

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

May 12, 2019 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

Nine Billion Names

I had an 'aha moment' during Holy Week, although it was not one that would surprise my children at all. While rehearsing the Easter Triduum readings, I realized that when I read the voice of God, I use my 'this is your mother speaking' voice.

Consider the mom voice, whether you've used it or heard it. I like to think that this voice inspires a prompt and unwavering compliance. I say, *Open that door now!* and it opens. I say, *Always get your own drink and don't pick it back up if you put it down!* and it becomes a rule of life passed on to your friends.

But there's more to it than that. 'This is your mother speaking' has an accepting omniscience. It has seen you in your moments of glory and it has seen you covered in tears and snot and other things that we won't mention. A mom voice has depth; beneath the command *Tell me!* are the reservoirs of strength that will deal with whatever is revealed. And while tough and perhaps a bit exasperated, a mom voice contains the implicit promise that *After I finish reading you the riot act, I will wipe away your tears and sit with your head on my shoulder until you fall asleep and I tuck you in and kiss you goodnight.*

Just as the mom voice ranges widely, so too does the voice of God—and the images of the God who speaks. There are only a handful of scriptural images that link motherhood and God. Most of them are in the books of the prophets. The most familiar are



from Isaiah, where in the final chapter, the voice of God piles up images of birth and nursing and then declares to Israel that *As a mother comforts her child, so I will*

comfort you (Isaiah 66:13). There's also Isaiah 49:15, in which the Lord quiets Zion's anxiety at the prospect of the end of her exile with the words *Could a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.* These passages highlight God's tenderness, yes, but also the strength that stands firm even as Israel's best and worst is on full display.

The book of the prophet Hosea is familiar mostly for its first three chapters, in which Hosea's relationship with his unfaithful wife Gomer reflects God's dealings with Israel. Even if you haven't read the book, you've probably heard the Weston Priory song that begins *Come back to me/with all your heart/don't let fear/keep us apart.* Later in the book however, God appears not as an aggrieved and forgiving husband but as a nurturing mother who is like a bear deprived of her cubs, an image of both tenderness and ferocity (Hosea 11:3-4 and 13:8).

—continued inside



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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date		Mass Intention and Presider	Calendar Events	
Mon 13	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	6:00 PM	PREP
Tues 14	12:05 PM	<i>Benefactors of the Maryland Province</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon 12 Noon 7:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) Al-Anon meeting (Drexel) Pre-Baptism class (Drexel)
Wed 15	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	6:30 PM	Centering Prayer (Drexel)
Thurs 16	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon 7:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) <i>Schola Cantorum</i> rehearsal
Fri 17	12:05 PM	<i>Rev. Charles Curry SJ (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	5:30 PM	YAC Happy Hour (off-site)
Sat 18	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
Sun 19	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM 6:30 PM	Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	9:30 AM 10:30 AM 12:30 PM 5:30 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Collection for Faith, Food & Friends</i> 1 st Communion at 9:30 AM Mass Coffee Hour (Barbelin) Coffee Hour (Barbelin) Loyola Choir rehearsal 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, Catherine O'Brien, 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!

—Continued from front page

In the gospels of Matthew (22:37) and Luke (13:34), Jesus also compares himself to a mother, to a hen who longs to gather her unruly and recalcitrant chicks safely beneath her wing. Once again, the tender image contains strength—we are seen for who we really are and nonetheless to be gathered up by our Mother Hen.

Though infrequent, the images in these passages are invaluable. Each one suggests the uncapturable depths of who our God is. At the same time, each one points us toward the many ways that we can relate to the One from whom we come and to whom we will return.

Perhaps it is a consolation to you to image, address and hear God as Mother. Perhaps Father reveals something of God to you, or rock or warrior or another name and image found in scripture. But to confine God to any one image is an idolatry. It is to try to make God one attribute and one attribute only. It is to worship as God something other than all that God is.

It is also a grammatical error, because that is not how metaphor works. Every name or image we propose for God is ultimately a metaphor, a figure of speech that links something which is known with something unknown. Metaphor doesn't suggest identity between its two parts; it only borrows aspects of one to hint at the other. The inner workings of metaphor are good to keep in mind

when we imagine and speak of God. Whether we call God by the name Mother or Father or Creator or anything else, we are only pointing towards what, *who* we will only know fully when we finally come face to face.

A danger with any name or image of God is that we might spend far too much time parsing the God-is-like and God-is-not-like to notice whether God is actually there listening or has something to say. And that is why it's good to use more than one name—not unlike the way I might call a loved one by their given name when we're with others and a nickname when we are alone. There are names for public use in worship and names for private prayer. And so at home at morning prayer, I hold my children in the Light as my Quaker Friends have taught me. And when I gather with others in shared worship, I will pray with the 'words that Jesus taught us,' and be comforted by thinking of the ways the words *Our Father* have worked in so many hearts through the ages.

Whenever I think of the names of God, I recall a short story by Arthur C. Clarke. *The Nine Billion Names of God* has an unforgettable ending—spoiler alert—"Overheard, without any fuss, the stars were going out." But what I love best is the story's title. Clarke's science fiction classic reminds me that God has an unimaginable number of names and incalculable ways of being revealed. And it is the work of humankind to try—even though we won't succeed—to know them all.

—BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

Front image: ESA/Hubble & NASA, Acknowledgements: Judy Schmidt

Old Saint Joseph's Church Finances Report, July 1, 2018–April 30, 2019

Regarding OSJ's finances, there is bad news and then there is better news.

First, the bad news:

OSJ's fiscal year ends on June 30. Comparing the first ten months in this fiscal year (July 1, 2018–April 30, 2019) to the corresponding ten months in the previous shows that we are not doing as well. In particular, our Ordinary Income is down by \$41,000 or 6.0%. Significantly, Sunday Collections are down \$16,500 or 3.8%.

There's more bad news: Ordinary Expenses are up \$33,000 or 5.0%.

Obviously, less income and greater expenses lead to problems. We are facing a deficit of \$28,000 in Ordinary Funds. Last year at this time we had a surplus of \$46,000. That's a swing of \$74,000.

Here is some better news:

Besides our Ordinary Income and Expenses, we also have what we call "Other" Accounts. They are mostly church investments. Because of a wise investment policy and a booming stock market, these accounts have produced income of \$111,000. This is \$20,000 more than was produced last year. Our investment income is saving the day, making up for our operating loss. We have surplus net income—counting our deficit in operations and our investment income—of \$83,000.

What is wrong with this picture? After all, a surplus of \$83,000 is a nice cushion! The problem is we are walking on thin ice if we rely on investment income to pay our bills, because what the market gives, it can also take away. To be financially healthy, we should strive to at least break even in our Operating Funds. That is, our goal should be to wipe out our \$28,000 deficit in order to end this fiscal year with a balanced operating fund.

This is especially true now that we are entering into a Capital Campaign to renovate the entrance to the Church and Barbelin Hall. You'll be hearing more about the Open Door Campaign in the near future.

I share this information with you for two reasons:

The first is transparency. I want OSJ's financial health to be readily known by the whole parish. The second follows from that: I invite you to reflect on your responsibility for the financial well-being of our parish community. If you are among OSJ's generous financial supporters; many thanks—you are what makes everything we do possible. If you are not yet; please consider sharing this part of our parish life.

—Walter F. Modrys SJ
Pastor

See the spreadsheet on next three pages for a detailed 3rd Quarter Financial Statement.

Concert Today at 3:00 PM!

Join us this afternoon, **May 12 at 3:00 PM**, for a concert of music for the organ and the flugelhorn presented by Peter Conte and Andrew Ennis. The program will include music by Guilmant, Mascagni and Rimsky-Korsakov. A free will offering will be gratefully accepted. *(Please note: the next concert at OSJ, on **June 2** with the Chestnut Street Singers, is scheduled for **3:00 PM**, not 1:30 PM as previously announced.)*

Old St. Joseph's Church
Finances — Flash Report
JULY 1, 2018 - APRIL 30, 2019

	PRESENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
	[JUL, APR] FY 2019	[JUL, APR] FY 2018
ORDINARY INCOME		
Contributions & Offerings		
Sunday Collect. Env. / Loose	219,010	238,114
Sunday Collection - E-Giving	201,180	198,578
Daily Mass	8,476	11,580
Holy Days	7,418	8,143
Christmas - Collection	30,952	34,092
Easter - Collection	27,480	28,199
Candles	6,610	7,076
Baptisms	3,635	6,420
Weddings	79,400	92,500
Funerals	1,220	1,400
Other Contributions & Offerings	2,770	2,138
Total Contributions & Offerings	588,150	628,240
Activities Income		
Activity Fees - PREP	10,675	12,785
Liturgy Flowers	2,404	2,617
St Joseph's Day	1,154	1,028
St Ignatius Day	1,364	878
FFF Program	24,776	27,168
Bulletin reimbursement	2,000	1,500
Jesuit housing reimbursement	9,350	6,000
Music - Income	5,205	4,620
Rental Income	325	150
Other Activities Income	0	1,420
Total Activities Income	57,253	58,166
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	645,403	686,406

	PRESENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
	[JUL, APR] FY 2019	[JUL, APR] FY 2018
ORDINARY EXPENSES		
Personnel Costs - Salaries		
Clergy Salaries	43,459	42,020
Religious Salaries	0	9,886
Wages	243,523	216,484
Other Payroll Expenses	-1,677	5,043
Total Personnel Costs - Salaries	285,305	273,433
Personnel Costs - Medical Insurance	35,841	35,953
Personnel Costs - Taxes & Benefits	37,669	36,076
Administration		
Diocesan Assessments	68,750	65,348
Computer/ AV Expenses	17,456	24,462
Office Supplies & Equipment	8,981	8,307
Outside Printing and Publication	3,381	3,055
Accounting Fees	4,500	8,000
Other Administration Expenses	8,708	12,045
Total · Administration	111,776	121,217
Activities Expenses		
FFF - Food	19,841	20,265
FFF - Miscellaneous Expenses	10,675	12,982
Liturgical Supplies/Equipment	9,806	11,450
Liturgical Music Expenses	4,607	7,827
Candles Expense	5,517	4,725
Religious Education Program	3,741	5,689
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2,458	0
Hospitality	3,414	1,382
Alms & Contributions	1,910	2,178
Other Activities Expense	3,967	2,174
Total · Activities Expenses	65,936	68,672
Physical Plant		
Maintenance - Rectory	44,513	32,047
Maintenance - Church	1,420	2,432
Property and Liability Insurance	19,365	10,842
Electricity	12,061	12,001

	PRESENT YEAR	PRIOR YEAR
	[JUL, APR] FY 2019	[JUL, APR] FY 2018
Gas & Petroleum	11,273	11,582
Water & Sewer	4,701	4,529
Furniture & Fixtures	4,065	649
Transportation & Vehicle Insurance	3,672	1,667
Telephone	2,485	2,783
Real Estate Taxes	2,396	2,396
Other Physical Plant Expenses	163	4,794
Total Physical Plant	106,114	85,722
Jesuit Community Expenses	30,594	19,331
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	673,235	640,404
NET ORDINARY INCOME	-27,832	46,002
Other Income/Expenses		
Legacies and Bequests	0	10,683
Trust Income	14,340	14,709
Other Donations (Schwab & vari)	1,000	980
Interest & Dividends	16,931	23,553
Unrealized Capital Gains & Loss	13,749	-33,312
Realized Capital Gains & Loss	67,186	79,351
Other Non-Operating Expenditure	-2,214	-5,695
Total Other Income/Expenses	110,992	90,269
NET INCOME	83,160	136,271

Announcements

Faith, Food & Friends Collection May 19

On May 18–19, Old St. Joseph's will again collect much needed personal care items for our guests at Faith, Food & Friends. Our guests spend much time outdoors, and so we'd like to offer them some protection from the sun. You can help by donating:

- **1 oz. trial size or travel size tubes of Sunscreen SPF 30, ***
- **New, inexpensive baseball caps**

Our guests are always in need of the following items. Faith, Food & Friends would be happy to distribute your donations of:

- **Travel size deodorant, .5-ounce size ***
- **Standard size bar soap** (especially Dove for Men)
- **Disposable twin blade razors**
- **Travel size or small size shaving cream ***
- **Multi-packs of men's crew socks**

**Trial size and travel size items may be purchased in bulk at dollar stores, Target, Amazon and other retailers.*

Baskets will be available in the rear of the church. Thank you for your kindness!

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.

Centering Prayer

The centering prayer group will meet on **Wednesday, May 15 from 6:30–8:30 PM** in the Drexel Parlor of the parish offices. All are welcome! For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or prep@oldstjoseph.org.

Parish Cookout Tonight!

The monthly Parish Cookout will again be hosted by the Young Adult Community (YAC) **after the 6:30 PM Mass this evening, May 12.** All are welcome to attend! Special guests will include graduating seniors from Saint Joseph's University. 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 **Wednesday, 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.

In Memory

This weekend's altar flowers were donated by Neal Hébert in loving memory of Allan Aiken on the 15th anniversary of his death.

St. Rita's Feast Day

The National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia at 1166 South Broad Street in Philadelphia is celebrating its patron's feast with nine days of celebration. Visit SaintRitaShrine.org for full details.

Peace Fellowship Retreat

The Catholic Peace Fellowship invites all to its annual retreat on **Saturday May 18 from 9:15 AM–2:00 PM** at St. Malachy Parish Hall, 1429 N. 11th Street, Philadelphia. OSJ parishioner Cara Tripodi LCSW will speak on *From Powerlessness to Enlightenment* in response to the PA Grand Jury report of August 2019. Information and RSVP are available at bradleycpf@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

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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)