

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 15, 2024 | The Third Sunday of Advent (C)



Saint John the Baptist Preaching to the Masses in the Wilderness - oil on oak panel by Pieter Brueghel the Younger

Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.



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				8:00 AM	Church Cleaning
16					
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Norma J. Shepherd & Family (D)</i>		10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
17		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Larry Carlin (D)</i>		7:00 PM	Finance Council Zoom Mtg.
18		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Thurs	10:00 AM	<i>Giancarlo Mazzoleni (D)</i>		10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
19		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal (Church & Barbelin)
Fri				9:30 AM	SMIPS' Las Posadas Pageant (Church)
20				5:00 PM	Wedding reh: Nguyn & Suh
Sat				10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
21				3:00 PM	Wedding: Nguyn & Suh
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>		10:30 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
22		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers
	9:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>			
		Presider: Fr. Bur SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Bur SJ			



ADVENT GIVING TREE GIFTS ARE DUE TODAY!

Please bring your gifts wrapped with the tags attached to the church by 1:00 PM today. And thank you for your commitment and generosity to this annual program which brings joy to our neighbors who are in need.

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.



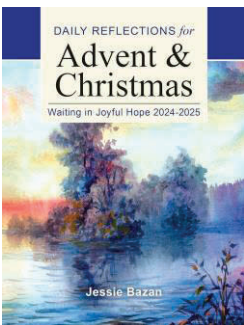
Thank you to everyone who participated in prayer, song and conversation at our Advent by Candlelight led by Bernadette Rudoph, MA, MS from Cranaleith Spiritual Center

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

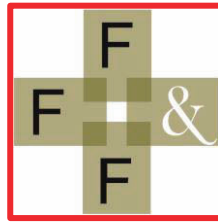
Room in the Rectory at 12:30 PM. The meetings will consist of prayer, scripture reading, and discussion. The next meeting will take place on December 22. Contact Robert Lord-Schell at Robert.lord.schell@icloud.com for more details. We hope you will join us.



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 pews and in the back of the church.**



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



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



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!



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.

MUSIC at OSJ

Children's Choir: An invitation to the children of our parish to join us for Children's Choir as we are preparing music for Advent and for Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are held each Sunday in the church following the 9:30 AM Mass. The Children's Choir will sing at our 4:00 PM Family Mass on Christmas Eve. All children are welcome!



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!

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending December 8, 2024

Daily Mass:	\$12.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$1,380.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,355.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$3,043.00
Total Collection:	\$8,790.00

Thank you

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!

Today's coffee hours are being sponsored by OSJ's Friendship Circle.



Christmas Card Making for PA Hospital & Homebound: December 15 during the 9:30 Mass Coffee Hour - Bring the spirit of Christmas to those who are sick or homebound. We will have a **card-making station** during coffee hour, where you can create cards for patients at **PA Hospital** and our **homebound parishioners**. Let's spread some Christmas cheer together!



Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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Christmas

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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.

