

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

April 28, 2019 | Second Sunday of Easter

It's been a cool spring with teaser days of warmth followed by dips back into chilly temperatures. For those itching to put away the winter coats and head down the Shore, this has been frustrating. It has, however, had the advantage of slowing down the progression of spring, affording us the opportunity to really notice it. Buds opened slowly, highlighting the intricate process of new growth. The warmth brought out blooms that the subsequent cooling off kept on trees and bushes for an extended period. Nature led us a little more deeply into the mysteries of God's creation.

The Church has a word for this: *mystagogia*. It means "a period leading into the mysteries" and referred in the early Church as the final stage of Christian initiation that followed the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. In those days, people preparing to become Christians did not attend Mass. They learned about it, but they did not experience it until the night of the Vigil—the all-night Vigil—when they were baptized and confirmed and then welcomed to join the whole community in the Lord's Supper. It must have been quite an experience! We can imagine that it brought a whole new perspective to the knowledge (what we might call "book learning" although it was probably oral) that new Christians had been taught. The *mystagogia* was the time after their initiation when the neophytes were led to deepen their understanding of the mysteries of faith in the light of their experience of participating in them.



Mystagogia has been revived as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, but we can all deepen our faith by reflecting on our experiences. The paschal mystery is the heart of our faith. Each year when we reenact Christ's salvific suffering, death and resurrection we are once again invited to enter into and let ourselves be touched, perhaps even healed, by the graces that Jesus has lovingly offered us. Each reenactment is an opportunity to renew and deepen the relationship with Jesus Christ that began with our baptism.

I invite you to spend some time recalling and reflecting on your experience this year of the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. Perhaps you followed your usual routine. Perhaps you came to some liturgies for the first time. What stood out

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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon 29	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 30	12:05 PM	<i>Mary M. Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
			12 Noon	Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
Wed 1	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Thurs 2	12:05 PM	<i>Michelina Marino (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
			7:00 PM	<i>Schola Cantorum</i> rehearsal
Fri 3	12:05 PM	<i>James and Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12:30 PM	Litany of the Sacred Heart (Church)
Sat 4	12:05 PM	<i>Nancy Shashaty (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
			12:05 PM	Anointing of the Sick
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	3:00 PM	First Communion Retreat and Rehearsal (Church, Barbelin Hall)
Sun 5	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		<i>2nd Collection: Catholic Home Missions</i>
	9:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	10:30 AM	Coffee Hour (Barbelin)
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12:30 PM	Coffee Hour (Barbelin)
	6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	Loyola Choir rehearsal
			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.

Fran Banchi, George Bernato, Deborah Brooks, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther,
Simeon Crowther, Lennie Felixson, Susan Friend, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Mary Jacobs, Edith Ruth Jett,
Catherine Keddie, Anna Krachman, Allen May, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Donovan Schmidt,
Sara Smith, Rosie Woods, 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.

Old St. Joseph's Prayer List

The parish prayer list is updated quarterly. As always, you may add names to the list by emailing office@oldstjoseph.org, by calling 215-923-1733 or by leaving a message in the parish offices. Thank you!

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for you? What moved you? Did you notice something new? Did something shift for you?

Something like that happened to me in 2002. The previous fall, Old St. Joseph's congregation was displaced from our church because some of the roof supports had rotted and the roof needed to be replaced. So in September 2001, we began worshipping at Holy Trinity, a closed church under the care of Old St. Mary's, which graciously allowed us to use it for nine months. It was a difficult year. Parishioners felt displaced in an unfamiliar space and no sooner did we get there than 9/11 happened, which of course was a psychic displacement for the whole country. Nonetheless, we had our community and we adapted to our temporary quarters.

The months passed, and Holy Week came around. The church was stripped of material accoutrements for Good Friday as usual. I love having all the candles and books and such removed just as I love having them there the rest of the year. Catholicism is sacramental. God is made visible in his creation, and the use of objects that we relate to with our senses—water, oil, bread, wine, human hands—encourages us to commit our whole embodied selves to our relationship with God. Yet it is also true that the material is made holy through the action of God, and the removal of the material focuses me on that truth. Most stark on Good Friday is the empty tabernacle; the body and blood of Jesus are absent. I always felt that absence powerfully.

On Holy Saturday of that year I arrived at the church early to prepare for my role in the Vigil. The church was no longer barren; it was decorated for Easter. Only the tabernacle remained empty, awaiting the newly consecrated hosts that would end the absence there. Except that, as I gazed into its shadowy interior, I didn't feel an absence. I was aware of my mind registering emptiness while my gut feeling was one of fullness, as though I had walked into the shade and felt the sun come out. It

was disconcerting but at the same time it grounded me. I prayed for a while and then turned my focus to the upcoming liturgy. But in the months ahead I kept being drawn back to this experience, which remained vivid for me. It was clear to me that I had encountered a mystery of faith and that I had to respond to it with prayer and not with analysis.

Eventually I came to understand that what I experienced in the empty tabernacle was not absence but the release of presence. This was the immediate understanding of the beloved disciple in the Gospel of John who, as soon as he entered Jesus's tomb and found it empty, "saw and believed" (John 19:8). The absence of Jesus's body signified the release of Jesus's presence into the world in a new way—the new life of the incarnate Jesus as the Christ who is with us always and everywhere. The grace of the moment for me was knowing that at a deep level even as my mind was confused. The grace of the subsequent prayer was in trusting the mystery and it led to a growth in my intimacy with Jesus and eventually a greater clarity about my faith. It enabled me to see the presence of Christ in my post-9/11 displacement and has continued to support me through jarring times in my personal life. It has helped me accept Job's insight that neither good fortune nor adversity and even tragedy in our lives can be taken as an indication of God's favor or disfavor. God loves us unconditionally and constantly offers us redemption.

We return again and again to the sacraments, the liturgies and the scripture passages that we already know so well, so that little by little we are led to allow God to give us a new heart and a new spirit. Little by little we respond to Jesus's invitation to follow him ever more fully. This is a lifelong process, but as Teilhard de Chardin, SJ gently advises us: "Above all, trust in the slow work of God."

—Christine Szczepanowski
Director, PREP

Announcements

Thank You!

Thank you to the many people who made the Easter Triduum a beautiful, prayerful, welcoming time for our parish community and visitors. Many thanks to Dr. Mark Bani and all the musicians; thank you to all the lectors, altar servers, eucharistic ministers and ushers who gave generously of their time and talents; and thank you to Joe Casey and all the ministers of hospitality. Thank you to everyone whose visible and hidden gifts made the days special. Finally, thank you again to Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels, Inc. for the use of their antique repository which enhances our Triduum celebration each year.

What Am I Doing with My Life?

The Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia will hold an evening of reflection entitled *What Am I Doing with My Life?* on **Monday, April 29 at 7:00 PM**. Br. Bill Gabriel OSA will facilitate the evening's exploration of personal purpose and meaning. While this event is perfect for young adult groups and individuals who find themselves at crossroads, all are welcome! Please visit <https://www.saintritashrine.org/calendar> for more information. The National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia is located at 1166 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia. This event will take place in the lower shrine.

Repair of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame

Archbishop Chaput has announced that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is taking up a voluntary collection to help replace the furniture, fixtures and sacred vessels lost in the fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. If you wish to make a contribution, please place your check in an envelope marked 'For Notre-Dame Cathedral' in the regular collection basket. Contributions will be acknowledged as part of your annual giving at Old St. Joseph's.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

The second collection on **Sunday, May 5** is for Catholic Home Missions Appeal, a grant-making subcommittee of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Appeal supports dioceses in the United States that can not provide basic ministries of Word, worship and pastoral care. These dioceses are located in Appalachia, the South, the Southwest along the Mexican border, the Rocky Mountain states, Alaska, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and remote island chains like the Marshalls and the Carolines in the Pacific. This collection will be taken up in church on **May 5** and is active online through **May 19**.

Announcements

Post-Mass Reflection Today

Young adults are invited to join in additional reflection **after the 6:30 PM Mass today, April 28**. We will re-read the scriptures, have time for quiet prayer and an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Materials will be provided; we will end by **8:30 PM**. Questions? Please email Danielle at critellid@gmail.com.

YAC Welcoming Happy Hour for New Parishioners and New Members

Come to O'Neals Pub at 611 S. 3rd Street on **Thursday, May 2** for a special YAC Happy Hour. We will welcome new young adult parishioners to Old St. Joseph's Church and new members of YAC. Current members and friends are, of course, always welcome! We'll arrive at **5:30 PM** and plan to stay until at least **8:00 PM**, so come early or late—we would love to see you. If you have any questions, please contact Jenn at jennlydic@gmail.com.

Online Giving Opportunities

All of the following collections will remain active at our online giving website through May 10:

- *Operation Rice Bowl*
- *Easter Flowers*
- *Easter Music*
- *Holy Thursday collection*
- *Good Friday collection for the Holy Land*
- *Easter collection*

(If you use envelopes, you received designated envelopes in your last mailing.) Thank you, as always, for your generosity!

Rice Bowl Collection This Weekend!

Old St. Joseph's will collect Rice Bowl donations this weekend, **April 27–28**. **Online giving is available through May 10**. If you have been setting aside cash, you can convert it to a check so that it is recorded with your annual giving for tax purposes. Also, it's not too late to download the CRS app! If you designate OSJ as your parish, the local share of the collection goes to the Archdiocesan Nutritional Development Services (NDS). OSJ's own Faith, Food and Friends is among the programs supported by NDS.

The Work of CRS Continues

While the season of Rice Bowl has almost ended, the work of Catholic Relief Services continues throughout the year. Consider: it's been over a month since Cyclone Idai touched down in Mozambique, causing devastation across the country, and in neighboring Malawi and Zimbabwe. Families throughout all three countries are displaced and in need the most basic necessities. Catholic Relief Services is working with local partners to provide emergency support such as food, shelter, water and hygiene. Find out more at www.crs.org.

OSJ Reading Group

The next meeting of the OSJ reading group is on **Tuesday, May 7 from 7:30–9:00 PM** in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. The group will discuss *Why Religion? A Personal Story* by Elaine Pagels. All who enjoy reading are welcome! For more information, contact Carol Shloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

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)

Religious Education (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 (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life

Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

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 (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry

Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry

Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors

Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers

Nikola Sizgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)