

Old St. Joseph's Church

Est. 1733 | Philadelphia's Jesuit Parish

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

June 8, 2025 | Pentecost Sunday



Sequence for Pentecost Sunday

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;
In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.
O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!
Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.
On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.
Amen. Alleluia.

Pentecost at the Pantheon: Each year in Rome, on Pentecost Sunday, thousands of red rose petals, symbolizing the descent of the Holy Spirit, are dropped from the oculus, the circular opening in the center of the Pantheon's dome. The tradition is thought to have started around 609 AD. During the Mass, the petals are dropped by the Vigili del Fuoco (firefighters) of Rome as the choir chants the sequence for Pentecost Sunday, *Veni Sancte Spiritus*.



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 9				
Tues 10	12:05 PM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	10:00 AM	Faith, Food, & Friends
Wed 12	12:05 PM	Edward and Mary Britt Family (D) Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	6:00 PM	St. Mary's School 8 th Graduation Mas
Thurs 13	12:05 PM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: Fr. Hannafey SJ	9:30 AM	St. Mary's End of School Year Mass
			10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends
			7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Fri 14			5:00 PM	Wedding reh: Hughes & Barry
Sat 15			10:00 AM	Faith, Food & Friends
			4:00 PM	Wedding: Hughes & Barry
Sun 16	7:30 AM	Old St. Joseph's Memorial Society Presider: TBA		Coffee Hours Today!!
			5:00 PM	Vespers
	9:30 AM	Anthony J. Giannini (D) Presider: TBA		
	11:30 AM	Presider: TBA		

OSJ PRAYER LIST

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

Helen Walsh, Betsy Reese, Cynthia Locke, Lucy Roehm, Bill Wilson, Gail Williams, Edie Jett, Corinne G Roberson Hickson, Joanne Vieth, John Stachowicz, Linda Avila, John Turlik, Mary Beggy, Steve & Nada Sizgorich, Bobby Score, Toni Tomei Culleton, Michael Caruso, Anita Thompson, Ed Tomezsko, Linda Cruz-Carnall, 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, Denise Domitrovic, 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.



The FF&F Freedom Gardeners have begun planting the garden.
Thank You to Bill and Debbie Stewart for the donation of plants.

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 **June 22**. Contact Robert Lord-Schell at Robert.lord.schell@icloud.com for more details. We hope you will join us.



Women, Faith and Fellowship's next "Coffee and Conversation" will take place on **Sunday, June 29th**.

The next meeting of the **OSJ Reading Group** will be in person on Tuesday, 3 June at 7.30. We'll meet in the Loyola Room in the rectory. Our book for the month is: *The Ride of Her Life* by Elizabeth Letts. To join, contact Carol Shloss: shlosscarol@gmail.com



Are you friendly and looking for a way to get involved in OSJ with low time-commitment? We are looking for parishioners from all masses and all age ranges to join the

Welcome Committee. Your main tasks will be reaching out to newly registered parishioners to help them learn more about the parish. You may learn more about OSJ in the process! Please email Parish Council member Emily Sheehan at welcome@oldstjoseph.org if you are interested.

Parish Pastoral Council Annual Report:

Our Parish Pastoral Council has released its annual report in preparation for scheduled parish-wide listening sessions on June 1. The report covers Council's efforts regarding the new website and Welcoming Committee; inviting participation in parish ministries and committees; administration of the parish outreach program, Faith Food and Friends; welcoming children and young people to parish life; and other Council work during the past year. The full report is available at the parish website and hard copies will be in the back of the church starting June 1.



Faith, Food & Friends – Bakers Needed!

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, Faith, Food & Friends serves a hearty, home-cooked meal to our guests. Each meal includes soup and/or salad, an entrée and sides, bread & butter, a dessert and beverages. Needless to say, home-baked desserts are the best! And this is where you can help out. We're currently looking for volunteer bakers to provide FF&F with home-baked desserts on Thursdays and Saturdays. Each dessert should serve 70 people. You can choose how often you'd like to bake.



If you're interested or would like more information, please contact FF&F at faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org or 215-923-2381. Be sure to include a phone number where we can get back to you. We hope to hear from you!



Director for Faith Food and Friends:

Since 1986, our parish outreach program, Faith Food & Friends (FF&F), has fostered a sense of community and served restaurant-style meals for up to 70 guests, three times per week. Our pastor Fr. Frank Hannafey, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, has decided to enhance the organization of our program by hiring a permanent, part time Program Director.

The Director of FF&F will be a member of the parish staff answering to the pastor, responsible for managing the program in all respects.

The Director should have a deep understanding of the program's mission, client base and the Jesuit values grounding this ministry. The Director should have managerial and administrative experience in social services and experience in food service programs for poor, homeless and marginalized adults. The full job description and qualifications are posted on the OSJ website. Anyone interested should contact the parish Business Manager, Eric German, at 215 923 1733 or office@oldstjoseph.org.



Are you looking for a way to help immigrants?

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Welcome Center is looking for volunteers to teach English to adult learners. No teaching or bilingual skills are required. Flexibility, a sense of humor and a strong desire to accompany newcomers are essential. Our current need is for online teachers for day and evening classes that meet twice a week for one hour. Our teachers enjoy teaching these classes independently or working with a friend as a pair of partner teachers who share the responsibility and the many positive experiences that come from working within our supportive learning community. Classes begin in September. Follow this link to a short survey to let us know your interest [bit.ly/4dFUIhh](https://ssjwelcomecenter.org), or visit our website <https://ssjwelcomecenter.org>.



A Visitor's Experience of Old Saint Joseph's Easter Triduum

It was twilight when I arrived at Old St. Joseph's Church on Holy Thursday. As I walked across town to attend mass at Philadelphia's oldest Catholic church, I felt the fresh excitement of an early Spring evening. Although it seemed like the branches had just been bare, the trees were in full flower or they were sprouting new leaves. Rhododendrons, tulips and daffodils filled the flower beds, and the sidewalks bustled with pedestrians and festive dinner parties. As I neared the entrance of Old St. Joseph's, I felt reassured by the watercolor sky, suffused with pale pink and soft lilac, and how it seemed to confirm the call for celebration.

The mass on Holy Thursday invites us to place ourselves at the Last Supper -- the final meal that Jesus and His disciples shared before His crucifixion and death on Good Friday. It stood out to me that Jesus chose to be with his disciples that night, knowing all he would face the next day. It would have been a time of great personal anguish, and choosing to be present with his friends not only would have taken great courage, but it also illustrates how important the disciples were to Him. It demonstrated to me that loving relationships provide comfort, and communities are intended to be a source of support, even during the most difficult times.

By washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus modeled the type of care He offers us and shows us how to care for others. We, too, were invited to have our feet washed during mass. The tenderness of the gesture and the richness in meaning stood out to me, perhaps more striking in a culture where people usually prefer more distance between one another. This tradition is a powerful reminder that although God can seem faraway, He is close. He already knows us well, and despite our messiness and imperfections, He still wants to be with us. He is even willing to be the one to extend the invitation, though whether we accept it or not is up to us.

Mass began in silence at 3:00 PM on Good Friday. It is difficult to contemplate the events of Good Friday — we see humanity at its absolute worst, and we're reminded of profound suffering and terrible injustice. We are confronted with the reality of death, and we may relive to

some degree the loneliness and grief we've experienced in our own lives. Yet, amazingly in response, Jesus brings great hope to these dark places and shows us the highest possible love. "There is no greater love than this, in laying down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13).

Old St. Joseph's Church was cloaked in darkness at the start of the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening. All the lights were turned off, and the church was quiet, though it was filled with people. Fading twilight could be seen through the large windows behind the altar. In striking contrast, the celebrants gathered in the back of the church, around a bright fire. We each held a slim white candle. The priests lit the first candles, and the flame was passed from person to person until every candle was lit. Hundreds of small flames flickered around the church, like stars in the sky. The light dispelled the gloomy darkness and created a sense of community and shared identity.

Later during mass, once the lights were back on, three young adults were welcomed into the church as full members. A young man was baptized and clothed in a white garment, and two others were fully initiated. To conclude the evening, Easter cookies and sparkling apple cider were served in the courtyard after mass, before everyone headed home to prepare for Easter Sunday the next day.

Attending the Easter Triduum services created space for me to imagine the actual events that lead up to Easter Sunday -- envisioning the Last Supper, trying to imagine in a very small way what it could have been like to witness Jesus's crucifixion and death, and contemplating the questions and mysteries these events raise. The Easter Triduum fostered a deeper engagement with what these events mean and how they could inform and interact with my own life. The Easter Vigil recreated the still, quiet darkness of the tomb after Jesus's death. This darkness was broken by hundreds of small flames — a fire representing faith and hope, and a rekindling of new life — shared among everyone there that night.

—S.C.





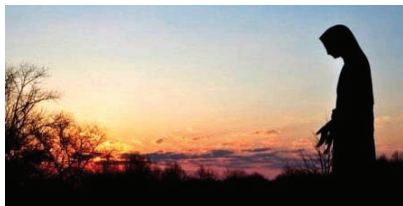
OSJ is in the process of updating its website and online donations platform to **eCatholic**, a company which supports over 8,000 Catholic churches worldwide.

You can access our new online giving site at donate.oldstjoseph.org/give or by clicking on this QR code to open your new online giving account with eCatholic.

SCAN TO GIVE

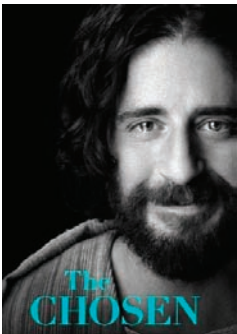


We thank you in advance for your patience as we continue migrating our parishioner software programs into one platform with eCatholic. We sincerely thank you for your flexibility and continued generosity. Your support allows us to grow as a parish and continue serving our community with care and compassion.



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.



SCHEAP and OSJ are hosting a Movie Afternoon! Sunday, June 22 | 1:00 PM Barbelin Hall @ Old Saint Joseph's Church

As part of OSJ's partnership with the SCHEAP grant (Synodality in Catholic Higher Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia) we are hosting a movie and conversation afternoon. Join us at 1PM for pizza,

popcorn, drinks, and a special screening of *The Chosen* – Season 2, Episode 1: "Thunder."

Whether you're a fan of the series or just looking for a relaxed way to hang out and meet new people, this is for you! After the episode, we'll open the floor for a short group reflection and discussion.

Come for the food, stay for the fellowship. Bring a friend. Bring your questions. All are welcome—no RSVP needed!

FINANCIAL INFO

Offertory for the week ending May 25, 2025

Daily Mass Collection	\$23.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$600.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,023.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$2,321.00
Total Collection:	\$7,267.00

Offertory for the week ending June 1, 2025

Daily Mass Collection	\$9.00
Mail-In Sunday Collection:	\$730.00
Online Giving Sunday Collection:	\$4,174.00
In-Pew Sunday Collection:	\$3,862.00
Total Collection:	\$8,775.00
Ascension Thursday Collection:	\$557.00

Second Collection Next Weekend – June 15:

Peter's Pence. Please give generously.

The following collections are active on both of our Online Giving sites:

Ascension Thursday, Peter's Pence,
& Catholic Charities Appeal

MAY COLLECTION COMPARISON

May 2024: \$35,052

May 2025: \$33,549

The May 2025 collection was down 4.29% or \$1,503 compared to May 2024. Thank you for your continued generosity to Old St. Joseph's!



TODAY!

Old St. Joseph's Welcomes Father Peter Clark, S.J. Special Presentation:

"Decide for Yourself – A Guide to Advanced Healthcare Directives" Old St. Joseph's is pleased to welcome Father Peter Clark, S.J., Director of Catholic Bioethics at the Institute of Clinical Bioethics at St. Joseph's University, for a special presentation on Sunday, June 8, following the 11:30 AM Mass.

Fr. Clark will present "Decide for Yourself – A Guide to Advanced Healthcare Directives," an informative session designed to help individuals create their own Living Will and Power of Attorney in accordance with Catholic teaching.

This is an important opportunity to gain clarity on end-of-life decision-making and to take practical steps in planning for the future with peace of mind.

Flyers with more information are available at the back of the church. We hope you'll join us for this vital workshop.

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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.*

