

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia PA 19106
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December 30, 2018 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

World Day of Peace

I don't remember much from my one graduate course in psychology, but I do remember that the professor liked to say "there are no accidents." That phrase popped into my head when I read that Pope Francis had released the theme for World Day of Peace 2019 on the first Tuesday in November, that is, on the day of the US elections.

Pope Paul VI inaugurated World Day of Peace in 1968. Every year since then, popes have announced a theme and composed a message that is traditionally signed on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a day dedicated to Mary, who is sometimes called the Queen of Peace). This message is usually the focus of the pope's homily on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and World Day of Peace. Pope Francis' message for 2019 is "politics must serve peace."

No accident, I thought. On a day when US citizens have a particular opportunity to play their political part, there's something Pope Francis is inviting us to think about.

As of this writing, his full statement hasn't been released. The initial press coverage indicates that Pope Francis will speak again of his concern for the future life of the planet and for the youngest and smallest lives on it, about the importance of respectful dialogue, and about political responsibility belonging to all, not just those with the mandate to govern and protect. Even without the full statement, we can—as I remember that



same psych professor also saying—"unpack things a little" by thinking about peace, about politics, and about serving.

Let's start where Pope Francis does, with *peace*. For Francis, the question isn't 'what is peace?' but 'who is peace?' And the answer to that is as old and familiar as our Scriptures: Jesus Christ is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). Jesus Christ is our reconciliation with God, with each other, and with all of creation.

That our peace is a person—the person of Jesus Christ—is a constant reminder that peace is at heart, about relationships and about making those relationships right. We could spend volumes and lifetimes thinking critically about how to do that. And people have: that's what Catholics sometimes refer to as 'the tradition'—the centuries of prayer, reflection and study that seek insight into how our response to God's love made present in Jesus shapes everything

--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	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>James & Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12:30 PM	Litany of the Sacred Heart
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Nancy Shashaty (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Frederico 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, 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, Hugh McNicholas, 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.

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about our whole lives. One place to start such reflection is with what commentators on Scripture refer to as the 'gospel within the gospel,' that is, a passage that captures the core of our faith in a nutshell. For many people, 'the great commandment' (Luke 10:27) is just that gospel within the gospel. The very essence of our faith is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. As Pope Francis so often says, Jesus' parable of the final judgment in the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46) makes clear that we will be held responsible for the way we carry out the great commandment: whatever we do for the least of our sisters and brothers, we do for Jesus.

As peace is about relationships, so is *politics*. Politics invites us to look beyond relationships between individuals and beyond our close circles of families and friends to the wider circles of what groups we belong to, and how they are related, organized, interact, and work together to form our society. These political relationships can and should also be examined and shaped in the light of the Gospel. The tradition of doing that is often called Catholic social teaching, and it examines whether social structures, from the most complex to the simplest, reflect the concern for the least and most vulnerable among us that characterize the faith we profess.

One unique contribution that Catholic Christians can make to US politics is its very catholic-ness, that is, catholic in the sense of universal, catholic in the

sense of "here-comes-everybody." In a nation so steeped in a mythology of rugged individualism and everyone for themselves, Catholic Christians can serve as a powerful counter-sign of commitment to the common good.

Which leads us to *servicing*. Here again, Scripture offers much to reflect on: we speak of Jesus in terms of what the prophet Isaiah said about the suffering servant (Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 52) and about how Jesus came not to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:28). But perhaps the place to start is with the simple recognition that 'serve' is a verb. It is something active, something dynamic. 'Serve' moves us from contemplation to action. It also moves us toward flexibility, toward understanding that exactly what faith requires today may be different tomorrow; what is asked of you is not the same as what is required of me.

Politics must serve peace. Unpack that a bit, and you could paraphrase Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message to say that our politics must serve Jesus Christ, actively, and for the benefit of the least among us. That is a message worth remembering.

--BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

Front page image is a photograph from NASA of earth from one million miles away.

Among the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' resources for World Day of Peace is this prayer from Pope Francis:

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried . . .

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" . . . Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. . . .

Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

Additional Reading

To continue exploring the wealth of Catholic social teaching online, consider the following:

- usccb.org—Belief & Teaching—What We Believe—Catholic Social Teaching
- networklobby.org—Advocacy Toolbox—Educate
- povertyusa.org—Learn—Catholic Social Teaching & Tradition (*PovertyUSA is a project of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development*)
- Ignationsolidaritynetwork.net--Resources

Thank You!

Many, many thanks to all those who so graciously gave books and warm winter gear to the students at Gesu School and home and school supplies to the families of the Aquinas Center through our Advent Giving Tree.

And Thank You Again!

The Faith, Food and Friends outreach program was delighted to receive over three hundred dollars in proceeds from the Eldership Committee's afghan raffle. Thanks to all who took part, and congratulations to the two happy new owners of handcrafted afghans.

Announcements

Province Releases Names of Accused

On December 17, 2018 the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus released the names of Jesuits credibly accused of sexual abuse of minor children going back to 1950. Two of those named lived at Old St. Joseph's many years ago: Martin J. Casey (1964-1971) and John H. Duggan (1978-1980). Maryland provincial Robert Hussey SJ expressed sorrow for the harm caused to victims and their families, and he invited anyone who suspects abuse by any clergy or employee of the Maryland Province to contact local civil authorities and/or the provincial's office. Their Victim Assistance Coordinator can be reached at 443-370-6357, MARadvocacy@jesuits.org, or at Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, 8600 LaSalle Rd, Suite 620, Towson, MD 21286.

--Walter Modrys SJ
Pastor

PREP Calendar

There will be no Parish Religious Education Program on Monday, December 31. PREP will resume at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 7.

Cookout Dinner Next Week

The monthly parish cookout dinner will be next **Sunday, January 6**. As always, all are welcome to Barbelin Hall **after the 6:30 PM Mass** for good food and good company! If you are interested in helping out, please get in touch with Tom Nailor at thomas.nailor@gmail.com.

OSJ Book Group

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

Catholic Social Services Needs Foster Parents for Unaccompanied Children

Catholic Social Services (CSS) is recruiting foster care parents to welcome unaccompanied children from Mexico and Central America into their homes. These pre-adolescent children have come here alone or been separated from their families at the border, and many have experienced significant trauma. They need caring individuals or families willing to provide a supportive foster care home environment for 2 to 3 months while the children attend a daily educational and counseling program located at the former St. Bernard School on 7340 Jackson Street in Northeast Philadelphia. Households within about a half-hour commuting distance to the program are preferred. Ability to speak some Spanish is helpful but not required. Please contact Robert Montoro at rmontoro@chs-adphila.org or call 267-331-2443 for more information.

Online Giving

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

Christmas Flowers, through December 30

Christmas Music, through December 30

Christmas Collection, through January 13

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, through January 13.

Keep in Touch

You can find Old St Joseph's Church online at oldstjoseph.org and on Facebook at [@OSJ19106](https://www.facebook.com/OSJ19106). To receive occasional emails about parish activities, email office@oldstjoseph.org.

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)--