

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 16, 2018 | Third Sunday of Advent

Round and Round We Go

My grade-school music teacher often had my class sing rounds. I loved hearing us sing overlapping parts of the song at the same time. Today I think of the annual passage of time as a round. We live in multiple years simultaneously, each beginning at a different moment. There's the calendar year, the fiscal year, the academic year, and the liturgical year; you may even have others. Each year has its new beginning yet is also embedded in the movement of the others so that the years sometimes harmonize in our experience of a particular moment.

Advent marks the start of the Church's liturgical year, and it is my favorite new beginning because it connects me with the original beginning. The Advent readings highlight God's constant desire to bring all His people back into the intimate relationship He established with humankind when He created us in His own image. Though now distorted by sin, this intimacy has been kept alive throughout history by people with eyes to see through the distortions. In Advent we hear from or about many of them, from Israel's prophets to those who recognized who the incarnate Jesus really was. Jesus is intimacy personified; those who saw through the flesh entered into God's love and were changed. Today's reading from Zephaniah assures us, "the Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love" (Zp 3:17). As the Risen Christ, Jesus continues to be in our midst and to call us into his love.

The seasonal changes here in the northeastern United States provide an image for this. In the weeks before Advent, the green leaves of ordinary time visibly become, as the Jesuit poet Gerald Manley Hopkins wrote, "charged with the grandeur of God." The world feels transfigured, offering a glimpse here on earth of the fully realized Kingdom that Jesus promises. And then the leaves fall away, revealing—just as we enter Advent—the underpinning of the wood that nourishes each tree's leaves.

The bare branches recall my favorite passage in the Bible, that of the vine and the branches. Jesus tells his closest companions at the Last Supper, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit" (Jn15:4-5a). I see



the wood and the leaves of the trees as the equivalent in our neck of the woods to Jerusalem's vine and branches. Jesus is the tree's wood; he invites us into an intimate, fruitful friendship. We are the living leaves that can offer shade and

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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 17	12:05 PM	<i>Norma J. Shepherd & Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 18	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon 7:00PM	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin) Young Adult Spirituality Night (Barbelin)
Wed 19	12:05 PM	<i>Edward Masterson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs 20	12:05 PM	<i>Regina Byrne (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin) Young Adult Community Run (off-site) Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
Fri 21	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	5:30 PM	Young Adult Community Happy Hour (off-site)
Sat 22	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Joseph McCusker (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
Sun 23	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	9:30 AM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin) Loyola Choir Rehearsal (Church) 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, 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, Janet Street, Ed Tomezsko, Arlene Tomlin, 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.

comfort to those around us and that will be transformed in due season. The reappearance of the bare wood reminds me that my capacity to be a fruitful leaf is rooted in my relationship with Jesus and calls me to focus more intentionally on that relationship.

Without leaves on the trees, the landscape becomes starker but also less cluttered. I can see my neighbors' houses more clearly. I start to see myself more clearly as well. St. Augustine's observation that "our hearts are restless until they rest in thee" begins to stir in me as I recognize a certain restlessness that tells me that my heart has drifted and God is calling me back. And this overlaps with the focus of Advent. As the leaves are swept away, so too I feel my heart being swept out. I become aware of lazy habits that have crept in, of graces I've started to take for granted, of issues I've been neglecting. Preparing for the coming of Jesus, I consider how I can let the Christ in me come more fully into the world.

These sober considerations contain joy as well, the joy that looks ahead to the Kingdom and the joy of working hand-in-hand with Jesus to build that Kingdom here and now. Today, on Gaudete Sunday, the Church focuses on this joy. Muted

purple gives way to lively rose. The readings speak of rejoicing, of anxiety melting away, and of hearts that are full. For a moment we put aside the struggle and bask in the promised outcome. And the outcome is a glorious one, a return to the peaceful, just, and harmonious creation God intended. Sin has created divisions that lead to conflict and enmity. At the start of its year, the Church invites us to attend to these fault lines even as we deepen our confidence in God's promise of a world made whole.

Advent is not a time for reliving the events of the past year—that's a project for the calendar year. It is not a time for drawing up a balance sheet or settling accounts—that's a project for the fiscal year. It's not a time for creating agendas and planning future events—that's a project for the academic year. Instead, Advent invites us to reflect by the light of Christ on where we find ourselves in our movement toward Him. It is a time to listen in silence for God's call to us, to pray to be open to it, and to consider what might be impeding our capacity to hear and respond. It is a time to begin anew, to "wait in joyful hope for the coming of our savior Christ the Lord," in the world and within ourselves.

—Christine Szczepanowski
PREP Coordinator

Front page photograph of Bare Tree at Sunset, Philadelphia from Wikimedia Commons.

Advent Giving Tree

Tagged gifts are due back **today!**

This year, the Advent Giving Tree benefits the Gesu School and the Aquinas Center. If you are interested in becoming more involved with either organization, visit their websites: gesuschool.org/join_our_mission and aquinascenterphilly.org/get-involved.

Lessons and Carols Today, Sunday

All are cordially invited to our Lessons and Carols Service, **today, Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 PM**. This liturgical and musical highlight of our season is a service of Nine Lessons and Carols: a liturgy foretelling Christ's coming in sacred scripture and in song, proclaimed to rouse our spirits in preparation for Christ's coming this Christmastide. In addition to festive Advent and Christmas carols for congregational singing, choral music will include works by Praetorius, Willcocks, and Rutter, and organ music by Bach and Brahms. (A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.) A reception will follow. We hope you will join us!

Announcements

Merion Mercy Academy Job Opening

Merion Mercy Academy, an independent all-girls Catholic High School sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a Varsity Track and Field Coach. Interest and qualified applicants are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by January 8 to Athletic Director Barbara Clarke at bclarke@merion-mercy.org.

Cathedral Christmas Creche

All are welcome to the 22nd Annual Blessing of the Nativity Scene at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul on **Wednesday, December 19 at 3:00 PM**. A brief service will include Christmas carols sung by the St. Francis Xavier Church Children's Choir.

Lights! Music!

OSJ Music Director Mark Bani will be back at Macy's Wanamaker Organ on Thursday, December 27 12:15-12:45 PM to play a recital of Christmas music after the noon light show. Come enjoy a true Philadelphia tradition!

OSJ Book Group

The Book Group will meet again on **January 8 at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room. In the meantime, keep reading Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*.

Online Giving

The following collections are now active on the online giving website:

Retired Religious Fund, through December 16
Immaculate Conception, through December 23
Christmas Flowers, through December 30
Christmas Music, through December 30
Christmas Collection, through January 13
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, through January 13.

Announcements

Young Adult Community

Advent Reflection and Potluck

Come celebrate the Advent season with other young adults over a potluck and prayer reflection on **Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. We'll gather over good food with good folks and then share in a special Advent reflection and examen. All are encouraged--but certainly not required--to bring food or drink to share. (An oven and microwave are available in Barbelin Hall, if needed). Take some time to reflect on Advent with the OSJ Young Adult Community. Have questions? Reach out to Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

2nd Annual Christmas Lights Run

Join fellow YAC members on a fun run through Center City, visiting some of Philadelphia's most iconic Christmas light displays on **Thursday, December 20 at 6:30PM**. All running paces are welcome! Since the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear, we may even pause here and there to sing a carol or two along the way. We'll meet in Dilworth Park just before the 6:30 PM Deck the Hall Light Show, and then head off after that on a 3ish mile route that ends back at the City Hall Christmas Tree. Afterwards, we'll toast the season at the Craft Hall pop-up restaurant. Any questions? Contact Tom Umile (tpumile@gmail.com).

Warmth, Beauty, and Doing Good

OSJ's Eldership Community is raffling off two cozy and beautiful afghans handcrafted by their very own knitters. Tickets are \$2.00 each or \$5.00 for three chances and will be available at Sunday Coffee Hours until winners are drawn today, **December 16**, after Lessons and Carols. Proceeds will benefit OSJ's Faith, Food, and Friends outreach program.

Requiescat in Pace

Faith, Food and Friends community member **John Lennox** passed away late in October, 2018. John's memory will be honored with a brief service at 11:00 AM on December 18, 2018 in Barbelin Hall. Please keep John's friends and those who cared for him in your prayers.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help serve hot cider and cookies after the Christmas Eve masses. To volunteer, contact joetcasey@aol.com.

Christmas and New Year's Schedule of Masses At Old St. Joseph's Church

December 22-23

5:30 PM Saturday, 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM &
6:30 PM Sunday

Christmas Eve

4:00 PM, 6:30 PM and 9:00 PM
with prelude music beginning at 8:40 PM

Christmas Day

10:00 AM

Sunday, December 30

5:30 PM Saturday, 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 AM &
6:30 PM Sunday

Monday, December 31

12:05 PM

Tuesday January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
12:05 PM

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

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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 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

Lou Anne Bulik (labulik@yahoo.com)

Ushers

Nikola Sizgorich (niksiz@icloud.com)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (pmcon@comcast.net)--