



Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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PENNSWOOD ROAD
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August 21, 2016

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Fr. John Deary, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 252

Fr. James McBurney, OSA, In Residence...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: 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.

Closed on Fridays during July and August

Parish Office and Rectory Phone: (610) 525-0147

FAX NUMBER: (610) 525-0157

PARISH WEB SITE:

<http://www.OMGCPARISH.ORG>

“BLESSED ARE THE LOWLY...”

In today's Gospel (Luke 13:22-30), Luke reminds us that Jesus was traveling the road to Jerusalem. He was in that process of facing his final test when someone asked, “Are only a few being saved?” The question came right out of a worldview of privilege, assuming that some are chosen and the rest might as well not bother. We can pretty well suppose that the inquirer assumed he was among the saved, because in what follows, Jesus warns against such presumption.

True to form, when asked “how many,” Jesus avoided the numbers game. He focused on the process, not the final score. But then, sounding less like a Good Shepherd than the driver of an outrageously overcrowded bus, Jesus tells folks to strive to push through an entrance so narrow that many won't be strong enough to make it. That perplexing image leads to some serious questions: What makes that entry so narrow? What kind of strength is necessary to get through? When and why does the door get locked?

Perhaps the challenge of the constrained entry has less to do with the size of the crowd or the individuals than with the size of their egos. The people who can get through seem to be comfortable being out of order; they are the people who don't understand or don't care about their place in line. People like that don't end up jamming the doorway because they are sure that there's plenty of room and plenty of time. They may even instigate a sing-along or some games while they are waiting to get in. These people have unique strengths that include *faith* in the bounty of the host-God, the confident *hope* that breeds patience, and the open-hearted *love* that engenders an ability to enjoy the company of strangers. They transform waiting in line into the entrée to the banquet itself.

What then about the locked door? It is easy to overlook the fact that after the master of the house has locked the door, Jesus says, “*you* will stand outside knocking...” In that moment, whoever asked the question is on the hot seat. The teacher suddenly focuses directly on the one who started the conversation, and it's not a comfortable gaze. The master says, “I do not know where you are from.” Their claim to have eaten and drunk with him and to have heard him teaching in the streets provides no entrance ticket. The master repeats, “I do not know where you are from.”

No one wants to be locked out. Jesus urges us to enter the kingdom through the “narrow gate.” If the key to heaven is *love*, then we must keep that key close to our hearts. Humility helps. Those who exalt themselves will never be able to squeeze through the humble door that leads to life.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Margaret Simyak, Janine Hoffman,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Valerie Ziccardi, Roma Mazza,
and Phyllis Valentine.

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 Dr. and Mrs. Nicholas and Michelle Sherman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter and Susan Mostek who recently registered with us.

H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Carol Way at 610-525-5817 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147.



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SENIOR COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Senior Community members will gather again on **Friday, August 26 at 12 noon** in the Social Center of the school building for an enjoyable lunch and afternoon activity. Please bring your usual lunch sandwich with you. We will provide dessert and beverages for the occasion. Looking forward to seeing you there.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE

**Parish Office will be closed
Friday, September 2 and
Labor Day, Monday, September 5**

**One Mass only will be celebrated on
Labor Day at 9:00 a.m.**

A SPECIAL REMINDER

**The 6:30 a.m. weekday Mass,
Monday through Friday,
will resume on Thursday, September 1.**



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FOLLOW UP TO MISSION SUNDAY HOMILY

After hearing Father Chanlis’s homily last Sunday, some parishioners expressed interest in sponsoring seminarians for his home diocese. Here is how to contact Father Chanlis:

Fr. Chanlis Chacko
Mobile: 267-297-9952
E-mail: chanlis@outlook.com

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will resume its monthly gatherings on **Friday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Parish Center. At this gathering, we will conclude reading, “Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary” by Michael W. Higgins.

Beginning on Friday, October 7, we will begin reading “Dorothy Day: Love in Action” by Patrick Jordan. These books are published by Liturgical Press in Collegeville, Minnesota. If you think you would like to join us beginning in October, please contact S. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 or email awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net and let me know so that books can be ordered in time

The Spiritual Reading Group usually meets on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for August 14, 2016

Today’s reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord “in clean vessels.” The gift of myself—my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God—is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

Envelope Contributions	\$6,410.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,071.00
Mailed in	\$555.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$8,036.00
Offering this time last year	\$7,201.00
Electronic giving of August 15.....	\$4,217.00
Parish Giving.....	\$895.00

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



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RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Inquiry Sessions Begin

On Tuesday evening, **September 27 at 7:30 p.m.**, a new series of RCIA Inquiry sessions will begin for anyone who may be considering becoming a member of the Catholic Church or who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Church. If you or anyone you know may be interested in becoming a part of this initial step of Inquiry about the Catholic faith, please call S. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net for more information or to register for this opening session.

Brochures will soon be available in the pamphlet racks and on the table at the entrance of the Church for you to take and share with someone who may be interested in attending the initial “Inquiry Session.”

**Monday
August 22**



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YOUTH GROUP NEWS

We are beginning to work on our Youth calendar for the 2016-2017 school year. Youth Group is open to any student in grades 6 through 12 in our parish. Youth Group consists of activities which include service, trips, movies, discussions, sports, games, culture, prayer and always FOOD. There is no cost to be part of Youth Group. We hold different Fund Raisers through the year to support our efforts. This helps cut the cost of activities we do during the year. Please watch the Bulletin each week for various happenings. Know that you are always welcome.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP) REGISTRATION

All children in grades 1 through 7, who attend public schools or private schools, must be registered for PREP. The Parish Religious Education Program strives to teach the truths and traditions of our faith. Sacrament preparation is included in the program.

PREP classes are held on **Sunday mornings from 9:40 until 11:00am**. PREP classes do not take the place of Mass. You are still expected to attend Mass as a family. Registration Packets are available at the entrance to the church. Please fill out and return registration forms as soon as possible. Invoices will be sent separately. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Carey at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net.



FALL FESTIVAL CORNER

October 14, 15, 16, 2016

Believe it or not, plans for the 2016 Fall Festival have been underway for three months now! Please mark your calendars to join our parish in our Annual Fall Festival featuring our HAUNTED MAZE! The Festival also includes vendors, games, prizes, food, raffles and more! Plan to join us on **October 14, 15, and 16** this year for fun, adventure and prizes! Please watch the bulletin for ways in which you can help or participate!

NEEDED: At this point in time, we are looking for chairpersons to head up committees for the games, and the prizes. If you are willing to meet with us, every other week, for about an hour, and have some creative ideas on how to make the games and prizes more spectacular, please contact Karen Carey at kcarey@omgcp parish.net.

We are also looking for persons who are able to donate raffle items! If you own a business or are in a position to ask at your business for a donation to our raffle, please contact MaryAnn Gallagher at 610-283-8831. She will be able to give you tax information and forms.

We had GREAT SUCCESS with our themed baskets last year. If you or a group of people, parish friends, neighborhoods, etc...would like to get together and create a raffle basket to donate, please contact Karen Carey at 610-525-0147 for ideas or to let us know you are willing to donate! More next week.

ARCHBISHOP PRENDERGAST HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966 – 50th Class Reunion
October 15, 2016 at
Springfield Country Club in Springfield, PA
Buffet Lunch 11:30 – 3:30 pm
Cost - \$55.00

If you have not received your invitation in the mail, contact Dottie Bracken Evangelista at evangedb@gmail.com or 610-436-0427.

“SCARRED BY STRUGGLE”

S. Joan Chittister, OSB, an internationally acclaimed speaker, will provide a seminar at Chestnut Hill College on **Sunday, September 25 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.** in Sorgenti Arena at the College. The seminar will include her presentation, Q and A, and book signing opportunities.

As we look at our world, our political system, our church, our neighborhoods, our families and our own hearts, we see that we all bear the scars of struggle, past and present. Joan Chittister, OSB is prophetic and someone who speaks boldly from where she stands. Sister Joan is part of the long Benedictine tradition of one who “listens with the ear of the heart.” From that sacred space, Joan will reflect on and share with us the hope that’s born only through enduring the scars and embracing the struggle.

S. Joan is a Benedictine Sister of Erie, PA and is an outspoken advocate of justice, peace and equality – especially for women world-wide – and has been one of America’s visionary spiritual voices for more than 30 years.

To register, contact Catherine Nerney, SSJ at: www.forgive@chc.edu or 215-248-7099.

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

This *Jubilee Year of Mercy* and Pope Francis’ ministry have renewed our understanding that the Church’s heart is open wide to all, and the heart of the gospel is God’s mercy. Flooded with God’s mercy, our hearts should overflow as channels bringing to wounded and weary hearts Jesus’ healing mercy. For Jesus warns, our own salvation is not guaranteed by the Liturgy of the Word (“you taught in our streets”) nor by the Eucharist (“we ate and drank in your company”). People far from that banquet, “from the east and the west and from the north and the south... So we should never dare ask what “someone asked Jesus, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” The crucial question is “Will *I* be saved?” And Jesus’ answer is another question: “Have you shown mercy to everyone, freely, gladly, no limits, no conditions, no exceptions?”

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

SCHOOL MENTORS NEEDED

at **St. Frances Cabrini
Regional Catholic School**

New Volunteers are welcome to join St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Mentors on **Tuesday, from October to early May**, to minister with the students: TIME of service commitment 2:30 – 5:00 pm which includes carpooling to and from the school in West Philadelphia.

Mentoring a student on a 1-1 basis can include homework assignments, extra math or reading support. You can decide the age/grades of the children you feel comfortable working with and it will be arranged by the school staff.

New volunteers need to go through a 2 ½ hour training program at STV’s Parish Center, called “Protecting God’s Children” and complete background checks this fall.

An information Session will be held in the Parish Center on **Tuesday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.** If you are interested but cannot attend this session, contact **Barb Gollin at 610-688-4168 or mmgbbcc@hotmail.com**.

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. John Chrysostom in Wallingford

St. John Chrysostom is seeking a Coordinator of Youth Ministry. We seek someone with a warm, enthusiastic spirit who loves youths and is passionate about social justice. This is a part-time position that averages 10 hours a week, primarily developing and leading youth activities that promote faith, fun and service. For more information, please contact Mary Chollet: 610-874-3418, ext. 106 or mchollet@sjcparish.org.



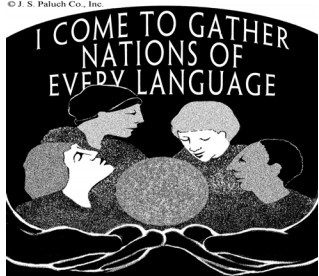
SPECIAL 24-HOUR RETREATS

Malvern Retreat House is introducing two new 24-hour retreats for men and women who would like to try a shorter weekend event. Malvern Retreat House is located at 315 S. Warren Avenue in Malvern, PA

For Men: A retreat for busy men, ages 40 and younger, will be held on **Friday, August 26 to Saturday, August 27**. Retreat Directors Msgr. Joseph Marino and Bill Donaghy will focus on helping men renew their faith in God's presence. For more information or to register, please visit: malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

For Women: Women of all ages are welcome to attend a retreat on **Friday, September 30 to Saturday, October 1** in the beautiful McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center. The retreat will focus on the theme of *Celebrating the Gift of Catholic Womanhood* and will feature presentations by Pat Gohn, popular Catholic author of the book, "Blessed, Beautiful and Bodacious." For more information or to register, please visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

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POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

All are invited to the Polish Harvest Festival at the TK Club at 500 East Hector Street in Conshohocken on **Sunday, September 25 from Noon to 6:00 p.m.** to support St. Mary Polish American Society, a non-profit organization working to promote Polish heritage and culture in and around Montgomery County, PA. The Polish Harvest Festival will feature live Polka music from the Naturalistix Polka Band, Polish food, a full cash bar, a 50/50 drawing, a basket raffle and baked goods for sale. Tickets are \$10 advance sales, \$15 day of event. Tickets include the price of admission, with food not included. Advance tickets are on sale until Wednesday, September 14th. For tickets, please email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.

MASSSES for the WEEK

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS
9:30 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA
11:15 SALVATORE PETROCCIA (1ST ANNIVERSARY)

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

- 8:00 PATRICK MOONAN, SR.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

- 8:00 MARK, MICHELLE AND MICHAEL CONNOR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8:00 NELL TRAVERS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

- 8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

- 8:00 MR. AND MRS. ANGELO IANNAcone

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

- 8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

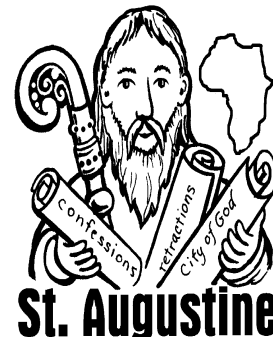
- 7:30 MAUREEN, PAUL, AND TOMMY BRENNAN
9:30 ROBERT VALENTINE
11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS

Saturday,
August 27



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Sunday,
August 28



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(Supervisor)

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

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