



Our Mother of Good Counsel

Parish Community

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

31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

December 4, 2016

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Liam O'Doherty, OSA, Administrator pro tem...Ext. 230

Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. John Deary, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 228

Fr. James McBurney, OSA, In Residence...Ext. 233

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>

A NEW WORLD IS WAITING TO EMERGE

John the Baptist takes center stage in the Second Week of Advent. Matthew portrays him as a prophet's prophet in today's Gospel (Mt. 3:1-12). Although Luke presents him as son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Matthew has him "appear in the desert as if out of nowhere other than from God's eternal plan. John is as unlike his ordinary contemporaries as Jesus will be like them. Between them they almost depict the contrast between belief in a fearsome, punishing image of God and the shepherd of lost sheep. John knows he is not the centerpiece of his day, but he also knows that he plays a vital role.

John's mission was to gear the people up, to remind them of how all the promises of old assured them that the broken world they knew was neither the will of God nor was it definitive. Relying on his religious traditions, John interpreted his times and preached that God would soon intervene, but the people had to be ready if they were to be a part of what God was about to do in their midst.

John's baptism was the sign of their preparation. It was a proclamation of each one's desire for conversion. John stirred up the hearts of his people, reminding them that the shallowness of their lives and the institutional injustice of their society was sin and therefore both unnecessary and able to be changed. John's mission was to drive home the message that the way things were was not the only possibility, that God had something much better in mind.

This is a hard time of year to proclaim the prophetic message of conversion. It's a tougher sell than is typically intended with "Let's put Christ back in Christmas" campaigns. That's why we need John the Baptist to force us to ask "Is this all there is?" While the conversion message may seem to be a downer in the holidays, it is truly the only way to get at the meaning of the season.

John the Baptist will always seem to be a voice crying out in the wilderness; it is the task of today's prophets to remind others that too much of this world is a wilderness of our own creation, and that is precisely why we can hope for a change. Ultimately, because we believe in God, *hope* is the message of the day!

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Margaret Simyak, Janine Hoffman,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Deacon George McAndrews,
Christian Milton,
and Fr. Michael Hilden, OSA.

Please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) 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 as often as needed or desired.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. David Charles Brent, Miss Margaret Moffitt, and Mr. Christopher McCollum who recently registered with us.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Mary Katherine Schubert Denny and for the consolation of her family.

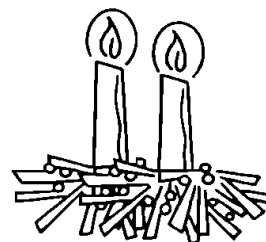
Baptisms: We welcome to our faith community Reid Alexander Ott, son of Andrew and Alexandra who was baptized in our Church recently.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Our Annual Advent Communal Penance Service will be held on **Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.** in our parish Church. Please plan to join us as we prepare for the wondrous celebration of the Word of God Made Flesh in Jesus, the Christ.

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, ext 234.



THE GLORY OF MUSIC

Dear Friends,

What better time than the holidays to think about the beauty of music surrounding us in our lives and more to the point, in the glory of music in our worship. With Advent now upon us, we have a beautiful season of reflection to contemplate the coming of Christ and His redemption. Through this unique gift of music, may our Advent songs draw us deeper into and towards the Eternal Light of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

During Advent, with thoughts of God dwelling with us, we might consider that music emanates from the very same place in our core where Christ dwells. Through the gift of music, we can open up to the depths within us, touch the heart of God, and soar to the realms of heaven with the songs of the season.

In his essay on Liturgy, Music and the Cosmos, which inspired this article, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, expounded on this theme. He stated that three realms exist: the silence of the fish of the sea, the loud cries of the animals of earth, and the song of the birds of heaven. We share in all three, bearing within us, the silence of the depths of the sea, the burden and shout of the earth, and the heights and song of heaven: silence, crying and singing.

He goes on to say that at Mass, in right Liturgy, the liturgy of the communion of the saints, we are restored in this totality, of silence and singing, by opening to the depths and learning to fly like the angels. By lifting up our hearts, we bring the sound buried deep within to sound again. At Mass, we are restored to the depths and the heights, the quiet and the song. We sing with the angels, are silent with the waiting depths of the universe, and thus, Liturgy redeems the earth.

As we await and prepare together, the coming of Christ this Advent Season, let us be mindful of the role music plays in carrying the mysteries of God into our lives. Our sacred song, resonant in the soul, prepares the heart in quiet contemplation, quickens the spirit in joyful anticipation, and sparks the mind with awe and wonder that Our Savior will soon be with us. We'll then sing with the gladness of the heavens as Christ

brings us the fullness of his resounding and everlasting joy.

Most sincerely yours,
Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director Music Ministries

TAIZE PRAYER OFFERING

Members of our Spirituality Committee will offer an opportunity to come together for quiet, contemplative prayer this Advent season on **Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.** in our Daily Chapel. Taize is a sung and silent participatory prayer service designed to achieve a contemplative stance through music, song and silence. It is a form of prayer used and shared on the prayer experience of the Taize prayer communities begun in France. It is a form of prayer that uses musical refrains which are repeated over and over for the purpose of slowing oneself down to be better able to listen to God's voice from our very depths. Please plan to join us for this unique and lovely prayer opportunity.

SENIOR COMMUNITY GATHERING

The Seniors will gather for their Christmas celebration this year on **Friday, December 16 at 12 noon.** We will enjoy a luncheon from the ACME at a cost of \$10.00 for those of you able to participate. If you have not already registered to join us at our last Gathering, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, (ext. 234) to let her know you are coming, so we can provide "a place at the table" for you with good food and friends to enjoy. Christmas stories, songs and memories of past Christmases will be enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to celebrating this special time of the year with each other.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

In lieu of its regular-style Parish Council meeting, the Council will be participating in an Advent Retreat evening of prayer and reflection on **Monday evening, December 5 beginning at 6:30 pm.**

If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please call Ron Hicks at 610-449-2748.

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**Immaculate
Conception**

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

A Holyday of Obligation

Vigil Mass – Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30pm
Masses on Thursday, December 8
6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

ADVENT REFLECTION EVENING

The Spirituality Committee is sponsoring a one-evening Advent Reflection on **Tuesday, December 6 from 7:30 – 8:30pm** in our Daily Chapel.

Sister Marie Michele Donnelly, RSM will give the reflection, entitled, “Jesus – One of Us.” The beginning of Advent is the perfect time to stop and reflect on the incomprehensible reality that God’s Beloved child took on our humanity and chose to dwell among us.

Please plan to join us as we journey through this sacred season of prayerful anticipation of the celebration of Christmas, the Mystery of the Incarnation of God becoming One of Us.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

You can find a copy of the OMGC 2017 calendar at www.omgcp parish.org. All events are subject to change. Because the calendar is not all-inclusive, we will continue to include updated monthly calendars in the bulletin and on the website.

FAMILIES IN NEED

If you know a family that may need some help this Christmas, either with gifts or food, and you think they may benefit from Project Elf, please contact Karen Carey at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net. Even if that family is yourself.

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
for November 20, 2016**

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Envelope Contributions	\$7,538.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,249.00
Mailed in	\$575.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$9,182.00

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE
for November 27, 2016**

Envelope Contributions	\$7,033.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,248.00
Mailed in	\$718.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$8,999.00
Offering this time last year	\$10,818.00
Electronic giving of 12/1/16.....	\$5,685.00
Parish Giving.....	\$910.00

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

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY
NETWORK (IHN)**

Week of Hosting: Our parish will be hosting the IHN families once again during **Christmas Week, Sunday, December 25 to Sunday, January 1**. 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, DECEMBER 17 at 10:00 a.m. or take-down** and pack away equipment on **Sunday, January 1 at 12:15 p.m.**, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net. (*We are setting up a week early so as not to have to set-up on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24*).

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 week from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. or as an **overnight host** from 8:30 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. once during the week, please call Barbara Noone at 610-649-4268.

RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE
OMGC Gym – 2:30 – 7:15 pm
Thursday, December 15

Please consider donating a pint of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC's gym on **Thursday, December 15th from 2:30 to 7:15 pm.** Please invite a friend to come with you to donate as well. The need for blood is great in the Christmas travel season. If you can donate, please fill out the pledge form here, or one from the pews, and place it in the Red Cross box at the entrance of the church. Also, you can phone or email your pledge to Joe Betz at 610-525-4499 or joseph.betz@villanova.edu or Frank Quinn at 610-525-7262 or fc.quinn@verizon.net. Or pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother good counsel.



PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS
For the 2nd Sunday in Advent

Today's loudest voice in the wilderness may well be Pope Francis who in "*Laudato Si*", on Care for Our Common Home," invites us to pray:

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite love...

Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is... God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love...

O, God, seize us with your power and light,
 help us to protect all life,
 to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Amen

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

December 11 - Regular Class

December 18 – Regular Class

December 25 – No Class – Merry Christmas!

January 1 – No Class – Happy New Year!

January 8 – Regular Class

****Please note that there will be NO LUNCH following the January 1, 11:15 liturgy.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All students in grades 6 through 12 are invited to join us for a Christmas Party on **December 18 from 12:15 to 1:30.** Lunch will be served. Bring a \$10 Pollyanna to exchange. We will complete a service project, play a game, eat and exchange gifts. Please rsvp to kcarey@omgcparish.net so I can order food.

SEASONAL HANDBELL CHOIR
Newcomers Welcome!

Our beautiful handbell choir is readying to play for the Seasons of Advent and Christmastide. Anyone interested in joining should be of junior high age and up, no previous experience needed. An introductory overview is offered at a time convenient for you. For further details, please call Jo-Ann Stigliano at the parish office—610-525-0147, extension 238.

GAUDEAMUS MUSIC MINISTRY

Cordially Invites Us to Their
25th Anniversary Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Epiphany of Our Lord Church
 Walton Road and Township Line
 Plymouth Meeting, PA

A free will donation to benefit *Amigos de Jesus*, a home and bilingual school for orphaned children in Honduras. Founded 19 years ago by Fr. Dennis O'Donnell, a priest of the Archdiocese and a local Philadelphia couple, *Amigos de Jesus* provides a permanent safe haven with shelter, food and education for children in one of the hemisphere's poorest countries.

ADVENT PRAYER: ENKINDLE OUR HOPE

Emmanuel, Our world waits in darkness
longing for Your light.
In the midst of darkness,
enkindle our hope.

As we long for lasting peace in the midst of war,
As we long for families to be reunited,
As we long for enemies to be reconciled,
As we long for cures and healings,
As we long for decent jobs and economic security,
As we long for love and community,
Be with us.

Fulfill the deepest longings of your people
and dispel the darkness in our hearts and in our
world.

Let your Word ignite the hope the world needs
to bring to life your love and justice. Amen

Sr. Katherine Feely, SND

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The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand.

MUSIC ON THE STAIRS

Our Prendie Tradition Continues

Monday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Prendie Building Main Hall

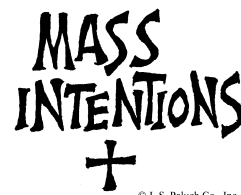
Music director: Meggie Murphy Gribbin, '99

Light refreshments immediately following

Contact Patti Mellon Germanovich, '75

pattig@kdi-inc.com

singers please email me so we can get numbers
and arrive at 6:30 for quick practice.



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 7:30 ANNA MC GUCKEN
9:30 JANET DAGIT
11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 6:30 CHARLES TAGUE, SR. AND
GERTRUDE TAGUE
8:00 MARIA DI MARTINO

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 6:30 ROBERT L. BUCHANAN, SR.
8:00 FR. JOHN T. DENNY, OSA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
8:00 JOHN AND JANET PHILLIPS
7:30PM VIGIL MASS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- 6:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
8:00 PEGGY SHERIDAN
12:10 EMMA STIGLIANO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:30 MRS. ISABEL DOLAN
8:00 MAUREEN STEWART

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 8:00 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN
(68TH ANNIVERSARY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 THE VALENTINE FAMILY
11:15 JOSEPH GAGLIARDI

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

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

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