



Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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Sisters of Mercy for over a century

PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

September 27, 2015

PARISH STAFF

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

Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. James McBurney, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 233

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>

REAL LIFE TAKES A TOLL ON ALL OF US

Today's Gospel (Mark 9:38-48) follows directly on last Sunday's Gospel. In response to the disciples' self-importance, Jesus has just placed the little child in their midst, explaining that real greatness comes from service, from living in solidarity with the lowly, and in service from below. Put in that context, we can see that the disciple John's statement to Jesus sounds pretty much like an attempt to change the subject. "Listen, instead of talking about serving the little people, here's a *real* problem that needs fixing: Somebody else is out there doing what we do! We tried to stop it, but we weren't successful. Now, Jesus, the ball is in your court!"

At this point it is easy to imagine Jesus looking at the disciples as if they were total strangers. It seemed as if they had no clue about who he was, what he was all about and how he was living in response to his Father's will. Jesus' disciples had become so caught up in their status game that they had made discipleship an exclusive club in which only the bona fide members had the right to promote the kingdom of God. As the group tried to guard their privilege, they didn't realize that they were actually betraying Jesus and his life's cause. Was it jealousy? These are the disciples who shortly before had been unable to cast out a demon for lack of prayerfulness. Now they want to stop someone who actually does overpower the enemy of God because, note their words, "he does not follow us."

To move them beyond the status trap, Jesus returns to the theme of littleness. "You are worried about someone else casting out demons? Listen to me! Anyone who donates even a cup of water on behalf of God's kingdom deserves a reward!" Then, knowing that they need more tutoring on the theme, he goes on to talk about the horror of scandal. To a people who pride themselves on appearance (long fringes, overt signs of fasting, etc.), Jesus suggests that self-mutilation is preferable to giving scandal.

Mark repeats this story about the disciples not because he wants to put them down, but because their disoriented approach to discipleship didn't die with them. Mark surely saw the same tendency in his community 40 years after Jesus' death. The story must consistently accompany our preaching of the good news because the temptation to pursue prestige over the mission will never leave the church. Baptism does not drown our ego; it only brings us into the midst of a community that can tame us by calling us into service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

Margaret Simyak, Axel Grabowsky,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Evanille Wilson, Mike Snow, and
Christopher Browne.

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.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. & Mrs. James and Carleen Johnston, Ms. Claire McLeish, and Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Charlotte McCracken who recently registered with us.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Gregore J. Sambor and for the consolation of his family.

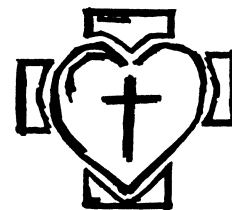
Baptisms: We welcome to our faith community Aurelie Grace Bernier, daughter of Philippe and Gillean, who was baptized in our Church recently.

H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Shelley Preston at 484-412-8309 or Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 x234.

A REMINDER

Now that July and August have come to an end, the Parish Office will be open again on Fridays. Remember that the Friday time frame is from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Thank you.





RESPECT LIFE WEEKEND

Dear Friends,

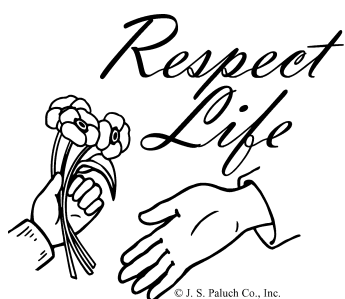
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has designated October 4th as our nation's annual "Respect Life Sunday." Our Catholic faith teaches that all life is a gift from God and therefore is sacred from conception to natural death. As a parish, our liturgies next weekend will celebrate this great gift of life in a number of ways.

At every Mass, we will pray in thanksgiving for our lives and for the grace and courage to honor the gift of life at all its stages. Beginning next weekend, our parish will again sponsor the "baby bottle drive" for Mother's Home in Darby by distributing the bottles. At the 5:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday, we will continue our tradition of the annual "Anointing Mass." The Church urges every parish, at least once a year, to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick communally. Respect Life Sunday seems like a fitting time to do so.

At the 11:15am Mass, the parish will inaugurate our "First Sunday Celebration." On the first Sunday of every month (October through June), the Religious Education program will host, at the 11:15am Mass, a "family friendly" Liturgy. Afterwards, there will be a light brunch in the gym. All are welcome. Contact Karen Carey here at the office or check out the website for more details and how you might help out with the brunch.

Our world seems particularly troubled these days. Let's all pray for a greater respect of life, for an end to all that violates life, and in thanksgiving for all those who have loved us with their lives.

God bless!
Father Denny



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for September 20, 2015

St. James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

Envelope Contributions	\$6,966.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$840.00
Mailed in	\$560.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$8,366.00
Offering this time last year	\$8,245.00
Parish giving.....	\$745.00

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



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Meeting: The Parish Council will meet again on **Monday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center. Parishioners are always welcome and encouraged to attend these monthly meetings. If you plan to do so, please call President Phil Ahr at 610-527-5679 or email him at AHRPM@yahoo.com.

Parish Council Contact: If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please call Dominic DiMartino at 610-525-6442, after he recuperates from participating in the choir at Pope Francis' Mass today!

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Our Youth Group will be collecting school supplies for the Hamel's Foundation up until September 30th. These supplies will be divided between a school in Africa and a local Philadelphia school. Please drop your donations off at the parish office or the back of church. Thank you.



COMMUNAL ANOINTING MASS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on **Saturday evening, October 3 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.** The name of the Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick, tells us that the sacrament is for those who are sick, not just for the dying. It is a sacrament of healing, and the Church wants us to ask for this sacrament before we are at the point of death. It instructs all those who minister to the sick that great care and concern should be taken to see that those of the faithful whose health is impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament.

If you are in need of transportation for this Mass on Saturday, October 3, please call the Parish Office at 610-525-0147. Please come to church in plenty of time to be registered for the sacrament and helped to be seated in special places for the priests to anoint you. People will be on hand by 4:30 p.m. to welcome you to this special celebration.

NURSING HOME ASSISTANCE Needed When Mass is Celebrated

We are in need of 3 or 4 parishioners, men or women, who would be willing to come every other week either to the Bryn Mawr Terrace or the Saber Convalescent Facility (formerly The Chateau) to assist in bringing the Catholic residents into Mass or a Communion Service on **Monday afternoons at 2:00 or 2:15 p.m.** Two of our present helpers are dealing with temporary disabilities and one is returning to her home in Nigeria for an extended visit with her community there and her family.

We have Mass at the **Terrace on Monday at 2:15** one week and at the **Saber on Monday at 2:00 p.m.** on the alternate week. Once a month, a Communion Service is held at each of the facilities also on alternate Mondays. You can choose at which facility you would like to help.

Please contact Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) and let me know if you can minister at either of these facilities for approx. an hour and a half. Thank you.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS R.C.I.A. INQUIRY NIGHT

On **Tuesday evening, September 29 at 7:30 p.m.**, a new series of RCIA Inquiry sessions will begin for anyone who may be considering becoming a member of the Catholic Church or who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Church. If you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming a part of this initial step of Inquiry about the Catholic faith, please call S. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcparish.net for more information or to register for this opening session.

Brochures are available in the pamphlet racks and on the table at the entrance of the Church for you to take and share with someone who may be interested in attending the initial "Inquiry Session."

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

The Spirituality Committee will meet on **Wednesday afternoon, September 30 at 4:00 p.m.** to begin planning and preparing for enrichment experiences of deepening one's relationship with Christ and his Church. If you would like to be a part of this committee's work, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

The IHN Parish Committee will meet on **Thursday, October 8 at 4:00 p.m.** as we begin planning for the November 1-8 week of hosting.

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will meet on **Friday, October 9 at 10:00 a.m.** in our Parish Center. We are reading Pope Francis' book, "The Joy of the Gospel" and would welcome new participants to join us at this time. We are just at the beginning of this wonderful expression of Pope Francis' vision of the church.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

October is Respect Life Month. Once again this year, Our Mother of Good Counsel will be sponsoring a Baby Bottle Drive during the month of October for the Mothers' Home in Darby, located in the former convent of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish. The Mothers' Home is a safe, secure place for pregnant women and their babies who are in a crisis situation due to homelessness, domestic violence and/or the absence of family and friend support. The Mothers' Home can house up to 22 women and their babies. The Mothers' Home depends on the generosity of people to continue this life saving mission. Please take a bottle home with you which, hopefully, will be available the weekend of **October 3 – 4**, fill it with coins, cash or checks and return it to Church by the weekend of **October 24 – 25**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Last year, through your generosity, \$5,064.26 was donated to the work of this very necessary ministry. Hopefully, we will do as well this year.

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The
Guardian
Angels



FEAST OF THE
HOLY GUARDIAN
ANGELS
October 2

OVERNIGHT RETREAT

at Cranaleith Spiritual Center

The Sisters of Mercy

13475 Proctor Road, Philadelphia

If you are a single woman, age 20 to 40, join us for an overnight retreat to deepen your universal call to holiness and service and your understanding of the Mercy charism. The retreat is being offered on **Friday, October 23 until Saturday, October 24**. All are invited, especially women associated with Mercy ministries or the Sisters of Mercy. Please RSVP by October 12 by contacting Sister Ivette Diaz or Sister Theresa Saetta at vocationresponse@mercymidatlantic.org or visit us at www.sistersofmercy.org.

SEARCHING FOR STILL WATERS

Are you struggling with the loss of a loved one? Grief is a journey fraught with complex feelings, thoughts and behaviors. Join us on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. for conversation and compassionate support in navigating the turbulent waters of grief. Meetings will take place in the Ministries Center at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church. Call 610-525-0766 for more information.

SILOAM REQUEST

Siloam, a ministry to persons and families infected with or affected by the HIV/AIDS virus, has requested some supplies from our parish. They are presently in need of BOUNCE scent-free dryer sheets, CASCADE dishwasher detergent (liquid or pods), toilet paper and paper towels. As most of you know, this ministry was begun by the Augustinian and Sisters of Mercy Communities and continues to be staffed by them. They do appreciate our assistance in lightening their financial expenses. These supplies can be brought to church on Sundays or brought to the Parish Office during the week. Thank you.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC SISTERS:

Who They Are
Why We Need Them

Join us on **Saturday, October 10th** at **Immaculata University from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** to learn about the newest generation of Catholic Sisters and why we need them now more than ever. Hear remarkable stories from these women who have answered The Call. This event will feature several young sisters, along with the authors of *New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity*. There will be a Q & A session and raffle after the main presentation. Refreshments will be served. Mass will follow at 4:15 p.m. This event is sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference. The event is free and open to the public. RSVP at www.immaculata.edu/todays-sisters.



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THE VIRTUE-DRIVEN LIFE

Experience a prayerful, reflective exploration of some virtues that enrich our lives and relationships in these challenging times. Presentation given by Sr. Catherine Kaporch, IHM at the IHM Retreat Center on 401 Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bryn Mawr on **Tuesday, October 6 from 9:30 to 2:30**. Light breakfast, dinner and Mass included. Stipend: \$40.00. To register, please call 610-581-0120 or email: ihmconference@verizon.net. Come and Bring a Friend.

MERION MERCY ACADEMY Open House

You are welcomed to join us at Merion Mercy Academy's Open House to be held on **Sunday, October 4th from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** The Scholarship and Entrance Exam will be given on **Saturday, October 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The Application/Test Registration should be completed by October 21st and can be completed online at www.merion-mercy.com.

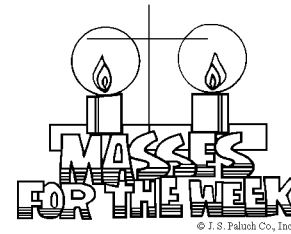
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL Of the Sacred Heart

9th Grade Scholarship and Entrance Exam will be held on **October 17th from 8:45am to 12 noon**. Open House will immediately follow from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Additional Open House on **Tuesday, October 27th from 9:00 – 11:00a.m.** Register online at www.cdssh.org. or call 610-527-3915.

FRIENDS OF NEWMAN CENTER at West Chester University

The Newman Center at WCU, located at 409 Trinity Drive in West Chester, is a thriving, active center of prayer, learning and community outreach and has been for over 40 years. We'd like to continue all the good work that happens here. To help in that effort, we are hosting our 2nd annual Friends of the Newman Center **Dinner and Silent Auction** on **Friday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m.** WCU alumni and friends are cordially invited to join us. The cost is \$35 per person.

Tickets may be purchased at the site: <https://sites.google.com/site/ncfallevent/> or by contacting the Newman Center directly at 610-436-0891.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

- 7:30 DR. WILLIAM JAMES ERDMAN AND
BETTY JANE FRICK ERDMAN
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
11:15 MARY BARONE (5TH ANNIVERSARY)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 6:30 EDWIN THORP VAN DUSEN
(97TH ANNIVERSARY)
8:00 SALVATORE PETROCCIA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

- 6:30
8:00 SALVATORE PETROCCIA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 6:30
8:00 DOMINICO CONICELLA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 6:30
8:00 SALVATORE PETROCCIA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 6:30
8:00 ETHEL D. CUNNINGHAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 8:00 MARY HAMMONDS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 VIRGINIA ANN KNAUTH
11:15 WILLIAM O'DONNELL

John J. Stretch, III F.D.
(Supervisor)

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

Edward F. (Ted) Power, F.D.

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