

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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October 20, 2019 | Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Where Are We in the Cycle?

I've now gone through the cycle 14 times. You would think I'd know something by now!

By the "cycle," I mean the three-year sequence of Sunday readings at Mass. Each year we read through a separate gospel. Matthew is first, or Year A. Mark is next, in Year B. Next is Luke, for Year C. John is sprinkled around, mostly in Year B and during Lent in Year A. Going through that cycle 14 times takes 42 years—that's how long I've been preaching. Hence my question: what have I learned in the process?

Most people probably don't pay attention to the "cycle" all that much. Ask a typical Catholic—even one who attends Mass regularly—what's this year's gospel, and they'd probably look at you as if you're from another religion. What difference does it make what this year's gospel is? Aren't the gospels all pretty much the same?

That's one thing I've learned. For me, come December, when we leave Luke behind (this year's gospel) and switch to Matthew on the first Sunday of Advent, it will be like a new management team is taking over the office. At Mass, we'll have to start talking about a whole new perspective on Jesus and the challenges we face today. So for me in my job, it's quite a transition and a valuable experience to share with the congregation.

Another thing I've learned: In recent years, I've made the resolution to "bone up" on the new guy (evangelist) before he actually shows up so I can make the transition more smoothly. So recently



I bought some new books on Matthew and started reviewing old familiar material and learning some new things about his gospel, as well as correcting some faulty notions. I thought I would like to repeat something I've done a number of times in the past and meet with interested

parishioners in the fall before Advent to preview our new gospel. I enjoy talking about the gospels and what we can learn from the Scriptures, so I thought that's what we can do this year. I invite you to join me.

Let me sketch for you how we will proceed.

First, there are two misconceptions that people have to get over when they approach the gospels—or Scripture in general—what I like to call *Naive Realism* and *Catholic Certitude*. Far be it from any of us to fall into either faulty mind set. But still, these misconceptions, even in subtle forms, can block the authentic message of the Scriptures from getting through to us, even in our prayer. I'll explain what I mean when we meet on **October 29**. We'll look at a few church documents that address these misconceptions.

Second, it recently dawned on me that there are basically two distinct approaches to reading the gospels. I've been struggling with this tension in

—continued inside



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 in the rear of the church.

12:05 Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

- 10/21 *Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society*
Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ
- 10/22 *Louise Martin (D)*
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ
- 10/23 *Edward and Mary Filarsky (D)*
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ
- 10/24 *Geraldine Marren and Family*
Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ
- 10/25 *Conor Patrick Devlin (D)*
Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ
- 10/26 *John Lees (D)*
Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ

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

George Bernato, Deborah Brooks, Ann Crowther,
Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Simeon Crowther,
Barbara Epting, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Allen May,
Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Donovan Schmidt,
Sarah Smith, and Patricia Yusko.

Saturday–Sunday

- 10/26 5:30 PM *Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ*
- 10/27 7:30 AM *Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ*
9:30 AM *Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ*
11:30 AM *Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ*
6:30 PM *Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ*

2nd Collection Today for Mission Sunday

October 20 is World Mission Sunday, a day for Catholics to recall their common responsibility for spreading the joy of the Gospel. There is a second collection this weekend to benefit the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, an international pontifical society that coordinates assistance to Catholic missionaries. The collection will remain active through online giving until **November 3**. As always, thank you for your generous contributions!

Why Register?

Registering as a parishioner at Old St. Joseph's helps the parish serve you better. It provides ways for the parish staff to stay in touch with you and allows you to receive our periodic emails about parish life. Registering as a parishioner puts you in touch with the Young Adult Community, the Eldership Community, and parish ministries you can become involved in. It's also the first step in initiating online giving. Not yet registered? You can find registration forms in the back of the church and on our website at oldstjoseph.org.

RCIA at Old St. Joseph's

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a time of discernment and formation for those considering initiation to, or full communion with, the Catholic Church. If you are an adult seeking baptism, eucharist or confirmation, please speak with any member of the pastoral staff or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

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my preaching and the way I pray with the Scriptures. I suspect these reflections may resonate with your own experience, even if you haven't found words to express that experience precisely. The two approaches can be labeled the *historical-critical method* and *literary analysis*. That may sound very technical, but like it or not we all assume one or other approach when we read the gospels. I'll explain when we meet on **November 12**.

Thirdly, with this background, we'll turn to Matthew's gospel itself. Who was Matthew? Why did he write a gospel? Who was his intended audience? How did he treat the connection between his Jewish roots and his belief in Christ? What does his gospel have to do with us? Truth be told, we're probably not going to be able to deal with all these questions, but hopefully you'll get a flavor, enough to pursue some of these questions on your own.

Fourthly, how do we pray with Matthew so that his writing brings us closer to Christ? I'd like to revisit an old friend named Ignatius. For years I thought Ignatius fell into the Naive Realism trap. A lot of people think so, and they get turned off from the "Ignatian method" because of it. There's some validity to that charge against Ignatius because he certainly knew nothing of the riches of modern scripture studies. But Ignatius was also both a mystic and unbelievably practically

mindful. His love of Christ gave him an uncanny way of "opening up the Scriptures." From directing people in prayer, I've learned how Ignatian spirituality offers us invaluable help in praying the scriptures by adapting some of Ignatius' intuitions. My hope, therefore, is that our study will result in deepening our prayer, so that we will then be able to welcome Matthew into Old St. Joseph's in December and together start the new three-year cycle with a truly bang up year.

If you're interested, here's some resources to look at on Matthew's gospel:

- 1) Google "***St Matthew's Gospel***" and read the Wikipedia article. (I can't believe I'm saying this, but it's a good, short summary article.)
- 2) ***Meeting St. Matthew Today***, Daniel J. Harrington, SJ. A good introduction to the gospel written by a leading scholar and fine Jesuit priest
- 3) ***What are They Saying about Matthew?***, Donald Senior, CP. Short, but a lot more academic introduction. Well worth close attention.

If you can make it, I'll see you in Barbelin Hall (which I hope will be universally accessible by then).

—Walter Modrys SJ
Pastor

Join us for How to Read the Bible on

Tuesday, October 29, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: *How to Read a Gospel*

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: *Overview of Matthew's Gospel*

Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM, Barbelin Hall: *The Role of Scripture in St. Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises*

Announcements

*On the occasion of the annual Jesuit Alumni Mass **October 20**, please consider how you can continue the work begun during your school days by supporting some of these works sponsored by the Society of Jesus in the United States:*

Jesuit Refugee Service USA is an international organization that accompanies, serves and advocates on behalf of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future. You can learn more about the work of JRS/USA at jrsusa.org.

Magis Americas is a Jesuit development organization that promotes sustainable responses to injustices in education, migration and ecology faced by people living at society's margins. For more information, visit magisamericas.org.

The **Office of Ignatian Spirituality** facilitates programs committed to fostering faith, leadership and community among young adults and offers the Ignatian Speakers Directory. For more information, or to find a spiritual director, visit JesuitEastOIS.org.

Since 1900, the **Xavier Society for the Blind** has helped blind and visually impaired people learn about, develop and practice their faith by providing religious and spiritual reading materials in braille and audio. For more information, visit xaviersocietyfortheblind.org.

Free Asylum Training for Lawyers

HIAS/Philadelphia (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Philadelphia) has been representing immigrants and resettling refugees since 1882. They are offering a free Continuing Legal Education training for attorneys seeking to assist with asylum cases. The CLE clinic will take place on **November 15, 11:30 AM–5:00 PM**. Pre-registration is required at hiaspa.org/event/asylumcle.

#Home is Here

Home is here is the rallying cry for a pilgrimage in support of people who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) and Temporary Protective Status (TPS). Starting at the base of the Statue of Liberty in New York on October 26, marchers will make their way to the front of the US Supreme Court Building in Washington DC by November 12. On that day, the Supreme Court will begin proceedings to hear oral arguments challenging the DACA program. The campaign's goal is to demonstrate widespread community support for DACA and TPS. There will be an overnight stop in Philadelphia **October 31–November 1**, with a community event and rally planned. Legal, medical, financial and moral support for the marchers is needed; for more information, visit homeisheremarch.org.

Court Accompaniment Training

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia and POWER Interfaith will hold a training for all those interested in accompanying immigrants to legal proceedings. Accompaniment demonstrates to both court officials and immigrants and their loved ones that the wider community cares about how they are treated during asylum hearings, Immigration and Customs check-ins and civil court appearances. The training will be held on **Saturday, November 16, 10:00 AM–12:00PM** at St. Ignatius Church, 636 N. 43rd Street in West Philadelphia. It is intended to deepen the understanding and skills of people new to accompaniment and those with some experience.

*If you attended the July 27 Accompaniment Training at the archdiocesan offices OR you are interested in connecting with others at Old St. Joseph's who are planning to attend the November 16 training OR you are just interested in exploring a personal or parish response to migrants and refugees, please join us on **Monday, November 4 7:00-8:00 PM** for a meeting in Barbelin Hall.*

Announcements

Conversations on Gratitude

If I were pressed to reduce the entire meaning of religion to one word, that word would be gratitude.

With these words, Fr. William Byron SJ begins the second chapter of his most recent book, *Growing Old Gratefully*. Come join Fr. Byron on **Saturday, October 26 at 10:30 AM** in Old St. Joseph's Church for a morning of reflection on living from gratitude. Fr. Byron will also preach at the 12:05 PM Mass, which will be followed by lunch and further conversation.

Advent by Candlelight

Advent by Candlelight services take place in congregations across the country in early December as women of various Christian traditions prepare for the season with an evening of quiet reflection and companionship. Old St. Joseph's once again invites women to Advent by Candlelight on **Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. The evening's prayer will be led by Jaclyn News, director of campus ministry at Chestnut Hill College.

Holy Land Pilgrimage—June 16–26, 2020

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus with Fr. Brendan Lally, SJ of St. Joseph's University. Visit the mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum—the town of Jesus' miracles, take boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Visit Nazareth (the hometown of Jesus), the Jordan River where he was baptized, the Dead Sea, the Tomb of Lazarus, Gethsemane, Calvary and the Tomb of Christ. Carry the Cross on the Via Dolorosa. Visit Bethlehem. Register at pilgrimages.com/frlally or email Fr. Lally at blally@sju.edu. For more information, please join Fr. Lally for a slide presentation on the pilgrimage on **Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**.

All Saints Day

Friday, November 1 is All Saints Day, a holy day. Mass will be celebrated at Old St. Joseph's at 12:05 PM and 7:00 PM. Relaxed parking will be available for evening Mass.

All Souls Observance

Because All Souls Day falls on a weekend this year, Old St. Joseph's will observe the commemoration on Wednesday, **November 6 at 7:00 PM** (relaxed parking will be available). We will celebrate Solemn Evening Prayer from the Office of the Dead of the Liturgy of the Hours. Please come and join in prayer for our departed loved ones and all who mourn.

Homeless in Philadelphia

Last winter, Old St. Joseph's Faith, Food and Friends began a partnership with the Bethesda Project, whose mission is to find and care for the abandoned poor and be family to those who have none. Andrew Huff, a Bethesda Project case manager, became a lunchtime regular at Faith, Food and Friends, and formed relationships that helped move many guests indoors to either temporary or secure shelter. On **Sunday, November 4 at 1:00 PM, in Barbelin Hall**, Andrew will join us to talk about what brings people to life on the street, why people can get stuck there and what are helpful ways to respond when we encounter someone on a city corner who is homeless. All are welcome to attend.

Book Group

The Old Saint Joseph's Reading Group will meet on **Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. November's book is Alice McDermott's *Someone*. It charts the life journey of an ordinary woman which begins on the front steps of a Brooklyn townhouse in pre-depression America. New members are welcome.

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 or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

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 Sizgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)