

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley  
Philadelphia PA  
19106  
215-923-1733  
[www.oldstjoseph.org](http://www.oldstjoseph.org)

December 10, 2023 | Second Sunday of Advent (B)



## Today's Gospel: Mark: 1: 1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



We have a new hearing assistance system which requires a smartphone to operate. Instructions including the needed QR symbols, Wi-Fi address, password, and required software app download can be found on the bulletin boards in the church entryways.

## This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date					
Mon	11				
Tues	12	12:05 PM	Mbrs of the Casey & Duncan Families (D) Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:00 AM	FF&F Lunch (Barbelin)
Wed	13	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		
Thurs	14	12:05 PM	<i>Cyrus C. Convery (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal / RCIA
Fri	15				
Sat	16			10:00 AM	FF&F Lunch (Barbelin)
Sun	17	7:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:40 AM	Coffee Hours YAC Scripture Reading (Greaton)
		9:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	3:00 PM	Advent Lessons & Carols
		11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Surovick SJ	5:00 PM	Vespers (Zoom)

## Old St. Joseph's Advent Giving Tree has Returned!

**Our Advent Giving Tree has returned** to the back of the church! Please take one or more of 150 tags from the tree and buy a picture book or early reader for a child of The Gesu School located at 17th & Thompson Streets. We also have tags for sweatshirts & sweatpants, and gift cards for the Sisters of St. Joseph's Welcome Center in Kensington. **Bring your gift, WRAPPED with the tag attached to it, back to the tree or to the rectory front office, no later than 1:00 PM on Sunday December 17.** Your gifts will be delivered to both the Gesu School and the Welcome Center by an OSJ volunteer on Monday, Dec. 18. **Please make sure your gifts are here by December 17<sup>th</sup>!**

Due to the pandemic, for the past three years we set up Amazon Wish Lists for parishioners to purchase gifts for this program. Since many of the gifts arrived after Christmas last year, we will no longer continue this method of giving. Instead, this year we will issue grants from the *Barbelin Center for Outreach Ministries Fund* to the other two organizations we supported last year – The Bethesda Project, and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. If you would prefer to make your gift by helping to replenish funds to our Barbelin Ministries Fund, please make your check payable to "OSJ Church" and write "Barbelin Ministries" on the memo line so your donation is deposited into the correct account.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity to this annual program which brings joy to our neighbors who are in need.

## OSJ PRAYER LIST

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

Howard Magen, Louise Cruz Vizcaino, Bob Moore, Janice Moore, Gail Williams, Larry Carlin, Michael Nardi, Michael Paesani, Rosario Lamberto, Gina Hil, Mary Beggy, Paul Smith, Dennis Scott, Susanna Mazzoleni, Rosemarie Greco, Anne Morrissey, John Butts, Grazyna Kolondra, Richard Swift, Joseph Kahriger, Brendan Minihan, Helen Walsh, Julio Umberto Rivera, Marilyn Davies, Nik Sizgorich, Bill Wilson, Anthony Pelle, John McKeown Jr, George Bernato, Beckett Quinn, Stefania Crum, Eleanor Bravo, Allen May, Anthony Pelle Jr, Betty Farris Pfeiffer

*Updating our Prayer List: Once a quarter, OSJ updates our parish prayer list. If you would like someone's name to remain on the prayer list, or to add a name, please call 215-923-1733.*



## OSJ's HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2023

### CHRISTMAS EVE DAY – ADVENT IV

SUNDAY, December 24

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule: 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Mass at 4:00pm

Prelude, Organ & Choral Selections at 8:40pm  
followed by Mass at 9:00pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25

Mass at 10:00am only

*NOTE: There will be hot cider and cookies served in the courtyard after each Mass on Christmas Eve. Relaxed parking is available for all Masses. Please place a parking notice on your dashboard!*

### SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Monday, January 1, 2024

Not a Holyday of Obligation this year.

No scheduled Mass.

## Ministry Schedule

**ALTAR SERVERS, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION, LECTORS, and USHERS:** the December Ministry Schedule has been posted! Please log into the

app or [click here](#) and volunteer now for upcoming assignments in your ministry. In order to maintain a fair and balanced schedule, all volunteers must serve at least once every month. +AMDG!

**Are you a Costco or other big box store customer?** Faith, Food & Friends has a favor to ask. An item frequently requested by our guests is a roll of toilet paper. So, if on your next visit to a big box store, you could purchase a large size package of toilet paper for FF&F, it would be greatly appreciated. You may drop off a package any time that the rectory is open, or at FF&F on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, or after Mass on Sunday. Many thanks!



**YAC Scripture Reflection Group:** All young adults are invited on Sundays to discuss and reflect as a group the weekend's readings. The structure will include a reading of the scripture for that day, followed by a short bit of quiet prayer before an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Materials will be provided, and all are welcome. The reflection group gathers in the Greaton (middle) Parlor of the rectory at 10:40am, between the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses. Please enter through the sacristy or hall door at the front of the main church to the right of the altar. If you have any questions, please contact [osjyac@gmail.com](mailto:osjyac@gmail.com). **NOTE: The group will not meet between Christmas (12/24) and New Years (12/31).**

**YOUNG**  
adults

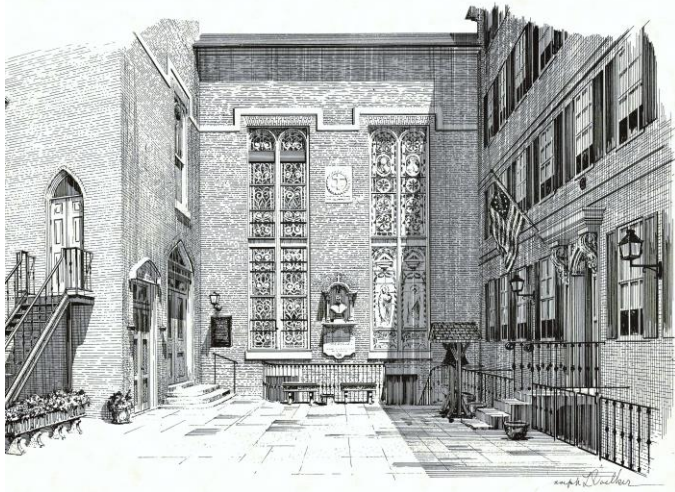
**Sunday, December 10 after the 11:30am Mass: Post-Mass Lunch @ Oh Brothers:** All young adults are invited! Jackie W will lead the group. Please look for her in the courtyard after Mass so we can walk to lunch together! If you are meeting us at the restaurant, please email [osjyac@gmail.com](mailto:osjyac@gmail.com) so we know to expect you!

**Service Opportunity - Provide Dinner to Bethesda Project's Residences:** Thank you for the tremendous response over the past few weeks! As we enter the Advent season, we are continuing to provide dinner for 10 guests at one of the Bethesda Project's residences each week. We are looking for volunteers to 'sponsor' each week, by providing a 'brown bag' sandwich dinner for 10 guests, usually comprising a sandwich, fruit, and a snack or two, as well as a few extra sandwiches, should anyone be especially hungry. The total cost is typically \$75-90, and no ongoing commitment is required. All are welcome- individuals, families, or groups. Once prepped, the bagged dinners should be delivered to the shelter in Rittenhouse Square at 7pm on the assigned Tuesday. This is a great way to fit some community service into a busy schedule in a very practical way!



**Faith, Food & Friends – Our Christmas Wishes:** It's been quite a year! In 2023, we have seen dramatic increases in the number of hungry and housing-insecure guests coming to FF&F for a hot meal and other assistance. Thanks to the generous support of OSJ

parishioners, FF&F is able to distribute socks and personal care items to our guests weekly. To enable us to meet our guests' basic needs through the winter, **our Christmas list includes donations of the following items: Bar soap; travel-size deodorant; travel-size body lotion; & disposable twin blade razors.** Please visit the Faith, Food & Friends Amazon wish list ([click here](#)) where you can find these essentials and other items that would be most appreciated by our guests. We ask that you consider making a Christmas gift to FF&F of one or more of these items. We thank you for your support. Merry Christmas!



## INFORMATION

### Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

### Mass Times

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 12:05 PM

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM / Holy Days: 12:05 PM

### Medical Emergency

In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call 267-438-7266

### Registration

Persons who want to register as parishioners should complete a parish registration form and return it to the rectory office by mail or in person. Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours and online at [www.oldstjoseph.org](http://www.oldstjoseph.org).

### Hearing Enhancements

Please see the bottom of the front page of the bulletin for information on our hearing assistance system.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tues., Wed., & Thurs: Please approach the presiding priest directly after the 12:05 Mass to request reconciliation.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Persons wanting to arrange a baptism should call Christine Szczepanowski at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

### Anointing of the Sick

The anointing of the sick will take place according to the schedule in the bulletin.

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Persons wanting to be married in the parish should call the front office at least nine months before the desired date.

### Rite of Christian Initiation

Unbaptized adults who are considering baptism into the Catholic Church, baptized Catholics who have received no other sacraments and who want to be confirmed and to receive First Eucharist, and baptized non-Catholics who are considering full communion in the Catholic Church should call Christine Szczepanowski at the parish office.

### Mass of Christian Burial

The funeral director should call the parish office.

## OSJ STAFF and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Pastor

Fr. Francis Hannafey SJ ([pastor@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:pastor@oldstjoseph.org))

**In Residence** Br. Robert Carson SJ

### Business Manager

Eric German ([germane@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:germane@oldstjoseph.org))

### Director of Music

Mark Bani ([music@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:music@oldstjoseph.org))

### Pastoral Associate for Weddings

Donna Soultoukis ([dsoultoukis@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:dsoultoukis@oldstjoseph.org))

**Parish Offices** ([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

### PREP & Baptism Coordinator

Christine Szczepanowski ([prep@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:prep@oldstjoseph.org))

### Faith, Food & Friends Director

Deborah Hluchan ([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

### Parish Pastoral Council

Pastor, Fr. Francis Hannafey; Chair, John Bitterman  
Secretary, Nina Vitullo ([osjpc@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjpc@oldstjoseph.org))

### Parish Finance Council

Paul Shay, chair

### Historic Preservation Corporation Board

Fr. Francis Hannafey SJ, president  
Barry Eiswerth, chair

### Adult Education

Rita O'Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo  
([adulthood@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:adulthood@oldstjoseph.org))

### Friendship Circle (former Eldership Committee)

John Welsh ([friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org))

### Parish Life

Joe Casey ([parishlife@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:parishlife@oldstjoseph.org))

### Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

John Bitterman ([osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org))

### Women, Faith and Fellowship

Rana McNamara ([wff@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org))

### Young Adult Community

Danielle Critelli ([osjyac@gmail.com](mailto:osjyac@gmail.com))

### Altar Servers

Len Mancini ([altarserver@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:altarserver@oldstjoseph.org))

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart ([EM@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:EM@oldstjoseph.org))

### Homebound Ministry

Dennis Faucher ([homeEM@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:homeEM@oldstjoseph.org))

### Hospital Ministry

TBA ([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

### Lectors

Kathleen Catanese ([lectors@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:lectors@oldstjoseph.org))

### Ushers and Scheduling

Nikola Sizgorich ([ushers@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:ushers@oldstjoseph.org))

### Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Nina Vitullo ([clow@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:clow@oldstjoseph.org))

### Faith, Food and Friends:

Deborah Hluchan and Mary Freedman  
([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

### Social Justice Committee

Sarah Johnson & Bob Culleton  
([socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org))

### Care for Creation Committee

Bill Stigliani ([careforcreation@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:careforcreation@oldstjoseph.org))

## **TODAY!** Parish Council Coffee

**Hours and Listening Sessions:** The Parish Council cordially invites you to coffee hours **today, December 10<sup>th</sup> after all Masses**. Members of the Parish Council will host Listening Sessions during this time to hear from you the parishioner of OSJ. Please join us and make your voice heard. We look forward to seeing you there.



### MUSIC at OSJ



#### LESSONS and CAROLS

#### ADVENT LESSONS AND

**CAROLS: Next Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 PM** our parish clergy, choir, and lectors will

present a Service of Lessons and Carols. This liturgy foretells Christ's coming in sacred scripture and in song, proclaimed to rouse our spirits in preparation for Christ's coming this Christmastide. In addition to festive carols for congregational singing, choral music will include works by Praetorius, Mathias, and Rutter, and organ works by Bach and Reger. (A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.) A reception will follow.



**The Old St. Joseph Children's Choir**, under the direction of Dr. Mark Bani **began rehearsing on Sunday, November 26**. The children are scheduled to sing on Christmas Eve at the 4 PM Mass. Please email Nina Vitullo at [vitullon@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:vitullon@oldstjoseph.org) for more information and to sign up. We are looking forward to hearing the children's voices lifted in song.



**are needed to serve the cider.** Please contact Joe Casey at [parishlife@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:parishlife@oldstjoseph.org). Thank you!

#### Parish Life (Hospitality):

There will be Courtyard Receptions held after the two Christmas Eve Masses on December 24th. Please join us for some hot cider and cookies. **Volunteers**



## FINANCIAL INFO

### Offertory for the week ending December 3, 2023

Daily Mass:	\$0.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$3,319.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$527.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$5,161.00
Total Collection:	<b>\$9,007.00</b>

*Thank you*

### November Collection Totals Comparison

November 2022: \$32,840

November 2023: \$37,843

**NOTE:** November 2023 shows an increase of \$5,003 or 15.24% over November 2022.

**Thank you for your increased financial support!**

The following collections are active on ParishSOFT Giving and Text-to-Give:

**Retired Religious, Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Christmas Music Memorials, Christmas Flowers Memorials, and Solemnity of Mary**

The keywords are

*RetiredReligious, ImmaculateConception, Christmas, ChristmasFlowers, ChristmasMusic, SolemnityMary*

#### ONLINE GIVING & TEXT-TO-GIVE

Please click here for access to [ParishSOFT Giving](#).

For Text-to-Give, please dial 215-929-7151



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

A Holyday of Obligation

**Friday - December 8, 2023**

**Mass at 12:05 PM**

# Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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To Pray For*



*World Peace*

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This season, sponsor a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you.



**WREATHS**  
— across —  
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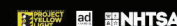
To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit

[wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://wreathsacrossamerica.org)

Please support your parish by advertising on the church bulletin. Please call Bill Potter for details (856) 607-3999

No one likes a distracted driver. **0**

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**GOD BLESS AMERICA**

Please help the ASPCA put a stop to animal cruelty.



visit [www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org)

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in Heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who  
trespass against us;  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.*



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