

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

June 30, 2019 | Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Laudato Si' and the Religious Crisis of Climate Change

It has been four years since Pope Francis published his encyclical letter, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* (LS). The encyclical is worth reading (or rereading) now for two reasons. First, it stands as the hallmark of a reform papacy in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi that revitalized the agenda of the Second Vatican Council after a long hiatus. But more important, the global environmental crisis, which the encyclical addresses, has become only more urgent since its publication.

It was a different world on Pentecost Sunday 2015 when the encyclical was released. The Paris Climate Accords were drafted later that same year, and on Earth Day, April 22, 2016, the United States and China, alone responsible for some 40 percent of current global carbon emissions, led a coalition of nearly 200 nations in signing the Paris Agreement, which promised to cap the postindustrial global-temperature increase at 2° Celsius.

The situation today is far less optimistic. The Paris signatories have since failed to implement changes that would keep temperatures below a 3° postindustrial increase, and the United States, which announced in 2017 its intention to withdraw altogether from the agreement (in 2020), is no longer considered in compliance. Meanwhile, just in the past year, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a special report (October 8, 2018) revising the temperature cap, saying that only a 1.5° Celsius ceiling could avert catastrophe, and that the effects of climate change are happening now: unprecedented wildfires and hurricanes, worldwide collapse of coral reefs, and warming of the earth's North and South Poles at rates far greater than other regions—an especially ominous development since permafrost sequesters



huge amounts of CO₂ and an even more potent greenhouse gas, methane. The UN document was followed the very next month by a corroborating report of the U.S. federal government (Volume II of the Fourth National Climate Assessment [NCA4], November 23, 2018), which states that “societal efforts to respond to climate change have expanded in the last five years, but not at the scale needed to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades.” Both reports warn that the world's poor suffer the effects of climate change disproportionately when compared to the rich who largely cause it.

Chapter One of *Laudato Si'* “What Is Happening to Our Common Home,” is remarkably up to date on the science of climate change and its social consequences. Indeed, Francis anticipates much of what has happened since 2015. But true to the methodology of Catholic social teaching, *Laudato Si'* synthesizes faith and reason without confining the latter to natural science. Pope Francis draws on cutting edge philosophy and social science in order to get to the heart of the problem, which he understands as a crucial step towards any effective solution.

Laudato Si' is best understood as a “post-modern” encyclical. Francis relies especially on the work of

—continued inside



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This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Calendar Events	
Mon 1	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ		
Tues 2	12:05 PM	<i>Luis Corona (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ	12 Noon	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) 12 Noon Al-Anon meeting (Drexel)
Wed 3	12:05 PM	<i>James & Katherine Henderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		
Thurs 4	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Families (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ		<i>Parish Offices Open 11:00 AM-1:00 PM</i>
Fri 5	12:05 PM	<i>Jane Anderson (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12:30 PM	Litany of the Sacred Heart
Sat 6	12:05 PM 5:30 PM	<i>Joseph "Pepe" Cruz-Vizcaino (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ	12 Noon 12:05 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin) Anointing of the Sick
Sun 7	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	5:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Loyola Choir rehearsal YAC Pre-Mass Reflection (Greaton) Parish Cookout Dinner (Barbelin)

The flowers on the Sacred Heart Altar this week were donated by Lois Marcolongo for the special intentions of her mother, Rita C. Marcolongo.

**In your prayers,
please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters
and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.**

Fran Banchi, George Bernato, Rick and Eleanor Bravo, Deborah Brooks, Melissa Counselor,
Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Simeon Crowther, Susan Friend,
Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Edith Ruth Jett, Catherine Keddie, Anna Krachman, Allen May,
Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Catherine O'Brien, Joseph P. Rein, Donovan Schmidt,
Matt Smith, Sara Smith, Lawrence Williams, Sandra Williams, 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.

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his own teacher, the German philosopher Romano Guardini in driving this point home. Guardini's *The End of the Modern World*, which Francis draws on in LS Chapters 3 and 6, is not a doomsday treatise. The "modern world" in question is the one that replaced the medieval world; it in turn is about to be replaced by yet another, and it is high time. Francis calls into question the whole style of knowing that is characteristic of the modern age, which he refers to as "the technocratic paradigm." This paradigm, he says, "exalts the concept of a subject who, using logical and rational procedures, progressively approaches and gains control over an external object." Francis's alternative approach calls for human beings, animals, plants, and minerals alike to "extend a friendly hand to one another." A romantic notion? Perhaps, but what should not be missed is that Francis follows contemporary philosophy in rejecting the modern project that treats the human being as a radically disengaged subject who thinks of the world as the sum total of facts rather than relationships. The modern world is not simply "the way things are," as if facts go all the way down; it is just one "paradigm" among many alternatives, not all of which are equally expedient.

The post-modern world that Guardini announces is also a post-secular one. Anthropologist Clifford Geertz's definition of religion is widely used today across disciplines. A religion, he says, is "a system of symbols that, when enacted by human beings, establishes powerful, pervasive, and long-lasting moods and motivations that make sense in terms of an idea of a general order of existence." What is most notable about the definition is that such a system is not an option that one might do without—like staying home from church on Sunday; rather, it is an essential feature of the human condition that comes with being a linguistic animal. What was once taken to be a neutral, "secular" world turns out to be every bit as "religious," in Geertz's sense, as any paradigm expressive of the human condition. Another way to put it would be to say that one good reason for *deliberately* practicing a religion

such as Catholicism is to keep from *inadvertently* practicing some other "religion," such as the one expressed by the technocratic paradigm.

Francis reserves his harshest criticism for yet another paradigm, which he sees as derivative of the technocratic mindset. He speaks in LS Chapter 6 of "the paradigm of consumerism," the "culture of consumerism," "compulsive" and "obsessive consumerism." Consumerism, so described, certainly satisfies Geertz's definition of a religion, and it is one that Americans have exported to the wider world, replete with its own temples, saints, and feast days, not to mention holy days of obligation (Black Friday and other "sale" days). It is also a religion that can be practiced alongside others. How many people refuse to support their own churches while having no trouble at all sending Amazon a tithe (or more) of their paychecks? Francis sees all of this as consistent with the overly individualized, self-interested subject of modernity: "When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume."

Pope Francis's exposition of the human roots of the ecological crisis lays bare the magnitude of the task that lies before us. He understands that any viable solution to the environmental crisis demands nothing less than what he calls "ecological conversion." It is religious language because at root it is a religious crisis.

As a truly global, transnational institution with over one billion members organized in concentric circles of national bishops' conferences, dioceses, and local parishes, the Catholic Church with its preferential option for the poor is uniquely positioned to address the crisis, because, like any movement that relies on personal transformation, the ecological conversion Francis envisions must be funneled up from the grassroots. Francis recognizes that honest dialogue is the place to start. Let's do our best to keep this conversation alive.

—Gerard Jacobitz

Cover image: Saint Francis of Assisi extending a friendly hand to the Wolf of Gubbio (and vice versa).

Announcements

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

The **July 6-7** second collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Founded in 1970 by the Catholic bishops of the United States as their domestic anti-poverty program, CCHD makes grants to programs that empower people to identify and address obstacles as they work to make permanent and positive changes for their communities. Philadelphia's Aquinas Center is a local recipient of CCHD support. Learn more at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Catholic School Honor Rolls

High school parishioners earning academic honors this semester include

*James H. Agger and James C. King,
First Honors at St. Joseph's Prep
Sydney S. Parson,
Honors at Merion Mercy Academy*

Congratulations!

Waldron Mercy Job Posting

Waldron Mercy Academy is seeking a 7th and 8th grade religion teacher and a 5th grade religion/social studies teacher. For more information, please contact Theresa Gannon at tgannon@waldronmercy.org.

Prelude Music for July

During the four weekends of July, Dr. Mark Bani will present the following Bach fugues for organ as prelude music before the start of each Mass: **July 6-7:** Fugue in A minor, BWV 543; **July 13-14:** Fugue in G minor, BWV 542; **July 20-21:** Fugue in C Major, BWV 564; **July 27-28:** Fugue in G Major, BWV 577. The prelude music starts approximately six minutes before each Mass; please plan to arrive early to enjoy this special music offering for July.

Ignatian Spirituality and Leadership

Saint Joseph's University (SJU) Office of Mission Programs will host its annual Ignatian Spirituality and Leadership Conference on **July 26 from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM** at SJU's Campion Student Center. The day will include an opening plenary session, a keynote address, and morning and afternoon breakout sessions. It will conclude with SJU's celebration of the Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola. For more information, contact the SJU Office of Mission Programs at pesnouf@sju.edu or 610-660-3290.

Announcements

The Barbelin Fund

More than a decade ago, Old St. Joseph's Church received a bequest that established the Barbelin Fund, a restricted fund which supports the parish's ministry with poor and vulnerable populations and its advocacy for transforming our community in light of God's justice.

Over the years, the Barbelin Fund has provided annual support to OSJ's Faith, Food & Friends outreach. This year, the Barbelin Fund is also supporting parish memberships in the advocacy groups **Bread for the World**, the **Ignatian Solidarity Network** and the **Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice**. In addition, the Barbelin Fund is contributing to three local efforts to serve people on the margins of our community: the **Aquinas Center**, the **Gesu School**, and the **Nutritional Development Services**. All three of these organizations also receive material support from OSJ, through your generous contributions to the Advent Giving Tree and the recent Manna Food Drive.

Finally, the Barbelin Fund has contributed to a new partner, the **Bethesda Project's Church Shelter Program**. Since November 2018, Bethesda Project caseworker Andrew Huff has been a regular lunch guest at Faith, Food & Friends. His regular presence and gentle persistence has guided more than twenty of our guests into shelter this winter, some temporarily, and some into long-term safe, subsidized housing. Faith, Food & Friends looks forward to deepening its relationship with the Bethesda Project next winter.

Stay in Touch!

OSJ sends out occasional emails via Constant Contact with news about parish events, holy days, special collections and parishioner death notices. If you haven't heard from us in the last month, please send your current email address to office@oldstjoseph.org. Thanks!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Next week, Old St. Joseph's bulletin will shrink slightly as the front-page bulletin essays take a summer break. The essays, and the full-length bulletin, will return Sunday, September 8.

Many, many thanks to all who shared their experience and expertise:

*Len Mancini, William Coleman,
Chelsea Echinque Wallace,
Jeff Wallace, John Trumbore,
Anna D'Angelo, Linda Robinson,
Christopher Ross, Mary Freedman,
Stephen Paesani and Gerard Jacobitz.*

Parish Cookout Dinner Next Sunday

All are welcome to the monthly Cookout Dinner next **Sunday, July 7, after 6:30 PM Mass** in Barbelin Hall. Come for the company; stay for the food! If you're willing to help with hospitality at this or a future cookout dinner, contact osjyac@gmail.com. (Please note: there will be no cookout dinner in August).

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 taking part in the faith formation of OSJ's young people, please contact her at prep@oldstjoseph.org.

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 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 the parish office.

Mass of Christian Burial

The funeral director should call the parish office.

Pastor

Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicars

Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ

Fr. Ed O'Donnell SJ

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](mailto:cw@oldstjoseph.org))