

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

January 27, 2019 | The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“May your passion and death be my strength and life.”

The following essay is the first of an occasional series that springs from the desire to find God in all things, especially in one's work. The words of Teilhard de Chardin in The Divine Milieu are apt: God “awaits us every instant in our action, in the work of the moment. There is a sense in which he is at the tip of my pen, my spade, my brush, my needle—of my heart and of my thought. By pressing the stroke, the line, or the stitch, on which I am engaged, to its ultimate natural finish, I shall lay hold of that last end towards which my innermost will tends.”

When someone learns that I am a nurse or I talk with someone about my work, I am often asked the question: “How did you know you wanted to be a nurse?” Truthfully, the thought of becoming a nurse never crossed my mind until I was nearing 30 years old and a Jesuit novice. Yes, I'd studied biology as an undergrad but mainly because I always had a passion for science and considered becoming a dentist. After I decided against moving on to dental school, I worked as a youth minister and then taught high school biology and chemistry for some years before entering the Jesuit novitiate.

Saint Ignatius prescribed that novices undergo a series of “experiments” or experiences, one of which is the “hospital experiment.” For the hospital experiment, I was sent to Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, NY for about three months to work as a nursing aide, or what previously might have been known as an orderly. Calvary Hospital is a special



palliative care hospital which cares for adults with incurable end-stage cancer at the end of life. It has been the site of the hospital experiment for novices of the Maryland and New York Provinces of the Society of Jesus for many years. (Father Modrys was in the first class of novices sent there.)

The work mainly consisted of cleaning, bathing and feeding patients, helping to move patients that couldn't move on their own, etc. As you might imagine, it was an eye-opening and challenging experience. Never before had I so closely witnessed anyone made so helpless and vulnerable by illness that they totally relied on the love and compassion of others. This can be quite overwhelming. And while some of my novice classmates were reluctant to return to the hospital each day, I felt increasingly

—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>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>		
28		Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Helen Le Compte (D)</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
29		Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>		
30		Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>James Convery (D)</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
31		Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum rehearsal
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i>	12:30 PM	Litany of the Sacred Heart
1		Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph Memorial Society</i>	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends
2		Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12:05 PM	Anointing of the Sick
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
3	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir rehearsal (Church)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell 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.

Debbie Brooks, Tony Corvaia, Ann Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Lenny Felixson, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, Catherine Keddie, Karen Lessing, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Allen May, D. Minter, Ursula Reed, Joan Russo, Sara Smith, Arlene Tomlin, Patricia Yusko, Mickey Zippo.

Bringing Communion to the Homebound

Those who are confined to home 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 offices at 215-923-1733 to arrange for a parish Eucharistic Minister to visit.

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drawn to be back there each morning to be able to help care for the patients.

The patients at Calvary Hospital were dying, and the mission of the physicians and nurses there was to ensure that the patients were “physically, spiritually and emotionally comfortable as possible.” The experience of serving at Calvary enabled me to understand the person of Jesus in a new and intimate way; for the first time, I felt close to the dying Christ. In my mind, there was clearly no coincidence that this place was named Calvary. In a profound spiritual way, I was taken to the foot of the cross to serve Jesus by caring for the patients. The months spent in the hospital experiment were a special time of discernment for me. As I prayed about my nursing experiences at Calvary, I was ignited with a newfound passion and desire to care for the sick and dying and felt confirmed that God would give me the grace and gifts to be able to do so. Through my prayer I both realized and decided that if I didn’t pursue life in the Society of Jesus, I would return to school to become a nurse, and indeed, that is just what happened.

All of my professional nursing career has been spent working in critical care. In the intensive care unit we witness a vast spectrum of outcomes and emotions among those we care for: from the joys of unexpected recovery to the tragedy of sudden death, from the triumphs of cure through medical advances to the peaceful passing of a hospice patient. Increasingly beautiful to me has been the opportunity to become closer to Jesus, particularly

in his passion, death, and resurrection, whether caring for patients and families in times of pain and suffering or in joy and victory. The work of a nurse or other health care worker can be so rewarding and fruitful; it can also be challenging, tiring, and emotionally draining by its demands. In those times of adversity or struggle, my spirit is renewed by the recollection of Jesus’ words in the parable in Matthew’s Gospel, “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” I am strengthened by the grace of knowing I am serving the suffering Jesus.

For many years, one of my favorite prayers has been David Fleming SJ’s paraphrase of the *Anima Christi* prayer found in Saint Ignatius’ *Spiritual Exercises*. When I pray with these words, I feel my vocation as a nurse is inspired and sustained particularly by these two lines: “May your passion and death be my strength and life. Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.” Here is the prayer in its entirety:

*Jesus, may all that is in you flow into me.
May your body and blood be my food and drink.
May your passion and death be my strength and
life.
Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.
May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.
Let me not run from the love which you offer.
But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.
Keep calling to me until that day comes.
When with your saints, I may praise you forever.
Amen.*

—Len Mancini MSN, RN

Front page: Christ carrying the Cross, ca 1565, Titian.

Faith Food and Friends

On February 2 and 3, we will have another opportunity to stock the shelves with essential personal items for our guests at Faith, Food and Friends. The supply of socks is still sufficient (thank you again!), but **travel-sized toothpaste, deodorant and shaving cream, along with disposable razors and standard-sized bar soap (like Irish Spring and Dove for Men)** would be much appreciated! These small items go a long way toward helping our guests to feel their God-given dignity.

Announcements

Charis Retreat for Young Adults

Looking for a Catholic retreat this spring in the Philadelphia area? Charis Ministries is a retreat ministry in the Jesuit tradition for people in their 20s and 30s. This year, Charis and the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Haverford, PA are coming together to host the *What's Next?* retreat at the St. Raphaela Center **March 1–3**. The retreat will focus on the variety of life transitions experienced by young adults. Registration is open online under Special Events at straphaelcenter.org. If you have any questions, please email the Charis Ministries Philadelphia Retreat Team at ignatianyaretreats@straphaelcenter.org.

Waldron Mercy Academy Admissions

Waldron Mercy Academy is now accepting applications for the 2019–2020 school year. Waldron Mercy is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence located in Merion Station PA. It has a Catholic co-educational, independent preschool through grade 8 and a Montessori program for ages 3 through 6. A sponsored work of the Sisters of Mercy, Waldron Mercy offers a challenging and well-rounded curriculum intended to develop the whole child academically, athletically, artistically and socially. Students are prepared to face the challenges of the world today with an enriched spiritual life, fluency in language and competence in advanced technology. To learn more about Waldron Mercy Academy, please call Admission Director Sr. Joellen at 610-664-9847, x. 113 or email jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org.

Neighborhood Blood Drive

Donate blood **on Tuesday, January 29 from 9:00 AM–7:00 PM** at Society Hill Towers Community Room. Please be sure to eat and drink beforehand and bring a photo ID. Or make an appointment at RedCrossBlood.org and use the keyword "Society Hill Towers."

Happy Hour—It's Not Just for the Young! OSJ's Eldership Community will host happy hour on **Monday February 4, 4:30–6:30 PM** at the newly opened P.J. Clarke's at 601 Walnut Street (in the Curtis Building). Come enjoy discounted happy hour prices and good company! To RSVP and for more information, email patricia.nelson.103@gmail.com.

SJU Faith+Justice Institute Discussion

You are welcome to join the Faith+Justice Institute at St. Joseph's University on **February 6 at 7:00 PM** in the Cardinal John P. Foley Center for a conversation on the Pennsylvania grand jury report on sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy. Daniel Joyce SJ will moderate the discussion along with Kathy Sprows Cummings, PhD, Director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame. This event is funded by the Joseph William and Madeline Eberle Klein Fund for education towards greater inclusion in the Catholic Church.

The Divine Milieu Discussion

Have you picked up your copy of Teilhard de Chardin SJ's *The Divine Milieu*? (Ask for a 15% discount at the desk of Head House Books, 619 S. 2nd Street). Then join us on **Sunday, February 10 and Sunday, February 24 at 1:00 PM in Barbelin Hall** when SJU professor and OSJ parishioner Gerard Jacobitz will lead our exploration of Chardin's beloved spiritual classic.

OSJ Book Group

The book group will return to a traditional novel in February to ground itself once again in the long, rich tradition of Catholic writers: Graham Greene's *The Heart of the Matter*. Next meeting is Tuesday, **February 5, 7:00-9:00 PM** in the Loyola Room in the rectory.

FLASH FINANCIAL REPORT—January 2019

	ACTUAL [JUL–DEC 2017] PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL [JUL–DEC 2018] PRESENT YEAR
INCOME		
Sunday Contributions	273,366	261,279
Daily Mass	6,936	5,306
Candles	4,624	3,955
Christmas—Collection	32,067	28,096
Activity Fees—PREP	12,565	10,625
Baptisms	2,750	2,160
Weddings	75,400	70,400
FFF Program	18,377	19,993
Offerings for Religious Services	7,566	7,002
Activities Income	14,007	12,923
TOTAL INCOME	447,658	421,739
EXPENSES		
Salaries	167,116	169,650
Employee Medical Insurance	21,258	18,626
Employee Taxes & Benefits	22,923	21,669
Diocesan Assessments	39,209	41,250
Support Services	28,666	26,841
Activities Expenses	41,884	44,609
Physical Plant Expenses	43,595	59,467
Jesuit Community Expenses	11,300	20,241
TOTAL EXPENSES	375,951	402,353
Net Ordinary Income	71,707	19,385

Here is a listing of parish Ordinary Income and Expenses for the first half of our fiscal year, covering July through December. As you can see, we are somewhat lagging behind last year's financial pace.

We are still showing an operating surplus, but much reduced from last year. This year, Income is down \$26,000 and Expenses are up \$26,000. That's a pretty quick explanation for the difference of \$52,000 in the bottom line.

Probing a little deeper, why did Income decline from \$447,000 last year to \$422,000 this year? Sunday Contributions are down by \$12,000; the Christmas Collection was \$4,000 less than last year, and Wedding Income was down by \$5,000.

On the Expense side, our maintenance costs rose by \$16,000 (mostly due to boiler repairs) and Jesuit Community expenses were up by \$9,000, though much of that was due to an accounting change from last year.

A generous response in the coming months would put us back in a more favorable position.

What is more disconcerting is what does not appear in the Flash Report. Last fiscal year our reserve funds, invested in the stock market, were all gaining value in line with the rising market. But this year the market is not performing as well and so we are giving back some of those previous gains. Taking all this into consideration, we are still showing a surplus for the first half of the year. But last year at this point our overall surplus was \$133,000 and this year it is only \$9,000.

A sincere thank you to all our benefactors who make it possible for our parish to function and serve as a spiritual home for so many.

—Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, Pastor

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 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 available 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 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.

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

Pat Nelson (patricia.nelson103@gmail.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)