

# Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

December 29, 2024 | Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



*The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple (1860) – William Holman Hunt (1827-1910)*

## Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

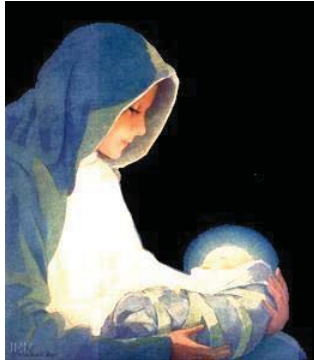


We have a hearing assistance system which requires a smartphone to operate. Instructions including the needed QR symbols, Wi-Fi address, password, and required software app download can be found on the entryway bulletin boards.

## This Week at Old St. Joseph's

Date					
Mon	30				
Tues	12:05 PM	<i>Marguerite Kenney (D)</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food, & Friends – closed this week	
31		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Wed	10:00 AM	Holyday – No Announced Mass Today	<a href="#"><u>SOLEMNITY of MARY – Mass at 10:00 AM</u></a>		
1		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ			
Thurs	12:05 PM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends – closed this week	
2		Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Barbelin)	
Fri	3				
Sat	4		10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends – closed this week	
Sun	7:30 AM	<i>James Convery (D)</i>		Coffee Hours: 10:30 & 12:30	
5		Presider: TBA	10:00 AM	Women, Faith & Fellowship (Greaton)	
	9:30 AM	<i>Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society</i>	12:30 PM	Lector Workshop (Church)	
		Presider: TBA	1:30 PM	Group Baptisms	
	11:30 AM	Presider: TBA	5:00 PM	Zoom Vespers	

### OSJ's 2025 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



### SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER of GOD

*A Holy Day of Obligation*

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

**Mass at 10:00 a.m.**

*Relaxed parking is available for this Mass. Place a 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!

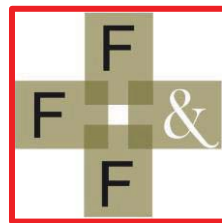
Francis T. Hannafey, S.J.  
Pastor

**Organ and Choral Concert: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at the Church of the Gesu, 6:30 p.m.** The Church of the Gesu is a Philadelphia, Catholic landmark. This concert will celebrate its legacy and offer an opportunity to experience the recently restored magnificent 1898 Hook and Hastings Organ as it resounds once more after a two-decade silence. Our concert will feature the Variant 6 vocal ensemble performing works by Palestrina, Charpentier, Pergolesi, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Gounod, & Stanford.

Organist: John Walthausen, Artistic Director of the Philadelphia Organ Festival. Conductor: Dr. Benjamin C.S. Boyle, European American Musical Alliance. Brief Lecture: Leo Vaccaro, St. Joseph's Prep Historian

Variant 6 Vocal Ensemble: Jessica Beebe, soprano; Rebecca Myers, soprano; Kristen Dubenion-Smith, mezzo soprano; Timothy Parsons, countertenor; Nickolas Karageorgiou, tenor; Daniel Taylor, tenor; Steven Eddy, baritone; Daniel Schwartz, bass (a 2005 graduate of St. Joseph's Prep)

**Ticket Prices:** Standard \$25 / Student \$15 / Prep Students Free



## 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](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](http://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](mailto:pastor@oldstjoseph.org))

**In Residence** Br. Robert Carson SJ

### Business Manager

Eric German ([germane@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:germane@oldstjoseph.org))

### Director of Music

Mark Bani ([music@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:music@oldstjoseph.org))

### Pastoral Associate for Weddings

Donna Soultoukis ([dsoultoukis@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:dsoultoukis@oldstjoseph.org))

### Pastoral Associate

Nina Vitullo ([vitullon@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:vitullon@oldstjoseph.org))

**Parish Offices** ([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

### PREP & Baptism Coordinator

Christine Szczepanowski ([prep@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:prep@oldstjoseph.org))

### Faith, Food & Friends Director

Deborah Hluchan ([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

### Parish Pastoral Council

Pastor, Fr. Francis Hannafey; Chair, John Bitterman

Secretary, Nina Vitullo ([osjpc@oldstjoseph.org](mailto: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](mailto:adulsted@oldstjoseph.org))

### Friendship Circle (former Eldership Committee)

John Welsh ([friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:friendshipcircle@oldstjoseph.org))

### Parish Life

Joe Casey ([parishlife@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:parishlife@oldstjoseph.org))

### Ignatian Spirituality and Formation

LouAnne Bulik & Cynthia Locke

([osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org))

### Women, Faith and Fellowship

Rana McNamara ([wff@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org))

### Altar Servers

Len Mancini ([altarserver@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:altarserver@oldstjoseph.org))

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bill Stewart ([EM@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:EM@oldstjoseph.org))

### Homebound Ministry

Dennis Faucher ([homeEM@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:homeEM@oldstjoseph.org))

### Hospital Ministry

Robert Lord-Schell ([office@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:office@oldstjoseph.org))

### Lectors

Kathleen Catanese ([lectors@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:lectors@oldstjoseph.org))

### Ushers and Scheduling

Nikola Sizgorich ([ushers@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:ushers@oldstjoseph.org))

### Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Nina Vitullo ([clow@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:clow@oldstjoseph.org))

### Faith, Food and Friends:

Deborah Hluchan and Mary Freedman

([faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org))

### Social Justice Committee

Sarah Johnson & Bob Culleton

([socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:socialjustice@oldstjoseph.org))

### Care for Creation Committee

Bill Stigliani ([careforcreation@oldstjoseph.org](mailto:careforcreation@oldstjoseph.org))





**The Knitting and Crocheting Group** of Old St. Joseph's donated 315 handmade items (hats, scarves, mittens, and blankets for men, women and children) to Project Home and Aquinas Center this December. If you would like to join or donate yarn,

please contact Eric German at the rectory.

**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 January 26. Contact Robert Lord-Schell at Robert.lord.schell@icloud.com for more details. We hope you will join us.



**Catholic History Lecture: On Sunday, January 19 at 2:00pm**, the American Catholic Historical Society (263 S. 4th Street) is pleased to have Father Thomas Betz, OFM Cap, speaking on the history of Holy Redeemer Church, Philadelphia. Founded in 1941, it has the

distinction of being the first Catholic church in the Western hemisphere built for Chinese people. The event is free and open to the public, with the option to attend in-person or view the livestream. Please visit [www.amchs.org](http://www.amchs.org) for more information and to register.

## FINANCIAL INFO

The **December 22 Sunday collection** was not counted in time for inclusion in this weekend's bulletin due to our printing company's early holiday schedule.

The **Christmas collections** will be published in the January 19 bulletin to allow time for late donations. End of the year 2024 contribution statements will be snail-mailed before the end of January.

*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:

**Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Christmas Music Memorials, Christmas Flowers Memorials, and Solemnity of Mary**

The keywords are

*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, January 26th 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](mailto:wff@oldstjoseph.org).

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Let's **TACO**  
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for blood.

American  
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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.*

