It is Good to Wait

Many years ago, my husband and I walked into one of the small houses on Duke of Gloucester Street at Colonial Williamsburg. It was December, a fire was lit and the shop was warm and cozy. We sat on a bench and spoke to a colonial dressed woman as we waited for the music teacher to arrive. She was there to tend the fire. . . she lived upstairs and cared for this house for the owner who rented it for a variety of purposes. . . she was also waiting for the music teacher. As ‘hobby’ musicians who’ve enjoyed a variety of Williamsburg musical programs, we wondered if the music teacher would bring an instrument, play an instrument or perhaps bring a student who would play an instrument. While we waited, we chatted with the woman who sat in the rocker near the fire. She sewed while she rocked and would welcome each person who came to the shop with endless chatter about those who had lived in Williamsburg and the ‘latest’ news about town. Eventually, the shop was full. And after nearly 40 minutes of waiting for the music teacher, we began to become impatient. The program was only expected to be about one hour long. How much longer were we expected to wait for this music teacher? And so, we checked our printed program. To our surprise, the program was titled “Waiting for the Music Teacher”! And we had, in fact, been waiting for the music teacher. The fireside chat with the costumed woman sewing at the fireplace was the entire program. It certainly wasn’t what we expected. The joke was on us!

I have watched many children experience the impatience that comes with waiting in a Montessori classroom. Waiting, either for a teacher or an activity, is required in this type of space as there are few duplicates of either ‘work’ or adults. As a Montessori catechist, I have also seen that this can be a difficult concept for parents who ask if their child would ‘learn more’ if more teachers or materials were available. Years of experience have proven to me that the answer is surprisingly ‘no’. There are lessons to be learned in the act of waiting. In fact, it is good to wait. . . both in our lives and in the development of our own faith.

Today we begin a new year in our Church. And how do we begin this new liturgical year. . . with a special ritual, a grand celebration or a great feast? No, we begin by waiting. Literally, a four-week period of waiting for the ‘coming’, a Latin version of the word Advent. And in this humble and quiet beginning, we can consider that there are so many lessons to be learned by waiting that we are asked to wait twice a year (during Advent and Lent), each and every year. For waiting, just like the waiting my husband and I experienced at Williamsburg, is not a passive activity.

—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.
**Daily Mass Intentions and Presider**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Edward and Mary Britt Family (D)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>James and Katherine Henderson (D)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Madeleine Barrett (D)</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Jéré Sizgorić (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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**Saturday–Sunday**

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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**In your prayers, please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.**

Douglas Adler, George Bernato, Deborah Brooks, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Elizabeth Davies, Fr. Ed Dougherty SJ, Barbara Epting, Tessie Griffin, Carol Herman, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Imani Ivie, Sharon Krinsky, Bruce Maloney, Allen May, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Julius Mingroni, David Roberts, Donovan Schmidt, Dennis Scott, Sara Smith, Mary Turner, Gail Williams and Patricia Yusko.

**Daily Reflections:**

*Waiting in Joyful Hope*

The OSJ Ignatian Spirituality Committee invites all parishioners to set aside a few minutes each day in Advent to pray at home through this beautiful season. This year’s book of reflections, based on the daily Scripture readings, is written by Fr. Daniel G. Groody CSC and entitled *Waiting in Joyful Hope*. Each entry includes suggestions for applying the passages to your own life. Booklets will be distributed after all Masses on this weekend, **November 30–December 1**.

**Ministers’ Scheduled Posted Online**

The December/January schedule for altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, and ushers has been posted online. Please log in to check your assignments and fill any vacancies that you can. New volunteers—especially altar servers and ushers—are also welcome to sign up through the Ministry Scheduling Program at www.oldstjoseph.org.
—continued from first page

The act of waiting provides the opportunity to experience what we might miss in the all-consuming busyness of our lives. I doubt we would have stopped to sit by the fire in that beautiful shop on that particular day of our vacation had we not been waiting. So many places to see and so little time to see them. But waiting actually gives us the opportunity to be the master of our own actions. How often do we stop to give thought to our own desires? Living an intentional life requires reflection and waiting gives us the time needed to engage in that reflection.

Waiting not only fosters anticipation but also builds appreciation. As we sat in that shop, we considered the variety of options that might be offered by the music teacher. We were so excited to be a part of this event. And this was just for a short program in a day filled with a multitude of many places to see and things to do. Consider how much more important is our waiting during Advent. A waiting that reminds us of God’s greatest gift to our world: a gift that not only changed how all time is counted (BC/AD) but shed light on God’s much larger plan for God’s world!

We can also consider how easy it is to become frustrated while we wait. We have become an impatient society frustrated by slow Wi-Fi speeds and poor reception that only a few years ago would have felt incredibly fast (never mind 40 minutes of listening to the chatter of a woman rocking next to a fire). How many examples are we provided in our sacred history of peoples who waited for years to receive the outcome they expected would be soon to arrive. Joseph, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Anna, Simeon, Mary, Jesus, and so many more who sometimes waited years and years to realize what was to come. Our impatience reminds us that we need to trust, even when the outcome is not immediately provided.

And for those who believe, we can remember that we do not wait alone. We share a common experience of reflection and contemplation as a people of God who seek to become closer to God. The opportunity to share in this moment each year provides us with the chance to see the world through new eyes. How does this coming affect my life? What is touching my heart and how will that alter my direction going forward in this shared journey? For we are waiting to commemorate a birth that changed all of history AND we also await another promised coming that will establish God as all in all. Yes, it is good to wait!

—Carol Hanlon

Carol is a parishioner and a catechist whose experience includes the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a program begun in the 1950s by Montessori educators Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi.
Announcements

Christmas at Old St. Joseph’s
Mass on Christmas Eve
4:00 PM, 6:30 PM, and 9:00 PM  
Festive Prelude Music begins at 8:40 PM

Mass on Christmas Day
10:00 AM
The Schola Cantorum will sing at 9:00 PM
Mass; music at all other Masses will be led by cantor and organ.

Waldron Mercy Open House
Waldron Mercy Academy will hold an Open House on Tuesday, December 3, beginning at 9:00 AM. Waldron Mercy, a Catholic, coeducational, independent school, is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. The school serves students from age 3 to grade eight, with attention to their spiritual life, service learning, academic excellence and advanced technology. Please register by emailing Sr. Joellen McDonnell, Director of Admissions, at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org or by visiting www.waldronmercy.org.

Homeless Memorial Day
Project Home invites all Philadelphians to honor the memories of the homeless men and women who died during 2019. A memorial service will be held on December 19 from 5:00–6:00 PM at Thomas Paine Plaza, 1401 JFK Blvd.

Old St. Joseph’s Advent Giving Tree
OSJ’s Advent Giving Tree is here! It is adorned with ornamental tags requesting gifts for students from the Gesu School and the Aquinas Center’s neighborhood after-school program.

You are invited to take a gift tag ornament, and return it attached to the requested new, unwrapped gift by December 15. (Both Gesu School and the Aquinas Center specifically requested unwrapped gifts in order to match them more easily and fairly to the recipients). Gifts will be distributed to Gesu School and Aquinas Center students later that week.

The Gesu School is an independent school in the Catholic tradition. Inspired by the traditions of the Jesuit and Immaculate Heart of Mary religious communities, Gesu seeks to help its students transcend poverty through rigorous, innovative education. Gesu School has requested that OSJ’s Advent Giving Tree provide a new book to each of its 35 pre-kindergarten and 50 kindergarten students.

The mission of the Aquinas Center is to build unity in diversity, support learning and inspire action, beginning in its own neighborhood at 17th and Tasker Streets in Philadelphia. The Aquinas Center offers an after-school program three days a week for students in grades one through six. The after-school program has requested that the Advent Giving Tree provide a wished-for gift to each of the 23 students in the after-school program.
Announcements

A Special Invitation to Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Today, Sunday, December 1, parents are invited to join their children in Barbelin Hall for the Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 AM Mass. Carol Hanlon, a guest catechist, will be modelling for us ways to pray with young children during Advent.

Book Group
The Old Saint Joseph’s Reading Group will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 PM in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. Our December book is The Dutch House by Ann Patchett. New members are welcome; for more information, contact Carol at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Parish Cookout Dinner
The monthly parish cookout dinner hosted by the Young Adult Community, will be Sunday December 8 in Barbelin Hall after 6:30 PM Mass. All are welcome!

Lessons and Carols, December 15
On Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 PM, Old St. Joseph’s will celebrate our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. This Advent service is rooted in the Divine Office, the daily prayer of the Church. Nine scripture readings, along with Advent antiphons and Christmas carols sung with the help of OSJ’s Schola Cantorum, will trace God’s promise of salvation from Genesis and the prophets through the Annunciation and Incarnation. Please join us for a beautiful time of prayer amid the season’s busyness. There will also be a light reception following the service in Barbelin Hall.

Advent by Candlelight
Advent by Candlelight, an evening of prayer for women, will be this Wednesday, December 4, at 7:00 PM in Barbelin Hall. Jaclyn Newns, director of campus ministry at Chestnut Hill College, will lead us in Dreaming and Beholding: an evening of prayer, art, song and fellowship that draws us deeper into God’s invitation of love this Advent. Live music will center us. New ritual will empower us. Dwell in a desire for this season to mean more. Just arrive, and we will take care of the rest. All participants will receive a gift to take with them, with the intention of creating a symbolic prayer space in your own home. O Come, O Come, Seekers and Bearers of Light!

How to Read and Pray with the Bible
A fourth session has been added to Fr. Walter Modrys SJ’s series on How to Read and Pray with the Bible. On Sunday, December 8 at 1:15 PM in Barbelin Hall, Fr. Modrys will speak on Scripture in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. All are welcome; attendance at the previous sessions is not necessary.

Reconciliation in Advent
Old St. Joseph’s will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a community on Tuesday, December 10, beginning at 7:00 PM. We will share the Liturgy of the Word, examination of conscience and prayer of contrition as part of our Advent prayer and preparation for the Christmas season. Opportunity for individual confession will also be available.
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 (eedonnell@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
(parishoffice@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.

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. Please 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 (osjsspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community
(osjyc@gmail.com)

Altar Servers
Maria Ramirez (altarsserver@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 Szgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

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