



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 13, 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>

WHAT AM I//ARE WE TO DO?

“What ought we to do?” This question appears three times in today’s Gospel (Luke 3:10-18). In each instance, the query reflected the questioner’s desire for salvation and functioned as a key, opening the way to further revelation and challenging listeners to believe. Such a question should be often on the lips of Advent believers who are eager to be renewed in the spirit and mind of the coming Christ. To the crowds who asked, as well as to the soldiers and tax collectors, John the Baptist’s answers stood as challenges to conversion such that they would no longer live solely for themselves but for others and for God. In this way would the kingdom Jesus had come to proclaim begin to exist here among all of humankind.

In the second half of today’s Gospel, we learn that the person and the preaching of John were so compelling that many wondered if he was the Christ. John’s contemporaries were eagerly awaiting an anointed one who would reinstate Israel and establish God’s gracious rule over all. While some were of the mind that John would figure very importantly in this process, Luke left no doubt that John was preparing for “one mightier” who had yet to appear. In Jewish literature, the term “mighty” was often used in reference to the one who would lead the people in their final struggle with evil. In preparation for the mightier one, John had baptized with water, but Jesus would bring a bath of fire and Spirit.

The “winnowing fan,” used to separate wheat from chaff, is an apt symbol of the process of judgment between good fruit and the fruitless at the end time. No doubt the crowds, tax collectors and soldiers were sobered by John’s references to this symbol of judgment. He, like any avid preacher of God’s good news, surely hoped that this sober moment would urge his listeners to action, to repentance, to reconciliation, to good deeds.

Today, the living word of this Gospel has lost none of its power. Just as on the day they were first spoken, John’s good and graced words empower believers to ask the right and courageous question “What ought we to do?” and then work toward an honest answer so as to prepare a worthy welcome for our coming and ever-present God.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

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.

Baptism: We welcome to our faith community Harrison Patrick Friel, son of Kevin and Stephanie.

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 x234.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday – December 24
Christmas Vigil Masses:
6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Friday – December 25
Christmas Day Masses:
7:30, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

**Parish Office will be closed from
Wednesday noon until Monday, December 28.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
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ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

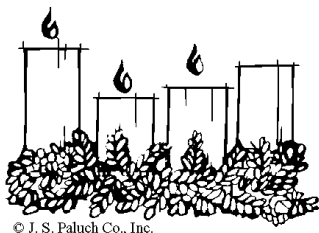
Dear Friends,

This coming Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30pm, we will celebrate our Advent Communal Penance Service. All are welcome. The individual celebration of Confession is available every Saturday morning in our church. But, twice a year, once in Advent and once in Lent, we have a communal celebration of the sacrament. On Tuesday night, I will preside at the brief gathering ritual and offer a few thoughts to assist our examinations of conscience. Five or six Augustinian confessors will be present. After our communal prayer, we Augustinians will spread out around the church. Those who so desire will then approach the confessor of their choice to celebrate the great sacrament of God's mercy.

It may have been some time since you last celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that is, "gone to Confession." Perhaps, you have never considered, as an adult, the healing, healthy and necessary role of reconciliation in all of our lives. Like many of us, I generally refer to the sacrament as "Confession" or "Penance." It's important, however, to remember that the sacrament's proper name is "Reconciliation." "Confession" puts the sacrament's emphasis incorrectly on our sense of guilt. The sacrament is all about God's love and mercy. Reconciliation comes from the Latin word meaning, "to be at peace again." What a worthy notion – "to be at peace again."

This Tuesday evening, the Sacrament of Reconciliation invites us "to be at peace again." To be at peace with ourselves, to be at peace with others, to be at peace with God – what a wonderful way to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas.

God bless!
 Father Denny



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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
For December 6, 2015

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the one who has two coats give to someone who has none. The one who has food should do the same."

Envelope Contributions	\$10,234.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,221.00
Mailed in	\$1,795.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$13,250.00
Offering this time last year	\$11,788.00

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

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS
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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.

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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

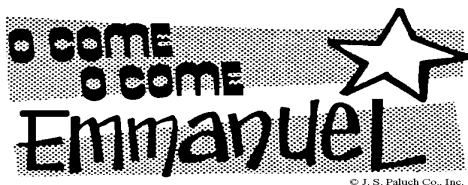
From the Browse Around Thriftshop

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. Contact Sr. Helena at 610-520-1976.

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 Ron Hicks at 610-449-2748.



ADVENT HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

and

The “O Antiphons” of Advent

Well-known Advent hymn, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, is based upon an ancient prayer of the Church, the “O Antiphons,” which have been chanted as far back as the 7th century. They are still sung in the days leading up to Christmas, December 17-23, as antiphons at Evening Prayer. The hymn-tune first appeared in English print in 1854. It was copied from a small 15th century French service book, under the title “Bone Iesu, dulcis cunctis,” where it was actually sung as a litany for a funeral processional! We have come to know and love this as an Advent melody of longing and hope as we await the birth of Christ. Why not incorporate the seven verses of this hymn in your nightly prayer, united with the universal church in anticipation of our coming Savior. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you!

(Pray the stanzas of this hymn from the Breaking Bread Music Issue the next time you arrive at church. You will be imploring Christ as: Emmanuel, Wisdom from on high, Great Lord of might, Rod of Jesse’s stem, Key of David, Dayspring from on high, and Desire of nations.)

Jo-Ann Stigliano
Director of Music Ministries

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Began December 8, 2015

Pope Francis chose to inaugurate the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* last Tuesday because December 8th marks the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of Vatican II. That council, Pope Francis reminds us, inaugurated a new phase in the Church’s history. The Spirit called the Church to tear down the walls that for far too long had made it a fortress, and to proclaim the gospel in a new, more accessible way. Pope Francis quotes St. John XXIII in declaring the Church’s preference for “the medicine of mercy,” and Blessed Paul VI in proposing the Good Samaritan as our model for discipleship. Pope Francis adds that God’s mercy is “the beating heart of the Gospel,” and that mercy “must penetrate the heart and mind” of every disciple. Three times, today’s Gospel asks “What should I do?” Pope Francis would say: Imitate Jesus, who came not wielding the fiery judgment that John the Baptist had threatened, but instead imparting healing, compassion, forgiveness – mercy!

Peter Scagnelli, Copyright J.S.Paluch Co., Inc.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Week of Hosting: Our parish will be hosting the IHN families once again during the Week of **January 10-17**. If you can help in any of the following ways, please give us a call:

a. If you can help set-up the Social Center on **Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m.** or take-down and pack away equipment on **Sunday, January 17 at 12:15 p.m.**, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net.

b. If you can **prepare a meal** one evening of that week, please call Toni Betz at 610-525-4499.

c. If you can serve as an **evening host**, during the evening from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. or as an **overnight host** from 8:30 p.m. – 6:30 a.m. once during the week, please call Carol Armstrong at 610-525-5167.



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

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 20 – Class
- Sunday December 27 – Christmas Break
- Sunday, January 3 – First Sunday Celebration and Lunch

SAVE THE DATE

An Evening of Recollection for all Liturgical Ministers will take place on **Friday, February 12, 2016** beginning with a light supper at 6:00 pm. Further information will be provided in the bulletin in early January.



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).

YOUR SMALL SACRIFICE THEIR GREAT APPRECIATION

For about the past 8 or 9 years, our parishioners have generously responded to the request of local women religious for gifts for their clients or help for their programs. They are requesting, once again, monetary gifts or small \$5 or \$10 gift cards.

The four Sisters and their programs are:

1. Sr. Bernadine Schmalhofer, MSBT prefers \$5 gift cards to McDonald's or cash donations for the boys at St. Francis-St. Joseph Homes in Bensalem;
2. Sr. Sharon Longshore, IHM at the IHM Center for Literacy program, prefers financial aid that her clients can use as they are sometimes in desperate need.
3. Sr. Clare Marsico, IHM at the IHM Center for Literacy at St. Francis deSales Parish in Southwest Philadelphia, prefers financial aid or gift cards to Acme, Giant, P a t h m a r k , Target or K-Mart, McDonalds.
4. Sr. Bernadette Mary Heister, IHM at the IHM Family Literacy Program at St. Joseph's Parish in Coatesville. Sister prefers Acme or Giant gift cards or cash donations.

Donations of gift cards, checks or cash will be delivered to these Sisters by Joe Betz (610-525-4499). You can place your gift in the church collection basket in an envelope with SISTERS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS written on it, or give your gift to Barbara in the parish office, or phone Joe Betz to pick your gift up for you. Please turn in the gifts by Tuesday, December 22nd. God bless you for caring.

“A MANSION CAROL NIGHT”

The IHM Conference Center, located at 401 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue in Bryn Mawr, presents “A Mansion Carol Night.” Journey through the Mansion celebrating Advent/Christmas joy through song, prayer, scripture and fellowship on **Wednesday, December 16 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** Join us and bring your family and friends! A good will offering is appreciated.



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
8:00 EDWARD AUGUST LARSON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 6:30 ANNA MC GUCKEN
8:00 FRANCIS KANE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 6:30 LAWRENCE GUINAN
8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 JOSEPH KINCADE
8:00 MARGARET MC GRANAHAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:30 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN JR.
(105TH BIRTHDAY)
8:00 WILLIAM THOMAS WALSH
(2ND ANNIVERSARY)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 8:00 JENNIFER ANN BREAM
(16TH ANNIVERSARY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:30 LAURA AND ANTONIO MARCHESANI
9:30 ELIZABETH BLIMM
11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS

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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