

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

February 3, 2019 | The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Augustine and the Art of Worship

*The following essay is part of an occasional series that springs from the desire to find God in all things. Once again, the words of Teilhard de Chardin in The Divine Milieu are apt: "God truly waits for us in things, unless indeed he advances to meet us." Enjoy this week's essay:*

I first came to Old St. Joseph Church in the summer of 2017 accompanying my then girlfriend, Maxine. A year and a half later, I have converted to Catholicism as a member of the 2018 Old St. Joseph's RCIA cohort and was married to Maxine in this community on a perfect fall day in October. Why did this special church come to feel so right, so like home, and so quickly when I had visited and attended services at many other churches over the years? The answer lies in the baptismal name I chose, for which Father Modrys teased me a little because of the presumption of associating oneself with so lofty a figure: Augustine.

Chances are you've dipped into *The City of God* or the *Confessions* at some point in your own faith journey. My first encounter with the writings of St. Augustine of Hippo came not in church but rather in a musicology class. For students of the history of art and music, Augustine is assigned early and often, specifically the sections of the *Confessions* (Book X, Ch. 33-4) in which he discusses what he calls "pleasures of the ear" and "pleasures of the eye." There has never been so succinct and moving a statement of the challenges and possibilities of artistic beauty in the service of



worship, and of the very factors that make Old St. Joseph's so dear to me. By his own account, Augustine had an eager ear for music and struggled mightily with the question of whether that sensual pleasure he found in himself was excessive and sinful affection for earthly things or a way to spiritual insight. Music had played a crucial role in his own path to Christianity and Augustine speaks forcefully in defense of the medium: "I feel that when the sacred words are chanted well, our souls are moved and are more religiously and with a warmer devotion kindled to piety than if they are not so sung." However, he wrestled with the self-knowledge that he was not immune to the attractions of a catchy tune that could overwhelm the reason: "when it happens to me that the music moves me more than the subject of the song, I confess myself to commit a sin deserving punishment."

Augustine also offers insight into the uses of

—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>James &amp; Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Edward &amp; Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
			12 Noon	Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
			7:00 PM	Young Adult Spirituality Night
			7:30 PM	Book Club (Loyola)
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Deceased members of the Farris and Croft families</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food, and Friends (Barbelin)
			7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum rehearsal
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Deceased members of the Brown and McFeeley families</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food and Friends (Barbelin)
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Frederico SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	1:00 PM	<i>The Divine Milieu</i> Discussion (Barbelin)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir rehearsal (Church)
			5:30 PM	YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)
			7:30 PM	Cookout Dinner (Barbelin)

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, Karen Lessing, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Allen May, D. Minter,  
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.*

*Continued from front page*

painting and sculpture as aids to worship. He found himself similarly susceptible to the pleasures of “beautiful and varied forms, glowing and pleasant colors” and worried whether this might be another route to vanity and sin. While he acknowledges the risk of earthly luxuries that “entrap the eyes of men,” here, too, Augustine offers one of the earliest defenses of liturgical art: “the beautiful objects designed by artists’ souls and realized by skilled hands come from that beauty which is higher than souls.”

How does all this relate to Old St. Joseph’s and to my own faith journey? I have seen firsthand the pitfalls of an extreme option Augustine briefly contemplates in the *Confessions* in response to the dangers of excessive love of the arts: “taking excessive safeguards against being led astray,” that is, seeking to eradicate beauty altogether from the worship service. The Quaker tradition in which I was raised will always be dear to me for its communal spirit and fierce commitment to social justice, grounded in the belief that there is “that of God” in everyone. Nevertheless, its zealous early proponents were dead wrong in their approach to the arts as objects of moral suspicion to be

banished from the meetinghouse and, as much as possible, from life. While things are different today and most Quakers do embrace the arts as a way to serve God and society, that former narrowness of mind is a legacy which still influences the Religious Society of Friends. What Maxine and I found at Old St. Joseph’s was a community of faith that uses the arts to their best and most transporting effect, just as Augustine hoped, carrying on the legacy of the tradition that has been the greatest of all patrons of Western art. In this beautifully simple space, where truth is spoken to power in harmony with the sensitive musical leadership, we found all that I loved from the Friends of my youth and the glory of God evoked on Earth in terms we could understand and engage with intellectually and spiritually as well as sensually. We parishioners are very lucky indeed to find inspiration in such a place.

—William L. Coleman, PhD  
Associate Curator of American Art,  
The Newark Museum

*Front page: Fra Angelico (Blessed Giovanni of Fiesole), The Conversion of St. Augustine, circa 1430. Tempera on wood, 8 1/2 x 13 1/2 in., Musée Thomas-Henry, Cherbourg-Octeville, France.*

# 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](http://straphaelcenter.org). If you have any questions, please email the Charis Ministries Philadelphia Retreat Team at [ignatianyaretreats@straphaelcenter.org](mailto:ignatianyaretreats@straphaelcenter.org).

## Foster Parents Needed

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 preferable. Ability to speak some Spanish would be helpful but is not required. Please contact Robert Montoro at [rmontoro@chs-adphila.org](mailto:rmontoro@chs-adphila.org) or call 267-331-2443 for more information.

## 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.

## Seeking Healing in the Church

On **Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 PM** in its Lower Shrine Chapel, the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia will host an evening of reflection on *Seeking Healing in the Church*. Fr. Jim Paradis, OSA will provide thoughts addressing healing in the church following last year's sexual abuse crisis revelations. The talk will be followed by questions and moderated discussions. This event is free and all are welcome to attend! For more information, please call 215-546-8333 or visit [www.SaintRitaShrine.org](http://www.SaintRitaShrine.org).

## Catholic Charities Annual Appeal

If you are registered parishioner, you may have already received a mailing from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia about this year's appeal, *Giving Hope to All*. Forms and envelopes are also available in the back of the church, and contributions can also be made online to [catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://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!

# Announcements

## *The Divine Milieu* –Next Week!

*God does not offer himself to our finite beings as a thing all complete and ready to be embraced. For us he is eternal discovery and eternal growth. The more we think we understand him, the more he reveals himself as otherwise. The more we think we hold him, the further he withdraws, drawing us into the depths of himself.*

—Teilhard de Chardin

*The Divine Milieu*, p. 114

Intrigued? Interested in being drawn into discovery and growth? Then join us when Saint Joseph University professor and OSJ parishioner Gerard Jacobitz leads our exploration of Chardin's beloved spiritual classic, *The Divine Milieu* on **Sunday, February 10 and Sunday, February 24 at 1:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. All are welcome to attend!

## Young Adult Spirituality Night

**Save the Date!** The Young Adult Community's next Spirituality Night will be **Tuesday, February 5, starting at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. Please email us at [osjyac@gmail.com](mailto:osjyac@gmail.com), check out our e-newsletter or follow our Facebook page at [oldsaintjoesya](https://www.facebook.com/oldsaintjoesya) for more information. Hope to see you there!

## OSJ Book Group

OSJ's Book Group will return to a traditional novel this month, becoming grounded once again in the long, rich tradition of Catholic writers. The book is Graham Greene's *The Heart of the Matter*. The story takes place in Western Africa where an assistant police commissioner finds his faith in conflict with a passion that leads to murder. Penguin books describes this as a "personal crisis...by turns suspenseful, fascinating, and, finally, tragic." Happy reading! Discussion will be **Tuesday, February 5, 7:30–9:30 PM** in the Loyola Room in the rectory.

## *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 even brunch and catch up with folks you met at Advent by Candlelight and talk about future opportunities for prayer and companionship! RSVP to [wff@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org) so we can have enough tables set aside for us.

### 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. 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](http://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](mailto:patricia.nelson103@gmail.com) by **February 18** if you plan to attend.

### Please Like Us!

Be sure to follow and like [@OSJ19106](https://www.facebook.com/OSJ19106) on Facebook so we show up in your newsfeed regularly.

# 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))