

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 22, 2024 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)



The Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."



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	23				
Tues	4:00 PM	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u>	
24	9:00 PM	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	closed	Faith, Food, & Friends – closed this week	
Wed	10:00 AM	Presider: Fr. Donaldson SJ		<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u>	
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>William Byrne (D)</i>	closed	Faith, Food & Friends – closed this week	
26		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Fri	27				
Sat			closed	Faith, Food & Friends – closed this week	
28					
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Women, Faith & Fellowship (Greateon)	
29		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers	
	9:30 AM	<i>James & Isabelle Casey (D)</i>			
		Presider: Fr. Bur SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Bur SJ			



OSJ's HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00pm
Organ & Choral Selections at 8:40pm followed by Mass at 9:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25
Mass at 10:00am only

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Mass at 10:00am

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!

OSJ PRAYER LIST

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

Ed Tomezsko, 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, 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.



Dear Parishioners and Friends of Old St. Joseph's Church:

This is no ordinary Christmas. In fact, every Christmas is extraordinary when we consider what Christ's birth means for us and for the world. I was never that skilled in high level calculus (my teachers told me I

was much better in geometry, he says with all humility). By my rough calculation, Old St. Joseph's Church has now celebrated Christmas approximately 291 or 292 times in its history depending upon the precise time of the year our parish was first founded. (my rough math; $2024 - 1733 = 291$). This is extraordinary. We welcome Christmas this year with renewed gratitude, celebration, and hope in God's promises to us.

The newborn Jesus on the first Christmas came into the world vulnerable and subject to the reality of his time and place. There was no room for him at the inn but he was welcomed by Mary and Joseph with love. Christ came into the world with all the fragility of a newborn infant—still with great promise and hope for the future. This same Christ who lives among us now knows how to meet each of us in our present. May we find new ways to let him in deeper, into our hearts, our minds, and also our hurts, even into our loss and disappointments, but above all let us welcome the newborn Christ into our joy this year.

The true meaning of Christmas began with the birth of Jesus to Mary. May the mystery and blessings of Christmas continue to grow within each of us as we give birth to Christ each day of our lives. Thank you for the faith you show and share by your lives and presence in the Old St. Joseph Parish community. Thank you also for your devotion to our parish and for your ongoing support and service to our Christian community here on The Alley and beyond.

On behalf of the OSJ Parish Staff may our generous God bless each of us abundantly this Christmas. Warm wishes and prayers for the arrival of the New Year.

Blessings and Merry Christmas!

Francis T. Hannafey, S.J.
Pastor



On Sunday, December 15, our parish children created Christmas cards to be shared with patients at Pennsylvania Hospital. These cards, filled with well wishes and prayers from our parish community, will be distributed by members of our Hospital Ministry. Let's please continue to keep the patients of Pennsylvania hospital and the staff in our prayers.

A special thank you to the OSJ Children's Choir for beautifully leading us through all four Sundays of Advent and proclaiming at our Christmas Eve 4 PM Mass! If you're interested in joining the OSJ Children's Choir, please reach out to Nina Vitullo at vitullon@oldstjoseph.org for more details.



Faith, Food & Friends – Our Christmas Wishes:

During 2024, we have continued to see increases in the number of hungry and housing-insecure men and women coming to Faith, Food & Friends 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 every Thursday. To meet our guests' basic needs through the winter months, our Christmas wish list includes donations of the following items: *Bar soap; travel-size deodorant; travel-size body lotion and disposable twin blade razors.* This program, run by FF&F volunteers, helps restore dignity, cleanliness and confidence for those we serve.

Please visit the Faith, Food & Friends Amazon wish list ([click here](#)) (URL address listed below) where you can find these essentials and other items that would be most appreciated by our guests. We ask that you consider making a gift to FF&F of one or more of these items, by ordering through Amazon or a retailer of your choice or by delivering the items directly to OSJ. In addition to items identified on the wish list, an item frequently requested by our guests is a roll of toilet paper. To assure that we have an adequate supply on hand to distribute a roll when requested, we are seeking donations of large size packages of toilet paper. These can be purchased most economically at big box stores and may be dropped off at OSJ any time that the rectory is open.

We thank you for your generous support of FF&F and our guests. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1ADBXS5SJA64N?ref_=wl_share



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)





Advent Reconciliation

Saturday, December 21st – 11AM – 12PM

Prepare for Christmas by participating in a Celebration of God's Forgiveness. Confessions will be heard in the church from 11:00 a.m. until Noon on Saturday, December 21st.

USHERS NEEDED FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES



Can you volunteer for the mass you're attending?

WE REMIND OUR USHERS that we still could use more help during our sacred liturgies on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Please click "Sign up to serve in a ministry" on the parish website, www.oldstjoseph.org.

—Thank you and Merry Christmas!

The OSJ Reading Group will meet next on Tuesday 7 January at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom. Our book for the next several months will be Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese. We will discuss only the first 200 pages. To join the group contact Carol Shloss: shlosscarol@gmail.com



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.

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending December 15, 2024

Daily Mass:	\$1,013.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$2,735.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,482.50
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$3,842.00
Total Collection:	\$12,072.50

Thank you

Did you know you can reduce your taxes by making a gift from your IRA directly to charity? If you are 70 & 1/2 years old or older, you can make a charitable gift up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA. This direct distribution can be made to Old St. Joseph's Church or Old St. Joseph's Historic Preservation Corp. If you have any questions, please contact Eric German.

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

NOVEMBER COLLECTION COMPARISON

November 2023: \$37,843

November 2024: \$36,903

November 2024 shows a decrease of \$940.00 or 2.48% over November 2023.

Thank you for your generosity to OSJ!



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

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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.*

