An Open Door Update

Our goal is a completion date by the end of October. Here is a brief pictorial report on the progress so far.

**July 1**—Construction begins: the slate of the courtyard has been removed and materials needed to build scaffolding brought in.

**July 9**—Damaged bricks are removed and replaced on the church facade. The Barbelin Memorial is removed and stored away for later reinstallation.

**August 10**—After extensive replacement brickwork was completed, digging for the elevator shaft and new platform began. The new bricks blend seamlessly into church façade.

**August 10**—The soft courtyard soil was easily removed, but the new elevator shaft required significant digging.

**August 24–27**—Once the concrete footing is in place, the rebar and form were constructed for pouring the concrete walls of the elevator shaft.
12:05 PM Daily Mass Intention and Presider

9/23 Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

9/24 Harry Donahue  
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

9/25 Edward & Mary Britt Families  
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

9/26 Geraldine Marren & Family  
Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

9/27 John S. Grady  
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

9/28 Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Saturday-Sunday

9/28 5:30 PM  Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

9/29 7:30 AM  Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ
9:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ
11:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ
6:30 PM  Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

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


Names on the parish prayer list are updated quarterly. To add someone to the list, please call 215-923-1733 or email office@oldstjoseph.org.

Apostleship of Prayer

Each month, Pope Francis asks for our prayers for a specific intention. He has entrusted these intentions to the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (also known as the Apostleship of Prayer). Visit popesprayerusa.net for a reflection and an examen on this month’s intention and for further resources to deepen daily prayer. Pope Francis’ intention for September is for the protection of the oceans, and that politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world’s seas and oceans.

Pre-Mass Reflection Group

All young adults are invited to reflect as a group on the Sunday readings that will be heard at the 6:30 PM Mass, beginning each week at 5:30 PM and ending by 6:20 PM. We will meet in the Greaton Parlor and begin with reading the scripture of the day, followed by a short time of quiet prayer with an emphasis on imaginative prayer, and then opportunity for sharing and discussion. Please meet outside 321 Willings Alley and you will be let in. Materials will be provided; all are welcome. If you have any questions or if you would like to sign up to facilitate, please contact Danielle at osjyac@gmail.com.
—An Open Door Update, Continued

September 7-8—Once the elevator shaft walls were poured and waterproofed, the remaining large hole in the courtyard can be filled in. New soil was brought into the courtyard to replace the old soil in order to insure the necessary “compaction,” causing some delay.

September 11—The “Sunday School” door has been removed; it will be reset when the platform is installed. Construction has begun on the frame for the front wall of the elevator shaft. Eventually the Barbelin Memorial will be remounted on this wall and a new time capsule put in place.

Generous members of the parish have already contributed $400,000 towards the $800,000 cost of making the main entrance to our Church and Barbelin Hall universally accessible.

If you are a registered parishioner, you will receive a letter in the next week, inviting you to make a contribution toward Old St. Joseph’s Open Door Campaign. If you are not registered, please pick up a pledge card in the rear of the church after September 29.

Thank you for continuing the tradition of maintaining our parish buildings for future generations.

—Walter F. Modrys
Pastor

All images: staff photos.

Time Capsule
A time capsule from 1849 was found during the courtyard renovation. Images of the contents, including Philadelphia newspapers and a list of donors to the Barbelin Memorial, have been posted on Facebook at OSI19106 and will appear in a future bulletin photo essay. What should the capsule we leave during this project contain? Email your suggestions to bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org!
Announcements

Gun Violence Awareness Day
On September 22 beginning at 1:30 PM in Mother Bethel AME Church, Old St. Joseph’s will join other Society Hill faith communities in a Day of Gun Violence Awareness. The afternoon’s activities will begin with a call to action, followed by a short walk to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church for a service of remembrance at Philadelphia’s Memorial to the Lost and advocacy activities, ending with light refreshments at 3:30 PM. More information is available on our website, oldstjoseph.org.

Prayer for Migrants and Refugees
Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia Edward Deliman will preside at a prayer vigil for World Day of Migrants and Refugees on Monday, September 23 from 7:00-8:00 PM at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community, 1719 Morris Street, Philadelphia. Light refreshments will follow; for more information, contact 215-667-2820 or culturalministries.org.

Help CRS with Hurricane Relief
Hurricane Dorian slammed into the Bahamas, but Catholic Relief Services and its local partners are working to respond to the need for emergency food, water and shelter. Please visit www.crs.org to make a much-needed gift. Thanks for your support!

Open House
Merion Mercy Academy (511 Montgomery Avenue, Merion Station PA) will hold an Open House for 6th and 7th grade girls on Sunday, October 6, 2019 with Mass at 11:00 AM, an overview from 12:15-1:00 PM and school tours from 1:00-3:00 PM. You can also register online for the October 26 Scholarship and Entrance Exam by visiting merion-mercy.com.

Hunger and Migration
On October 20, Old St. Joseph’s will host an Offering of Letters, writing to our congressional representatives about foreign aid that can alleviate the hunger and insecurity that drive people to migration. Here is the second installment of information on hunger and migration in Central America. Thanks to Lorraine Knight for this information.

Central America’s Northern Triangle—Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador—have suffered from violence, poverty and corrupt justice systems for decades. In recent years, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has funded non-governmental and faith-based organizations to address reforms that increase stability and lessen the pressure to migrate. These funds are now at risk of elimination.

The April 2, 2019 NY Times summarized the USAID’s own report on the impact of its aid to the Northern Triangle:

In Guatemala, funds directed to Feed the Future Guatemala, the Youth and Gender Justice Project and the Community Roots Project, (a program of World Vision) increased income in high-migration areas and strengthened the court systems, reducing the corrupt influence of criminals.

In Honduras, US aid focused on sustainable farming, business development and education. As a result, incomes increased, homicides decreased and criminal prosecutions increased.

In El Salvador, USAID funds were directed to the Crime and Violence Prevention program, Bridges for Employment, and Government Integrity—a program to promote accountability and transparency—led to a 61% decrease in homicides between 2015–2017 and the creation of 22,000 jobs.

In his remarks at the Mexico Holy See Colloquium in 2014, Pope Francis said: “the challenge demands the attention of the entire international community so that new forms of legal and secure migration may be adopted.” Once again, it appears that in the intervening five years, no progress has been made in answering Pope Francis’ challenge.
Announcements

Join OSJ’s Music Ministry!
The start of the choir year offers an ideal opportunity to enter more fully into the liturgical life of the Church by becoming part of the ministry of music at Old St. Joseph's Church.
The Schola Cantorum provides a varied repertoire of outstanding classical sacred music for the 11:30 AM Mass each Sunday from late September through early June, as well as holy days and concerts throughout the season. The Schola rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00-8:45 PM in Barbelin Hall and at 11:00 AM on Sunday in the church.
The Loyola Choir provides the music for our 6:30 PM Mass each Sunday, offering a wonderful variety of contemporary hymns. The Choir rehearses on Sundays at 5:30 PM before Mass.
If you would like to know more about OSJ’s choirs, please contact Music Direct Mark Bani at music@oldstjoseph.org.

RCIA at Old St. Joseph’s
The first steps of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will begin at Old St. Joseph’s on September 29. If you seek initiation to or full communion with the Catholic Church, you are invited to speak with any member of the pastoral staff or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

Flu Shots and Medicare Part D
Today, Sunday September 22, free flu shots will be available to anyone over nine years of age from a pharmacist certified in vaccination protocol at 12:30 PM in Barbelin Hall. Please bring your insurance and/or Medicare Part B cards with you; there will be no additional charges. Also at 12:30 PM, Jeanmarie Zippo RN, a parishioner and medical case manager, will demonstrate how to use medicare.gov to choose the best Medicare prescription coverage (Part D) for you.

Health Care Professionals
All health care professionals—students, active and retired practitioners and administrators—are especially invited to gather at 6:30 PM Mass on Sunday, September 29. An informal reception will follow in Barbelin Hall. Come and be with others who share your faith and your work and its challenges!

Reading Group to Meet
The Old Saint Joseph’s Reading Group will meet Tuesday, October 1 at 7:30 PM in the Loyola room of the rectory. The first book of the year is Toni Morrison’s Beloved. New members are welcome; for more information, contact Carol at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

September OSJ YAC Happy Hour!
The air is getting crisper, the kids are back in school, football's on TV, and we're heading to one of our favorite fall watering holes for the September Young Adult Happy Hour: McGillin's Olde Ale House. Join us on Friday, September 27 starting at 5:30 PM; we'll be there until at least 8 PM. At the oldest continually operating pub in the city, the dark wood walls, delicious wings, and good draft beer will have you feeling right at home. 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 inside on the happy hour's Facebook page. See you there!

Save the Date!
Mark your calendar for Tell Me A Story—an OSJ Story Slam on Friday, October 18, from 7:00-8:30 PM in Barbelin Hall. Watch the bulletin (and website and our Facebook page) for details about an evening of 'true stories told live'.
INFORMATION

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

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@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)

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 7:00 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
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. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Eucharist for the Homebound
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

The Sacrament of Anointing
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered 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
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings, then call the parish office at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

Mass of Christian Burial
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council
(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
Len Mancini (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 Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)