

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 31, 2023 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Today's Gospel: Luke: 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people

Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Artwork: *St. Simeon with the Child Jesus* – Hendrick Bloemaert, Utrecht (1609-1666)



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 1		Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Note: Not a holyday of obligation this year.		Happy New Year to Everyone!
Tues 2	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	7:00 PM	Parish Council Zoom Mtg
Wed 3	12:05 PM	<i>Eleanor Jones (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		
Thurs 4	12:05 PM	<i>Viktoria Sizgoric Zoric (D)</i> Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin Hall) RCIA
Fri 5				
Sat 6			10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin Hall)
Sun 7	7:30 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Bur SJ <i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i> Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ	Post-Masses 1:30 PM	Parish Council Listening Sessions (Barbelin Hall) Group Baptisms (Church)

THANK YOU

We offer our warmest thanks to all who helped to make the season bright here at OSJ! Thanks to Mark Bani, the Schola Cantorum, our cantors, and the children who sang so beautifully at our Masses. To all our liturgical ministers – thank you! Thanks to Joe Casey and his crew for the beautiful decorations inside and out and for the after-Mass courtyard socials. Thanks to Ron Rex Piselli for the loan of his antique Florentine statue of the infant Christ. Finally, warm thanks to all of you for your generosity in the Advent and Christmas collections and for your many kindnesses to the parish. You are a great blessing and Christmas gift. We wish you all a very blessed New Year!

Giving Tree Thanks

On behalf of the Children of the Gesu School and the Sisters of St Joseph Welcome Center in Kensington, many thanks for including them in your Christmas Gift Giving. Through your generosity we collected 180 books for the Gesu Children, and 48 sweatshirts/pants and 72 gifts cards for the SSJ. It was a very impressive collection. Many, many thanks from our friends at Gesu & SSJ and the OSJ Social Justice Committee.

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.



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, Ushers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: please log in to the app or website and volunteer now for upcoming assignments in your ministry. In order to maintain a fair and balanced schedule, we need each person to serve at least once every month. Thank you for your faithful service to your parish! +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

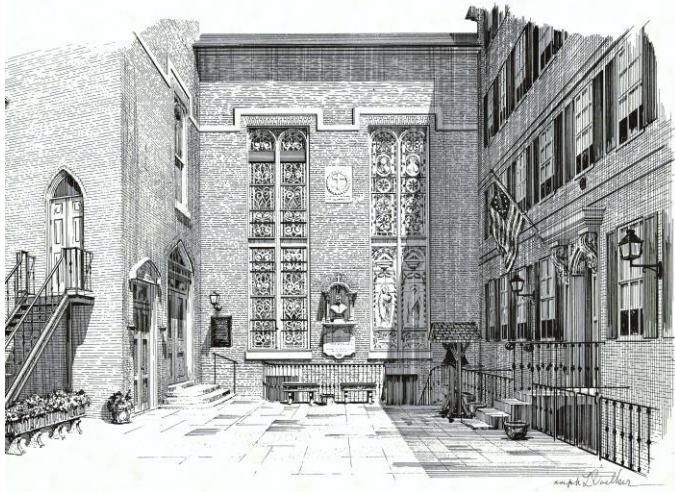
YAC EVENTS: Sun. January 7 after 11:30am Mass: Lunch to celebrate Epiphany. Location TBD. **Fri. January 19, PM TBD:** Phila Museum of Art visit. **January 21 after all Masses:** Young Adult Coffee Hours in Barbelin Hall. **For more info, please email osjyac@gmail.com.**

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.

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)

SURVEY Results

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.



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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bring a Friend! Coffee Hours for Young Adults on January 21, 2024:

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, OSJ Parish Council will sponsor coffee hours after the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses for young adults (anyone under the age of 40). ALL ARE INVITED.

The theme will be "A Taste of Italy (Philadelphia Style)" and we will offer Italian coffee and pastries, as well as music, conversation, and fellowship. We invite all young adults to come and bring any friends who are young adult Philly residents. RSVP at osjpc@oldstjoseph.org or just come after the Masses.

We are looking forward to meeting you and helping to expand the young adult community in our parish.



FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending December 17, 2023

Daily Mass:	\$15.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$3,579.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$654.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$5,257.46
Total Collection:	\$9,505.46

Thank you

The **Sunday collection for December 24th** was not counted in time for inclusion in this weekend's bulletin due to our printing company's holiday schedule.

The **Christmas collections** will be published in the January 21 bulletin to allow time for late donations. End of the year 2023 contribution statements will be snail-mailed before the end of January.

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:

Christmas, Christmas Music Memorials, Christmas Flowers Memorials, and Solemnity of Mary

The keywords are

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



Requiescat in Pace

Former longstanding OSJ parishioner **Geraldine Kinderman** passed away on December 19. Her Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Christ Our Light Church in Cherry Hill, NJ on Friday, Dec. 22. Please keep the Kinderman and Poyatt Families and their friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Eternal rest, grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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To Pray For*



World Peace

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& yourself



➤ Patronize your
local businesses

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



WREATHS
— across —
AMERICA

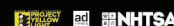
To sponsor, volunteer or donate, visit

wreathscrossamerica.org

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



GOD BLESS AMERICA

Please help 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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