



Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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Sisters of Mercy for over a century

31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
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September 18, 2016

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Br. William C. Harkin, OSA, Deacon...Ext. 249

Mr. Joseph Carey, Facilities Manager...Ext. 262

Mrs. Karen Carey, Coordinator of Religious Education and
Youth Ministry...Ext. 227

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:

Monday-Friday 6:30 A.M.

Monday-Saturday 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>

LIVING AS *LIGHT* IN GOD'S CREATION

In today's Gospel (Luke 16:1-13), Luke's Jesus lets us know everything will change for those who decide to be his followers. Discipleship is not a part-time job; our whole lives revolve around our decision to be other Christs. That's why he brings up the case of the "squandering" steward.

Luke isn't encouraging his readers to find ways to shortchange their employers, but to be as creative in being good as the steward is creative in being bad. Faith cannot be simply a sideline that sometimes squeezes into an other-directed life. We often do good for someone, but it's not at the center of our scheduled day.

Jesus observes, "The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." Our fundamental option is obviously where we spend our time and exert our effort. It makes sense that "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and riches."

Later, in Chapter 18, Luke will copy much of Mark's Chapter 10 narrative in which Jesus talks about how hard it is for a rich person to "enter the kingdom of God." A camel has a better chance of getting through the eye of a needle. Jesus isn't saying the wealthy can't get into heaven; he is simply stating that if someone's life quest is to make money, she or he will never discover God working effectively in their lives here and now, long before they go through the pearly gates.

Both the Gospel Jesus and the historical Jesus are concerned with people getting the most out of life. Our fundamental option is the first step in reaching that goal. If our faith is on the perimeter of our lives, no matter how many religious actions we perform, we will never accomplish what God intends for us.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Margaret Simyak, Janine Hoffman,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Peggy Waters and
Deacon George McAndrews.

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.

Baptisms: We welcome to our faith community Seamus Joseph Callahan, son of Joseph and Jennifer and Trevor Joseph McGilvery, son of Jim and Jillian.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. and Mrs. John and Michelle Riley who recently registered with us.

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 Dianne Meyer at 610-310-0506 or email at dameyer1620@comcast.net.

H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Shelley Preston at 484-412-8309 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext 234.

SENIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Our Senior parish members and others from nearby Churches will gather once again on **Friday, September 23 at 12 noon**. If you would like to join us, please bring your usual lunch edibles, knowing that beverages and desserts will be provided by our generous members. It is always a very enjoyable afternoon together.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

The Annual Catholic Charities Appeal is a significant source of support for the many social and educational efforts in the Archdiocese. What has been accomplished all these years through the generosity of area Catholics should be a source of great satisfaction for us all. We are now two-thirds of the way through the calendar year, but we have reached less than 60% of our goal. Please consider making a contribution to support the important social and education programs of the Archdiocese. There are envelopes in the back of the church for this appeal.

Helping Adults with the Sacraments of Initiation

Dear Friends,

I will never forget the look on Mr. Yoneda's face when I first met him. He sat there that night with his arms crossed and wearing a huge frown. We were sitting around the table at a meeting for people who were thinking about becoming Catholics. Mr. Yoneda had fallen in love with Ms. Kataoka (not their real names) - a caring and intelligent young woman from a very traditional Nagasaki Catholic family. Ms. Kataoka's father was not insisting that Mister Yoneda become a Catholic, but he wanted to make sure that the young man had a good idea of what he was getting himself into if he were to marry his daughter.

Mr. Yoneda had graduated from a very prestigious Japanese university. He had a good job and a promising career ahead of him. And he was the kind of person who had low tolerance for nonsense. At this point in time my Japanese language ability was not that great. I had finished two years at the Jesuit Japanese language school less than two years before that. Every Thursday night was a struggle. I prepared each session as thoroughly as I could, but it seemed that almost every week Mr. Yoneda asked me a question that was hard for me to understand and even harder for me to answer in my faltering Japanese.

But grace was at work! People in my circle of friends, people in the Kataoka family - lots of people were praying for Mr. Yoneda. And gradually, God changed Mr. Yoneda's heart. It was a privilege for me to be part of that and to watch God's grace work in his life. After about a year, he received the light of faith, but chose to continue to pray and to study for one more year before receiving Baptism.

The last time I visited Nagasaki was in May of 2013. Mr. Yoneda is no longer a member of the Augustinian parish there. He came to see me! He now lives in another part of the city, where he is a lector at Mass and at that time, the president of the Parish Council.

We didn't have RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) when I was in Japan. It was mostly priests, and sometimes catechists who prepared

people for the Sacraments of Initiation. Working these past six years at OLGC in Staten Island, I had the opportunity to get to know first hand how the RCIA works.

Coming to OMGC, I was so glad to know that there is an RCIA ministry team here in this parish. And I'll tell you why:

Grace manifests itself in truly beautiful ways in the RCIA process

– in two directions:

First the candidates are transformed through their contact with the parish community and through their encounter with Jesus Christ in Word and in Sacrament. At the same time, the parish community is changed, gladdened, enriched and empowered through their interaction with the candidates and by witnessing the powerful way that God works in their lives.

In the next week or so, ask the Holy Spirit to point out to you a person or persons in your family or circle of friends who you know is searching for something missing in their lives – perhaps a Catholic who has not yet been confirmed or made First Communion – or perhaps a non-Catholic who is searching for deeper meaning. Ask the Holy Spirit for the right words to say to invite them to the Inquiry Sessions that start on September 27th.

And bring them along!

Peace,
Father Liam

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for September 11, 2016

Envelope Contributions	\$6,762.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,163.00
Mailed in	\$5,197.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$13,122.00
Offering this time last year	\$9,511.00
Electronic giving of 9/15.....	\$4,247.00
Parish Giving.....	\$950.00

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

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.

COMMUNAL ANOINTING MASS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on **Saturday evening, October 1 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.** The name of the Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick, tells us that the sacrament is for those who are sick, not just for the dying. It is a sacrament of healing, and the Church wants us to ask for this sacrament before we are at the point of death. It instructs all those who minister to the sick that great care and concern should be taken to see that those of the faithful whose health is impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament.

If you are in need of transportation for this Mass on Saturday, October 1, please call the Parish Office at 610-525-0147. Please come to church in plenty of time to be registered for the sacrament and helped to be seated in special places for the priests to anoint you. People will be on hand by 4:30 p.m. to welcome you to this special celebration.

UPCOMING SERIES ON Augustinian Spirituality

Since we are an Augustinian parish, we would like to offer a 4-week series on St. Augustine and the Augustinians. The first meeting will be on **Thursday, October 6 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM** in the Social Center of the school building. All are welcome.



WE THIRST: Lessons in Mercy

A Course on Addiction Awareness within our society will be offered on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish, 1229 E. Lancaster Avenue in Rosemont. These four evenings of reflection are designed for all members of our community including the afflicted and their families and friends, counselors, nurses, ministers, deacons, those in the criminal justice system, educators and anyone who would like to learn more to become part of a solution.

The four evenings and their topics are as follows:

September 26 - Biology

October 3 – Psychology

October 10 – Sociology

October 17 – Spirituality

The first week deals with the focus on the biology of addiction. We will take a fairly in-depth look at the latest scientific theories of how exactly substances affect the body and the mind. Dependence, tolerance, relapse and denial are just some of the many topics that will be explored. Each week introduces a particular virtue that can be practiced, especially during times of crisis.

An explanation of each week's topic will be given prior to the evening it is held. **RSVP to 610-525-4801, ext. 202** or bizmgr@stvparish.org.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

See the children play! Hear the children read!

This fall, Our Mother of Good Counsel PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) will sponsor a book drive for a first grade classroom in a West Philadelphia elementary school.

The teacher, Ms. Fuller, seeks gently-used books for children in the primary grades (K-2). Ms. Fuller hopes to fill the classroom library shelves with books ranging from picture to chapter; from authors like Dr. Seuss and Kevin Henkes; and/or from book series like the Magic Tree House, Junie B. Jones and Flat Stanley. Ms. Fuller welcomes any book that will bring a smile to a first grader's face.

We will be collecting the books through the month of September. If you are able to donate, please bring your books to the Parish Office during the hours of 9-5, Monday through Friday (until 3pm) or drop them off at the beginning of PREP at 9:30 on Sunday, September 25.

SEAN KING FUND RAISER

On **Friday, September 23**, The Sean King Fund for Inclusive Practices will hold a Spaghetti Dinner to raise awareness and funds for their work. The dinner will be held at St. Mary's Church, 36 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore PA, from 5pm to 9pm. The recently released film, "The King of the Road," a twenty minute film about Sean, will be shown at 6, 7, and 8pm. The Cost of the dinner is \$8 per person or \$25 per family. There will be take out and gluten free pasta available. For more information, visit www.seankingfund.com.

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The P&J Committee will resume its monthly meetings on **Tuesday evening, September 20 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Center in Rosemont. Any parishioner who may be interested in joining this committee is asked to call Sr. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147 (ext. 2334) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net.

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

The Spirituality Committee will meet for the first time since our summer break on **Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center. If the theme of spirituality is a particularly interesting one for you, and if the time of our monthly meetings from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon is possible for you, please plan to join us and become a part of this committee's work of planning spiritually-enriching programs for our parish community. If interested, call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234).

PATRICIAN SOCIETY

The Patrician Society is in great need of bags of rice for their clients for the month of September and October. Therefore, instead of our annual Peanut Butter and Jelly drive this year, we will be holding a Rice Drive for the Patrician Society of Norristown. We are asking for donations of rice or rice mixes to help serve the 1300 families that rely on them for food in the Norristown area. Please do not purchase the large bags of rice; it is easier to fill their food bags with the small bags. We are grateful for all your donations of rice between now and October 30.

FALL FESTIVAL CORNER

Looking for ways to help? Why not donate to our Bake Sale or Savory Food Sale? We are looking for friends to bake or cook and donate to our sale at the Fall Festival. Please make sure everything is individually wrapped and labeled. If you have any questions, please contact Phyllis Hart at pdhart320@gmail.com. Here are some ideas:

BAKE SALE

Mini or regular loaves of
 Banana Bread Zucchini Bread
 Pumpkin Bread Muffins or Scones
 Miniature or Whole Pies Brownies or Blondies
 Lemon Bars Linder Bars
 Cookies (2 or 3 wrapped together)
 Biscotti

SAVORY TABLE (individual or multi portion)

Mini or Regular Quiche Meatballs
 Mini Meatloaves Knishes
 Empanadas/Turnovers Savory Muffins
 Pints or Quarts of Soups or Chili

Thank you for your time, talent and treasure.

SISTERS' NIGHT

Friday, September 30 from 6:00-9:00pm
Villa Maria House of Studies

Young Women (18 – 35) are invited to share informally with the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The evening offers the opportunity for sharing a meal, enjoying social time and praying together. Junior and Seniors in high school are also welcome.

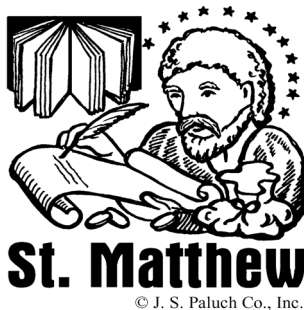
If you are interested in more information or to register for the evening, call Sr. Helen Miriam, IHM at 610-889-1553, ext. 1974 or email at ihmvoc@gmail.com.



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

December 8, 2015-November 20, 2016

Mercy is one thing, malpractice quite another. Why, then, does the defrauded master in Jesus' parable praise the devious steward? Jesus shows by example how to sanctify material goods: by placing all our resources, indeed our very selves, at the service of others. No matter how costly such service, or how minimal the return, such charity is the wisest investment, yielding a reward that is literally out of this world. For Amos and Jesus, authentic worship of God demands practical charity toward our neighbors. Paul, too, declares that the only worship acceptable to God is offered by a community rich in charity. Liturgy must be matched to life, "lifting up holy hands, without anger or argument." This *Jubilee Year of Mercy* challenges us to live as "children of light," as devoted to self-sacrificing service as "the children of this world" are to serving themselves, and as enthusiastic for God's kingdom of justice as we are about less-enduring treasures.



SILOAM'S ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

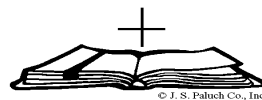
Please join S. Bernadette Kinniry, RSM in support of her dedication to Siloam at Siloam's 17th Annual Golf Outing, Dinner and Auction, Monday, September 26th at Llanerch Country Club in Havertown, PA.

Not a golfer: Join us for cocktails, dinner and the auction for only \$100 per person.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, PhD, President of Villanova University.

Siloam Wellness was created in 1995 by S. Bernadette Kinniry and Rev. Donald Reilly OSA and offers a safe, caring, hope-filled environment that enriches the well-being of people impacted by HIV/AIDS by providing mind/body/spirit wellness services as a complement to traditional medicine. Questions? Call Tom Rosser at 310-888-0762

Mass Intentions



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA
11:15 MARY E. GEORGE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 6:30 MR. AND MRS. JAMES J. WHITE, 3RD
8:00 MILLIE MATTIOLI
(18TH ANNIVERSARY)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 6:30 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA
8:00 VICENT AND CARMELLA BIEG

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 6:30 JOHN JOSEPH FRIEL
8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 6:30 EVELINE WALKER
8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

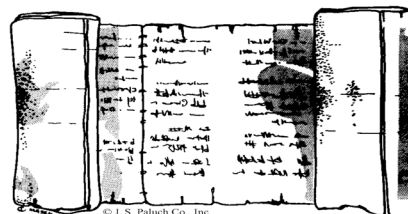
- 6:30 JOE STOERRLE
8:00 DR. RUTH PATRICK HODGE
VAN DUSEN (3RD ANNIVERSARY)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

- 8:00 FRANCIS X AND MIRIAM QUINN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 THERESA ENECHUKWU
11:15 DOMENICO CONICELLA



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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