A Good Book

On a wintry afternoon, how lovely it is to curl up with a cup of tea, a blanket across your lap and maybe a cat if he’s willing to sit still, and a good book...of theology.

Yes, really: a good book of theology like Elizabeth Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross*.

Although she is a distinguished professor emerita from Fordham University, Johnson’s book is not academic, certainly not in the pejorative sense. From the start, her understanding of a theologian’s responsibility is to “venture understandings of faith that can take root in the Christian community’s worship, preaching, teaching, spirituality and practice for the good of the world” (p. xvii). The vivid, engaging language that Johnson uses throughout *Creation and the Cross* demonstrates that this is a work not only of thoughtful scholarship and rational analysis, but also of prayerful reflection and deep engagement with the Scriptures.

But still, why read theology, when there are so many other pressing things to do, around the house, at work and in the world? And why read this particular book of theology (besides to prepare for Gerard Jacobitz’s series of talks on February 9 and 23 and March 1 at 1:15 PM in Barbelin Hall)? Why can’t we just rely on the faith that has been handed down to us by our elders, the faith that we learned as children and that has endured for centuries?

Johnson’s answer to this question begins with the classical description of theology as “faith seeking understanding” and then explains that this is a never-ending task, for “as cultures change, new questions arise, making fresh understandings necessary lest faith be discarded like some outdated fashion.” (p. 1)

Here Johnson’s words resonate with Pope Francis’ address to the Roman Curia last December (12/21/2019), and not just because he also appealed to the image of approaching change as if it were just a matter of putting on new clothes. The most quoted section of Francis’s remarks focused on his final paragraphs, in which he warned of the temptations to rely on the reassuring, familiar past with a rigidity born of fear. But Francis, like Elizabeth Johnson, also outlined the positive tasks of addressing change: “to let ourselves be challenged by the questions of the day and to approach them with the values of *parrhesia* [boldness] and *hypomené* [hopeful endurance].

Of course, the ‘problem of change’ is nothing new. It is threaded through the many documents in which Vatican II wrestled with how to remain faithful to...—continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

Monday 2/3  
Diana Regan (D)  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Tuesday 2/4  
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

Wednesday 2/5  
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Thursday 2/6  
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Friday 2/7  
Robert Dupre (D)  
12:30 PM  
Litany of the Sacred Heart

Saturday 2/8  
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Saturday–Sunday

Saturday 2/8  
5:30 PM  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Sunday 2/9  
7:30 AM  
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ  
9:30 AM  
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ  
11:30 AM  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ  
6:30 PM  
Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

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

Douglas Adler, George Bernato, Debbie Brooks, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Fr. Ed Dougherty SJ, Barbara Epting, Tessie Griffin, Fr. Mike Hricko SJ, Norman Kline, Sharon Krinksy, Allan May, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Giancarlo Mazzoleni, Barbara Paul, Tamara Lucia Sanchez Porta, Sara Smith, Lawrence and Sandra Williams, Sharon Winge and Pat Yusko.

Got Mail?

In addition to this bulletin, our website (oldstjoseph.org) and our Facebook page (OSJ19106), Old St. Joseph’s uses Constant Contact emails to communicate with parishioners. If you would like to receive our occasional ‘email all’ messages about parish events, parishioner death notices, and news affecting the parish, send a message to bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org. Please tell us if you would also like to receive the monthly Eldership Newsletter and occasional Eldership E-News Flashes. You can also sign up to receive occasional action alerts forwarded from Bread for the World, the Ignatian Solidarity Network, and other social justice partners.

OSJ’s Young Adult Community sends a weekly e-mail, YAC Matters. To subscribe, contact osjyac@gmail.com.

Finally, everyone enrolled in online giving is automatically signed up to receive periodic email reminders of special collections.
—continued from front page

theology, and us time wondering that “Wrestling the Catholic theo-

February

different cultural presuppositions and critical reading of Scripture make his theology like trying to put on our childhood clothes—we just can’t squeeze ourselves in; they no longer fit. In the case of Anselm, relying on the past has been disastrous, leaving us as ‘sinners in the hands of an angry God.’ Even if this made sense to Jonathan Edwards’ Puritans, it does not reflect the “merciful, gracious, steadfastly loving, faithful and forgiving” (p.38) God revealed throughout the Christian Old Testament. Johnson’s next move in building her theology of accompaniment is a beautiful exposition of the prophet known as Second Isaiah in the chapter “The Creating God Who Saves.” I look forward to re-reading this chapter when the prophet’s Servant Songs are read on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. As we move through from Good Friday to the Easter Vigil, I will recall how Johnson’s chapter “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews” insists that the evil provoked by Jesus’ ministry became the occasion of a yet more radical deed by the resurrecting God of Life. And the next chapter, “Interpretations Blossom”, a treasure trove of metaphors for what happened when God’s merciful, creative love proved faithful beyond Jesus’ death, will be a companion between Easter and Pentecost.

There is not a page in my copy of Creation and the Cross which is not underlined or starred or marked up with marginal notes. As a final invitation to curl up with a good book of theology, I leave you with the words of Clara, Elizabeth Johnson’s imagined conversation partner in Creation and the Cross: let us “read with intelligence as well as with the heart.” Creation and the Cross will engage you in both.

See you in February in Barbelin Hall.

—BJ Brown
Pastoral Associate

Front page image by Alice Donovan Rouse on Unsplash.

Gerard Jacobitz will lead an exploration of Elizabeth A. Johnson’s Creation and the Cross on Sunday February 9 and 23 and March 1 at 1:15 PM in Barbelin Hall. All are welcome!
Announcements

**Giving Hope to All 2020**
The Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s annual Catholic Charities Appeal, *Giving Hope to All*, supports the work of 180 beneficiary organizations in the city. The appeal funds education, including four schools for special education, over 100 social service organizations, sixteen mission parishes, and archdiocesan programs for evangelization and retired clergy. Last year, Old St. Joseph’s raised 114% of the appeal goal set for it by the archdiocese. For more information on making a contribution, visit catholiccharitiesappeal.org, email cca@catholicfoundationphila.org or call 215-587-5650.

**Jesuits and Architecture**
Temple University’s Tyler School of Art and Architecture will host a talk on *Jesuits on the Saint Mary’s River: Architecture in the Context of a Global Christianity*. Susan Nalezyty, Georgetown University lecturer in art history, will speak on **Monday, February 17 from 5:00-7:00 PM** in the Charles Library’s first floor event space. This presentation is free and open to the public.

**Retrouvaille Weekend**
On **February 21-23** at the Family Life Center in Malvern PA, there will be retreat for couples with marriage difficulties to help build communication skills. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Conversation on Criminal Justice, Communities of Color & the Catholic Church**
Saint Joseph University’s Faith-Justice Institute is among the hosts of a panel discussion with journalist Dawn Araujo-Hawkins, lawyer Sr. Alison McCrary SFCC and Lezley McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown, a young black man killed by a white police officer in Ferguson MO. The **Wednesday, February 5** conversation on racial bias in the US criminal justice system will begin at **7:00 PM in the Cardinal Foley Campus Center**. For more information and to register, visit sju.edu/klein.

**Waldron Mercy Academy Open House**
Waldron Mercy Academy is a Catholic, coeducational, independent school for students from age 3 to grade 8 that is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. Waldron Mercy students learn through discovery and service. They graduate with a rich spiritual life and are ready to take on life’s challenges. Register for a **February 4 Open House** by emailing Sr. Joellen McDonnell at jmcdonnell@waldronmercy.org or by visiting waldronmercy.org.

**AMCHS Presents Commodore John Barry**
On **February 9 at 2:00 PM**, Mr. John Kelly of the National Park Service will explore the life and legacy of Commodore John Barry, the most celebrated Irish American in Philadelphia from 1775 until his death in 1803. He will discuss Barry’s contributions to the cause of American freedom and to the Irish American community that he inhabited and helped shape. The talk will take place at the American Catholic Historical Society House at 263 S. 4th Street, Philadelphia. RSVP to info@amchs.org.
Announcements

Meeting Christ in Prayer
Old St. Joseph’s Ignatian Spirituality Committee will host and lead *Meeting Christ in Prayer* a small-group faith-sharing program, from the week of March 8 through May 3.

The program is modeled on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Participants commit to spending twenty to thirty minutes in daily prayer, keeping a journal of thoughts and reflections during their prayer time and attending eight 1.25 hour long weekly small-group meetings for prayer, discussion and faith-sharing. These meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons and weekdays and evenings.

Optional information sessions will be held today after the 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM Masses in the Drexel Parlor of the parish offices. Sign-up sheets will be available then and online at oldstjoseph.org. Of course, you can participate in *Meeting Christ in Prayer* without attending an information session. Contact osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org for more information.

Elizabeth Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross*
Old St. Joseph and Saint Joseph’s University theology professor Gerard Jacobitz will lead an exploration of Elizabeth A. Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross* on Sunday February 9 and 23 and March 1 at 1:15 PM in Barbelin Hall. All are welcome!

OSJ Reading Group
Readers new and old are welcome to come to discuss *Atonement* by Ian McEwan on Tuesday, February 4 at 7:30 PM in the Drexel Parlor. For information, contact shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Young Adult Happy Hour
Join Old St. Joseph’s Young Adults at Clarkville, 43rd and Baltimore Avenue, on Friday, February 7 at 5:30 PM. Clarkville’s happy hour runs until 7:00 PM and you can enjoy $4 drafts, $5 wine, and $7 housemade pizza! Contact Colleen at coneil0909@gmail.com or 440-552-3838 with questions or to find us at the bar. Clarkville is located at 4301 Baltimore Ave. From Center City, take the 13 or 36 trolley to 43rd and Chester or the 34 trolley to 43rd and Baltimore. Hope to see you there!

February 9 Cook-Out Dinner
All are invited to the monthly Cook-Out dinner on Sunday, February 9 after the 6:30 PM Mass! This monthly meal is organized for the entire parish by members of the Young Adult Community.

Your help will be much appreciated! If you can bring ingredients or something to share, help cook, set-up or cleanup, please contact Tom Nailor at thomas.nailor@gmail.com or at 203-940-2790. See you there!

Family Activity Day
Old St. Joseph’s Family Activity Day is will be on Saturday, February 29 from 3:30–5:15 PM. Mark your calendars; more information will be available next week!
INFORMATION

Parish
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
(office@oldstjoseph.org)
Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)
Faith, Food & Friends Director
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)
Director of Hospital Ministry
Tom Volkert (hospitalEM@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
(osjvac@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)