



# Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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PENNSWOOD ROAD  
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**August 30, 2015**

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. John T. Denny, OSA, Pastor...Ext. 231

Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. James McBurney, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 236

Br. William C. Harkin, OSA, Deacon...Ext. 228

Mr. Joseph Carey, Facilities Manager...Ext. 262

Mrs. Karen Carey, Coordinator of Religious Education and  
Youth Ministry...Ext. 258

Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director of Music Ministries...Ext. 238

Sr. Anne Woodeshick, RSM, Parish Ministry...Ext. 234

## SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

5:00 P.M. - Saturday evening

7:30, 9:30, 11:15 A.M.

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

6:30 A.M. (except Saturdays), 8:00 A.M.

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated once a month during a parish Sunday Liturgy. Arrangements are to be made 3 months in advance.

## NEW PARISHIONERS:

Our Mother of Good Counsel warmly welcomes new parishioners. We believe in the "Stewardship Program" committed to serving God through offering our gifts of time, talents, and treasure for the good of our parish and those in need. We ask you to register as soon as possible by completing a registration form available in the church office during regular office hours. Parishioners moving should notify the church office of any change in address or phone number.

## COMMUNION/HOME VISITS

If you are ill or unable to come to Mass for any period of time, please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) and we will be happy to visit you and bring Communion to you.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 11:30 - 12:00 Noon

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Friday 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Parish Office and Rectory Phone: (610) 525-0147

**FAX NUMBER:** (610) 525-0157

## PARISH WEB SITE:

<http://www.OMGCPARISH.ORG>

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT: CLEANING THE DISHES OR CLEANING OUR HEARTS?

How do we know which laws and regulations are from God and which ones have been created by human beings? In today's Gospel (Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23), Jesus zeroes in on that distinction. Some scholars contend that, because of the way Gospels were created, we can know practically nothing about the historical Jesus. Yet, even the most rigorous of these "experts" concedes that this particular Palestinian Jewish carpenter had a reputation for either breaking religious laws or finding ways around them. They accept that the Gospels reflect Jesus' historical actions. When his followers later remembered him, they remembered his law-breaking, which also became necessary for them to do as they carried on his ministry as other-Christ. The question for us is, what regulations must we keep and which ones are we free to break?

The answer lies in distinguishing between human and divine regulations. By Jesus' reasoning, we can conclude that just because someone is faithful in adhering to "the tradition of the elders" is no guarantee he or she is actually keeping God's law. The scriptural basis for such a distinction revolves around Yahweh's complaint in Isaiah 29:13: "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines mere human precepts."

Today's set of liturgical readings has great significance for Catholics. Within a few weeks, the second session of the Bishops' Synod on the Family will convene. All of us remember the uproar and confusion after last year's meeting. Some feared the church was about to change some of its longest-held regulations, especially those governing who may and who may not participate in receiving the Eucharist. Over the centuries, many of us were led to believe those rules came directly from God. But now we are not too certain. Are there no limits? Just what can we change and what can't we change? And how do we know? Pope Francis seems to be following the example of Jesus in Mark's Gospel.

Since, as Jesus believed and taught, laws only exist for our benefit, the first step in changing any regulation is to be totally honest about its effects, bringing that honesty into any discussion on the topic. Francis has consistently called for such honesty in the debates over policy. The bishops, in turn, have been challenged to find out the laws' effects on their people by listening to the experiences of the families in their dioceses on the topics to be discussed.

Could we be on the verge of a similar turning point? If we are, shouldn't we be helping our communities, those other-Christ in our midst, to employ Christ's methodology? Even though it isn't expressed as such in the Bible, honesty is always the best policy.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

Margaret Simyak, Evaline Walker,  
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,  
Jordan Wintrode and Axel Grabowsky.

Please call the Parish Office if you would like to request yourself or a family member be put on our prayer list for the next 4 weeks. You can also make a request that the prayers of the community be renewed for another 4 week period.

**Deceased:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Michael J. McGee, Sr. and Salvatore Petroccia and for the consolation of their families.

**Marriage:** Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Molly Mulhern who were married in our Church last week. May you continue to grow in God's love for you through each other.

### H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Carol Way at 610-525-5817 or Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

### A SPECIAL GUEST COMING

Fr. Michael F. Di Gregorio, OSA, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, whose friars administer our parish, will be speaking at the homily of each of our Masses on the weekend of **Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13.**

**THE POPE’S MASS**

Dear Friends,

In less than a month our Archdiocese will host the World Meeting of Families and Pope Francis. We’ve been hearing about this historic event for over a year and now it is upon us! Let’s all pray daily for the success of the World Meeting of Families and for safe travels for the Holy Father.

I urge those who are able to attend the World Meeting of Families and the Papal Mass on the Parkway. Information regarding registration, transportation and many other topics can be found on our parish website and the archdiocesan website. If any of our parish families need assistance with the registration fees for the World Meeting sessions, there are several parish grants available. Please contact Karen Carey if you are interested.

I was there at Logan Circle for the last Papal Mass that Philadelphia hosted. It remains a powerful memory. For those who will not be going to the Parkway to celebrate with Pope Francis, we will be showing the Mass on a big screen in our Gymnasium. All are welcome.

The Archdiocese has published norms for the “distance viewing” of the Mass: 1) it does not fulfill one’s obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and, 2) the distribution of Holy Communion is forbidden. The norms also call for an atmosphere of “respectful viewing.”

The Mass is scheduled to **begin at 4:00pm on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**. **You are welcome to come to the Gym starting at 3:30pm.** So that we can set up for both “respectful viewing” and for some light refreshments, we need to have some idea how many might attend. So please let us know if you’re interested in our parish viewing. You can email the office, call the office or put a note in the offertory basket. Children are most welcome. If we know that a number of youngsters will be present, there will be some “Papal activity” for them in the Social Center. Please let us know by Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> if you will be there.

May God bless Pope Francis’ journey to our part of the world!

Peace,  
Father Denny

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE  
for August 23, 2015**

“Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above,” says St. James in the second reading. But, he reminds us, true worship of God involves *using* those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!

Envelope Contributions .....	\$6,170.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$711.00
Mailed in .....	\$2,485.50
Total Offertory Collection .....	\$9,366.50
Offering this time last year .....	\$8,990.00
Parish giving .....	\$745.00

**Thank you for your Stewardship to your Parish.  
Please remember the Church in your will.**



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

**Friday, September 4  
and**

**Monday, September 7**

as we celebrate the Labor Day Weekend

**There will be only one Mass on  
Labor Day at 9:00 a.m.**



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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

Registrations are now being taken for the 2015 – 2016 Religious Education Year. Classes are held for students ages 4 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 am. Anyone **new** to the parish or the program is asked to contact Karen Carey at 610-525-0147, ext. 258, for information and for a registration packet.



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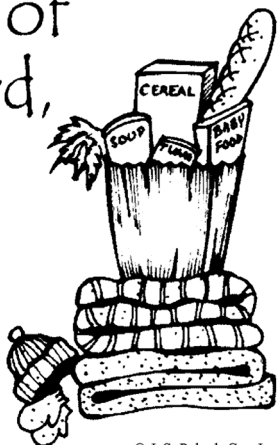
## SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

Our Spiritual Reading Group will reconvene on **Friday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m.** in our Parish Center's first floor meeting room. We are beginning to read Pope Francis' book, "*The Joy of the Gospel*." Copies of this book are still available on the table at the entrance of the Church. We welcome new "readers" at this beginning of a new experience of coming to know the heart of Pope Francis as we eagerly await his arrival here in Philadelphia. After his visit, we will be able to connect his words that we will read and the words we have heard as we follow his two-day visit to our city.

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY Women of Change

Members of the Gospel in Action team are organizing a group of parishioners to provide dinner for the residents of Women of Change on **Wednesday, September 16**. Women of Change, a ministry of Project Home, is a residence for chronically homeless women, many of whom are medically or emotionally fragile. While their permanent location is undergoing much needed renovation, the women are living at Project Home. Because they have less access to kitchen space, they need extra assistance with meals until they can return home. We are responding by cooking and delivering a hot meal to them. If you would like to help by preparing a portion of the meal, providing beverages or making a monetary donation to underwrite part of the meal, please contact Pat Byrne at [pabshamrock@aol.com](mailto:pabshamrock@aol.com) or 610-804-3227.

Be doers of  
the word,  
and not  
hearers  
only



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## FALL FESTIVAL NEWS

Our **raffle items** have begun coming in !!! Make sure you put our Fall Festival on your calendar! October 16, 17, 18! Come and bid on our two night stay at the Embassy Suites, or the 29 piece Titanium Drill Bit Set! There is something for everyone!!

**HELP!!** We are still in need of committee people to help make this happen! If you are able to spend a few hours helping with the preparation of any area of the festival - food, games, raffles, prizes - please let us know by contacting Karen at [kcarey@omgcparrish.net](mailto:kcarey@omgcparrish.net).



## SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Our Youth Group will be conducting a school supply collection for the Cole Hamels Foundation. The Hamels Foundation is dedicated to enriching the lives of children through the power of education by giving them the tools they need to achieve their goals.

The Hamels Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded by Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, Cole Hamels and his wife Heidi. The Hamels Foundation has a dual purpose to provide support for quality education in the United States and establish a school in Malawi, Africa. We will be collecting anything from school bags to pencils to copybooks to folders. When you are doing your shopping, why not pick up something for those who can't afford the supplies they need to work at school. The school supplies collected will be divided between the Namunda Primary School in Africa and the Webster Elementary School in Philadelphia. For more information about the Hamels Foundation, or the schools it serves, contact Lauren Henderson at 484-383-4710.

**TRAGEDY HITS**  
**the Iraqi Refugee Families**  
**Van Needed**

Since 2010, parishioners from OMGC and STV have helped resettle an Iraqi family, Hamza and Zeena and their two children. Hamza had worked for the U.S. in the Green Zone of Baghdad and, when his neighbors discovered it, his life was threatened. Our government brought him here to keep him safe. The same story is true of his brother, Hussain, who was brought here in 2013. His family includes his wife, Hanan, and four children. This family was aided by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ardmore. Both brothers worked at Villanova in food service. On Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Hussain had a heart attack while in the lake at Marsh Creek State Park. He died the next day. His body has been returned to Iraq for burial. His widow would like to remain in the U.S. for the sake of her four children. At this moment, the two families ask for this help. **Does anyone have a van for sale at a good price** in which Hamza could convey the two joined families, 9 people, 3 adults and 6 children? **Also, is there a second small car for sale at a reasonable price**, almost a Volkswagen, which Zeena could drive? She now has a driver's license but is uneasy driving a larger car.

If you can help with either request, please contact Joe Betz at 610-525-4499 or [joseph.betz@villanova.edu](mailto:joseph.betz@villanova.edu).

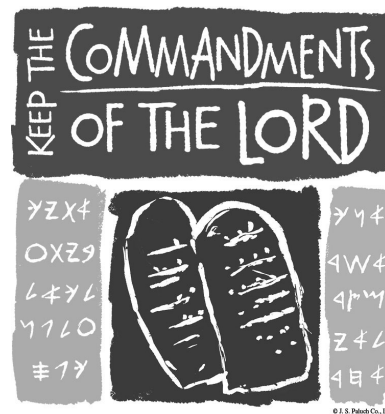
**IMPORTANT REQUEST**  
**Allergies**

Please do not bring food that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut products or nut products inside the church. Someone sitting near you may have a serious allergy. Thank you for honoring this request.



**R.C.I.A TEAM MEETING**  
**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**

The RCIA Team will meet on **Tuesday evening, September 1 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center as we begin to plan a new start of the process of welcoming and assisting adults who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church.



**ST. FRANCES CABRINI REGIONAL**  
**SCHOOL**  
**Catholic School Mentors Needed**

Join St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Community for an **Information Session** to be held in their Parish Center on **Wednesday, September 9 at 1:00 p.m.** as they plan to begin a new year of mentoring students at St. Frances Cabrini Regional School. New volunteers are welcome to join with us on Tuesdays, October to early May, to minister with the students: TIME of service commitment is from 3:15 – 4:15 pm.

Mentoring a student on a 1-1 basis may include homework assignments, extra math or reading support. You can decide the age/grades of the children you feel comfortable working with and it will be arranged by the school staff.

If you are interested but cannot attend this information session, contact Barb Gallin at 610-688-4168 or [mmggbcc@hotmail.com](mailto:mmggbcc@hotmail.com).

## FILM SCREENING EVENT

Philadelphia Media Network (publisher of The Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News and Philly.com), along with co-sponsors St. Joseph's University and History Making Production (HMP), will be sponsoring a unique film screening and panel discussion on **Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Wolfington Teletorium at St. Joe's Mandeville Hall. Guests will be able to get a sneak peek at one part of HMP's three-part "Urban Trinity" documentary, which will premier at the World Meeting of Families the following week. This part of the film focuses on The Bible Riots of 1844. After the screening, Executive Producer Sam Katz will moderate a discussion about the impact the riots had on Catholic Philadelphia – prompting the formation of the city's parochial school system and the Philadelphia Police Department, among other developments.

Panelists will include Dr. Margaret McGuinness, Vice President of Mission at LaSalle University; Dr. Katie Oxx, Asst. Prof. of Religious Studies at St. Joe's; and Dr. Elizabeth Hayes Alvarez, Asst. Prof. in Temple University's Department of Religion. It should be a fascinating evening.

Admission to the event is \$65.00, but with the code "EARLY BIRD" guests who register prior to September 1 will pay just \$50.00. Anyone interested can sign up for tickets at [www.philly.com/bibleriots](http://www.philly.com/bibleriots), but space is limited.



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**This people  
honors me  
with their lips,  
but their hearts  
are far from me**

## Mass Intentions For The Week



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### SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- 7:30 PAUL, MAUREEN, AND TOMMY BRENNAN  
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS  
11:15 ANTONIO DI IANNI

### MONDAY, AUGUST 31

- 6:30  
8:00 CONCETTA D'ORAZIO

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 6:30 PETER DE PAUL  
8:00 JAMES AND ANNIE BURKE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 6:30  
8:00 HAROLD AND ROSE IRVING

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- 6:30 EVA KEATING  
8:00 BETTY BRENNAN

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 6:30 MR. AND MRS. ANGELO IANNAcone  
8:00 MICHAEL J. MC STAY

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

- 8:00 RITA MARY VAN DUSEN  
CHERINGTON (96TH BIRTHDAY)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 7:30 MR. AND MRS. ARTHUR DIEM  
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS  
11:15 FILOMENA SANTANGELO



John J. Stretch, III F.D.  
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