Hope and Joy

For the longest time, Gaudete Sunday didn’t make much sense to me. Why is the priest wearing pink rose? Why is it the third Sunday of Advent? What does Gaudete even mean?

Unfortunately, I didn’t find the answers to these questions all that satisfying. On the US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website, the Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year say that

The third Sunday of Advent is called ‘Gaudete’ Sunday (coming from the first word of the Latin Entrance Antiphon for this day, meaning ‘Rejoice’). . . . This is the Church’s way of further heightening our expectation as we draw ever nearer to the Solemnity of Christmas.”

“Oh,” I thought, “I guess I need to heighten my expectations for something.” What for exactly, I still didn’t quite know.

This year, as I thought about how best to approach Advent, it occurred to me that I was probably asking the wrong question about Gaudete Sunday. If I didn’t find the facts and traditions of the day particularly edifying, perhaps I need to think a little deeper about what God could be saying to me through Gaudete Sunday. In this season of preparation and waiting, what role does rejoicing have in my spiritual life as I get ready for something that hasn’t happened yet? As I’ve learned from St. Ignatius, the answer to these questions is probably right in front of me. As a campus minister at St. Joe’s Prep, that usually means thinking about where God is in the midst of the work that I do with students every day.

Early this year, Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, the Superior General of the Jesuits, issued a letter called “The Universal Apostolic Preferences of the Society of Jesus" where he outlines what each Jesuit Apostolate should prioritize over the next ten years. One of these preferences is particularly important to me: “to accompany the young in the creation of a hope-filled future.” At our own Jesuit high school, I see students every day struggle with questions about who they want to be, what they want to do, and how they want to live in the future. Oftentimes, it is difficult for my students to be very hopeful when facing these challenges. Our students today deal with enormous pressure to build meaningful lives and in many ways it seems as if our world has failed to provide a way for them to do so. “Likes” on Instagram certainly aren’t offering a path for a hope-filled future.

Thankfully, God is still at work. Over the summer I had the opportunity to take a group of students to work with the Jesuit High School in Puerto Rico to...
### 12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Intention</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12/16</td>
<td>Michelina and Charles Manino (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12/17</td>
<td>Norma J. Shepherd and Family</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<td>Wednesday 12/18</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<td>Thursday 12/19</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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<td>Friday 12/20</td>
<td>Edward and Mary Britt Family (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Gillespie SJ</td>
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<td>Saturday 12/21</td>
<td>Catherine V. Farris (D)</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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### Saturday–Sunday

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 12/21</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 12/22</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
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<td>9:30 AM</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys 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, Eleanor and Rick Bravo, 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, Giancarlo Mazzoleni, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Julius Mingroni, Bobby Morrissey, Barbara Paul, David Roberts, Ray Scannapieco, Donovan Schmidt, Dennis Scott, Sara Smith, Ann Frances Tozzi, Mary Turner, Gail Williams, Sharon Winge and Patricia Yusko.

### Apostleship of Prayer

The December intention of Pope Francis’ Apostleship of Prayer is for *The Future of the Very Young*: that every country will take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering. Visit popesprayerusa.net for written and video reflections on Pope Francis’ intention.

### 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.
help the community around the school rebuild after Hurricane Maria. On these trips we usually collect students’ cell phones so they can be as immersed and present with the experience, places, and people as possible. One of our students, however, asked before we left for the trip if he could keep his phone while we were in Puerto Rico. This student explained that he had never been on a plane before and he hadn’t spent more than a few days away from his parents. He was nervous that he wouldn’t like the food, he couldn’t speak any Spanish, and he thought he wouldn’t be comfortable enough to try anything on the trip if he didn’t feel, at least somewhat, connected to home. We let him have his phone and we could see how nervous and uncomfortable he was for the first few days. His usual vivacious and care-free personality became cautious and quiet. As our two week trip went on, this student became more and more comfortable with his surroundings and himself. During the first few days on our work site, I told him that he could have his phone as long as he kept in his backpack while we worked. By the end of our first week, I asked how he was doing and he told me he put his phone in the bottom of his suitcase and didn’t want to look at it. He wanted to participate along with everyone else. His personality started to come out more and more and by the end of the trip he was really sorry to leave.

This student is a senior now and applying to colleges. A few weeks ago, he came into my office beaming with pride to tell me he had been accepted into Xavier University in Cincinnati. On our trip I had him ask where he wanted to go to college and he said, “Probably Temple. It’s close to home and the food in the dining hall is good.” Now, just a few months later, he was excited to go off to Ohio. When I asked him why Xavier, he said “It’s those Jesuits, man. They make me a better person.” By going to Puerto Rico and finding the confidence to seek opportunities that are outside of his comfort zone, this student knew what it meant to rejoice when hope is found.

It’s humbling to watch a student have moments of growth like this. Although I see students struggle through the pains of growing up, I also see immense grace present in their lives heightening their expectations for what they can do and what God can do. When the students at the Prep finally begin to come to know how deeply and unconditionally they are loved by God, they truly begin to see the possibilities of what life can be for them. As their relationships with God, themselves, and those around them deepen, they get a glimpse of what it truly means to be happy, and they feel empowered to chase after it with confidence that Christ will be with them through their journey.

In my own life, my students have taught me that hope and joy are inextricably linked. When we begin to hope, we can’t help but rejoice. As I learn to trust in what I hope for, I’ve come to appreciate the need to remember to rejoice in the intermediate stages where God can work to deepen my relationship with Him. Even when our lives may be incomplete, when there are still presents to wrap and decorations to hang, we can rejoice knowing that the great feast that we prepare for will be worth it.

Working with students at the Prep has certainly heightened my expectations for a lot of things. I have greater expectations for what our youth can accomplish. I have greater expectations for what our Church can offer them. I have greater expectations for the transformative power of the Incarnation manifest in my own life. Even as I wait to see what the Lord has in store for all of us, it is a gift to be reminded today to remain joyful.

—Mark Dushel
Campus Minister, St. Joseph’s Prep
Announcements

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 Thursday, December 19 from 5:00–6:00 PM at the Thomas Paine Plaza, 1401 JFK Blvd. (or at the Broad Street Ministry, 315 S. Broad Street, if the weather is inclement). John Campe, Brian (Rocky) DiCesare, Dean (Dino) Jordan, and David Landis, who were guests at OSJ’s Faith, Food and Friends meal outreach, will be among those whose names are read aloud and whose lives are remembered that evening.

Response to Offering of Letters
Representative Dwight Evans, of Pennsylvania’s Third Congressional District, sent an email response to what he heard from Old St. Joseph’s Offering of Letters. During October and November, OSJ parishioners sent more than a hundred letters, emails and texts to Representative Evans and Senators Casey and Toomey. The letters advocated for humanitarian aid to the ‘northern triangle’ of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, where desperate poverty and violence drive many people to leave their homes seeking safety. In his letter Representative Evans responded:

Know that I will continue to do what I can to ensure that, where feasible, our nation applies its vast resources to support vulnerable populations around the globe.

See the full text of Representative Evans’ letter on our website, oldstjoseph.org.

Mark Bani at the Wanamaker
OSJ music director Mark Bani plays the music of the season on the Wanamaker Organ at Macy’s Department Store, 13th and Market Streets following the Christmas Light Shows on Mondays in December from 12:15–12:45 PM. Mark will also present an organ recital on Tuesday, December 17 at 12:00 PM at Christ Church, 2nd and Market Streets, Philadelphia.

Philadelphia’s Christmas Crèche
The National Christmas Crèche will be dedicated on Wednesday, December 18 at 3:00 PM at 18th and Race Streets, Philadelphia. Reverend Dennis Gill of the Cathedral Parish will bless the crèche and the St. Francis Xavier Church Children’s Choir will sing carols. All are welcome!

Mark Your Calendars
January 1, 2020 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Mass will be celebrated at 12:05 PM only. There will be no confessions heard that day. The parish office will be open from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM only.

On January 22 and 29 from 7:30-9:30 PM in Barbelin Hall, Rev. Dr. Aloysius Ochasi will speak on Moral Principles for Ethical Decision-making and Practical Ways for Resolving Disputes When Principles are in Conflict.

Reverend Dr. Ochasi is the Assistant Director of Academics and Consultation at the Institute of Clinical Bioethics at Saint Joseph's University. He teaches medical school, graduate and undergrad classes, directs the Institute’s research programs and provides bioethics consultations at area hospitals. While his talks will be of particular interest to health care professionals, all are welcome to attend.
Announcements

Old St. Joseph’s Advent Giving Tree
Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the Advent Giving Tree by today, December 15. These gifts will be delivered to Gesu School and Aquinas Center students early this week.

YAC Spirituality Advent Reflection
Come join us for an evening of prayer and community! Each month, the Young Adult Community offers a different prayer experience at Old St. Joseph’s followed by fellowship. This month, on December 17 at 7:00 PM, we reflect on the season of Advent. Take time during this busy season to become more aware of Emmanuel, God with us, in our lives. Prayer and reflection will end by 8:00 PM and will be followed by fellowship and fun at a nearby establishment. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mark Dushel at osjyac@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer to Meet
The centering prayer group will meet on Wednesday, December 18, 6:30–8:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor of the parish offices. There will be a presentation with discussion on centering prayer, followed by evening prayer with a period of centering. Anyone interested in contemplative prayer is welcome. For further information, contact Christine Szczepanowski at 267-250-3049 or prep@oldstjoseph.org.

PREP Winter Break
The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) will not meet on December 23 or December 30. PREP classes will resume on Monday, January 6, 2020.

A Note from the Pastor:
A Jesuit parish founded 175 years ago in Woodstock, Maryland, has recently lost its assigned Jesuit priest due to his irreversible health issues. The parish, St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, has had to rely on a rotating roster of substitute priests. To resolve the problem and to stabilize the situation, the Jesuit Provincial has assigned Fr. Francis Gillespie SJ, our current parochial vicar, to St. Alphonsus Rodriguez as of the start of January. We are grateful to Fr. Gillespie for his ministry that he has shared with us. We salute his exemplary mobility and wish him God's blessings in his new assignment.

Fortunately, our Jesuit Provincial is making a Jesuit priest available to Old St. Joseph for full time ministry. As is customary, we are awaiting his formal assignment by the Archdiocese and expect him to arrive in mid-January. I am pleased that the Society of Jesus remains committed to the Jesuit apostolate at Old St. Joseph.

—Walter F. Modrys SJ

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

Mass on Christmas Day
10:00 AM
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 (bijbrown@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. O’Donnell (eodonnell@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 (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

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

Young Adult Community
(osjyc@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)