

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

321 Willings Alley
Philadelphia PA
19106
215-923-1733
www.oldstjoseph.org

December 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent (B)



Today's Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So, they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Saint John the Baptist
Andrea del Sarto, Italian (1486 – 1530)



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	18				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Giancarlo Mazzoleni (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:00 AM	FF&F Lunch (Barbelin)	
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	9:30 AM	SMIPS' School Confessions	
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Patricia M DiLauro (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:00 AM	FF&F Lunch (Barbelin)	
			5:00 PM	Wedding reh: Gehret & Duffey	
			7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
Fri			9:30 AM	SMIPS' Las Posadas Pageant	
22			3:30 PM	Wedding: Gehret & Duffey	
Sat	23				
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>Norma J Shepherd & Family (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
24	9:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Geinzer SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Geinzer SJ			
	4:00 PM	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
	9:00 PM	Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ		CHRISTMAS EVE	



ADVENT GIVING TREE

Old St. Joseph's Advent Giving Tree

Your gifts are due today!

Your gifts are due by 4:00 PM this afternoon. Please return your wrapped gifts with tags attached to the back of the church by 4:00 PM this afternoon **(NOTE: Don't miss this afternoon's 3:00 PM Advent Lessons & Carols!)**. Thank you for participating in this year's Advent Giving Tree!

OSJ PRAYER LIST

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

Greg Alexander, 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.



The OSJ Reading Group will meet next on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom. Our book for the month is Jon Fosse, *Aliss* by the Fire, the book for which he won the Nobel

Prize in Literature. If you would like to join us, contact Carol Shloss and we will add you to the Zoom list: shlosscarol@gmail.com

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!

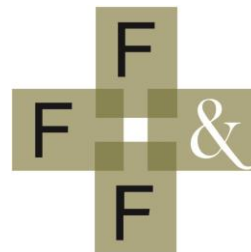


YAC Scripture Reflection Group: All young adults are invited on Sundays to discuss and reflect as a group the weekend's readings. The structure will include a reading of the scripture for that day, followed by a short bit of quiet prayer before an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Materials will 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. **NOTE: The group will not meet between Christmas (12/24) and New Years (12/31).**

YOUNG adults

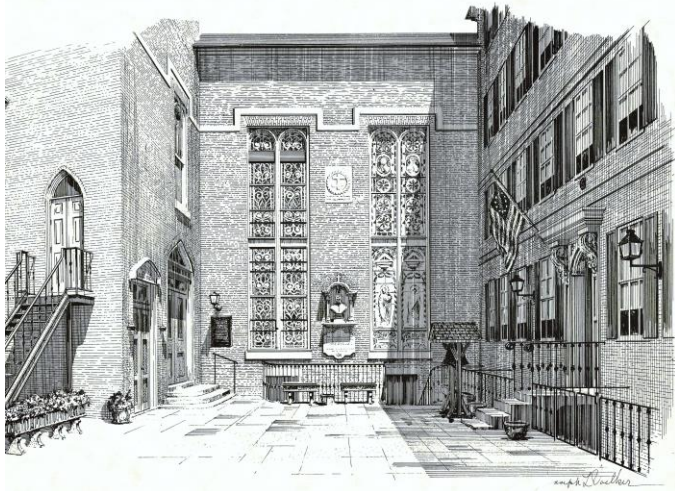
Sunday, December 10 after the 11:30am Mass: Post-Mass Lunch @ Oh Brothers: All young adults are invited! Jackie W will lead the group. Please look for her in the courtyard after Mass so we can walk to lunch together! If you are meeting us at the restaurant, please email osjyac@gmail.com so we know to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

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)

In Residence Br. Robert Carson SJ

Business Manager

Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music

Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate for Weddings

Donna Soultoukis (dsoultoukis@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices (office@oldstjoseph.org)

PREP & Baptism Coordinator

Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director

Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Pastoral Council

Pastor, Fr. Francis Hannafey; Chair, John Bitterman

Secretary, Nina Vitullo (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)

Friendship Circle (former Eldership Committee)

John Welsh (friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life

Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

John Bitterman (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship

Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community

Danielle Critelli (osjyac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers

Len Mancini (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry

Dennis Faucher (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry

TBA (office@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors

Kathleen Catanese (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers and Scheduling

Nikola Sizgorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Nina Vitullo (clow@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food and Friends:

Deborah Hluchan and Mary Freedman

(faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Social Justice Committee

Sarah Johnson & Bob Culleton

(socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org)

Care for Creation Committee

Bill Stigliani (careforcreation@oldstjoseph.org)

MUSIC at OSJ



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

TODAY!!!!

**ADVENT LESSONS AND
CAROLS Sunday, Dec.**

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 for more information and to sign up. We are looking forward to hearing the children's voices lifted in song.



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**

are needed to serve the cider.

Please contact Joe Casey at parishlife@oldstjoseph.org. Thank you!



For a complete report of the recent **Adult Education Planning Survey**, please take a copy located in the back of the church. The four topics receiving the

greatest support were Women and Their Place in the Church, Catholic-Jewish Relations, The Relationship between Science & Religion, and LGBTQ People and Their Place in the Church.

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending December 10, 2023

Daily Mass:	\$31.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$2,465.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$1,473.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,976.00
Total Collection:	\$8,945.00

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



Thank you to everyone who attended Advent by Candlelight. Special thanks to Christine Eberle, our speaker, for her insightful dramatic interpretation of the story of Martha and Mary. As we continue in this Advent season, remember to take time for the One Thing Needed.

Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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the environment,
& yourself



➤ Patronize your
local businesses

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



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

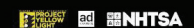
To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit

wreathscrossamerica.org

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Please call Bill Potter for
details (856) 607-3999

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

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**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

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the ASPCA
put a stop to
animal cruelty.



visit 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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