When last they met in June, the US bishops had a lively discussion about the statement that they have released every four years since 1975 in advance of the next presidential election. Ultimately, they decided not to substantially revise their 2015 statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*.

That the bishops’ statement remains the same doesn’t let us off the hook however, because the work of forming one’s conscience is a lifelong project. It doesn’t end with confirmation or the last religious education class or college theology course. As we age and change and confront new challenges, so must our insight into what our faith requires grow in turn.

So what does it mean to form your conscience?

Well, first, what is your conscience? The pop-culture image of an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other vying for your attention gets one thing right—that is, your conscience is a place of conversation. But it’s not a debate between the demons and better angels of your nature. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, conscience is the sanctuary in our hearts where we hear the voice of God, calling us ever to do good (*Gaudium et Spes* 16).

And yet, because we are Catholic, we know that we are never entirely alone in our conversation with God. That encounter is shaped and given substance by two things, which are the twin sources of Catholic moral dialogue: sacred Scripture and the tradition of our church.

We all know what Scripture is: it is the word of God, the sweeping revelation that humanity is formed in the image of God and formed into God’s people, chosen by and consecrated to God, redeemed by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and destined finally for union with God. Scripture is our story; it tells us who we are and what is of utmost importance to us: we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, being, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27). But as clear a commandment as this is, it is not a rule book that covers every complex situation that we encounter daily, constantly, in the 21st century.

Which brings us to tradition. While this is perhaps a less familiar phrase, it is a very familiar experience. The church’s tradition is nothing more or less than the sum total of its experience of prayer and study and effort to live the Gospel. The tradition’s many facets include the teaching of the popes and bishops, the lives of the saints, our shared worship and the ‘sensus fidelium’—the understanding gleaned by the life and prayer of every member

—continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

Monday 11/4
Wm. Henry and Rose Mary Eells and Family
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Tuesday 11/5
James and Katherine Henderson (D)
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

Wednesday 11/6
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

All Souls’ Day Commemoration
7:00 PM Solemn Vespers
Presider: BJ Brown

Thursday 11/7
Edward and Mary Britt and Family (D)
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

Friday 11/8
Thomas Wilson (D)
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Saturday 11/9
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

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


Fr. Ed Dougherty SJ (added to the prayer list above) has moved temporarily to the Jesuit residence at Saint Joseph’s University for rehab after a fall. Let’s keep Fr. Dougherty in our prayers for a speedy recovery and prompt return to OSJ.

2nd Collection Today, November 3 for St. Charles Borromeo Seminary
St. Charles Borromeo seminary was established in 1832. Its fundamental mission is the preparation of Catholic men for pastoral service in the Roman Catholic priesthood. As a center of enrichment for the larger Church community, Saint Charles provides ongoing academic and pastoral programs to priests, deacons, religious and laity through its School of Diaconal Studies and the Graduate School of Theology. Students work toward academic degrees, catechetical certificates and more. On November 3, parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will hold a second collection to support St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Who are the Jesuits?
Old St Joseph’s Church is known as Philadelphia’s Jesuit Parish. But what do you know about Jesuits? Visit beajesuit.org to learn more about their spirituality, commitment and formation. There’s also a contact link for men who would like to explore becoming part of the Jesuit community.
of the church. One strand of the church’s tradition that is particularly relevant to forming one’s conscience for political responsibility is Catholic social teaching. Its roots reach into the Genesis account of creation in the image and likeness of God, finding there the foundation of the dignity of all human beings. In a similar way, Catholic social teaching finds in the covenants between God and the people of Israel the foundation of the dignity and demands of human community.

Catholic social teaching began in earnest only at the end of the 19th century, when Pope Leo XIII wrote on the Condition of Labor (*Rerum Novarum*). Insight grew through the 20th century, especially in the encyclical letters of Pope John XXIII, whose *Pacem in Terris* is particularly noteworthy for its nuanced description of all that is required by the “right to life . . . and the means which are suitable for the proper development of life.” In the later part of the 20th century, synods and conferences of bishops contributed to the development of Catholic social teaching through statements like *Justice in the World* and its oft-quoted assertion that “action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appeal to us as constitutive dimensions of preaching the Gospel.” The US bishops’ pastoral letters *The Challenge of Peace* and *Economic Justice for All* in the 1980s also contributed to the growth of Catholic social teaching. Popes Paul VI and John Paul II articulated new insights into the social nature of sin, and Pope Francis has added to the tradition with his encyclical on care for our common home, *Laudato Si*.

Having said all that, the lifelong project of forming one’s conscience does not mean committing to a long reading list. Rather, forming one’s conscience requires embracing the process that brought this tradition into being and gives it life: It requires understanding how intimate these dialog partners are. Scripture and tradition inform and illuminate our own conscience’s dialog with God. We hear the Word of God in our shared liturgy, and it inspires and shapes us. We examine our lives in light of the church’s traditions of holiness and teaching, and we add to that tradition by the way we try to live. This conversation is never finished; it sends us out into the world, and back around again to reflection and prayer.

This last point is a crucial one. Sometimes Scripture scholars speak of ‘the canon within the canon.’ This is a brief passage that captures the essence of revelation—as the ‘great commandment’ of Luke 10:27 does for many people. In Pope Francis’s *Evangelii Gaudium* (183) there is a canon within the canon of Catholic social teaching: “an authentic faith . . . always involves a deep desire to change the world.”

From one perspective, the US bishops might be offering nothing new when they adopt their next statement on political responsibility during their November meeting. From another, it is up to each one of us to make their teaching new: to listen, to critically examine it in the light of Scripture and our experience of faith, and finally to put it into practice, “transform(ing) ourselves and society, with God’s help” (*Economic Justice for All*, 341).

—BJ Brown
*Pastoral Associate*

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*Front page image: Probably by Fra Angelico, The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs, ca. 1424*
Announcements

Migrants and Refugees in our Midst
All those interested in exploring court accompaniment of migrants or other personal or parish responses to the present crisis for migrants and refugees, are invited to a brief meeting on Monday, November 4, 7:00-8:00 PM, in Barbelin Hall.

An Invitation to a Pilgrimage
Walk in the footsteps of Jesus with Fr. Brendan Lally, SJ of St. Joseph’s University. Go to the sources of your faith and experience the power of the Gospels as they come alive in the places touched by the presence of Jesus. The June 16–26, 2020 tour group is limited to 26, so register early at pilgrimages.com/frlally or by emailing Fr. Lally: blally@sju.edu. For more information, join Fr. Lally for a slide presentation on Sunday, November 10 at 1:30 PM (please note new time!) in Barbelin Hall.

Mass for Those Struggling with Addiction
St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church (243 N. Lawrence Street, Philadelphia 19106) will offer a Mass for those suffering from addiction on Saturday, November 16, at 12:00 Noon. Rev. Bill Donnelly OSA will preside. All are welcome to pray together for people lost to or struggling with addiction and their families.

Thank You to OSJ’s Neighbors!
Old St. Joseph’s is deeply grateful to our near neighbors for their patience with the noise and disruption of our courtyard renovation. As a small expression of our thanks, we are inviting our neighbors to Coffee Hour in the courtyard after the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, November 10. Please plan to join us too; come enjoy the renewed space and the company of the people next door!

An Accompaniment Experience
On October 17 we went to the Immigration Court on Market Street to accompany a young woman from Honduras who is seeking asylum. A parishioner from Holy Cross Parish in Mt. Airy and a parishioner from St. Ignatius Parish in West Philadelphia joined us. We also met up with a key member of New Sanctuary Movement.

After passing through the usual security screening, the five of us went to the waiting room. We met the young woman; she was nervous and grateful for our presence. Aside from us, she only had her attorney with her. We sat with her in the waiting area until she and her attorney were called to the court room. A courtroom guard allowed us to join them.

The purpose of the hearing was for the immigration judge to review the documents which had been submitted on her behalf. Through her attorney, she was reminded of what information she still needed to provide. After a very brief hearing, she was given a new court date—in two years. The entire hearing took approximately fifteen minutes. While we may not encounter this young woman again, we left feeling that on this one day she knew she was surrounded by people who cared for her.

We wished her well and said good-bye. Then the representative from New Sanctuary Movement asked if we would go to the Criminal Justice Center to accompany another immigrant. This was a very different experience. The man, who was in detention, was being held on serious charges. It is to be determined if they are founded or not. Through his Public Defender, we were able to convey our presence to him. The Public Defender let the judge know that we were there in support of him during his preliminary hearing. His trial is in the next few months. Possibly we will be able to accompany him once again.

The Ministry of Accompaniment is time consuming but rewarding. Most importantly, we are able to assure someone that at this difficult, uncertain moment, they are not alone. The Church stands with them.

—Denise Saporito and Lorraine Knight
Announcements

November OSJ YAC Happy Hour
The Young Adult Community will gather for happy hour at one of the city’s best BBQ joints, Fette Sau in Fishtown, on Friday, November 8. The big, warm, smoke-scented spot has a great happy hour from 5:00–7:00 PM with half-price draft drinks, $5 Manhattans and Old-Fashioneds, and a menu of snacks for $5. The dinner menu has plenty of tasty vegetarian options. We will meet there at 5:30 PM and plan to stay until at least 8:00 PM. Contact Christopher Ross (g.chris.ross@gmail.com, 610-952-7317) with any questions or to find us—most likely at the bar inside; or check on the YAC Facebook page, where we’ll update our location once we arrive. Hope to see you there!

Getting Ready for Matthew
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ will offer an Overview of Matthew’s Gospel, on Tuesday, November 12, at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall. This is the second in his series of talks on How to Read and Pray with the Bible. The third and final talk, on The Role of Scripture in St. Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises will be Monday, November 18, 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall. If you’re interested exploring the Gospel of Matthew further, copies of the two books recommended by Fr. Modrys, Meeting St. Matthew Today and What are They Saying About Matthew, are available at Head House Books (619 S. 2nd Street) at a 15% discount.

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 Newns, director of campus ministry at Chestnut Hill College.

Parish Cookout Dinner Tonight!
The Young Adult Community will host a parish cookout dinner this Sunday, November 3, after the 6:30 PM Mass. All are welcome! If you are interested in helping out at this or a future cookout dinner, please email osjyac@gmail.com.

All Souls Observance
Because All Souls falls on a weekend this year, Old St. Joseph’s will observe the commemoration on the following Wednesday, November 6, at 7:00 PM (relaxed parking will be available). We will celebrate Solemn Evening Prayer by singing psalms and hymns and with Scripture and reflection. Please join us in praying together for our departed loved ones and for all who mourn.

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. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Carol at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Anointing of the Sick
The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered at 5:30 PM Mass on Saturday, November 16. This ritual of anointing people who suffer from physical or emotional distress is offered on the first Saturday of each month at 12:05 PM Mass. It has become a special part of the rhythm of parish life at Old St. Joseph’s. By offering the sacrament on November 16 at 5:30 PM Mass, we hope to extend the offer of grace and spiritual healing more widely in our community. All who wish to be anointed 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 (edonnell@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 contact Fr. Gillespie (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org) 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. When you are ready to set a date, call the parish office at 215-923-1766 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 Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

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