

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)



## Today's Gospel: Luke: 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High

will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Artwork: *Annunciation* (1344) by Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Italian



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 25	10:00 AM	Presider: Fr. Geinzer SJ			Christmas Day Mass
Tues 26	12:05 PM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Wed 27	12:05 PM	Edward & Mary Britt Family (D) Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Thurs 28	12:05 PM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	5:00 PM	Wedding reh: Ciraci & Cocelli	
			7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
Fri 29			3:00 PM	Wedding: Ciraci & Cocelli	
Sat 30					
Sun 31	7:30 AM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Bur SJ			
	9:30 AM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ			



# ADVENT GIVING TREE

## Thank You!

Many, many thanks to all those who so graciously donated books to the students of the Gesu School and clothing and gift cards to the Sisters of St. Joseph Welcome Center through this year's Advent Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

### 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!*



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, *Alass 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!

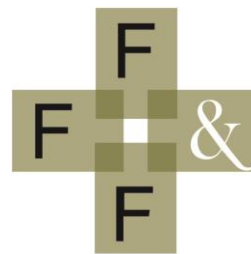


**YAC Scripture Reflection Group:** All young adults are invited on Sundays to discuss and reflect as a group the weekend's readings. The structure will include a reading of the scripture for that day, followed by a short bit of quiet prayer before an opportunity for sharing and discussion. Materials 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

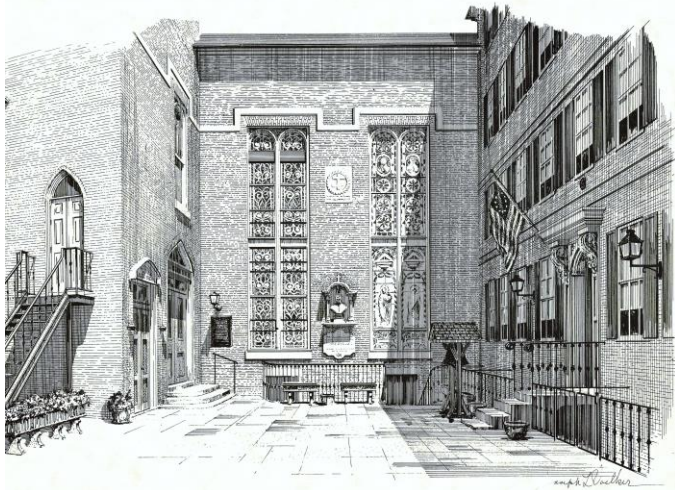
**YAC EVENTS:** Sun. January 7 after 11:30am Mass: Lunch to celebrate Epiphany. Location TBD. Fri. January 19, PM TBD: Phila Museum of Art visit. January 21 after all Masses: Young Adult Coffee Hours in Barbelin Hall. For more info, please email osjyac@gmail.com.

**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))



## MUSIC at OSJ

**Christmas Eve Music:** On Christmas Eve, tonight, Sunday, Dec. 24, as Prelude Music for our 9:00 PM Choral Mass, the choir, under the direction of Dr. Bani will present 20 minutes of festive Christmas prelude music, beginning at 8:40 PM. Both prelude music and music for the 9:00 PM Mass will include music by Daquin, Hadley, Rutter, and Willcocks.



**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](mailto: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.

The **Knitting and Crocheting Group of OSJ** donated 228 handmade items (hats, scarves, mittens, baby blankets) to Project Home and The Aquinas Center. If you would like to join or make a donation, please leave your contact information at [office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org).



**WOMEN**  
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

The **Women, Faith and Fellowship Committee** invites the women of the parish and female guests to its Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, December 31st from 10 AM until 11:15 AM in the Drexel Parlor in the Rectory. Please RSVP to [wff@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org).

## FINANCIAL INFO

Due to our bulletin printing company's holiday schedule, the December 17<sup>th</sup> collection was not counted in time for inclusion in this week's bulletin and will be published next week. Thank you for your continued support of Old St. Joseph's Church.

### 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:  
**Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Christmas Music Memorials, Christmas Flowers Memorials, and Solemnity of Mary**  
The keywords are  
*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



# Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



*"We are a member of this great Parish,  
Proudly serving the Parishioners  
and Clergy for over 30 years"*

**215-271-0950**

Offices - 1213 S. Broad Street • Phila., PA 19147

Email: [ronrex@comcast.net](mailto:ronrex@comcast.net)



"For All of Your Real Estate Needs"

Representing Philadelphia  
Born • Raised • Resident

**Nick Selvaggi**  
REALTOR®

m: 215-470-4000  
email: [NickSelvaggiRE@gmail.com](mailto:NickSelvaggiRE@gmail.com)



**PLEASE!**



Only you can  
prevent forest fires

*Please Continue  
To Pray For*



*World Peace*

Help your community,  
the environment,  
& yourself



➤ Patronize your  
local businesses

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



**WREATHS**  
— across —  
**AMERICA**

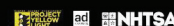
To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit

[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

[STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG](http://STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG)



**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.*



**USA**  
**INSULATION**  
Comfort & Savings  
Since 1985

Don't miss out... CALL TODAY!  
**484.739.7791**

**DOUBLE YOUR SAVINGS WITH  
★ OUR EXCLUSIVE OFFER! ★**

We have an incredible offer that will help you **SAVE BIG** while making a positive impact on the planet.

**INTRODUCING OUR \$1200 TAX  
CREDIT MATCH PROMOTION!**



Transform your home and your  
finances in one fell swoop!

\*Offer valid for whole home installs at the time of the appointment. Terms and conditions apply, expires 12/31/23.

[usainsulation.net/Philadelphia](http://usainsulation.net/Philadelphia)