend, will be the celebrant of the Mass and homilist.

*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*

## Advent by Candlelight on November 28



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, 7:00-9:00 PM**. Rev. Julia Sheetz 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](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org).

## Tolling the Bell

On **Sunday, November 11 at 11 AM**, places of worship, schools, town halls and carillons across the US toll their bells to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice ending World War I. In that war 116,516 Americans died and over 200,000 were wounded. OSJ will join in tolling our bell in honor of them and in hope of more lasting peace.



## Flash Financial Report

Below is a listing of parish ordinary income and expenses for the first quarter of our fiscal year, July through September. Three months, especially during the summer, offer only a preliminary picture of how the full year will turn out. But so far, we are holding up fairly well when we compare this year's numbers to last year's at this time. There are always fluctuations from year to year. Income is down slightly, but expenses are also reduced. So, the bottom line shows that we are about \$4,000 ahead of last year's pace at the end of September. Note that Sunday contributions are holding steady, with no real increase over last year, even though our budget calls for a 7% increase.

As always, thank you for your generosity. We'll keep you informed as we move along through the fiscal year.

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ  
Pastor

	Actual 2017 - (July-Sept.) Prior Year	Actual 2018 (July-Sept.) Present Year
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sunday Contributions	\$125,719	\$125,299
Daily Mass	3,533	2,682
Weddings	55,600	50,500
Candles	2,182	1,913
Offerings for Religious Services	2,620	3,350
PREP Fees	9,720	8,185
Activities Income	9,370	10,704
<b>TOTA: INCOME</b>	<b>208,743</b>	<b>202,634</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries	75,848	74,617
Employee Medical Insurance	13,012	9,972
Employee Taxes & Benefits	12,412	8,563
Diocesan Assessments	19,604	20,625
Support Services	14,268	6,189
Activities Expenses	16,209	15,733
Physical Plant Expenses	19,545	22,378
Jesuit Community Expenses	5,073	7,979
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>175,970</b>	<b>166,056</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$32,773</b>	<b>\$36,578</b>

# 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](http://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](mailto:pastor@oldstjoseph.org))

## Parochial Vicar

Fr. Edward O'Donnell SJ ([eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org))

## In Residence

Br. Robert Carson SJ

Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ ([dougherty@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:dougherty@oldstjoseph.org))

## Pastoral Associate

BJ Brown ([bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org))

## Business Manager

Eric German ([germane@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:germane@oldstjoseph.org))

## Director of Music

Mark Bani ([music@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:music@oldstjoseph.org))

## Parish Offices

([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

## PREP Coordinator

Christine Szczepanowski ([prep@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:prep@oldstjoseph.org))

## Faith, Food & Friends Director

Deborah Hluchan ([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

## Parish Pastoral Council

Rana McNamara and Richard Le, co-chairs  
([osjpc@oldstjoseph.org](mailto: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](mailto:adulted@oldstjoseph.org))

## Eldership

Joan Slavin ([joanslavin@aol.com](mailto:joanslavin@aol.com))

## Parish Life

Joe Casey ([joetcasey@aol.com](mailto:joetcasey@aol.com))

## Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

John Bitterman ([osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org))

## Women, Faith and Friends

Rana McNamara ([wff@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org))

## Young Adult Community

Jenn Lydic and Megan Prilutski ([osjyac@gmail.com](mailto:osjyac@gmail.com))

## Altar Servers

Maria Ramirez ([mathra71@yahoo.com](mailto:mathra71@yahoo.com))

## Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart ([wstewart@kaplaw.com](mailto:wstewart@kaplaw.com))

## Hospital Ministry

Luanne Balestrucci ([lbalestrucci@yahoo.com](mailto:lbalestrucci@yahoo.com))

## Homebound Ministry

Neal Hébert ([neal9536@gmail.com](mailto:neal9536@gmail.com))

## Lectors

Lou Anne Bulik ([labulik@yahoo.com](mailto:labulik@yahoo.com))

## Ushers

Nikola Sizgorich ([niksiz@icloud.com](mailto:niksiz@icloud.com))

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly ([pmcon@comcast.net](mailto:pmcon@comcast.net))