

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

April 7, 2019 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sacraments of Healing

A few years ago, long before I came to OSJ, the phone rang one night about 2:00 AM. I was on duty in the rectory so it was an emergency call. The man on the line said his mother had just died and he needed a priest.

It was a short drive to the house. The man greeted me at the door and ushered me into a room where the family was gathered. He said his mother had died over an hour ago. She lay on the bed, having suffered through an obviously long and debilitating illness. I offered a few prayers, expressed my condolences and tried to say a few reassuring words about our hope in the resurrection. But before leaving, I remarked gently, "I wish you had called earlier, even weeks ago, so we could have done more for your mother." His answer startled me. "We didn't want to alarm her by calling a priest," he said.

When I was first ordained, forty years ago, I met the same sentiment while serving as a hospital chaplain. Dressed as a priest, carrying the sacraments, I would enter a patient's room and be greeted with, "I'm not *that* sick, Father!" I always found that remark very sad, as if I were the harbinger of death instead of a minister of healing.

The fault for this distorted sense of the Church's ministry to the sick does not lie entirely with uninformed or superstitious Catholics. Church teaching prior to Vatican II must bear some of the blame. There was such an emphasis on the "Last Rites" and the seemingly magical value of the



presence of a priest at the moment of death that it is understandable that people made the connection between the approach of a priest and the last gasp of life. But that changed fifty years ago—or should have.

How does the Church today

describe the proper ministry to the sick?

Let's talk first about the sacrament of the sick. This used to be called "Extreme Unction," literally the "last anointing." As the name suggests, this sacrament was to be reserved for people at the point of death, almost as if the patient's recovery was a sign that the sacrament had been misapplied. Hence the term—Last Rites—which is no longer in use and should be permanently relegated to a bygone era. Today this ritual anointing is better referred to as the Sacrament of the Sick and it is the Church's primary prayer for healing. The Church encourages everyone who is suffering a physical or emotional infirmity to approach this sacrament. Even elderly people who are in relatively good health are invited to receive the sacrament. (I joke

—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> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
8				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Ann Brown (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
9			12 Noon	Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel)
			7:30 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
10				
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
11			7:00 PM	Schola Cantorum rehearsal (Barbelin)
Fri	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
12				
Sat	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
13				
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ		
Sun	7:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	9:30 AM	Children's Liturgy of the Word (Barbelin)
14	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 (Church)
			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, Debbie Brooks, Brenda Byrne, Tony Corvaia, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Toby Epstein, Lenny Felixson, Jillian Grayson, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Aaron Hull, Mary Jacobs, Edith Ruth Jett, Catherine Keddie, Raymond LaPalme, Karen Lessing, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Marge Marziani, Allen May, D. Minter, Frank Orloski, Bernie Paquette, Ursula Reed, Donovan Schmidt, 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.

Old St. Joseph's Prayer List

It's time again to update the bulletin's prayer list. If you would like a name to remain on the current list, please email office@oldstjoseph.org by Monday, April 8. As always, you may continue to add names at any time by email, by calling 215-923-1733 or by leaving a message in the parish offices. Thank you!

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that everyone who is Medicare-eligible can be anointed.)

Of course, it is also highly appropriate for the Sacrament of the Sick to be administered to the dying. In fact, the Church has provided a variety of prayers for different circumstances, depending on the condition of the person receiving the sacrament. The basic ritual for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Sick is quite straightforward. As in every sacramental celebration, we begin with a reading from Scripture, if circumstances allow. Then the Holy Spirit is invoked by the minister extending his hands over the ill person and praying in silence. Then the person's hands and forehead are anointed with the oil of the sick, which is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday each year. The words that accompany the anointing are especially meaningful:

*Through this holy anointing,
may the Lord in his love and mercy
help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord who frees you from sin,
save you and raise you up.*

Here at Old St. Joseph's, in addition to special requests, we celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick on the first Saturday of the month at the 12:05 PM Mass.

In current Church teaching, the special sacrament for the dying is Holy Communion. When the Eucharist is ministered to a dying person, it is called *Viaticum*. This Latin word originally referred to the supplies or necessities one would bring on a journey. In the eyes of faith, a dying person is setting out on a journey, and through the Eucharist Christ is accompanying the dying person into the

Kingdom of God. It is unfortunate when a priest or Eucharistic minister is not called to administer Viaticum while the patient is still capable of receiving.

In Catholic teaching, in the face of physical or mental illness, we can always pray for an actual cure—even a miraculous one—and a return to health. But prayer and the sacraments perhaps only rarely produce such a miraculous physical cure and in Catholic practice they are no substitute for expert medical care. But beyond these physical realities, the tradition of the Church is wise to look on sickness as a time of temptation and spiritual danger. For not only does physical and mental illness cause bodily pain and emotional distress, it also can attack our sense of hope and confidence and our desire for life itself. It can threaten our bonds of love with those around us and lead us to resentment, leading us to wallow in self-pity and depression. Prayer and the sacraments can bring spiritual healing and God's grace to a soul that is brought low and calling out to God for courage and support. Ultimately, sickness brings us to the mystery of the cross and the suffering to which Christ himself was subjected.

A Jesuit friend of mine, whom I knew as a very prayerful man, was dying of liver cancer. The last time I spoke to him, before he died, he said to me, "Make sure you get all your praying done before you get sick." He meant by that, I assume, that he was so sick he found it impossible to pray. Surprising, coming from such a sincere and prayerful person. I've thought about that comment for many years. Now I wish I had said to him, "It's alright if *you* cannot pray, because *we* are all praying for you." But even better, I should have said, "It's alright if *you* cannot pray, because the Spirit prays when *we* cannot." That's what happens when the sacraments are brought to us: the Spirit prays within us, even if we cannot.

—Walter F. Modrys SJ
Pastor

Front page image: Christ healing a bleeding woman, as depicted in the catacombs of Peter and Marcellinus.

Announcements

April OSJ YAC Happy Hour

All young adults are invited to join OSJ's Young Adult Community on **Friday, April 12**. We'll be checking out the Post (129 S 30th St), a fun new University City beer hall from the team behind Walnut Street Cafe. Located just west of the Schuylkill River, the bar has \$5 happy hour drink specials, 16 beers on tap, pub fare from a former Le Bec Fin chef, and board and arcade games! Contact Christopher Ross (610-952-7317, g.chris.ross@gmail.com) with any questions or to find us at the bar. We'll post our location inside on the happy hour's Facebook page and will be there starting at **5:30 PM**. Hope to see you there!

Easter Vigil Hospitality

Volunteers are needed to help serve refreshments after the Easter Vigil on **Saturday, April 20**. Please contact Joe Casey at parishlife@oldstjoseph.org or 215-843-3573 to volunteer.

Easter Eggs

The annual OSJ Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **Sunday, April 21 after the 9:30 AM Mass** (bring a basket!) in the North Park adjacent to the Church. Donations of plastic eggs filled with treats can be dropped off at the parish offices until **Saturday, April 20**, and volunteers are needed to set out the eggs. Please contact Joe Casey at parishlife@oldstjoseph.org or 215-843-3573 to help out.

Rice Bowl Collection

Old St. Joseph's will collect Rice Bowl offerings on the weekend of **April 27-28**. If you have been setting aside cash, you can convert it to a check or online contribution so that it is recorded with your annual giving for tax purposes. Also, it's not too late to download the CRS app; remember to designate OSJ as your parish so that the local share of the collection goes to the archdiocesan Nutritional Development Services!

2019 *Pacem in Terris* Lecture

James Martin SJ will give LaSalle University's 2019 *Pacem in Terris* lecture on *Building a Bridge: Showing Respect and Welcome to LGBT People in the Catholic Church*. Fr. Martin will speak on **April 16, 7:00-8:30 PM** in LaSalle's Founder's Hall. Register online at lasalle.edu/johnxxiii.

Service Year Opportunity

Maggie's Place, a group of four houses of hospitality providing support to pregnant and parenting women, is seeking AmeriCorps or MissionCorps volunteers. Corps Members are asked to 'do small things with great love' as they support mothers in need working toward independence. Maggie's Place homes are located in the Phoenix, AZ and Cleveland, OH metro areas. More information is available at missioncorps@maggiesplace.org and maggiesplace.org.

Announcements

Cookout Dinner Tonight!

Join us tonight, **Sunday April 7 after the 6:30 PM Mass**, for a meal prepared from Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl recipes. There will also be another opportunity to write letters and emails advocating for full funding of international humanitarian aid in the Fiscal Year 2020. CRS uses these funds for emergency relief and food security programs. Details are online at catholicsconfrontglobalpverty.org. Click on "Take Action" in the Eliminate Hunger box. You can also text NOURISH CHANGE to 306-44 and receive a text back from CRS with a link enabling you to email your representatives in Congress.

April Pre-Baptism Class

The April Pre-Baptism class will be held on **Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 PM** in the Drexel Parlor. For additional information, contact Fr. Dougherty at 215-923-1733.

Altars of Repose Walking Pilgrimage

All are welcome to join in an Altars of Repose Walking Pilgrimage on **Thursday, April 18**. After the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the altar will be stripped, crosses and statues will be covered, and the Most Blessed Sacrament will be moved to a side altar, the Altar of Repose. Pilgrims will then leave OSJ and visit a total of seven Altars of Repose to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. The tradition recalls the disciples keeping Jesus company in the Garden on his last night. Please wear walking shoes and expect to cover 2.75 miles in approximately 2 hours, including stops to pray. Anyone interested can meet in the courtyard after Holy Thursday Mass. Have questions? Reach out to Megan at mprilutski@gmail.com.

Reconciliation Service This Week

Please join us on **Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 PM** for our parish celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The liturgy will include Scripture reading, prayer and a shared examination of conscience. There will be time for quiet prayer, and opportunity for sacramental absolution will be available for those who wish to approach a priest for individual confession. Come as you are; all are welcome!

Schedule for Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Reconciliation, 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

No 12:05 PM Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 PM

Compline, 10:00 PM

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 12:05 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3:00 PM

Easter Vigil

Liturgy begins at 8:00 PM

Easter Sunday

Mass at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

There is no 6:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday.

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)