



Our Mother of Good Counsel

Parish Community

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Sisters of Mercy for over a century

PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

December 6, 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 Woodshick, 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>

TURN TOWARD GOD WHO EMBRACES US IN MERCY

The Romans were master road-builders and engineers. Before their empire collapsed, there were 50,000 miles of stone-paved roads radiating out from Rome as the empire sprawled into Europe, England, North Africa and the Middle East. They fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "Clear him a straight path, every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled." Isaiah wasn't envisioning the highways of Rome, but rather John's vision of a baptism of repentance and a spiritual highway of forgiveness that flows from Jesus and ultimately leads to eternal life.

As the bridge between the two testaments, John the Baptist summed up in his person and in his message the burden of his people's hopes and expectations. As herald of a new era of salvation, John pointed beyond himself to Jesus and sought to prepare his contemporaries for the event that would forever change the course of their lives and the world. Nevertheless, and despite his greatness, Luke, in today's Gospel (Luke 3:1-6), was careful to portray John in his proper role as subordinate to Jesus in every way. Knowing that there was a tendency among some to regard John as a rival of Jesus or even as a messianic figure, Luke presented John and his role as important but secondary.

Luke describes the Baptist and his mission in terms borrowed from Isaiah's book of consolation. Unlike his fellow Synoptics (Matthew and Mark), Luke, with his continuing appreciation for the *universality* of God's concerns, extended the quotation of the prophet to include "and *all humanity* shall see the salvation of God." In the original context, the Isaian poem was spoken to the Israelites exiled in Babylon in an effort to encourage and console them with the hope that soon they would be going home.

Scholars have repeatedly pointed out the similarities between the Lucan figure of the Baptizer and that of the sixth-century B.C.E. prophet, Jeremiah. Both were called by God from the womb. Both served as heralds of eternal salvation and messianic glory. Both looked ahead to a new covenantal relationship that God would share with all, especially the poor and least ones of this world. This covenant, promised by Jeremiah, affirmed by Isaiah and confirmed as being realized in Jesus, was never to be doubted. It was deemed to be an eternal and indestructible bond between God and *all of humanity*.

As believers who continue to await Jesus' second coming, let us also draw hope as we take John seriously and give ourselves over to the hard but necessary preparations that have yet to be completed. Prepare the way. Make straight his paths. Let peace and justice, compassion and love flourish among us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

Evanille Walker, Leaphy Nhek,
Barbara Tillman, Greta Zyban,
Oscar Santos, Margaret Simyak,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Patty Shymanski, Nicholas Santos,
Janine Hoffman, Judy Brown,
and Pat Dobson.

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 soul of John V. Betz and for the consolation of his family.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. & Mrs. James & Donna Nagy and Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Janice Marcano who recently registered with us.

H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Joanne Bramley at 610-457-6638 or Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 x234.

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

The Spirituality Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center.

Pastor's Notes

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JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis has issued a Papal Bull declaring a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Jubilee Years, also known as "Holy Years", have a long and rich history. Our Jewish ancestors began the custom centuries before the birth of Jesus. In the Book of Leviticus, we are told that a Jubilee is a year of remission of sin and universal pardon. Slaves and prisoners were set free, debts were forgiven and the mercies of God were particularly manifest. Jubilees occurred every 50 years.

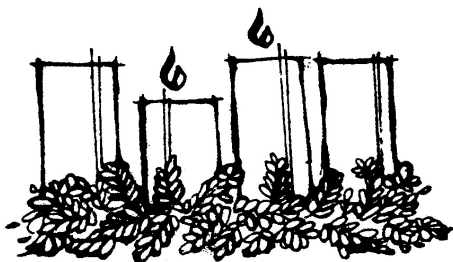
Our Catholic tradition of Jubilee Years dates back to 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII declared one. Since then, Popes have called for a Jubilee Year, often with a specific theme, every 25 or 50 years. However, Popes have also convoked Jubilees whenever they saw fit to do so.

Our last Holy Year was 15 years ago when St. John Paul II called for a "Great Jubilee" to celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has declared that this Jubilee of Mercy will begin on December 8, 2015 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) and conclude on November 20, 2016 (the Solemnity of Christ the King.)

In his Bull, Pope Francis writes, "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Mercy [is] the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. ...Mercy [is] the bridge that connects God and humanity." Pope Francis goes on to exhort us: once we are profoundly aware of God's mercy toward us, we must become the instruments through which others experience mercy.

May this truly be a Jubilee Year for all of us!

God bless,
Father Denny



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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

for November 22, 2015

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds they can sing with the Psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

Envelope Contributions	\$6,005.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$928.00
Mailed in	\$885.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$7,818.00
Parish Giving.....	\$995.00

For November 29, 2015

Envelope Contributions.....	\$9,010.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,108.00
Mailed in.....	\$700.00
Total Offertory Collection.....	\$10,818.00
Electronic Giving of 12/1/15.....	\$5,630.00
Parish Giving.....	\$945.00

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

Seniors

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SENIOR COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Seniors will gather for their Christmas celebration this year on **Friday, December 18 at 12 noon**. We will enjoy a luncheon from the ACME at a cost of **\$7.00** for those of you able to participate. If you do not usually attend the Senior Gatherings, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, (ext 234) to let her know you are coming, so we can provide "a place at the table" for you. Christmas stories and song and a special family entertainment will be enjoyed by all. Looking forward to celebrating this special time of the year with you.

CAREGIVER AVAILABLE/PART-TIME

A caregiver, who has worked with some of our parishioners, is looking for employment. Also, experienced in cleaning, cooking lunch or dinner, etc. Dependable, Trustworthy, Honest...Please call Veronica at 484-222-1178.

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Begins December 8, 2015

This Tuesday, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will open the “Holy Door” in Saint Peter’s Basilica, symbolically opening the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. In today’s scriptures, Baruch confidently anticipates God’s healing of the brokenness of humanity and Paul sees God bringing our discernment, knowledge and love to fulfillment. Our experience of life and of ourselves can make such prophecies seem wildly optimistic, even hopelessly naïve.

Pope Francis challenges us to live this Jubilee Year as a graced time, when God’s mercy reawakens our enthusiasm to live our baptismal call as gospel people, our hope renewed and ourselves recommitted to selfless charity. Notice that in Luke’s Gospel today, God bypasses the religious elite and politically powerful to speak to a humble believer in the barren desert the saving word that will transform history. So, God’s mercy continues to accomplish humanity’s salvation *in* and *through* ordinary, flawed and least likely instruments – even us. -Peter Scagnelli, Copyright J.S. Paluch, Inc

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council will gather on **Monday, December 14** for an evening of Retreat at the IHM Conference Center. This will replace the monthly Council meeting. The next time the Council will meet for their monthly meeting will be on Monday, January 4.

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.



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FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A Holyday of Obligation

**Vigil Mass, Monday, December 7 at
7:30p.m.**

**Masses during the Day, December 8
6:30a.m.. 8:00a.m. and 12:10pm**

ADVENT HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the Stars of Night is an anonymous Latin chant written between the 7th and 9th centuries as an evening hymn during Advent. It is in the style of “plainsong” – sung by monks or choir. The Latin was translated to English by John Mason Neale, a prominent 19th century scholar and translator. So the next time you sing this hauntingly beautiful Advent hymn, remember that it has been sung and passed down for over a thousand years - may we help to keep it alive for another thousand!

Jo-Ann Stigliano

Director of Music Ministries

OMGC ADVENT PROJECT

NO ROOM AT THE INN

Through his humble birth in a stable, Jesus identified with the needs and frailties of humanity. This Advent season, as we look toward that miraculous moment, the “**No Room at the Inn**” housing campaign will inspire you to serve Christ by serving the poor. Don’t miss this opportunity to unite with Catholic parishes across America and give shelter to God’s most vulnerable children!

Project Summary: - Pwoje Espwa (Project Hope) is an expansive Catholic ministry, providing food, shelter, education and medical care for poor families near Les Cayes, on Haiti’s southwestern coast.

-Pwoje Espwa depends on the help of American Catholics to build sturdy homes for poor families.

For about \$5,520, our parish can build a concrete home with durable roofs for families in need.

-Beneficiary families help with the construction process, contributing “sweat equity” that boosts their self-esteem and increases their sense of ownership.

This Advent, Our Mother of Good Counsel will be participating in “**No Room at the Inn.**” Our goal this Advent is to work together to build a home for a poor family in Haiti. You can donate by placing your gift in the manger box at the entrances to church. If you choose to write a check, please make the check out to OMGC and write “No Room at the Inn” in the memo. Let’s see if we can build an entire house at the cost of \$5,520! We are already on our way! For more information, go to www.crosscatholic.org/advent.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS for any students in grades 6 – 12

Saturday, December 12 – Trip to Walnut Street Theater to see “A Christmas Carol” at 11 am. Followed by lunch in the city. Note: anyone attending this **MUST** register by contacting Karen at kcarey@omgcparish.net **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7. There is still room!**

Sunday, December 20 – 4:00 pm – Trip to Shady Brook Farm Holiday Light Show and Christmas Party. Anyone attending this **MUST** contact Karen at kcarey@omgcparish.net **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 13.**

Sunday, January 10 – Youth Group Meeting – 12 – 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Come and plan our Spring events with us.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Holiday Calendar

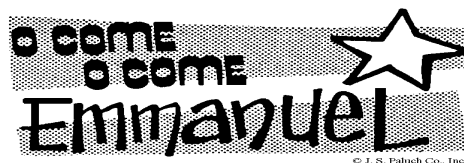
- Sunday, December 6 – No Class -Family Advent Day – All are expected to participate
- Sunday, December 13 – Class
- Sunday, December 20 – Class
- Sunday December 27 – Christmas Break
- Sunday, January 3 – First Sunday Celebration and Lunch

ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER

Join us on **Sunday afternoon, December 20 at 4:00 p.m.** here at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church for an experience of Taize Prayer, facilitated by two members of the Spirituality Committee, Joanne Bramley and Mary Callan. This is a very reflective and quiet prayer experience that we could find very helpful in the midst of the busy holiday activity.



*The Lord has
done great things.*



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Our parish will celebrate its Advent Communal Penance Service on **Tuesday evening, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.** in our Parish Church.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Parish Committee Meeting

The IHN Committee will meet on **Wednesday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center as we prepare for the January 10 – 17 week of hosting.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE

Please consider donating a point of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC’s gym on **Thursday, December 17th from 1 - 7 PM.** Please ask a friend to come with you to donate as well. The need for blood is great in the Christmas travel season. If you can donate, please fill out the pledge form here or one from the pews, and place it in the Red Cross box in the rear of the church. Also, you can phone or email Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, joseph.betz@villanova.edu or Frank Quinn at 610-525-7262, fc.quinn@verizon.net. Or pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother of good counsel.

Name: _____

Phone No. _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address: _____

I will try to donate blood at OMGC’s Gym on Thursday, December 17 at _____. (Choose a time between 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.at 15-minute intervals).

IMPORTANT NOTICE
From the Browse Around Thriftshop

The Browse Around Thriftshop, 4 E. Athens Ave. in Ardmore is closing down on December 21st, 2015, having served the Community for over 50 years. The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary thank all who have donated items for sale, purchased items, and to our wonderful volunteers for their service. We will accept items for sale until December 10th. Contact Sr. Helena at 610-520-1976.

THANK YOU
from Siloam Ministry

Dear Parishioners of OMGC,

On behalf of Siloam, I would like to thank you for the generous contribution you made of many household supplies you provided for the Siloam Ministry. Your support helps us continue our mission to enrich the lives of people impacted by HIV/AIDS. Your generous support makes it possible for our organization to thrive and provide a broad range of integrative mind, body and spirit services and programs for those living with the virus.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts! We couldn't do it without YOU!

Alberta Bertolino
 Executive Director

GAUDEAMUS MUSIC MINISTRY
Candlelight Christmas Concert

The musicians of Gaudeamus will perform their annual Candlelight Christmas Concert on **Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.** at Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Plymouth Meeting. The concert will feature traditional, classical and sacred songs of the season. Concerts are free and open to the public. A free will donation will benefit *Angel Flight East*, a local non-profit organization that provides free air transportation for critically ill patients. If you would like additional information, please call 610-291-4255 or visit www.letusrejoice.org.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:30 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
 CIRO IANNOTTA FAMILY
 9:30 BOB RYAN
 11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
 PARISHIONERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
 8:00 SPECIAL INTENTION
 7:30PM—DECEASED MEMBERS BUCHANAN
 AND TRAVERS FAMILIES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- 6:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
 PARISHIONERS
 8:00 PEGGY SHERIDAN
 12:10 MIKE, BEA AND FRANK PHILBIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:30 HELEN KINCADE
 (10TH ANNIVERSARY)
 8:00 JOHN AND JANET PHILLIPS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 6:30 HONORABLE LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN
 (67TH ANNIVERSARY)
 8:00 SALVATORE PETROCCIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
 8:00 VINCENT LENZI

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:00 JAMES HAMILTON PAGE
 (105TH BIRTHDAY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 7:30 SARAH P.G. WHELEN
 (55TH ANNIVERSARY)
 9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
 PARISHIONERS
 11:15 JOSEPH GAGLIARDI

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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