

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

February 10, 2019 | The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

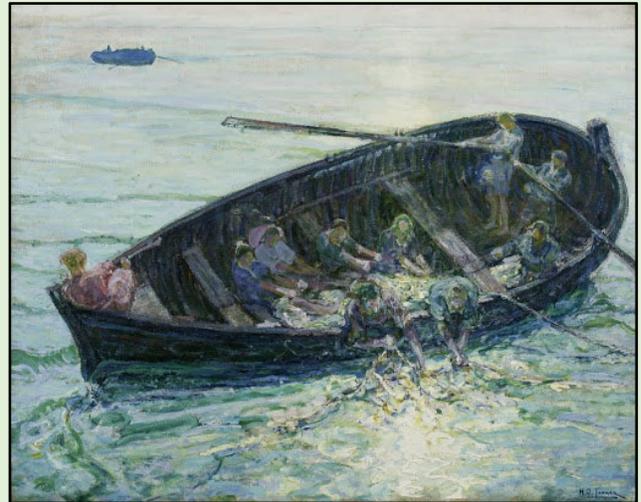
"Come and see!"

If you had told me four years ago that I would be a joyful middle school religion teacher and liturgist, I would have laughed at you or cried in despair. You see, in June 2013 I had just finished my first—and last—year as a full-time teacher at a Catholic high school in Providence, Rhode Island. By the end of that long year, I never wanted to teach again and I'd convinced myself that God was NOT calling me to that vocation. My journey back to teaching has been filled with unexpected grace, growth, and discernment.

My first year of teaching was one of the most challenging of my life. I didn't know anyone in Providence, I was living alone for the first time, and this was my first full-time job. As any teacher knows, the first year is completely overwhelming. This, combined with all the other life transitions I was going through, left me perpetually exhausted and isolated.

If I wasn't physically at work, I was swamped with lesson planning and grading. I had little time to develop new friendships. I missed my now-husband, Jeff, my friends, colleagues, and a life-giving faith community back in Boston. I felt so alone. Worst of all, I felt like I had failed God.

I had thought I was called to teach theology, to share the Gospel and spread God's love to young people. Yet for the first few months, I struggled with insomnia, anxiety, and mild depression. Praise and encouragement from my boss and colleagues didn't register in the face of my misery and self-doubt.



What is wrong with me, I thought, that I am so unhappy doing such good and important work? God wouldn't call me to a career that makes me this miserable, would He? I prayed to stop feeling so alone and overwhelmed. I felt angry with God for leading me into a such a painful situation and I felt angry at myself. This was my "dark night of the soul;" I lost almost all sense of God's presence and lived most days in desolation.

Looking back, I now see how God's presence and love actually surrounded me that year: in a colleague's family who treated me like their own daughter; in the friends I made through the local church choir; and in my students, whose sincere questions and openness to grace humbled and inspired me. God was there in my relationship with Jeff, whose unwavering love and support sustained me from a distance. And yes, God was with me in the darkness of my solitary bedroom, even if I

—Continued inside



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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon 11	12:05 PM	<i>Raymond La Palme (L)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 12	12:05 PM	<i>Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon 12 Noon 7:00 PM	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel) Pre-Baptism Class (Drexel)
Wed 13	12:05 PM	<i>Paul Eichfeld (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs 14	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
Fri 15	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	5:30 PM	Young Adult Happy Hour (off-site)
Sat 16	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Nancy Shashaty (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 17	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. O'Donnell 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.

Debbie Brooks, Tony Corvaia, Ann Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Paul DuSold, Lenny Felixson, Jillian Grayson,
Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, Catherine Keddie, Raymond LaPalme, Karen Lessing, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ,
Marge Marziani, Allen May, D. Minter, Bernie Paquette, Ursula Reed, Joan Russo, Sara Smith, Arlene Tomlin,
Thomas Turnbull, 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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couldn't feel His presence, listening and holding me as I cried tears of frustration and loneliness.

It took a few months of therapy, spiritual direction, and prayer to stop blaming God and myself for my unhappiness. I decided that the problem was teaching—it just was not for me. I committed to finishing out the year, which ended up providing unexpected blessings: I taught a class on social justice, which, together with my struggles with my mental health that year, inspired me to go back to school to become a social worker.

Fast-forward four years: after two years of school and two of challenging and meaningful work as a mental health therapist, Jeff and I were married and discerning our next steps. We were grateful and excited when Jeff was offered a job with Catholic Relief Services near Philadelphia. As we planned our move, I started looking for another job as a therapist.

After months of searching and a few uninspiring job prospects, I received an unexpected email telling me about a job opening for a middle school religion teacher and school liturgist at Holy Child School at Rosemont. *Ha!* I thought. *No way am I going back into teaching.* But something kept bringing me back to this job. *It couldn't hurt to apply,* I told myself. *It's good to keep my options open.* Then the curveballs kept coming. As I progressed through the interview process, I felt energized by the school's mission and vision. I found real community when I visited, and found myself thinking, *I could see myself working at a place like this; it feels like the right fit.*

I'll never forget the joy and turmoil I felt the day I was offered the job at Holy Child. I had another job offer with a therapy practice, and now I had a choice to make. I've never been more grateful for the lessons of Ignatian discernment. I prayed to God for guidance and detachment, remembering

that this was a choice between two good things. I talked to my loved ones. I wrote down the pros and cons of each job. The most helpful practice was imagining that I had already made my decision, first in favor of Holy Child, and next in favor of the therapy job. When I imagined myself as a therapist again, I felt familiarity and comfort, but no joy. . . just resignation. When I imagined myself at Holy Child, I definitely felt anxiety on the surface, but at a deeper level, I experienced a surprising peace. It felt like God was inviting me to "come and see" what awaited me there. Not that teaching would be without challenges, but there was a possibility for joy and fulfillment, and God would be with me and equip me to handle those challenges. I felt Jesus telling me what he tells Peter in today's Gospel: *Do not be afraid. Trust me. . . cast the net out again, and see what you find.*

Today, I'm a year and a half into my time at Holy Child. Every day brings challenges, but they are a worthwhile part of the joy of belonging to a wonderful community. To my surprise and delight, I have found that I love being a teacher and school liturgist, and I am excited to continue growing in these roles. I have experienced God's grace in so many ways at Holy Child, and I think I'm ready to believe again that this really might be a vocation.

For a long time, the pain, isolation, and misery I felt that first year convinced me that teaching was not my vocation. It took a lot of prayer and time to understand that while the first year of being a teacher is always hard, it was not the teaching itself, but all the other transitions in my life that made that year so incredibly difficult. I now see that year as an immense blessing. I learned humility and strength; I learned to let go of perfectionism. I learned that discerning God's call does not limit me to one career path, and that a vocation is more than a career. Most of all, I learned that while God's timing does not always look like my timing, He is trustworthy and faithful.

—Chelsea Echenique Wallace

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.

Foster Parents Needed

Catholic Social Services 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 two to three 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 preferable. Ability to speak some Spanish would be helpful but is not required. Please contact Robert Montoro at rmontoro@chs-adphila.org or call 267-331-2443 for more information.

Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

If you haven't received a Catholic Charities Annual Appeal mailing from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, forms and envelopes are available in the back of the church or you can contribute to the *Giving Hope to All* appeal online at catholiccharitiesappeal.org. Last year, Old St. Joseph's contributed \$42,820, which was 110% of our goal. Thank you for your generous support of the Archdiocese's social ministries!

Invitations from the IHM Sisters

The IHM Sisters invite single young women ages 18-35 to join them for Sisters' Night on **Friday, February 15 6:00–9:00 PM** at their motherhouse in Malvern, PA. This is an opportunity for young women who are curious about religious life to spend time with the sisters in an informal setting. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sister Marianne at 610-889-1553 or ihmvoc@gmail.com

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary also invite single young women ages 18–35 to a weekend Discernment Retreat at Villa Maria House of Studies from **February 15–17**. For details or to RSVP, contact: Sister Marianne at 610-889-1553 or ihmvoc@gmail.com.

Announcements

The Divine Milieu –Today!

Join us at **1:00 PM on Sunday in Barbelin Hall** when Saint Joseph University professor and OSJ parishioner, Gerard Jacobitz, leads our exploration of de Chardin's beloved spiritual classic, *The Divine Milieu*. A second conversation will be held on **February 24 at 1:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. All are welcome!

OSJ Young Adult February Happy Hour

For our Young Adult Community February Happy Hour, we're heading up north to the recently-opened and spacious **Love City Brewing on Friday, February 15 starting at 5:30 PM**. Housed in a former 19th-century factory, this buzzy brewpub pours signature beers like a malty house lager and hazy New England-style IPA, plus delicious seasonal drafts including a coffee brown ale—perfect for the chilly weather. Rotating food trucks located inside provide easy access to grub from vendors like Flaming Basil and Baby Blues BBQ. We plan to stay until at least 8:00 PM. Contact Christopher Ross (610-952-7317 or g.chris.ross@gmail.com), with any questions or to find us at the bar. Hope to see you there!

Please Like Us!

Be sure to follow and like @OSJ19106 on Facebook so we show up in your newsfeed regularly.

Save the Dates!

Sunday Morning Gathering

Women Faith and Friends invites women of the parish to gather at Frieda Café, 320 Walnut Street at **10:00 AM on Sunday February 24**. Come grab yourself a coffee or brunch and catch up with folks you met at Advent by Candlelight and plan future opportunities for prayer and companionship! RSVP to wff@oldstjoseph.org so we can reserve enough tables.

Lenten Music

Choral Vespers will be sung by the Schola Cantorum on **Sunday, March 31 at 4:00 PM**. In addition to choral music by Wesley and Sumsion, there will be organ music by Buxtehude and Brahms. Choral Vespers will be a beautiful time of Lenten prayer. All are welcome!

OSJ Eldership Community

Volunteer Orientation at MANNA

Looking for a new volunteer opportunity? Join us on **Thursday February 21 1:00–4:00 PM** at MANNA, an all-volunteer nonprofit located at 420 North 20th Street (www.mannapa.org). Come learn about MANNA which cooks and delivers nutritious, medically-appropriate meals and provides nutrition counseling to neighbors who are battling life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, renal disease and HIV/AIDS. An orientation session, sponsored by the OSJ Eldership Community, will introduce MANNA and offer an opportunity to take a shift in the kitchen that afternoon and learn hands on. Please advise patricia.nelson103@gmail.com by **February 18** if you plan to attend.

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)