This week, we have another of the occasional essays in which a member of the community at Old St. Joseph’s reflects on Saint Ignatius’ direction to ‘find God in all things.’ This week’s essayist is Linda Robinson.

I retired from education administration two years ago, but this past semester I accepted an offer to return to the college classroom as an adjunct instructor. As the semester got underway, I realized how much I missed teaching. What really struck me though, was the age difference between my students and me. Once upon a time I might have been my students’ older sister; now I could be their grandmother!

I don’t mind growing older. Chronological maturity has its advantages —like AARP discounts and reduced transit fares and theater ticket prices! Given my senior citizen status, I hoped to be regarded by my students as supremely relevant and wise. My best guess is that it never happened. What I did experience was that while teaching a lesson on the stages of personality, moral and faith development, I realized that I had reached that final stage of life when I would naturally be drawn to look back over a lifetime of relationships, goals and achievements, and with any luck, uncover a deep sense of satisfaction, with little regret, of how I had lived my life. At the time of this writing I can report: so far, so good.

More importantly, this backwards look is a graced opportunity to reflect on my life in a way that will reveal (or revisit), how God has used the many moments of my life to draw me closer. The Examen, Scripture, spiritual reading, spiritual direction and the Spiritual Exercises have been my instruments for prayer and reflection, past and present. Relationships and experiences have enabled me to notice where God was, and is, present and active in my life. It is a storied journey.

“Finding God in all things” is the core of Ignatian spirituality. As I reflect on my young adult life, I know that the idea of finding God in anything back then was secondary to something of greater importance to me—finding myself. The question of “Who is God for me?” slid in someplace behind the seemingly more important question of “Who am I?—for me, my family, my friends, my community, my world?”

I’m sure God never minded simmering on the back burner as I was absorbed in constructing my life’s narrative. Later, however, in the manner of St. —continued inside
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>Calendar Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Robert Lux</td>
<td>Parish Offices closed for Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 28</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>12 Noon Faith, Food &amp; Friends (Barbelin)</td>
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<td>12 Noon Al-Anon meeting (Drexel)</td>
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<td>6:45 PM YAC Spirituality Night (Church)</td>
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<td>Wed 29</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Winifred Grace (D)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Schola Cantorum rehearsal</td>
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<td>Thurs 30</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Feast of the Ascension of the Lord</td>
<td>12 Noon Faith, Food &amp; Friends (Barbelin)</td>
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<td>7:30 PM Schola Cantorum rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Mary Farris-Peters (D)</td>
<td>12 Noon Faith, Food &amp; Friends (Barbelin)</td>
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<td>12:05 PM Anointing of the Sick (Church)</td>
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<td>Sun 2</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
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<td>Manna Collection for Archdiocesan Nutritional Development Services</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td>Chestnut St. Singers Concert (Church)</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td>Loyola Choir rehearsal</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Parish Cookout Dinner (Greaton)</td>
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In your prayers,
please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters
and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.


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!
Augustine’s “late have I loved thee,” I rued what I thought was time lost in finding God as I labored to answer the “me” questions first. But in 20/20 hindsight, I saw that God was present in my journey to know myself. Simply put, in finding me, I found God. In her book, *Seasons of the Heart*, Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr OSB, captures this realization, saying: “I looked for myself in so many places, and then, in my weariness, I forgot about myself, and looked for You. And behold, I found myself there waiting for me—in You.”

Words are inadequate to describe an encounter with God who desires nothing more than our friendship; a God who loves us beyond human imagination and understanding. In the simplest of moments God and I found one another, though in reality neither God nor I had ever been lost. I knew my true identity, that I was God’s beloved daughter. As the writings of Richard Rohr OFM so often suggest, seeing ourselves as beloved by God is not hubris. We who have been baptized into God’s beloved Son have the same status as Jesus. We have been chosen.

This moment of grace birthed in me a new life. I desired to know God in the ordinariness of life. I prayed to be aware of God’s presence and action in my relationships, desires, joys, sorrows, disappointments, conflicts and brokenness. I prayed to never lose sight of my true identity or forget to be grateful for what God had done and was doing for me. In brief, I desired to find God in all things.

By praying the Examen, I am able to see God’s presence. Most often it’s in family. God is the Source of our shared love, support and caring. God is the Forgiver and Reconciler, found in the occasional conflicts which require apologies and mutual forgiveness. God is the Comforter, present in the hugs and kindesses shown to each other when sorrow or disappointment cuts at the heart.

Sometimes God’s presence and activity is more dramatic. When my parents were suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses and planning for their care meant climbing over mountains of obstacles while managing the demands of work and family, God showed up as an unexpected flood of peace and warmth and the unshakeable knowledge that “all manner of things will be well.” It was the promise of a Friend.

Sometimes it’s hindsight that shows me where God has been present over a period of time. I have noted, with significant humility, that God doesn’t grant my selfish desires, but prepares a path that I can follow. The times during which I am most deeply and immediately aware of God’s presence is in my work as a spiritual director. I am humbled by people’s desire to know, love and serve God more perfectly; and their honesty in bringing to direction their desires and woundedness deeply touches my heart. Here, always, God is good.

I find God’s presence in prayer, in the Word, in Eucharist, in community, and in the sacred environment that is Old St. Joseph’s. As I write this, the beautiful music of a songbird outside my window is yet another reminder of God. All of this is gift, and I am grateful. God is always present to us. We need only to take time to notice.

St. Anselm lived centuries before St. Ignatius (and therefore was not a Jesuit), but I think he got it right, and I pray with his words often:

*Prayer of St. Anselm*

Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek:
For unless you instruct me, I cannot seek you, and unless you reveal yourself, I cannot find you.
Let me seek you in desiring you: let me desire you in seeking you.
Let me find you in loving you: let me love you in finding you.

—Linda Robinson

*Front image: Wisdom has Builded her House, 16th century, Russian National Museum.*
Announcements

Music in the Neighborhood
Old Pine Street Church, located at 412 Pine Street, will host a voice and piano recital on **Friday, May 24 at 7:30 PM** in its Duffield Room. Heather McConnell, soprano, and Jean-Francois Proulx, pianist, will perform the Poulenc opera *La Voix Humaine* and other music selections. All are welcome!

Mark Bani at Wanamaker Organ Day
OSJ’s own music director, Mark Bani will be a featured artist at Wanamaker Organ Day **Saturday, June 1**. Mark will be one of four performers presenting a musical tribute to late Wanamaker organist Keith Chapman at **5:00 PM**. Admission is free. The Wanamaker Organ is located in the Macy’s department store at 13th and Market Streets, Philadelphia. All are cordially invited!

Accompaniment and Inclusion
All are invited to Saints Peter and Paul Church, 362 Ganttown Rd. Turnersville, NJ on **Sunday, June 23 at 6:00 PM** for a Mass of Accompaniment and Inclusion for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Catholic community, families, friends and supporters in faith. A light reception will follow. For additional information contact njlgbtcatholic@gmail.com.

Ascension of the Lord, May 30
The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord is **Thursday, May 30**. It is a holy day of obligation. There will be Masses at **12:05 PM** and **7:30 PM** at Old St. Joseph’s, and relaxed parking will be available at both Masses.

Manna Collection, June 1-2
For the second year in a row, Old St. Joseph’s will help stock local food cupboards in preparation for higher demands in summer, when families—who rely on school and after-school meal programs during the school year—are faced with spending more to feed their families. Grocery bags from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Nutritional Development Services (NDS) will be available this weekend, **May 25–26**, for you to bring home, fill up and return to OSJ on the following weekend, **June 1–2**. Canned proteins, fruits and vegetables are particularly welcome donations. For more information, visit communityfoodprogram.org. If you are not able to bring a filled grocery bag, you may donate online at yougivegoods.com/mannadrive.

PREP 2019-2020
Registration for the 2019-2020 Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) session has begun. Registration forms were emailed to the parents of current students, and are also available online at oldstjoseph.org/children/prep. Children in grades 1–7 who are not enrolled in Catholic schools should be enrolled in PREP.

PREP coordinator Christine Szczepanowski is recruiting two additional catechists for the next school year. If you’re interested in being part of the formation of OSJ’s young people, please contact her at prep@oldstjoseph.org.
Announcements

Spirituality Night: Holy Listening
All young adults are invited to an evening of prayer and community on **Tuesday, May 28 from 7:00–8:00 PM**. We will pray the Examen together as a way to reflect on where God may be speaking to us, and we will experiment with a small group sharing practice known as Holy Listening. At 8:00 PM, the group will head to the Bourse for fellowship and fun. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Dushel at osjyac@gmail.com.

YAC Summer Hike
Are you itching to wander in the great outdoors? Are you seeking good company to enjoy nature with? You are in luck! OSJ’s Young Adult Community is going hiking on **Sunday, June 2 in Ridley Creek State Park**. Join us in exploring 4.8 miles of loping hillsides and lush, verdant forest, waterfalls, wildlife and historic ruins. Please wear sturdy-soled, closed-toe shoes and be prepared for the sun, rain and pests. We’ll meet near OSJ at **4th and Willings Alley for a 9:00 AM departure**. After hiking, we will stop at Pica’s Pizza for lunch on our way back to Philadelphia. Contact Bex at bergh.rebecca@gmail.com or Colleen at coneil0909@gmail.com with questions and RSVPs! If you are able to drive, please communicate that in your RSVP.

Parish Cookout Dinner
The next Parish Cookout dinner is **June 2 at 7:30 PM in Barbelin Hall**. All are welcome to enjoy good food and good company after the 6:30 PM Mass. If you’d like to help out with hospitality, please contact osjyac@gmail.com.

No Coffee Hours Today
There will be no Coffee Hour after 9:30 or 11:30 AM Mass **today, May 26**. Coffee Hour will resume next weekend on **June 2**.

In Memory
The altar flowers this weekend were donated by Neal Hébert in loving memory of Allan Aiken on the 15th anniversary of his death.

OSJ Book Group
The Old Saint Joseph’s Reading Group will meet on **June 4 at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. June’s book is *Educated* by Tara Westover. The author was raised in a biblical survivalist branch of the Mormon faith in rural Idaho. In this memoir, Westover raises profound issues about the relation of family to faith. For more information, contact Carol Shloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
**Summer Break**
The last Children’s Liturgy of the Word before summer will be on **Pentecost Sunday, June 9**. The Children’s Liturgy of the Word will resume on **September 15**.

The Chestnut Street Singers in Concert
All are cordially invited to a concert presented by one of the finest choral ensembles in America, the Chestnut Street Singers. Next **Sunday, June 2, at 3:00 PM**, the choral ensemble will perform works by Byrd, Lassus, and Tippett. A free will offering to benefit OSJ’s music program will be gratefully accepted.
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
(parish@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 (altarservers@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)