

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 8, 2024 | Second Sunday of Advent (C)



Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”



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				5:30 PM	Blessing Bag Assembly (Courtyard)
9				6:00 PM	PREP Advent Mass
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Edward and Mary Britt Family (D)</i>		10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
10		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Wed	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>			
11		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Thurs	10:00 AM	<i>Geraldine Marren and Family (D)</i>		10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
12		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ		7:00 PM	Choir rehearsal (Church & Barbelin)
Fri				5:00 PM	Wedding reh: Hogan & Gilman
13				6:00 PM	Wedding reh: Lees & Slattery
Sat				10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends (Barbelin)
14				1:00 PM	Wedding: Lees & Slattery
				3:30 PM	Wedding: Hogan & Gilman
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>		Post-Mass	Coffee Hours today (10:30 & 12:30)
15		Presider: Fr. Wagner SJ		10:30 AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 AM	<i>Cyrus C Convery (D)</i>		5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers
		Presider: Fr. Wagner SJ			
	11:30 AM	Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			



Your Advent Tree gifts need to be returned next 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 NEXT 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, 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.



OSJ's HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2024

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY & EVENING

Tuesday, December 24

Daily Mass at 12:05pm

Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00pm

Prelude, Organ & Choral Selections at 8:40pm followed by Mass at 9:00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

Mass at 10:00am only

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!

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

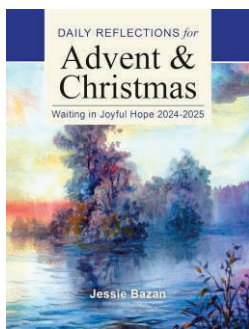
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Mass at 10:00am



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.**



Requiescat in Pace

Father **James "Jerry" McAndrews SJ** passed away at the age of 96 on Saturday, November 23. Father Jerry was a resident priest at OSJ from 2006-2016. Please keep Fr. McAndrews' family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

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



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



WOMEN
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

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



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

(adulsted@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, December 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.*

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!

**Ministry
Schedule**

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.



Blessing Bags for Advent & Christmas Distribution TODAY, December 8 after the 9:30 Mass Help us prepare **Blessing Bags** for those in need in our city. We will include **special cold-weather items** to share the message of **hope, peace, joy, and love**. Please join us as we spread love to our community this Advent.



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!



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!

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending November 24, 2024

Daily Mass:	\$5.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$995.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,737.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$2,439.00
Total Collection:	\$8,176.00

Offertory for the week ending December 1, 2024

Daily Mass:	\$55.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$500.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,860.50
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$2,923.00
Total Collection:	\$8,338.50

Thank you

Retired Religious Collection This 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

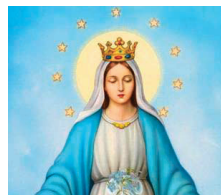
NOVEMBER COLLECTION COMPARISON

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!



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.

Ronald Rex Piselli Funeral Chapels Inc.



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Christmas

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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.*

