The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Since the end of September 2019, seven young adults have gathered every week in the parish offices to discuss the Catholic Church, its beliefs, practices and customs. This group is our current RCIA class; they are preparing to become members of the Catholic Church or to complete their initiation process. Their life experiences vary, but they have all responded to the ongoing movement of the Spirit and now wish to further and deepen their relationship with the Lord within the community of the Catholic Church.

Among the seven, Andrea Walker and Victor Wang will be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Kelsey Lazicki and Maxim Kind, already baptized in other Christian communities, will be received into the Catholic Church on the Sunday after Easter. Rebecca DeSimone, Kyle Forte and Alex Palma have already been baptized in the Catholic Church and will receive Confirmation and Eucharist on the Sunday after Easter.

All seven have studied, discussed, and prayed, and are now moving to the next step in their formation. On Sunday, February 23, at the 11:30 AM Mass, we as a parish community will welcome them, acknowledge their faith journey thus far, and pray with them as we prepare to send them to the cathedral to be presented to Archbishop Nelson Perez on February 29 along with others from throughout the Archdiocese. At the Cathedral that day, Andrea and Victor will be welcomed by the Archbishop and officially invited to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil as they enter the order of the Elect. The Archbishop will also call Kelsey, Maxim, Rebecca, Kyle, and Alex to a continuing conversion of life as they officially become Candidates.

What follows after this formal reception is a Lent of more intense prayer and preparation. Our Elect and Candidates will look more closely at the demands of Gospel life and how to incorporate Gospel values into everyday living. They will also learn more about life in the community of the Church and will begin to take their place within our community.

For our part, we as a parish will join them in this period of intense preparation. We are invited to look at our lives and recognize where we have fallen short of the promises made at our own baptism. For the fully initiated, Lent serves as the Church’s “yearly retreat,” a time to step back and engage in practices and prayer that help us recognize our faults and sins, rely on God’s grace and become

—continued inside
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions and Presider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Presider</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society</td>
<td>Fr. Hannafey SJ</td>
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<td>2/24</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Stanley Blujus (D)</td>
<td>Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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<td>2/25</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
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<td>2/26</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:05 PM</td>
<td>Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ</td>
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Relaxed Parking available at both Masses.

Thursday 2/27
Timothy Miller (D)
Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Friday 2/28
Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Saturday 2/29
Frank McGuire (D)
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

Saturday–Sunday
5:30 PM  
Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ

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, Audry Brunet, Ann Crowther, Jane Crowther, Mary Kay Crowther, Barbara Epting, Harry Gregory, 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.

Requiescat in pace
Frank Versace, a guest of Old St. Joseph’s Faith, Food & Friends, passed away on December 29, 2019. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Frank’s family and his friends.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him; may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

A Note from the Pastor

The Jesuit Provincial has re-assigned Fr. Ed Dougherty from his ministry at Old St. Joseph’s to the ministry of prayer for the Church and the Society while in residence at Manresa Hall at St. Joseph’s University. We will miss Fr. Dougherty and wish him God’s blessings in his continued ministry.

—Fr. Walter F. Modrys, Pastor
—continued from front page

recommitted to Gospel life. The climax of the celebration of Lent is the renewal of our own baptismal vows that takes place on Easter. The historical development of Lent includes an aspect of accompaniment. We, the already initiated, walk with the catechumens and candidates as they move toward Easter and their own full initiation. We pray with and for our RCIA members. At the same time, they are a grace to us. They stimulate us with their questions and enrich us with their perspectives and desire to make the faith their own in the particular circumstances of their lives, work and relationships.

“Cradle Catholics” (as those baptized as infants and raised in the Church are sometimes affectionately called) sometimes say they wish that they could go through RCIA. And there is something to be said for engaging in this process as an adult. Catholicism—as is true of all genuine faith traditions—is for all of life. Yet Confirmation is too often seen as a graduation from religious education. If we continue to mature as human beings, shouldn’t our faith deepen and grow as well? Our catechumens and candidates bring the complexities of their evolving lives to their faith formation, reminding the rest of us that we too are still being formed by a loving God in the midst of a challenging world.

To follow Christ is to be a disciple. At the end of every Mass, we are sent out into the world to enact the faith we have professed, girded by the sustenance of Christ’s Body and Blood that we have received. Those who desire to join us at the Lord’s Table witness to us that the Holy Spirit is indeed at work beyond our little alley in Philadelphia. Each of us is called as a member of the Body of Christ to be a channel of the Spirit in and out of the Church. We are delighted that these seven young adults have responded to that call. We look forward to their full incorporation into our midst.

--Christine Szczepanowski

Kneeling at Prayer and other Lenten Practices

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting. Many know of the traditions of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. The giving of alms is one way to share God’s gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446. Catholic Relief Servicers’ Rice Bowl is one way to give alms during Lent; see the next page of the bulletin for more information).

Vatican II’s Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium) encourages all the faithful to take “full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy” (SC, 14). Active participation takes many forms. When we gather for prayer, especially the Eucharist, we bring our entire selves, body, mind and spirit to worship. We open our minds and hearts to the praise and worship of God, and we use our bodies to express these inner sentiments.

During this Lent, we will kneel for the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Sunday Eucharist. Being on our knees before God as we pray the Confiteor reminds us in body and soul that we are sinners continually in need of God’s mercy.

May this simple gesture help us deepen our appreciation for God’s utter goodness to us and lead us to a joyful celebration of our salvation at Easter.
Announcements

Covenant House of Pennsylvania
Covenant House PA will host its first annual Women’s Leadership Mixer on Thursday, February 27 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at Independence Live, 1919 Market Street. Tickets to the event are free but limited. The cover charge for the evening is a gift of new undergarments for men or women. RSVP to eventbrite.com/e/womens-leadership-mixertickets/90350991247.

From the Office for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate
Every year, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia celebrates the gifts of persons with disabilities and the Deaf community, along with their families, friends and caregivers. This year, the celebration of the Eucharist will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 10:30 AM at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, 18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. A reception will follow at 222 N. 17th Street (both locations are wheelchair accessible; ASL interpretation will be provided). Archbishop Nelson Perez will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Villanova University Pastoral Musicians will lead the music. RSVP by March 12 at opdarchphilly.org or by calling 215-587-3530.

Sharing the Eucharist with the Sick
The Eucharistic Home Visit Ministry is rooted in the Gospel’s call to visit the sick. At OSI, we continue this centuries-old practice by bringing the Eucharist to those who are homebound and cannot join us at Mass. They can receive spiritual nourishment and be reminded that they are a part of our community.
If you are interested in becoming a member of this ministry of service and compassion, please contact Neal Hébert at homeEM@oldstjoseph.org.

A Ministry of Hospitality
Welcome! That’s an important word at Old St. Joseph’s. Hospitality is an important part of our parish life, and if you would like to share it with others, please consider serving as an usher during our liturgies.
We’ll work closely with you during training and on scheduling. You’ll have an opportunity to deepen your connection to our parish and to meet new friends. Please introduce yourself to an usher after Mass or email ushers@oldstjoseph.org to sign up.

Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl
Beginning this weekend, February 22-23, Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowls will be available in the back of the church. Please consider taking home a cardboard rice bowl and its enclosed calendar and guide to Lent. They can be part of your family’s prayer and almsgiving during this season.
Catholic Relief Services is the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Lenten alms donated through the Rice Bowl are sent to the over 100 countries where CRS works. A 25% share of the collection remains locally in the Archdiocese and is directed to its Nutritional Development Services’ network of food cupboards and soup kitchens.

Retreats at the St. Raphaela Center
The third annual Philadelphia Charis Ministries retreat, Spirit@Work, will be held at St. Raphaela Retreat Center in Haverford, PA from Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 8. Register at straphaelacenter.org.
The St. Raphaela Center will also host The Enneagram: Ego and Transcendence on April 18-19. For enneagram beginners and experts, alike, the retreat will draw on both psychology and Christian spirituality. It will be facilitated by Nicholas Collura MDiv. Register by calling 610-642-5715.
St. Joseph’s Feast Day Celebration!
Come celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on **Thursday, March 19** with Mass at **6:00 PM** followed by dinner at **7:00 PM** in Barbelin Hall. Tickets for the dinner are on sale now in the parish office; $10 for adults; children eat for free. Donations of wine and desserts will be greatly appreciated.

We also need volunteers to cook on **Wednesday, March 18** and for set up, serving and cleanup on **Thursday, March 19**. Please contact Joe Casey at parishlife@oldstjoseph.org or at 215-843-3573 for more information.

Reading Group’s March Selection
The OSJ Reading Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 PM** in the Loyola Room of the parish offices. This month’s book is Valeria Luiselli’s *Lost Children Archive*. Luiselli is a Latina writer who takes on the subject of families and immigration. New members are welcome. For information, contact shlosscarol@gmail.com.

Congratulations!
Three young members of Old St. Joseph’s received First Semester Academic Honors at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School. Congratulations to James H. Agger, James C. King Jr, and Timothy P. McClure!

**Creation and the Cross Today!**
The second of three talks on Elizabeth A. Johnson’s *Creation and the Cross* will take place **today at 1:15 PM in Barbelin Hall** with OSJ parishioner and Saint Joseph’s University professor Gerard Jacobitz. The final session is scheduled for **March 1 at 1:15 PM**. All are welcome! If you missed Gerard’s first talk and would like to hear a recording of it, please contact bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org.

**So Many Ways to Pray:**
**A Lenten Family Activity**
Please bring your family for an afternoon of activity and community **on February 29 from 3:15 to 5:15 PM** to explore the nuances of family prayer. Participants will create and take home a family prayer toolbox to aid in prayer at home. All ages are welcome; RSVP to office@oldstjoseph.org. Please include the ages of children attending so that we can plan accordingly. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. The activity will be facilitated by Carol Hanlon, a parishioner and a catechist whose experience includes the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a program begun in the 1950’s by Montessori educators Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi. The program will end in time to attend 5:30 Mass if you choose.

**Mardi Gras Spirituality Night**
Young adults are invited to a monthly spirituality night on Tuesday, **February 25 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in Barbelin Hall**. We will celebrate Mardi Gras with a traditional King Cake; please bring any other Mardi Gras favorite foods to share! And we will reflect on the upcoming season of Lent before, we head out to somewhere local to continue celebrating. For questions, please email Mark at osjyac@gmail.com.
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. Ed O’Donnell SJ (edodonnell@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)

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. Hannafey (fhannafey@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 Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

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