



Our Mother of Good Counsel

Parish Community

Staffed by the Augustinian Friars and the Sisters of Mercy for over a century

PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

December 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 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>

LET THE WORD OF GOD DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

Luke's Gospel begins and ends with prayer in the temple, first with Zechariah the priest, to whom the angel announces the birth of John the Baptist; and at the end with the disciples "continually praising God" there. In between, the temple plays a limited role in Jesus' story. It is the setting of his presentation as an infant, the area where his parents found him as a child of twelve and the place where he taught just before his death. With that in mind, we can understand Luke's account of Jesus' early activity at the temple as a literary end to the narrative of his childhood just as his final teaching days and the disciples' prayer in the temple bring the Gospel to a neat finale. So much for a literary assessment of the role of this story. Luke didn't include this incident simply as a literary device. As the end of the so-called "infancy narrative," today's Gospel (Luke 2:41-52) summarizes the theology of Jesus' origins.

Telling us that this trip to Jerusalem fit an annual pattern for the family, Luke illustrates the family's religious traditions. Every male Jew was supposed to make at least an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. There were so many family members involved that they didn't know who was with whom as they participated in their pilgrimage of faith. Surprisingly, Luke doesn't bother to even mention the festival itself, but only says that the family left Jerusalem without knowing the boy Jesus had neglected to join the caravan. This would be but the first time Jesus would publicly take his own path.

Luke goes on to tell us that Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the midst of scholars, listening and asking questions. Similarly, at the end of the Gospel, on the road to Emmaus, we see Jesus listening to disciples and asking them the questions that would lead them to refocus their faith. In reply to Mary's anguished statement that she and Joseph had been searching for him, Jesus asked why they didn't know where to seek him. This evokes the memory of the angel's question to the women at the tomb: "Why were you seeking the living one among the dead?" Finally, the most pointed detail is that Mary and Joseph were desperately grieved about having lost him in Jerusalem only to find him on the third day – the day that would see his resurrection decades later.

Luke ends this story with four details: Mary and Joseph didn't understand, but Mary would continue to *ponder* it all; Jesus obediently returned to Nazareth, and he grew in age and wisdom. This conclusion to the infancy narrative tells us everything and at the same time explains nothing more than that Jesus' life is indeed a mystery to be pondered. Luke's introduction leads us to the end of the Gospel and back again, ultimately inviting us to join Mary and Joseph in loving him, seeking him and pondering his words. With this story, Luke invites us to enter into the Gospel process with the members of Jesus' own family as they sought him, pondered the mystery of him and strove to remain with him through the ordinary as well as the distressing moments of life.

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

Patty Shymanski, Nicholas Santos,
Janine Hoffman, Judy Brown, Pat Dobson,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Margaret Simyak, Enan Macrone
and Evanille Walker.

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 Sr. Ann Schwarz, SHCJ, and Sr. Marguerite Marie McGranahan, RSM, and for the consolation of their families.

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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Dear Parishioners,

Although the weather seems to want to tell us otherwise, it is hard to believe the day has come and gone already. But the season continues! We are blessed to continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior in the coming weeks. Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.

In thinking about this feast, I can't help but go back to this past September when our city experienced an extraordinary event in the World Meeting of Families and a visit from Pope Francis. Like many of you, when I was not in the city, I was glued to the television, hanging on to every word the Pope spoke. Since then, I have found myself going back to some of the homilies and speeches and re-reading them to remind myself why I was so impressed!

I am particularly fond of the unscripted speech the Pope gave at the Festival of Families on Saturday evening. He ditched the speech he prepared and spoke right from his heart. I tell you, this man gets it. He spoke personally and honestly about the family. He joked about the family dynamic, but he also preached how the family brings peace and love. He spoke of the family being a light in a dark world.

I am blessed to be part of a loving family. My husband and children are my greatest pride and joy. However, they are also my biggest challenges, my greatest anxieties and my biggest headaches. We are a work in progress and continually striving to be better because ultimately it is our dignity, our strength, our love and our faith that will make our family life complete.

I encourage you to search, "Pope Francis' speech, Festival of Families." You can find it on many websites. Take some time to read it, pray with it and really let it sink in. Then see if you can find a small way to strengthen your family. Why not start with the upcoming New Year?

See you, and your family, in church.

Karen Carey



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

Due to the early bulletin deadlines, offertory totals for December 20th and Christmas will not be available until January.

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

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

*Parish Office will be closed
until Tuesday, December 29.*

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Holyday of Obligation**

**Thursday, December 31 –
Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.**

**Friday, January 1, 2016
One Mass only at 10:30 a.m.**

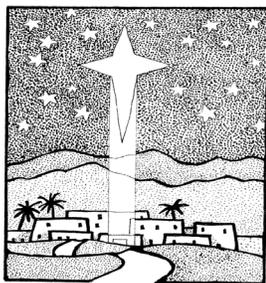
*Parish Office will be closed from
December 31 at 2:00 p.m.
until Monday, January 4.*

**PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO 6:30 am Mass
on Thursday, December 31. The only Mass on the
morning of this day is 8:00 am.**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Meeting: The Parish Council will meet again on **Monday, January 4 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 or ideas, suggestions or concerns, please call Dominic DiMartino at 610-525-6442.



PHILADELPHIA HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

This year, the inspiration for “O Little Town of Bethlehem” is worth noting on its 150th anniversary, Dec. 24. Phillips Brooks (1835 – 1893), the lyricist pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, and an opponent of slavery, led his congregation through the Civil War only to be totally distraught over the senseless death of Abraham Lincoln. To rediscover and strengthen his faith, he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Upon seeing Bethlehem under the stars, he was inspired to write the text for this beloved hymn. His parish organist, Lewis Redner (1831-1908) wrote the music. Redner said the music came to him in his sleep. “The hopes and fears of all the years/are met in thee tonight.” -Elaine Rendler-McQueeney

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016

Imagine: three New Year’s celebrations in little over a month! In late November, Advent began the new liturgical year; December 8, the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*; this coming Friday, the New Year 2016. In today’s Gospel, after three days of anguish, Mary tells Jesus how desperately she and Joseph have been searching for him. Mary could be speaking for the whole human race. With religious persecutions raging, international and domestic conflicts seething, our family and friends suffering various difficulties, not to mention our own personal problems, how much our world needs Jesus as another New Year veiled in mystery begins! As we pray for God’s mercy to enfold our world and embrace each of us in 2016, let our New Year’s resolution be to live the Jubilee Year of Mercy by being for others, as Mary was, a channel of God’s mercy and an instrument of Christ’s peace.

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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.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Peace and Justice Committee will meet on **Wednesday evening, January 6 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Center in Rosemont.

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will meet on **Friday morning, January 8 at 10:00 a.m.** in our Parish Center/Church Office building.

The child
grew to maturity



and was
filled with wisdom

HOLY DOORS OF MERCY

The Archdiocese has sent out a communication on the five National Shrines where a Holy Door of Mercy in the Archdiocese has been designated. Passage through a Jubilee Holy Door, to which a Plenary Indulgence is attached, is an efficacious sign of our decision to enter into the life of Jesus Christ and make a passage from sin to grace.

The Holy Doors of the Archdiocese are:

Principal Holy Door

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul
in Philadelphia

Shrine Holy Doors

Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia in Phila.

Shrine of St. John Neumann in Phila.

Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel in Bensalem

Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown
Miraculous Medal Shrine in Phila.

Guided by the images of opening the Jubilee Doors of Mercy, let us *ponder* opening the doors of our own hearts during this Holy Year of grace.

Open the door...

that allows us to listen to God in quiet
that may be closed for fear of encounter with another
to trust in others

that will release in us new energy for mission
to forgive a hurt in family or other relationship
to a broader vision, to a new possibility in life

that leads to peace
to love another
to receive God's mercy.

Mary, Mother of God



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AUGUSTINIAN VOLUNTEERS

How do Augustinian Volunteers serve? Volunteers serve in parochial schools as teachers, coaches, tutors, mentors and teachers aids; in high schools and colleges as campus ministers; in social services as case managers, legal aids, advocates, nurses and a variety of other roles.

Following the example of the Augustinian Friars, all of our volunteers live in community with 2 to 5 of their peers – sharing meals and praying together regularly. During the volunteer experience, community life is a means of giving and receiving support. It provides an opportunity to work together for shared goals, to learn from one another, (sharing culture, perspective, etc.) and to have fun with a group of like-minded individuals!

For more information, visit our website at www.osavol.org or get in touch: osavol@gmail.com or call 610-527-3330, ext. 291.



PRISON MINISTRY

Information Night

Monday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish will host this Information Night in Rosemont Parish Center, 1229 E. Lancaster Avenue, 1st Floor in Rosemont. The Presenter is Michael Stapf, a *Thresholds* Volunteer Teacher. *Thresholds* is a non-profit organization that trains volunteers to teach decision making skills to interested teens, men and women in Delaware County prisons. Go to www.thresholdsdelco.org.

You will teach a prisoner, one on one, over a ten-week period, once a week (flexible hours). No experience or special background is needed. You qualify by attending one training weekend which are held three times a year. *Thresholds* is a program that builds constructive relationships between the prisoners and the community.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Sacred Mystery,
Waiting on the threshold of this New Year,
You open the gates and beckon to us:

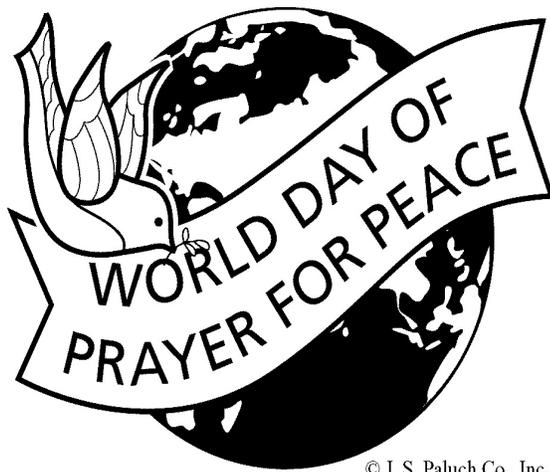
“Come! Come!
Be not wary of what awaits you
As you enter the unknown terrain.
Be not doubtful of your ability
To grow from its joys and sorrows.

For I am with you.
I will be your Guide.
I will be your Protector.
You will never be alone.”

Guardian of this New Year,
I set aside my worries, fears and concerns.
I open my life to mystery, to beauty,
To hospitality, to questions, to the endless
opportunity
Of discovering you in my relationships,
And to all the silent wisps of wonder,
That will draw me to your heart.

I welcome your unfailing presence
And walk with hope into this New Year. Amen

-Joyce Rupp



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
11:15 LUISETTA DI LEO CONICELLA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 6:30 LEAPHY N. NHEK
8:00 RAY MULLIN (1ST ANNIVERSARY)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 6:30 THE BUCHANAN AND TRAVERS
FAMILIES
8:00 SISTER ROSE ANTHONY, IHM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 6:30 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN III
(21ST ANNIVERSARY)
8:00 FRANCES D'AMATO
(9TH ANNIVERSARY)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 8:00 SPECIAL INTENTION
5:30 THE BUCHANAN AND TRAVERS
FAMILIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016
SOLEMNITY OF MARY

- 10:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

- 8:00 MARIA P.W. AND LEWIS H.
VAN DUSEN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 MAUREEN DURANTE
11:15 SISTER BRIDIE FARRELLY