Each year around Martin Luther King’s birthday, I think back to a 1997 Sunday morning in the parking lot of St. Patrick’s Church in Memphis TN. St. Patrick’s was downtown, around the corner from Beale Street and a half mile from the Lorraine Motel. I had NPR on the car radio that morning and sat transfixed by the voice of a Memphis preacher who had been on the motel balcony with Dr. King on April 4, 1968.

I was only nine years old the day King was killed, so I came to know him through reading his speeches and sermons and David Garrow’s and Taylor Branch’s biographies. I knew folks who thought those biographies revealed that King was no saint. Still I couldn’t shut off the radio even when Mass was starting inside. I was caught up in a transcendent moment, recalling someone who had ‘been to the mountaintop’ and caught a glimpse of all that God had promised and gave his life to that.

Writing in A Saint of Our Own, Kathleen Sprowse Cummings traces the twisting paths to canonization of a dozen American saints. Cummings argues that each one reflects a different understanding of what holiness is in the peculiar American context. Issac Jogues and his companions and Kateri Tekakwitha were proposed for sainthood when holiness looked like civilizing a wilderness and converting those who’d never heard the Gospel. Later candidates for sainthood, like Philadelphia’s John Neumann, Frances Cabrini and Elizabeth Seton, reflect the holiness of sustaining the faith of a European church in teeming American cities. The common thread linking canonization of US saints, according to century, US Catholics had not lost sight of holiness, but were less likely to rely on canonized saints to define it. The US churchwomen and Jesuit martyrs of El Salvador and Fr. Mychal Judge have gained this sort of popular recognition. So has one of the founders of the Catholic Worker movement, Dorothy Day. Even though there is a formal process seeking her canonization. Day herself famously said, “I don’t want to be a saint. I don’t want to be dismissed so easily,” and many in the Catholic Worker do resist taming the stubborn truth of Day’s life of witness to the Gospel.

Seeking our own saints is a way to renew our own search for holiness in the messiness of our own lives. The forms and tasks of life are many, said the church fathers at Vatican II (Lumen Gentium 41). But I confess that when I’ve encountered people in whom I recognize holiness, I come away wondering who is paying the bills and getting dinner on the table while they are doing great things.

—continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Presider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Jane D’Arcy Bonner (D)</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Ellen McCarthy (D)</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>James Convery (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Louis May (D)</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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, Fr. Ed Dougherty SJ, Barbara Epting, Tessie Griffin, Carol Herman, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Sharon Krinsky, Bruce Maloney, Allen May, Giancarlo Mazzoleni, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, D. Minter, Julius Mingroni, Bobby Morrissey, Barbara Paul, Tamara Lucia Sanchez Porta, David Roberts, Ray Scannapieco, Donovan Schmidt, Dennis Scott, Sara Smith, Richard Swift, Ann Frances Tozzi, Mary Turner, Robert Wasilewski, Gail Williams, Sharon Winge and Patricia Yusko.

**Saturday-Sunday**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Updating the Parish Prayer List**

Four times a year, OSJ renews the list of names on the parish prayer list. If you would like someone to remain on the list—or be added to it—please email bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org or call 215-923-1733 by January 20, 2020.

**Why Register?**

Registering as a parishioner at Old St. Joseph’s helps the parish serve you better. It allows you to sign up for periodic emails about parish life and gives the staff a way to reach you. Registering as a parishioner helps put you in touch with the Young Adult Community, the Eldership Community, and other parish ministries. It’s also the first step in setting up online giving. Not yet registered? You can find registration forms in the back of the church and at oldstjoseph.org under the heading *Parish Life/Become a Member.*
Pope presence faithfulness. God’s some World, myself and joy these young people. So, when I asked myself if I can talk myself out of the work of going and doing likewise. But as Pope Francis points out in his Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today’s World, it is not only great heroism that reflects God’s presence in our world, but tiny acts of faithfulness. Holiness is found in our next-door neighbor, who lives with love, reflecting God’s presence (Gaudete et Exsultate, 7).

Pope Francis goes on to identify five signs of holiness in today’s world:

- it is humble; it does not rely on its own strength or purity of intention, but is grounded in the God who loves and sustains us,
- it is joyful and has a sense of humor,
- it is bold and it seeks to leave a mark on the world,
- it is not lived in isolation, but with others. We are never completely ourselves, writes Francis, unless we belong to a community,
- and it lives in prayer. Holiness is habitually open to the transcendent, but its prayer need not, as Francis observes, “be lengthy or involve intense emotion.”—see above about a sense of humor! (Gaudete et Exsultate, 147).

So, if these are the signs of holiness, what boldness and joy find echoes in your heart? When I asked some young people to name a saint in their day,

the immediate answer was Michelle Obama and Ruth Bader Ginsberg. I asked why and was told (in a tone that implied that this was obvious) ‘because they are bad-ass women.’ Further probing revealed that Obama and Ginsberg epitomize staying true to yourself and to your principles in challenging circumstances. Ginsberg and Obama were also seen as willing to get their hands dirty to make the world a more human and welcoming place. Such willingness has also made Jimmy Carter a bad-ass, thanks to his long commitment to Habitat for Humanity. Do I agree with everything King and Carter, Obama and Ginsberg have said and done? No. Can I recognize our shared desire to be simply, consistently, our human best? My faith requires it.

When the question was turned back on me, I thought first of Fred Rogers. To be honest, when I watched Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood as a middle-school baby-sitter, I was bored to tears. But after I saw the 2018 documentary Won’t You Be My Neighbor?, I recognized Rogers’ uncompromising commitment to his art and unfailing respect for the very real lives of children. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in the hearts of followers of Christ, says Gaudium et Spes, the final document of Vatican II (GS 4). Ginsberg and Obama, and Carter, Rogers and King are some of the most human beings I can think of. Their lives not only echo, but amplify, what is genuinely human, and in doing so, reflect God’s holiness.

The forms and tasks of holiness are many. What are yours?

—BJ Brown

Front page image: Martin Luther King, Jr. photographed by Marion S. Trikosko, 1964.
LC-DIG-ppmsc-01269 Source: Library of Congress.
Announcements

Elizabeth Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross*
Old St. Joseph’s parishioner and Saint Joseph’s University theology professor Gerard Jacobitz will lead an exploration of Elizabeth A. Johnson’s latest book, *Creation and the Cross* on **Sunday February 9, and 23 and March 1 at 1:15 PM** in Barbelin Hall. You may wish to get your copy and start reading this clear and insightful exploration for the meaning of salvation for all the world.

Organ Recital
The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organist sponsors the **AGO January Tuesday at Noon Organ Recitals** at St. Luke’s UCC Church, 125 Main Street in North Wales PA. These free recitals feature some of the finest organists in the Philadelphia area, including Old St. Joseph’s music director Mark Bani on **January 28**. A reception follows each performance. For more information call 215-368-2884.

Mark will also be performing on the Wanamaker Organ at Macy’s, 13th and Market Streets in Philadelphia, on **Monday, January 27 and Friday, January 31 at 12:00 Noon**.

Spirit@Work for Young Adults
Looking for a Catholic retreat for young adults this spring? Join us for the third annual Philadelphia Charis Ministries retreat at St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford, PA from **Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8**. Retreatants will reflect on different career or relationship paths, seek the Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives, learn Ignatian tools for decision-making, and grow in understanding how to respond to God’s invitation. Registration is open at straphaelacenter.org. Questions? Email ignatianyaretreats@straphaelacenter.org.

More Intelligent Talk about Immigration
There was so much information to share about immigration to the US that attorney Tom Griffin didn’t get to his recommendations for further reading and study. Here they are:

*To Watch:*
Zero Tolerance, a PBS/Frontline Report on Youtube

*To Read:*
Publications of the Center for Migration Studies, cmsny.org

Edwidge Danticat’s *Brother I’m Dying*

*For Research:*
CLINIC, Inc.—Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. at cliniclegal.org

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, nationalimmigrationproject.org

Trac Immigration (detailed statistics on immigration enforcement) at https://trac.syr.edu/immigration/.

Next Accompaniment Training
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in conjunction with POWER Philadelphia, will hold a training for all those interested in court accompaniment on **Saturday, February 2 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**.

Attending court appearances with migrants—whether immigration, civil or criminal court—is a way of showing solidarity and concern that their rights will be respected. The training will be at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 222 N. 17th Street, Philadelphia.
Announcements

Meeting Christ in Prayer
This coming season of Lent, the Ignatian Spirituality Committee will host and lead Meeting Christ in Prayer; a program for developing one’s personal prayer life and spirituality.

Meeting Christ in Prayer is modeled on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which is a tried-and-true method of spiritual renewal. By means of prayer, reflection and faith sharing, Meeting Christ in Prayer will introduce you to various ways of praying and will help you to form regular habits of prayer, providing you with an opportunity to meet Christ anew and to experience support in the Christian life in a new way.

No prior experience in praying with others is needed for you to enjoy and benefit from Meeting Christ in Prayer. What the program asks only for your personal commitment to spend at least twenty to thirty minutes in daily prayer, to keep a journal of thoughts and reflections during this prayer time, and to attend eight, one-hour-and-fifteen-minute weekly meetings of small-group prayer, discussion, and faith-sharing.

Information sessions will be held after the 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM, and 6:30 PM Masses on Sunday, February 2. These optional sessions will provide details about the program, the weekly meeting days and times, as well as serve as an opportunity for questions and answers. You can participate in Meeting Christ in Prayer without attending an information session.

Spirituality Night January 21
Young adults are invited to the monthly spirituality night on January 21, 7:00–8:00 PM in Barbelin Hall. We will review the Jesuits’ Universal Apostolic Preferences and reflect on how to “find the best way to collaborate in the Lord's mission, the best way to serve the Church at this time, the best contribution we can make with what we are and have, seeking to do what is for the greater divine service and the more universal good” can help our own spiritual lives. The group often continues the evening socializing at a local establishment afterwards. For questions, please email Mark at osjyac@gmail.com.

Ethical Decisions in Health Care Settings
Health care decisions are often complex and challenging. What role does our faith play in these decisions? What principles guide us? Take some time to reflect on how we make those decisions with Rev. Dr. Aloysius Ochasi of Saint Joseph’s University Institute of Clinical Bioethics. On January 22 at 7:30 PM, Rev. Ochasi will speak on Moral Principles for Ethical Decision-making. He will tease out the often unarticulated moral and philosophical commitments we bring to health care choices. On January 29 at 7:30 PM, Rev. Ochasi will help us explore Practical Ways for Resolving Disputes when Principles are in Conflict, examining health care decisions through the lens of particular cases. His talks will be of interest to health care professionals; all are welcome to attend.
INFORMATION

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

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Frank Hannafey SJ (fhannafey@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
(ooffice@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
(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 Szgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

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