

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

May 5, 2019 | Third Sunday of Easter

God Comes to Us Disguised As our Life

This week, we return to the occasional essays in which members of the community at Old St. Joseph's reflect on Ignatius' direction to 'find God in all things.'

When I was asked to write an essay for the parish bulletin, the suggested topic was "creating a life after retirement." In addition, it was proposed that I identify the keystone of Ignatian spirituality, i.e., "finding God in all things," or at least those significant events that occurred during this phase of life.

After I reflected on this topic, it became clear that I had to edit the topic, changing it from "creating a life after retirement" to "the life that was created for me after retirement." The reason for the change was the essence of Ignatian spirituality, "finding God in all things." In the interest of full disclosure, I can identify the presence of God much easier in hindsight than in real time. While thinking about this essay, I was also listening to a book by Richard Rohr, the noted Franciscan writer, who quoted his friend, the spiritual writer Paula D'Arcy. She said, "God comes to us disguised as our life." My immediate reaction was "Wow." This essay suddenly took shape and I knew how to tell my story of life after retirement.

The most significant change in my life happened before I even thought seriously about retirement. In May 1993, my wife Anne passed away after a long, courageous battle with multiple sclerosis. That same month, our son and youngest child graduated from



college. Our daughter had graduated four years earlier and was starting a career as a writer in the entertainment industry in Hollywood. All of a sudden, my major identifiers changed. I was no longer a husband, a caregiver or a father to a child under age 21 living at home.

At the time, I decided that the only decision I would make was that I would make no major life-changing decisions in the immediate future. I was 56, still an executive with an advertising agency in Philadelphia and not ready for retirement. But over the course of the next two years, I felt a stirring in me. I didn't know it at the time, but God was coming to me disguised as my life.

I thought about joining something like the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC), but after a fairly long search, I found that, at that time, such opportunities were all geared to younger college graduates. Then two events took place in the regular course of my life

—continued inside



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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon 6	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 7	12:05 PM	<i>T.V. Whitfield (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon 12 Noon 7:30 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon Meeting (Drexel) Book Group (Loyola)
Wed 8	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs 9	12:05 PM	<i>Carol Corson and Thomas Gallagher</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon 7:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) <i>Schola Cantorum</i> rehearsal
Fri 10	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	5:30 PM	YA Community Happy Hour (off-site)
Sat 11	12:05 PM	<i>Jane Anderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon 3:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) First Communion Retreat and Rehearsal (Church, Barbelin Hall)
	5:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Sun 12	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. Frederico SJ Presider: Fr. Frederico SJ Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ		<i>2nd Collection: Catholic Home Missions</i> Coffee Hour (Barbelin) Coffee Hour (Barbelin) Loyola Choir rehearsal YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) Cookout Dinner (Barbelin)

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, and Patricia Yusko.

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. You may add names to the list by emailing the parish offices at office@oldstjoseph.org or by calling 215-923-1733. Thank you!

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that shaped my life both before and after retirement.

Over lunch with a friend who was well connected to Jesuit institutions, I mentioned my fruitless search for a volunteer opportunity. He told me about a new ministry called the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). I got in touch with IVC and discussed my status as a non-retired and fully-employed candidate. Since I had no family responsibilities, I believed that I could fulfill the required 16 hours of service a week while still working. I was soon assigned to Holy Name of Camden to organize and manage a fundraising program. I could utilize many of the skills that I had developed during my years with ad agencies: including communication and working with others who are not always like-minded, such as the occasional Jesuit. So, in April 1995, I began a volunteer assignment in North Camden that continues until today. Stories about my life at Holy Name could happily fill a book. Suffice it to say that it has been a richly rewarding experience, where I learned most of all that what is important is “presence” not “presents.” The Latino community at Holy Name let me know that they were happy because I was there, not because of what I could do for them.

About the same time that I found IVC, another mundane, life-shaping event took place. I was having dinner with clients on a Saturday night and thought that I would go to Mass in the city before dinner. I asked friends about Catholic churches in Society Hill, and someone mentioned Old St. Joseph’s. I had never been there. Walking into Old St. Joseph’s for the first time, I was immediately struck by the church’s warmth and intimacy. I

thought I felt the presence of God. So I continued to attend OSJ and joined the parish rather quickly.

In 2000, I officially retired from the ad agency. I continued to volunteer at Holy Name and to attend Mass at OSJ. I became involved with Faith, Food and Friends (which was known then as Outreach). I also felt a stirring again and applied to the Peace Corps, even getting a tentative assignment teaching English in an Eastern European country. But in 2003, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Faced with the choice of going to Eastern Europe or staying in Philadelphia with world-class healthcare facilities, I chose the latter.

My involvement with Old St. Joseph’s continued to grow. I became chair of a newly-formed social justice committee and deepened my involvement with Outreach. In 2008, I undertook the 19th Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius with then-pastor Fr. Dan Ruff SJ. Life changing, to say the least. I became involved with hospital ministry, as a Eucharistic minister, an altar server and eventually, an usher. I was spending a great deal of time each week at OSJ and, when I was not there, I was across the river in North Camden. In the number of words a bulletin essay allots me, I have only been able to hint at the ways these ministries have been fulfilling.

In hindsight, I can clearly see the presence of God during the life that was created for me after retirement. I am eternally grateful for these great privileges. Pay attention to those stirrings. St. Ignatius calls us to listen to our feelings, our moods, our relationships. God may just be coming to us, disguised as our life.

—John Trumbore

Front image: Caravaggio, Supper at Emmaus, c. 1601, National Gallery, London.

Announcements

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Today's second collection 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 cannot provide basic ministries of Word, worship and pastoral care. It will be taken up in church today, **May 5** and is active online through **May 19**.

Mark Your Calendar for Music

Join us on **Sunday, May 12 at 3:00 PM** for a concert of music for the organ and the flugelhorn presented by Peter Conte and Andrew Enniss. Hailed as one of the finest concert artists of his generation, Peter Conte presides over the Grand Court Wanamaker Organ. Andrew Enniss will join him here at Old St. Joseph's for an afternoon of splendid music for organ and the lesser-heard of the brass instruments, the flugelhorn. The program will include music by Guilmant, Mascagni and Rimsky-Korsakov. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

The Story of Philadelphia Catholic Sports

Today—Sunday, May 5—at 2:00 PM, Ryan Halloran will speak on the history of Catholic high school athletics in Philadelphia at the American Catholic Historical Society, 263 South 4th Street. Philadelphia. The lecture is free and open to the public. For information, visit www.amchs.org.

In-Home Support Program Launched

Catholic Housing and Community Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in partnership with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, has announced a new program offering in-home support to people who are homebound. The program will serve people who are 60 years of age and older who might benefit from ongoing services such as meals, transportation or a senior companion, or short-term services, such as housekeeping and personal care assistance. For more information, call the In-Home Support Program at 215-732-1142.

IVC Seeks Part-Time Director

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national non-profit organization serving the needs of the poor through the volunteer work of men and women over the age of 50. (Read today's bulletin essay for one story of the work supported by IVC, which also brought Faith, Food and Friends director Debbie Hluchan to OSJ). IVC is seeking a new part-time director for the local Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey region. Find out more about IVC at ivcusa.org. For more information, contact Richard Massaro at rmassaro@ivcusa.org.

Announcements

YAC May Happy Hour

Spring has sprung! And Philly's vibrant beer gardens are returning to life. Kick off the season by joining Old St. Joseph's Young Adult Community (YAC) at one of our favorite warm-weather-friendly spots. We'll be at the Independence Beer Garden on 6th Street between Market and Ransstead Streets on **Friday, May 10 starting at 5:30 PM**. In view of the Liberty Bell and in the company of YAC friends, you can sample seasonal cocktails, 40 taps of beer featuring regional brews, and a tasty new food menu. Contact Christopher Ross (g.chris.ross@gmail.com, 610-952-7317) with any questions or to find us at the bar. We'll post our location on the OSJYAC's Facebook event page. Hope to see you there!

RSVP for the Next Eldership Happy Hour!

Come to the OSJ Eldership Community's next Happy Hour on **Tuesday May 21 from 5:00–7:00 PM** at Creperie Beau Monde, 624 South 6th Street, Philadelphia. Happy Hour drinks and food (which will be self-paid) are priced at \$4–\$6.00. RSVP to eldership@gmail.com by **May 15** if you plan to attend.

Faith, Food & Friends Collection May 19

OSJ's next quarterly collection for our Faith, Food and Friends outreach is coming soon! Faith, Food and Friends' lunch-time guests are grateful for the travel-sized necessities that make their lives a bit more dignified and are easy to carry with them. The May collection will focus on helping protect our homeless and housing-insecure guests who spend so much time outdoors during the hot summer months. Details will be available in the May 12 bulletin. Thank you, as always, for your kind support of Faith, Food and Friends!

Parish Cookout May 12

The monthly Parish Cookout will again be hosted by the Young Adult Community (YAC) on **Sunday, May 12 after the 6:30 PM Mass**. All are welcome to attend! Special guests will include graduating seniors from Saint Joseph's University, who will also join OSJ at 6:30 PM Mass. If you're interested in helping with hospitality at this (or future!) Cookout dinners, please email osjyac@gmail.com.

Attention all Liturgical Ministers!

Altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors and ushers: please update your profile on the Ministry Scheduling Program by **May 15** for the June 1–July 31 schedule. New volunteers are always welcome to sign up online through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org. Scheduling is flexible and training will be provided.

Online Collections Close

The following online collections close this week, on **May 10**:

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

Thank you for your generous support!

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

(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)