

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

February 24, 2019 | The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

## The Trinity in Action

I once began a talk by asking "What's your favorite line in the Eucharistic Prayer?" but people looked back at me with blank faces. So I tried again, and asked "Recite a line—any line—from the Eucharistic Prayer." Again, nothing but blank stares. I was talking to people who had probably attended a thousand Masses in their lifetimes, but nobody could remember a single line from the principal prayer of the Mass. That's when I realized that we often just let the Eucharistic Prayer wash over us, leaving hardly any impression.

Fittingly for something so profound and dynamic, we prepare for the Eucharistic Prayer with dialogue:

*The Lord be with you/And with your spirit.*

*Lift up your hearts/We lift them up to the Lord.*

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. . .*

Next comes the Preface Prayer, which varies with the seasons and is followed by our acclamation *Holy, Holy, Holy. . .* What follows is the Eucharistic Prayer itself, which ends with the final doxology: *Through him, and with him, and in him. . .* and the great *Amen!*

Between that opening dialogue and the final Amen, the Eucharistic Prayer is filled with the action of addressing the Father directly. We **praise** the Father for his goodness towards us. Then we **ask** him to **send** his Holy Spirit to **transform** our completely ordinary gifts of bread and wine into the body and blood of his Son. The prayer, therefore, is thoroughly Trinitarian: we address the Father, joining ourselves to the Son through the power of



the Spirit. This Trinitarian character is of prime importance in order to understand the dynamic of the Eucharistic prayer.

There are now a number of different versions of the Eucharistic Prayer. Before the reforms of Vatican II, there was, except in churches of the Eastern Rite, just one, called the Roman Canon. (Canon is another name for the Eucharistic Prayer.) But Vatican II recovered other Eucharistic Prayers from ancient traditions and returned them to general use. Every version of the Eucharistic Prayer contains the same essential elements:

Praise to the Father:

*Father, you are holy indeed, and all creation rightly gives you praise. . .*

—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 25	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 26	12:05 PM	<i>Geraldine Marren and Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
			12 Noon	Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
Wed 27	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs 28	12:05 PM	<i>Mary Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
			7:00 PM	<i>Schola Cantorum</i> Rehearsal (Barbelin)
Fri 1	12:05 PM	<i>John Downey (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12:30 PM	Litany of the Sacred Heart
Sat 2	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
			12:05 PM	Anointing of the Sick (Church)
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sun 3	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 (Greateon)

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, Mary Jacobs, Catherine Keddie, Raymond LaPalme, Karen Lessing,  
Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Marge Marziani, Allen May, D. Minter, Bernie Paquette, Ursula Reed,  
Sara Smith, Arlene Tomlin, Thomas Turnbull, Patricia Yusko, and Mickey Zippo.

*Bringing Communion to the Homebound*

*Those who are confined to home—even for a short time—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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Invocation of the Spirit over the gifts, or the  
Epiclesis:

*by the power of your Spirit, sanctify these gifts . . .  
that they may become the body and blood of your  
Son. . .*

Words of Institution or the Consecration:

*he took bread and gave you thanks and praise. . .  
when supper was ended, . . .*

Remembrance or Anamnesis:

*Calling to mind, Lord God, the death your son  
endured for our salvation, his glorious resurrection  
and ascension . . .*

Offering of Christ to the Father:

*We offer you . . . this holy and living sacrifice.*

Another Invocation (Epiclesis) of the Spirit, this  
time on the people gathered:

*Grant that we . . . may be filled with his Holy Spirit*

Petitions:

*For the peace and salvation of the whole world  
. . .for our pilgrim Church. . .that we may share in  
the inheritance of the saints. . .for our departed  
brothers and sisters. . .*

Praise or Doxology:

*Through him, and with him, and in him, O God,  
almighty Father, In the unity of the Holy Spirit. . .*

There are a number of technical terms that  
traditionally refer to the important parts of the  
prayer. *Epiclesis* is a Greek word that means calling  
down. We ask the Father to call down the Spirit.  
*Anamnesis* is the Greek word for remembrance. We  
remember Christ's death and resurrection.  
*Doxology* is a Greek word meaning to give glory or  
praise. We glorify the Father with Christ in union  
with the Spirit.

Focusing too narrowly on only one part of the  
Eucharistic Prayer diminishes our understanding.

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*. . .the words of consecration are actually a  
story, told to the Father about what Jesus  
did for us. . .*

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This happened, for example, in the church's  
reaction to Protestant rejection of the Catholic  
Mass. Catholic teaching began to emphasize the  
doctrine of transubstantiation. Using the categories  
of Aristotelian philosophy, transubstantiation  
affirms that the substance of the bread and wine is  
changed, but the accidents (the 'externals') remain  
the same. Unfortunately, in popular consciousness  
such philosophical defenses of the real presence of  
Christ in the Eucharist obscured the words and  
action of the Eucharistic Prayer itself. People lost  
sight of the work of the Trinity, forgetting that the  
miracle of Christ's presence is the work of the Spirit  
who is sent by the Father.

The words of consecration became an exact  
formula to be precisely recited, over-emphasized  
with bells ringing and the host held high for  
adoration. But heard within the context of the  
whole Eucharistic Prayer, the words of consecration  
are actually a **story** told to the Father about what  
Jesus did for us. (Isn't that a beautiful way to enter  
into the mystery of the Eucharist?) This story  
makes the presence of Jesus real for us because the  
Father has sent the Holy Spirit upon the objects of  
bread and wine, which now carry the meaning of  
the story spoken over them as the body and blood  
of Christ.

So the Eucharist is not some sacred object to be  
carefully stored in a tabernacle for future  
communions. It is the way we remember Jesus, not  
just as an historical figure who lived a long time  
ago, but the Jesus who suffered and died for us and  
now is with us as the risen Lord. This is the  
*anamnesis* of the Mass—the remembering—that  
inspires us to join the glorified Jesus in offering  
ourselves to the Father. This is the second *epiclesis*,  
the Spirit coming upon us to transform us, the way

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the Spirit has transformed the elements of bread and wine. We become *one body, one spirit, in Christ*.

At this point in the action of the Eucharistic Prayer, it is time to ask for what we need, just as Jesus taught us—in the Lord’s Prayer, for example—to pray by bringing our deepest desires to his Father. These petitions are truly universal, modeling how to transcend our small-mindedness and narrow self-interest with prayers for ourselves, for all of God’s people, all our brothers and sisters, and for all the dead.

Finally, the Eucharistic Prayer ends where it began: with praise of the Father. Now we are transformed, intimately joined to the action of Jesus himself. And so with the body and blood of Christ raised above us, and in union with the Holy Spirit, we solemnly proclaim to the Father that *all glory and honor is yours, forever and ever. . . AMEN!*

Walter F. Modrys SJ  
Pastor

Answer to question in the first paragraph: My favorite line used to be: *May he make us an everlasting gift to you*. Now it is: *We thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence to serve you*. Go to our Facebook Page OSJ19106 and record your favorite line!

## Coming Events

### People Gathered to Become Church

What does it mean to gather for worship? To us, to our community, to the world around us? How—and why—does our celebration of the Eucharist change us? On **Saturday, March 9 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**, Norbertine Father Andrew Ciferni, a distinguished teacher of liturgy, will guide us in examining God’s standing invitation to share in word and sacrament and to be transformed and sent out into the world. Plan to remain for 12:05 PM Mass; Fr. Ciferni will be the celebrant. Everyone is invited; current and prospective lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers and altar servers are particularly encouraged to attend. Fr. Ciferni’s visit at the beginning of Lent will be a special opportunity to reflect on the ways our shared worship participates in God’s work.

### Lenten Vespers

Join us for Lenten Vespers with the Schola Cantorum on **Sunday, March 31 at 4:00 PM**. Our annual hour of choral and organ music is a beautiful opportunity to enter deeply into Lenten prayer. All are welcome!

### St Joseph’s Feast Day!

Come celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on **Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM**, starting with Mass and followed immediately by dinner in Barbelin Hall. Tickets are on sale at the front desk of the parish office: \$10 for adults and children eat for free. Donations of wine and dessert are welcome! Many volunteers will make light work of food prep on **Monday, March 18**, and set-up, serving, and clean-up on **Tuesday, March 19**. Please contact Joe Casey at 215-843-3573 or joetcasey@aol.com to sign up or for further information.

### Lenten Retreat

OSJ’s Ignatian Spirituality Committee invites everyone to a day-long retreat on **Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 AM–3:00 PM** at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford, PA. Father Dan Ruff SJ will help us reflect on *Doing God’s Work Through Serving Your Neighbor*, with time for private reflection and group discussion. The cost of the retreat is \$35 for lunch and materials; please RSVP by **March 18** to [osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org).

# Announcements

## The Divine Milieu, Part 2

Our discussion continues **today at 1:00 PM** with St. Joseph's University theology professor Gerard Jacobitz in Barbelin Hall. All are welcome to attend (even if you did not attend the first session!).

## Adult Education Committee

Did you enjoy our discussion of *The Divine Milieu*? Come help the Adult Education Committee plan similar events. Their next meeting will be **Sunday, March 3 at 10:30 AM** in the Drexel Parlor. Contact Jeanmarie Zippo at [jeanmariez@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanmariez@hotmail.com) for more information.

## Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl

Next weekend, **March 2-3**, we will distribute CRS Rice Bowls after each Mass. We encourage everyone to use these—or the CRS Rice Bowl app—to make your Lenten fast, a hunger for justice; your almsgiving, an offering for peace; and your prayer, a time of solidarity with people most in need of the hope of resurrection. Watch for additional information in the bulletin.

## Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

You can donate to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's annual Catholic Charities Appeal *Giving Hope to All* by using the forms and envelopes found in the back of the church or online at [catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://catholiccharitiesappeal.org). The website also describes opportunities to volunteer with organizations benefitting from the appeal. Visit the site today for more information!

## Young Adult Post-Mass Reflection Today!

Young adults are invited to join us for additional reflection after **today's 6:30 PM Mass**. We will meet in the front of the church and then head to the Greaton Parlor, where we'll re-read the Scriptures from the evening Mass and allow time for quiet prayer, sharing and discussion. Materials will be provided, and we will end by 8:30 PM. All young adults are welcome!

## Jesuit Refugee Service at SJU

Please join Dr. Mireille Twayigira and Jesuit Refugee Service/USA at Saint Joseph's University's Campion Banquet Hall on **Wednesday, February 27 at 4:00 PM**.

Dr. Twayigira will speak about what can be done to ensure that children forced to flee from crisis and conflict receive an education and an opportunity for a hopeful future. Dr. Twayigira became a refugee herself at age two. She eventually received an education through Jesuit Refugee Service at Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi and won a scholarship to medical school in China. Visit [www.jrsusa.org/fullofhope](http://www.jrsusa.org/fullofhope) to RSVP and to learn more. All are welcome!

## OSJ Book Group

Old Saint Joseph's Book Reading Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30–9:00 PM** in the Drexel Parlor to discuss *Dakota: A Spiritual Landscape* by Kathleen Norris. Described as a deeply spiritual book, *Dakota* explores small town prairie life and the many ways that people come to reflect the landscape they live in. For more information contact Carol Shloss at [shlosscarol@gmail.com](mailto:shlosscarol@gmail.com).

## Congratulations!

Congrats to James H. Agger, son of James and Linda Agger, who made the first-semester honor roll at St. Joseph's Prep.

# 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](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 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](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

Pat Nelson ([patricia.nelson103@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.nelson103@gmail.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 Fellowship

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))