



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

February 28, 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 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>

REPENTANCE: BEARING FRUIT THAT WILL LAST

Today's Gospel (Luke 13:1-9) with its juicy gossip and Jesus' responses is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Whatever the social dynamics of the situation, Jesus rebutted the notion that God was working through Pilate's cruelty or any whimsical faulty construction. Then he warned the scandalmongering crowd that they could easily suffer the same fate as the notorious victims. Was he capitulating to their assumptions of divine retribution? Many pious people of Jesus' time assumed that tragedy and wretchedness were divine punishments for sin. It sounds as if Jesus was telling the crowd that they were just as likely to be chastised as the others if they did not repent. But in both of the tragedies, Jesus had already declared the relative innocence of the victims. Previously, Jesus had twice told his disciples that he himself would be unjustly handed over and killed. It seems highly unlikely that Jesus shared their assumptions about suffering as divine retribution.

Jesus followed up his example of a tragic accident with the parable about a barren fig tree. If we understand the tree as a symbol of the people, we hear Jesus painting a pretty stark portrait of their situation. The vineyard owner decides that it is costing the soil too much to sustain a sterile plant, a symbol of an unproductive populace that uselessly occupies space and consumes resources that could be better exploited. Note how the conditions have changed here. In the examples of tragic deaths, the focus was sinfulness. In the case of the fig tree, the problem was inactivity.

Then the gardener comes into the story. Without denying the current worthlessness of the tree, he offers to stir things up. In language reminiscent of two of Luke's parables of the person who kept bothering a sleeping neighbor until he gave away some bread and of the unrelenting widow, the gardener offers to disturb the soil and throw manure on the plant to coax it into production. This will be his last-ditch effort.

These readings come to us in the middle of our Lenten journey as a call to take a good look at ourselves and how we profess our faith. In his initial encounter with God, Moses learned that God is not confined to past history or future bliss. I AM is the God of concrete and immediate action. In today's second reading, Paul reminded his community that being related to this God is not something to be taken as a token of privilege; even in a desert, God's role is not to give-in to humanity's every desire. Finally, Jesus reminds those who will hear him that the conversion they need can happen at no other time than NOW! Are we listening?

PRAYER REQUESTS

In our prayers, we have been asked to remember:

Margaret Simyak, Janine Hoffman,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Evanille Walker, Carol Luty, James Neville,
Evan Macrone, and Nancy McDermott Wallace.

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 James and Dorothy Leith who recently registered with us.

Baptism: We welcome to our faith community Abigail Juliette Smith, daughter of Stephen and Natalie.

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.

IMPORTANT REQUEST

Please do not bring food that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut products or nut products inside the church; someone sitting near you may have a serious allergy.

Pastor's Notes

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RICE BOWL

Dear Friends,

If you haven't yet committed to a Lenten project, I invite you to consider participating in Operation Rice Bowl. I recommend this Lenten exercise to individuals of all ages and to families. This is the 41st year that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has sponsored the Rice Bowl. The Catholic Bishops of the United States established CRS after World War II. Its original purpose was to assist the displaced people of Europe. Today, Operation Rice Bowl assists those in need around the world. 75% of the money raised supports the foreign missions. 25% supports programs for the poor here in the United States. Last year, our parish contributed \$3,170 to Operation Rice Bowl. Parishes across our Archdiocese contributed a total of over \$300,000.

Operation Rice Bowl raises crucial funds for worthy causes. And, it does much more. It is an invitation to individuals, families and parishes to connect with our struggling sisters and brothers through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The cardboard "rice bowls" are available at the back of the church or online. Inside the bowl is a wonderful calendar for Lent. It is educational, thought-provoking, serious and fun. This year the calendar features the recipes for simple meals from Rwanda, Honduras, Madagascar, Colombia and Laos. Check it out. Adapt it in ways that work for you and your family.

Happy Lent!
Father Denny



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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for February 21, 2016

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

Envelope Contributions	\$7,522.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$2,429.00
Mailed in.....	\$1,604.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$11,555.00
Offering this time last year	\$7,136.00
Parish Giving.....	\$ 975.00

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

CONTRIBUTIONS LETTER

The End of the Year substantiation letter will be sent to all parishioners who have contributed \$600.00 or more to the parish during 2015.

If you do not receive a letter and need a list of your contributions, please email Peggy Juhline at pjuhline@omgcp parish.net or call 610-525-0147 ext 225

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 4

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

Theme: Receive Children, Receive Me

Please plan to join us for the annual World Day of Prayer for Peace at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr where Christian Churches around the world will gather on this date to pray for Peace. This prayer was written by the women of Cuba and will be facilitated by the community at Bryn Mawr Pres. You are welcome to Congregational Hall at 10:00 a.m. for a social opportunity to meet the people who will be gathering for **prayer in their Church at 11:00 a.m.** Any questions can be directed to Mary Richards at 610-525-2821 or maryrichards@bmpc.org.

CYO BOYS VARSITY TEAM REGION 32 CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Basketball Team for winning the Region 32 Championship. St. Thomas-OMGC defeated St. Aloysius in the championship and finished with a 14-1 record in the region. Varsity team members include: MJ Atkins, Scott Burke, Timmy Cincotta, Sam DiLella, Ryan Gaffney, Mike King, James Kranick, Brennan McBride, Declan McDonnell, Mac Sandstead, and Carson Smith. The team is coached by Pat Ryan, Terry Burke and Matt Hutelmyer.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Meeting: The Parish Council will meet again on **Monday, March 7 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.

LENTEN TAIZE PRAYER

Join us on **Sunday, March 13 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 this prayerful Lenten Season.

LIVING STATIONS PRESENTATION

Please plan on attending our prayer production of the Living Stations on **Sunday, March 13** following the 11:15 liturgy in the church. The young people of our parish have been working hard on getting ready to share this "living prayer" with you. Perhaps you can attend the 11:15 Mass and stay an extra half hour to join our prayer.

LENTEN SERIES

Thursday Evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
February 18, February 25, March 3

Please plan to attend the final evening of our Lenten Series this **Thursday, March 3 from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** in the Church and Daily Chapel.

On the **third and final evening** of his series, Fr. Denny will provide the opportunity for questions and musings on the four Gospels which he has been presenting during the first two sessions.

On **Thursday, March 3**, Sr. Marie Michele will highlight the **Spiritual Works of Mercy**. Even though the Corporal Works may seem to get more attention because they seem more practical, the Spiritual Works are equally important in our relationship with our brothers and sisters. They may even require more thought and effort on our part. We will take time to see how our practice of these Works can benefit others as well as nourish our own spiritual growth.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited us to a special focus on practicing The Works of Mercy.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We are still in need of many volunteers from the Youth of our Parish for our Living Stations. Please consider joining us today, **Sunday, February 28 from 12:15 until 1:30** to practice our prayer for the parish. Lunch will be served.

Parents, please encourage your children to be part of this great celebration. The Living Stations will be performed for the parish on **Sunday, March 13 at 12:30 p.m.** The production takes about 30 minutes. It is a great way to learn about the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Savior. All students, grades 2 through 12, no matter what school they attend, are invited and encouraged to participate.

SPIRITUAL READING GATHERING

The Spiritual Reading Group will meet again on **Friday morning, March 11 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Parish Office.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All Youth, grades 6 through 12, are invited and encouraged to help set up for First Sunday Celebration on **Sunday, March 6 at 9:00 a.m.** Please join us for this great service project.

All Youth, grades 6-12, who are interested in going to **Get Air, on Saturday, March 19,** please contact Karen at kcarey@omgcp parish.net. You may be able to get a discount on your ticket if you participate in the Living Stations.

All Youth, grades 6 through 12, are invited to join us to fill Easter Eggs on **Sunday, March 20** in the Parish Office from 12:15 until 1:30. We need many hands to make this happen!

All Youth, grades 6 through 12, are invited to help us with the Parish Wide Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday following the 11:15 Mass. Many hands are needed to help the younger children. Please email Karen at kcarey@omgcp parish.net if you are interested in helping.

EASTER EGG FILLERS

The Youth Group will be filling plastic Easter Eggs so the children in the parish may have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Morning. We are in need of fillers for the small plastic Easter Eggs. If you are able to donate individually wrapped candy that will fit in the average-size plastic egg, please drop it off either at the parish office or in the food basket at the entrance to church. Please mark the bag "Easter Treats." We will be collecting from now until Palm Sunday. Thank you.

CYO TRACK NEWS

Joe Manion announces signups for 1-8 grade boys and girls track teams is on St. Katharine's site. All OMGC and STV parishioners are invited to practice and run together with SKS. Practices are Tues/Thurs and Sunday meets, lots of smiles, lots of pranks, you know the drill. You can find the registration here: <http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=skscy0>

FIRST SUNDAY

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

All parishioners are invited to join us on **Sunday, March 6** for our First Sunday Celebration with a St. Patrick's Day theme! Join us for the 11:15 liturgy and then PLEASE join us in the gym for a lovely potluck lunch. It is always fun, even if you simply stop in for a moment. **All are welcome to join us for this lunch.** If you are able, we ask you to bring your favorite dish to share. We would ask that if you are bringing something to share, please use the link below for signing up so we are sure there is enough Irish in all of us!!! To sign up, please go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-first4

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

December 8, 2015-November 20, 2016

Pope Francis wants "*Twenty-four Hours for the Lord,*" around-the-clock availability of the sacrament of reconciliation, implemented worldwide this Lent. Celebrated with his oft-recommended "tenderness," the sacrament is "a source of true interior peace," says Francis, enabling people "to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands." In Luke's Gospel, Jesus warns us against judging others. Focus instead, Jesus says, on deepening – or restoring – our own relationship with God, for during this Lenten springtime that Master Gardener can use even life's manure (the parable's "fertilizer") to coax fresh fruit from a tree that seems hopelessly barren – *us!* Imagine what the Samaritan woman's lifelong neighbors thought of her multiple relationships. But by discovering Jesus, then sharing her good news, and Jesus, with those very neighbors, she whom they had probably judged quite sinful became instead their evangelist and "missionary of mercy."

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

Mass for Persons Who Are Homebound

St. John Chrysostom in Wallingford airs their Sunday Mass at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and 12 noon on Thursdays on Comcast Channel 190.** Or view their Mass anytime online at www.sjcparish.org/televised-mass. Parish phone number: 610-874-3418.

A PRAYERFUL INVITATION TO YOU

**You are invited in the
Jubilee Year of Mercy
To Pray, Learn, Discuss, Act and Encounter
RACISM
in our region**

On **Sunday, March 6 from 1:00 to 3:30pm**, we encourage all interested parishioners to join us for the 2nd Encounter in the Jubilee Year of Mercy series bringing together parishioners from 12 diverse parishes across the Archdiocese to reflect on and share on issues which exclude many of our neighbors from society. Through these Encounters, we hope to bring about actions that address the root causes of the issues we discuss. Although this began as a summer **pilot** program, we welcome all voices to join the discussion.

Racism is one of those “social sins.” It is a legacy we have inherited as Americans and also as Christians. But it is one we dare not hand on to our children and grandchildren! For that we need each other – and God’s steady, just and loving guidance.

In honor of Lent, and in honor of Pope Francis’ call for this to be a “Year of Mercy,” St. Vincent DePaul Parish will host a conversation on Racism on Sunday, March 6 from 1:00 – 3:30 pm at the nearby Banquet Hall of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal, 475 E. Chelton (enter lot off Morton Street). Lunch will be provided. Members of 11 other parishes participating in the “Year of Encounter with Pope Francis” program will also join us there.

To register for the day, please contact Sr. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 or at awoodeshick@omgcparish.net by Wednesday, March 2. Thank you for considering this important invitation.

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 toilet paper, paper towels, napkins and Kleenex. They do appreciate our assistance in lightening their financial expenses. These supplies can be bought to church on Sundays or brought to the Parish Office during the week.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

7:30 OMGC PARISHIONERS
9:30 DR. JOSEPH FOOTE
11:15 ANNA FARRELLY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

6:30 ANNE TINSLEY MARK
8:00 ROBERT KORTSCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

6:30 FRANCIS MCGOWEN
8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

6:30 DECEASED MEMBERS AND
BENEFACTORS, OSA
8:00 DOROTHY HARKIN

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

6:30 IN THANKSGIVING
8:00 JAMES CORRIGAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

6:30
8:00 PATRICIA CABREY

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

8:00

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

7:30 OMGC PARISHIONERS
9:30 JOSEPH HURLEY (18TH ANNIV) AND
JANE HURLEY (1ST ANNIV)
11:15 MICHELINA GAGLIARDI