

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

October 6, 2024 | The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



Today's First Reading:
Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought

her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.



We have a 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 entryway bulletin boards.

This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date					
Mon	7				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Old St Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
8		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>No Announced Mass</i>			
9		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Old St Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
10		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal (Barbelin)	
Fri	11				
Sat			10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>No Announced Mass</i>	10:30 AM	Ministry & Committee Mtg. (Barbelin)	
13		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers	
	9:30 AM	<i>Mary Louise Melso (D)</i>			
		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. O'Donnell SJ			

Join the OSJ Children's Choir Ministry! We are thrilled to announce that the OSJ Children's Choir is expanding its ministry this year, offering even more opportunities for our young singers to grow spiritually and in service to our parish community. **First Rehearsal:** October 20th, immediately following the 9:30 AM Mass. **Rehearsal Duration:** 15 minutes. **Who Can Join:** All grade school age children. **Leadership:** The choir will be directed by our Music Director Dr. Mark Bani in collaboration with the CLOW leadership. We look forward to seeing your children's voices lift in song! To join our email lists and receive updates on other parish children's programming please email Nina Vitullo at vitullon@oldstjoseph.org.



OSJ PRAYER LIST

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

Peg and Mike Connolly, Dave Phelps, Gary Bushelli, Mary Lou Crompton, Joseph Kahriger Jr, Richard Swift, Grazyna Kolondra, Linda Piantoni, Larry Carlin, George Westby, Gloria Brull, Fran DelRe, Darla Himles, Aurelia Bond, Denise Domitrovic, Wayne Franks, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Sr. Maria Christi Drysdale GNSH, Greg Alexander, Bob Moore, Janice Moore, Michael Nardi, Rosario Lamberto, Gina Hil, Mary Beggy, Paul Smith, Susanna Mazzoleni, Rosemarie Greco, Anne Morrissey, John Butts, Allen May

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 Old Saint Joseph's reading group will meet on Tuesday 5 November in the Loyola Room in the rectory at 7.30 p.m. Book to be announced next week. New members are welcome. Contact Carol Shloss shlosscarol@gmail.com.



May 12 - 25, 2025, Italy Pilgrimage with the St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation: Join the St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for an Italy Pilgrimage to the Shrines of the Eucharistic Miracles. The pilgrimage offers the opportunity to explore some of Europe's most magnificent churches and basilicas during the Jubilee in 2025! The pilgrimage is offered through Trinity Tour Travels. Hosts: Fr. Matthew Phelan, O.deM., Vicar of the Mercedarian Religious Order and Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, Philadelphia, and Anne DeSantis, Executive Director for the St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation. To learn more and/or to register: <https://trinitytourtravels.com/anne-desantis-father-matthew-whelan>. Questions? director.srnf@gmail.com



Save the Date! Women, Faith and Fellowship's annual Advent by Candlelight gathering for women of Old St. Joseph's parish and their female guests will be held **Wednesday evening, December 4th** in Barbelin Hall. More details to follow.

Please Note: Women, Faith and Fellowship will **not** meet for Coffee and Conversation on Sunday, October 27th. We will gather again on Sunday, November 24th. Looking forward to seeing you in November.

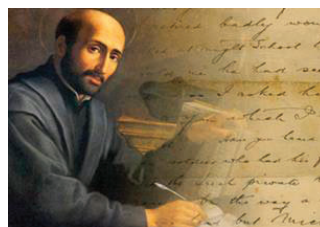


WOMEN
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



LGBTQ Prayer Group – All are invited to join a monthly prayer group. Our next meeting is on **October 20**. The group meets every third Sunday after the 11:30 AM Mass and coffee hour. Please find Robert Lord-Schell at coffee

hour who will lead the group to the Drexel room at 1:30 PM. The meetings will consist of prayer, scripture reading and discussion. Contact Robert Lord-Schell at Robert.lord.schell@icloud.com for more details. We hope you will join us.



The OSJ Ignatian Spirituality Committee is developing an Initiative to promote opportunities for our parish to experience the 19th Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius - a

version of the Spiritual Exercises that is performed amid our daily lives. This is in accordance with the first Universal Apostolic Preference of the Society of Jesus to show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment.

To that end, we are working to form a group of qualified Spiritual Directors who can be available to our parish. If you are a trained Director of the Spiritual Exercises or know someone who is, please contact us at osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org and we will provide you with details about the plan so that you can determine if you would like to be involved.

On November 10, 2024, at 10:30 (between the 9:30 and 11:30 masses) we will host a Parish informational session to be presented by Christine Szczepanowski about the Spiritual Exercises. It will focus on what the exercises are and the ways they can be experienced, including in an individual one-on-one method with a director or part of a group exercise.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.

—From the Members of OSJ's Ignatian Spirituality & Formation Committee



Catholic History Lecture: On Tuesday, **October 15** at 7:00pm on ZOOM, the American Catholic Historical Society is pleased to have Dr. Leah Mickens speaking on her award-winning book, *In the Shadow of Ebenezer*, which looks

at the history of Our Lady of Lourdes, a Black Catholic parish in Atlanta, during the era of Civil Rights and Vatican II. The event is free for ACHS members and \$10 for non-members. Please visit www.amchs.org to register and to receive the ZOOM link.



Old St. Joseph's Church Distributes Blessing Bags Empowering Children to put Their Faith in Action!

People with no place to call home can be seen nearly everywhere in most cities and towns. Sometimes we encounter them asleep on a park bench or huddled over a steam grate in the winter for warmth on a cold day. Frequently we see them on a street corner hoping a kind person will give them something to help them survive another day. Some of them suffer from mental health issues exacerbated by drug and alcohol abuse, but no matter what the reason for their plight these vulnerable people need our assistance.

When we happen upon these unfortunate individuals, we wonder what we can do to help. The children of Old St. Joseph Parish (OSJ) in center city Philadelphia are providing one solution: Blessing Bags. Under the tutelage of Pastoral Assistant, Ms. Nina Vitullo, parish children who are part of CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word), are assembling various items for these Blessing Bags. Included in their contributions is information regarding local services offered to the homeless population as well as some non-perishable snacks along with other items that can help persons lacking shelter as they navigate the difficulties they face living on the street.

"The Blessing Bag initiative is designed to engage children in acts of faith and justice" said Vitullo. "I want them to know and love their faith and I hope this collaborative effort will shape their lives and create a hope-filled future," She added. Pastor of OSJ, Father Hannafey also addressed the children as they gathered to discuss assembling the items that would be placed in each Blessing Bag. When asked about the project Father Hannafey said "This is a wonderful opportunity for our parish children and community to serve the poor and reflect on complex questions of social and economic justice." All the children in attendance echoed the sentiments of six-year-old Taylor G. who said, "filling the bags made her feel very good because she wished they all had a home." This particular project began last school semester and will continue as an ongoing collaborative effort. The children have completed filling some of the Blessing Bags, and distribution by parishioners began after the Ministry Fair in September when they received these items to give to homeless individuals in need of help. Basically, this project allows everyone who participates to be "good Samaritans" to those unshel-

-tered individuals who are struggling to meet their day-to-day needs. As Jesus suggests in this parable anyone who requires compassion is our neighbor and worthy of love in the form of a helping hand. Ms. Vitullo views this initiative as a "way to encourage the children to see their efforts as faith in action as well as one to reflect on the spiritual component of fulfilling the gospel message."

After the bags were blessed by Father Hannafey, the children received questions and prompts to facilitate discussion among family members. They also were given a special prayer emphasizing the difficulties faced by the homeless and the importance of giving a gift designed to ameliorate their unfortunate situation. "Since parents are the first teachers for their children, we felt it was important to provide a way for families to foster the message of charity and its importance in daily life," said Vitullo.

Blessing bags have been a part of charitable culture for several years. Ms. Vitullo adopted the idea to inspire the children participating in CLOW "to assume the mantle of charity to help those individuals they encounter who are homeless." By encouraging the children to participate in this charitable work, Vitullo hopes their involvement "will foster meaningful volunteerism among young parishioners." Eventually, she wants to see the project spread to children from other parishes, and she has already invited some school groups to participate in this venture at Old St. Joseph Church.



OPENING MUSIC EVENT

All are invited to our opening music event here at OSJ! **Sunday, November 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM:** Piano Recital by our parishioner, Michael Caruso, with pupils from the Settlement Music School. Compositions by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Scriabin, and Rachmaninoff. (Free will offering)



Care for Creation Committee: For our celebration of the feast of St. Francis on October 6, we are inviting parishioners to think about the gift of God's

beautiful creation and our thankfulness for all that has been given to us. We will provide a "basket of gratitude" at the 9:30 coffee hour to collect your reflections on one aspect of the Creation for which you are most grateful. The reflections will be shared during our care for creation celebration with the CLOW children on October 20.

The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits bicycles from being locked to railings, benches, or other objects that block the right of way. Please use the bike rack located on the church's north patio. Thanks!

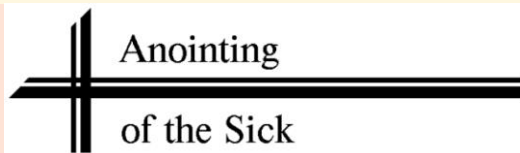


Children's Liturgy of The Word

CLOW

Children's Liturgy of the Word and the Care for Creation Committee will be hosting an artistic event for the children at the 9:30 coffee hour on

October 20. Please join us as the kids will be invited to paint colorful ladybugs rocks. Their artwork will decorate the Freedom Garden, planted by FF&F guests in the green space on the north side of the church. (All art supplies as well as aprons will be provided.)



The Anointing of the Sick takes place at the 7:30 AM Mass on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the month. Today is the first Sunday – October 6.

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending September 29, 2024

Daily Mass Collection	\$31.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$1,130.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,223.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$2,723.00
Total Collection:	\$8,107.00

Thank you for supporting Old St. Joseph's Church.

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COMPARISON

Sept. 2023: \$31,577 (Four Sundays)

Sept. 2024: \$43,459 (Five Sundays)

Since Sept. 2023 had 4 Sundays and Sept. 2024 had 5 Sundays, we took a weekly average for the September comparison:

September 2024 shows an average weekly increase of \$797.55 or 9.18% over September 2023.

Thank you for your increased generosity to OSJ!

From the Pastor

I hope that you are all enjoying the transition into the Fall season. Thanks to each of you who were able to participate in the recent Welcome Back Sunday and the Ministry Fair gatherings at OSJ. Let's continue to pray for each other and for our little parish on The Alley as we move into a new season together.

I wanted to let you know that at today's 9:30 and 11:30 Masses we welcome Fr. Brendan Gottschall, S.J., who will preside and preach. Brendan was ordained to the priesthood this past summer and he now serves as Assistant Director and Promoter of Vocations for the USA East Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). I came to know Brendan some years ago when he spent some time working with us at the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies. Brendan, a graduate of Georgetown University, is here with us to let our parish know more about the ongoing vocation efforts of our Jesuit Province and to also meet with Jesuit alumni and friends of Jesuit schools. He will be joining us at our post-Mass socials to speak and meet with us informally. I hope you'll have the chance to speak with Fr. Brendan after Mass or during the coffee hours while he is with us.

The wedding season is picking up speed once again for the parish. We continue to celebrate the joyful marriages for many new couples. Most of these marriage celebrations take place on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays you may notice the beautiful flower arrangements generous couples leave for our parish community to enjoy following their celebrations with us.

Prayers and good wishes,

Francis T. Hannafey, S.J.
Pastor

Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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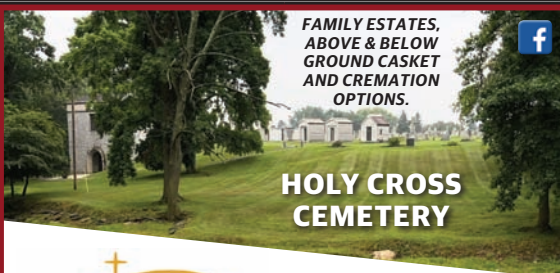
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Let's **TACO**
'bout the need
for blood.



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.

