



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

January 3, 2016

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>

CALLED TO BECOME MODERN-DAY MAGI

Today's beautiful narrative (Matt 2:1-12), unique to the Gospel of Matthew, becomes all the more poignant when viewed against the backdrop of the Christian community in which it originated. Matthew's church was comprised mostly of second-generation Christians. Once a strongly Jewish Christian church, it had become increasingly gentile in composition. As such, the growing community struggled to identify itself as rooted in but also apart from Judaism. This identity crisis was exacerbated when Jewish Christians were ousted from the synagogue in the mid-80s. With their foundation shaken and their complexion evolving, the community became ever more aware of itself as a universal church and of God's all-inclusive concerns.

At the heart of this narrative is the contrast between the refusal of some Jews (Herod, chief priests, scribes) to accept God's plan in Jesus, with the willing reverence for Jesus on the part of the gentiles (magi). The Jews were steeped for centuries in scriptural prophecies and promises concerning the messiah, and seemed to have an advantage over the gentiles. Nevertheless, these foreigners (magi) came to faith through the lesser witness of nature (star).

In telling of the star, Matthew may have been giving a nod to the tradition that the births of great people were accompanied by an astral announcement. According to legend, a star appeared before Moses' birth, striking fear in the heart of Pharaoh; a star is said to have appeared at Abraham's birth, as well. Although astronomers have offered scientific explanations for the star, the theological explanation is far more significant. Like the magi, whose hope and faith made it possible for them to be gathered unto God and to salvation, all of humankind is to be gathered in. In the interim between Jesus' advents, the community who believes in him must continue the process of gathering in all others, without exception and without prejudice. Let ours be a community that welcomes refugees, strangers, immigrants and other such exiles, rather than a community that creates them.

Maybe this year, as we leave Christmas behind and step out into the cold, dark winter, we are called to become modern-day magi, a community who steps into those images and brings them to life in our own time and place. The magi made the extraordinary effort to travel a great distance, across unknown lands, following the Christmas star. That star of the Holy Spirit will surely guide us, too. We can then offer our humble lives to the real King. The best part of the magi story is that they found what they were looking for. *So will we all.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

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.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Ms. Susan Small and Ms. Mary Small who recently registered with us.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Sr. Ann Schwarz, SHCJ, Sr. Marguerite Marie McGranahan, RSM, and Anna "Dolly" Doran, and for the consolation of their families.

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.

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.



Pastor's Notes

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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Dear Friends,

One of my clearest memories from childhood is joining my Dad and my older brothers in putting up the outdoor Christmas lights. In my memories, it was always bitterly cold. If I kept my gloves on, I was useless in my attempts to be helpful. If I took my gloves off, I was certain that I was getting frostbite!

We never put the lights up until the afternoon of Christmas Eve. That was normal fifty years ago. Today, anyone who waited until December 24th to put up their lights would be considered a procrastinator. As a nation, we decorate for Christmas earlier and earlier. And many take their decorations down right after Christmas. I have a good friend who prides himself on the fact that there is no trace of Christmas in his home by December 27th.

I object! The Season begins, not ends, on Christmas. As a Church, we observe the Christmas Season from sunset on December 24th till sunset on January 10th. The Season is rich with reasons to rejoice. This past weekend, we celebrated the Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. January 1st was the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God. This weekend, the Epiphany of the Lord recalls the arrival of the Wise Men. And on Sunday, January 10th, the Season comes to a close with the Baptism of the Lord. On Monday, January 11, 2016, we return to Ordinary Time. Let's not rush our return.

Of course, we will begin to clean up and put away once the New Year begins. But I invite you to celebrate the entire Christmas Season. To remind yourself, leave some decoration up until you get home from Mass on January 10th.

God bless!
Father Denny



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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 20, 2015

The three kings in today's Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their riches gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will *I* go and what will *I* offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

Envelope Contributions	\$8,414.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,025.00
Mailed in.....	\$2,465.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$13,344.00
Parish Giving.....	\$1,245.00

**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, 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 Ron Hicks at 610-449-2748.

BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS

The December 17th Red Cross Blood Drive in OMGC's gym collected 57 pints of blood, 2 more than our goal of 55. The donors included 5 donating double-red cells. Only one person presenting was deferred. Traffic accidents in the Christmas season guarantee the best of uses for these generous donations.

Many thanks to the committed parish phone recruiters: Mary Somers, Frank Quinn, Laura Piantini, Kathy Dougherty, Joe Betz and Carol Armstrong. Low as our numbers seem, 32 phone recruits, we did better than on-line recruiting, only 22. So our work does make a difference. Many thanks, Frank, Kathy, Laura, Carol and Mary. Merry Christmas, Joe Betz

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Food Needs for IHN: If you can donate any of the following food items for our guests when they arrive on **Sunday, January 10**, please put them in the food box at the entrance of the church next Sunday:

soup	crackers	tuna fish
jelly	salad dressing	lemonade mix
mustard	ice tea mix	coffee
tea bags	peanut butter	cookies
cold cereal	mayonnaise	ketchup
juice: boxes or bottles		hot cereal

Important IHN Phone Numbers: Because of our phone system here in the parish, it is important that you know the numbers to call if you are trying to reach someone helping with the IHN families during the week of January 10 – 17. These numbers will be necessary to have whenever the Parish Office is closed or after 5:00 p.m. on work days this week.

Parish Phone – 610-525-0147 – Ext. 255
(Social Center – school)

IHN Phone – 610-525-1727 (direct line)

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

In this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Epiphany celebrates God's mercy shining on the magi from a guiding star. Their kingdoms were far from Jerusalem, their religions far from God's covenant with Israel. At first, the star led the magi to Jerusalem, where they could "recalculate" their quest with the help of God's own "GPS," the Jewish scriptures. How challenging and humbling for the magi to discover that they would find the world's Messiah not in a palace but with a poor couple in an insignificant village. That's where God's mercy, shining in the star, led the magi to worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Today the magi invite us to "recalculate" our life's journey during this Jubilee Year – to follow the star of God's mercy along the way of humble love, to discover a renewed personal relationship with Jesus ourselves and so become "guiding stars" leading other seekers to find Jesus, too.

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

HACHI: A MOVIE WITH MEANING!

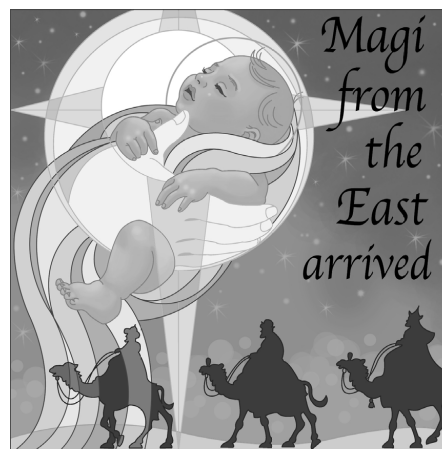
The IHM Sisters at their Conference Center, 401 Bryn Mawr Avenue invite you to Lunch and a Viewing on **January 12 , 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** (Snow date – January 14). A stipend of \$15 is asked. To register, please call 610-521-0120 or 610-527-0506 or email ihmconference@verizon.net.

LISTEN FOR A CHANGE Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice

The Society of the Holy Child Jesus and Rosemont College invite you to attend Trinity Institute's conference on racial justice from **Thursday, January 21 to Saturday, January 23**. The topic for this year's conference is: *Listen for a Change, Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice*. While the actual conference takes place in New York City, you can attend the event at Rosemont College via webcast. Come with open ears and leave with a greater capacity to create change in your community! For additional information, please visit www.shcj.org/american or call 610-626-1400, ext. 101.

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.



NEEDED: A FRIEND

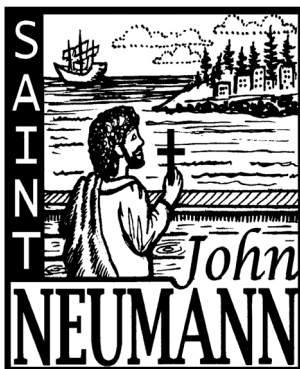
Do you have one hour a week? Dolphins of Delaware Valley, a local organization, long affiliated with our parish, matches a volunteer with a nearby nursing home resident – not just any resident, but someone experiencing the long term isolation and loneliness which often occur in nursing homes. We always need both women and men visitors. Please learn more about being a volunteer by checking out our website at www.dolphinsofdelawarevalley.org or by calling Marilyn Knox, Volunteer Coordinator at 610-585-7141.



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CRAFTING PRAYER

Come, initiate a new spiritual practice while enjoying prayer, friendly conversation and the creation of a take-home prayer box! Kathy Eckert and Mickie McParland will guide us. All will gather at the IHM Conference Center, 401 Bryn Mawr Avenue on **January 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** (Snow date: January 27). Fee for lunch and supplies: \$15. To reserve a space, call 610-521-0120 or 610-527-0506 or email ihmconference@verizon.net.

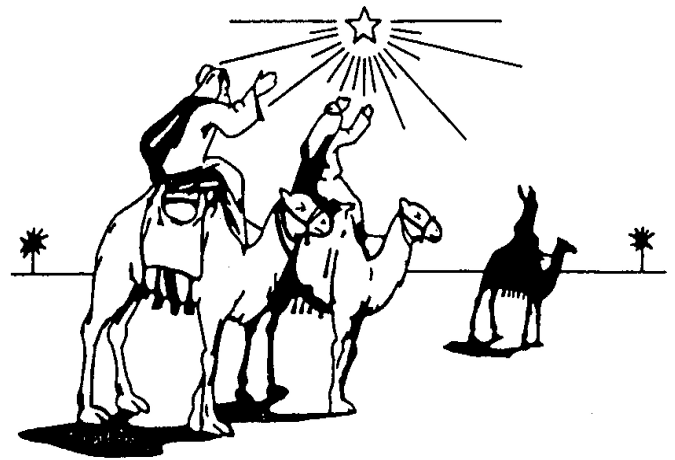


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St.
Elizabeth Ann Seton

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EPIPHANY

They listened deep inside,
far into the darkness
where even a tiny bit of light
seemed like sunburst in the heart.

They pondered the silent music
that echoed in their prayer:
“Go. Search. Look. Follow. Find.”

A journey without precedent,
adventure wrought with risk,
a time of travel filled with faith.

They went lovingly, eagerly,
into the night of their lives,
trusting they would find the way.

They paused to inquire, to study,
they went on in faith, patiently,
following with the hearts' eye
and “the sight of the star
filled them with delight.”

A journey not in vain,
a patient search rewarded,
their steady courage in the unknown
led them to their heart's delight.

They found the long-sought One,
waiting to be found,
longing to be discovered,
as they traveled the far stretches
of their long and hidden night.
Joyce Rupp in *Out of the Ordinary*

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.

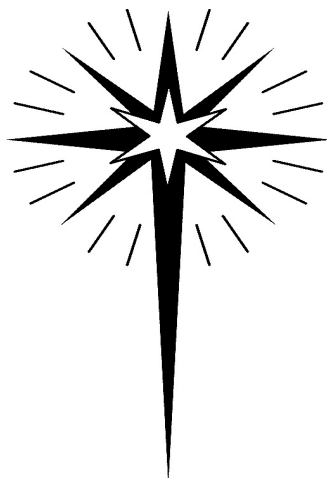
Guided by the images of opening the Jubilee Doors of Mercy, let us *ponder* opening the doors of our own hearts during this Holy Year of grace.

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.



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SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

- 6:30 MR. AND MRS. DERRICK THORSON
(MARRIAGE)
8:00 GERARD J. BRENNAN

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

- 6:30 ERIC QUINN
8:00 JIM SCHIMMINGER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

- 6:30 DECEASED MEMBERS AND
BENEFACTORS, OSA
8:00 MARY STIGLIANO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

- 6:30 WILLIAM J. STILLWAGON
8:00 JAMES F. YOUNG

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

- 6:30 EMMA P. STIGLIANO
8:00 JOE AND MIRIAM BLIMM
(50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

- 8:00 ESPERANZA BARAJAS
(1ST ANNIVERSARY)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 BOB RYAN
11:15 MARY AND BRAD BORMAN

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

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

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