

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 1, 2024 | First Sunday of Advent (C)



Today's Gospel: Luke: 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."



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	2				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
3	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ				
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	7:00 PM	Advent by Candlelight (Barbelin)	
4	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ				
Thurs	10:00 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
5	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal (Church & Barbelin)	
Fri	6				
Sat			10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)	
7					
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:30 AM	Blessing Bag Event	
8	Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ			Children's Choir Rehearsal	
	9:30 AM	<i>Brendan Minihan (D)</i>	3:00 PM	Messiah, Part I (Church)	
	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers	
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			



Old St. Joseph's Advent Giving Tree 2024

Our Advent Giving Tree returned last weekend a week earlier than usual to give everyone an extra week to **return their gifts by Sunday, December 15**. Please take one or more of the 200+ tags from the tree and buy a picture book or early reader for a child of **The Gesu School** located at 17th & Thompson Streets. Best if you can offer books that reflect children of diverse backgrounds as the Gesu students are 99% Black. Also, this year, we will be supporting the **Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center** in Kensington as they help to improve the lives of recent immigrants to Philadelphia through education, support services and preparation for Citizenship Exam. Most needed are gift cards to local stores.

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 15. The book gifts will be given to the Gesu students pre-K through Grade 2. This is a very special event for these children, and we are very grateful that so many of you participate so generously every year. The books will be distributed by Santa at the Gesu Christmas Party.

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.

Louise Cruz-Vizcaino, Leslie Ronaldson Haskins, Paul Smith, Barbara Merdiushev, Bonnie Park, Peggy and Mike Connolly, Gary Bushelli, Mary Lou Crompton, Joseph Kahriger Jr, Richard Swift, Grazyna Kolondra, Linda Piantoni, George Westby, Gloria Brull, Fran DelRe, Darla Himles, Aurelia Bond, Denise Domitrovic, Wayne Franks, Fr. Jerry McAndrews SJ, Sr. Maria Christi Drysdale GNSH, Susanna Mazzoleni, 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.



Women, Faith and Fellowship invite the women of Old St. Joseph's parish and their female guests to *Advent by Candlelight* on Wednesday, December 4, 2024. The topic for the evening is "Awe: Finding the Divine in Daily Life." Bernadette Rudolph of the Cranaleith Spiritual Center in Philadelphia will discuss how neurobiology tells us that awe is our emotional response to something greater than ourselves and explore how our experiences of Christmas wonder can strengthen our relationship with God this Advent. Doors open at 6:30 PM in Old St. Joseph's Barbelin Hall and the program begins at 7 PM. Light refreshments served from 8 to 9 PM. We hope you can join us for an evening of Advent fellowship and spiritual reflection. **Please RSVP by November 30th to wff@oldstjoseph.org**

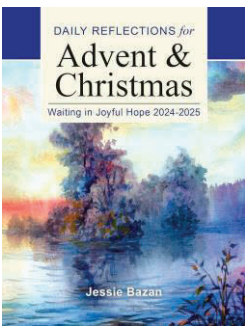


WOMEN
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP
to gather for "Coffee and Conversation" on Sunday, December 29th from 10 AM to 11:15 AM in the Drexel Parlor in the Rectory. Looking forward to seeing you. Please RSVP to wff@oldstjoseph.org

Please Join Us! The Women, Faith and Fellowship Committee invites women of the parish and female guests to gather for "Coffee and Conversation" on Sunday, December 29th from 10 AM to 11:15 AM in the Drexel Parlor in the Rectory. Looking forward to seeing you. Please RSVP to wff@oldstjoseph.org



LGBTQ Prayer Group – Please join us for a monthly prayer group. All are welcome! The group will meet every fourth Sunday after the 11:30 AM Mass. Please find Robert Lord-Schell, who will lead the group to the Drexel Room in the Rectory at 12:30 PM. The meetings will consist of prayer, scripture reading, and discussion. The next meeting will take place on December 22. Contact Robert Lord-Schell at Robert.lord.schell@icloud.com for more details. We hope you will join us.



Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas

The OSJ Ignatian Spirituality Committee invites all parishioners to set aside a few minutes a day during these beautiful seasons to pray at home with **Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas**. This year's book of reflections, based on the daily Scripture readings, is written by Jessie Bazan. Subtitled "Waiting in Joyful Hope," each entry includes suggestions for applying the passages to your own life. **Booklets are available in the back of the church.**



The OSJ Reading Group will meet next on Tuesday, 3 December at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom. Our book for the month is *Long Island* by Colm Toibin. To be added to the group, contact Carol Shloss at shlosscarol@gmail.com.

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 when riding your bike to OSJ and be certain to lock it.** Thanks!



St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, 24th and Poplar Sts., Philadelphia, invites you to "One Faith – Many Voices: God is

With Us", a concert of sacred music drawn from both Eastern and Western Advent and Christmas traditions sung by a professional quintet under the direction of Dr. Donald Meineke. Music from the Eastern tradition include compositions by Bortniansky and Lysenko along with chant and Ukrainian Christmas Carols; from the Western tradition, by MacMillan, Jernberg, Weelkes and Victoria. A post-concert reception will feature the works of local contemporary painter Mykhailo Danylovysh. Light refreshments are included. Save the date: Saturday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are bargain-priced at \$15 at the door. Ticket sales support the parish's special outreach to Ukrainian refugees living here and humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine. We hope to see you there!



The Friendship Circle Invites You to Enjoy PANORAMA PRANZA, a TRADITIONAL ITALIAN SUNDAY SUPPER on Sunday, December 15, at 2:00 PM, after the 11:30 Mass coffee hour. Panorama is located at Penn's View Hotel, 14 N. Front St., just above Market. Get to know our

Parishioners better over a family style feast at the Sena's delightful restaurant. Check out the menu and prices at www.pennsviewhotel.com/panorama/calendar/panorama-pranzo. **In order to make a reservation an RSVP is required.** Let us know you'll be joining us by emailing us at friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org. — Let's eat!



OSJ CONTACT 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

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 takes place during the 7:30 Mass on the First Sunday of each month.

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)

Pastoral Associate

Nina Vitullo (vitullon@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

LouAnne Bulik & Cynthia Locke

(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

Robert Lord-Schell (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



Messiah Concert today!

All are invited to the highlight of our music season here at OSJ! Today, **Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, at 3:00 PM** our parish choir, the Schola

Cantorum, under the direction of Dr. Bani, will present Part I of Handel's sublime oratorio, **Messiah**. Handel's masterpiece, *Messiah*, has been regarded as among the greatest of music compositions in Western music. Wrote Handel, upon completion of his masterwork: "I did think I did see all heaven before me and the great God Himself!" A reception will follow today's concert. *A free will offering will be gratefully accepted.*



**Anointing
of the Sick**

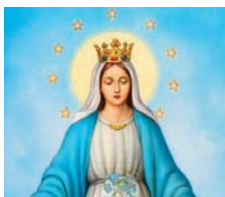
The Anointing of the Sick takes place on the first Sunday of the month at the 7:30 AM Mass. The next anointing will take place today Sunday, December 1.

Ministry Schedule

The ministry schedule for the month of December (including Christmas Eve at 4:00pm and 9:00pm, and Christmas Day at 10:00am) has been posted online!

Please volunteer now for upcoming assignments in your ministry at <https://www.oldstjoseph.org> (click sign-up to serve in a ministry). Your active participation is a vital part of our sacred liturgies. Thank you for your faithful service to your parish! +AMDG!

Our December 15 coffee hours will be sponsored by OSJ's Friendship Circle. There will also be a card-making activity for the children at the 10:30 coffee hour.



Since **Immaculate Conception** falls on Sunday, Dec. 8, Advent II this year, the Holyday is transferred to Monday, Dec. 9 causing it to not be a Holyday of Obligation this year. Therefore, we have no scheduled

Mass on Monday, December 9, 2024.

FINANCIAL INFO

Due to our bulletin company's Thanksgiving weekend deadline, the November 24th collection was not counted in time for this week's bulletin and will be published next week. As always, thank you for your continued support of Old St. Joseph's Church.

Thank you

Retired Religious Collection Next Weekend: December 8

Please give as generously as you are able.

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

OCTOBER COLLECTION COMPARISON

October. 2023: \$40,838 (Five Sundays)

October. 2024: \$35,502 (Four Sundays)

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

October 2024 shows an average weekly increase of \$708.00 or 8% over October 2023.

Thank you for your increased generosity to OSJ!

OSJ Sunday Vespers on Zoom:

Every Sunday at 5PM, we offer a Zoom Vespers/Evening Prayer for anyone interested. If you are not already an active participant and would like to be, please contact Stephen Paesani at spaesani@gmail.com and he will send you the Zoom link.



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
& y kingdom come
& y 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.*

