



Our Mother of Good Counsel

Parish Community

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Sisters of Mercy for over a century

31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

December 11, 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>

THE REVELATION OF GOD IN JESUS' MINISTRY

In Matthew's Gospel, as we heard last week, John preaches about the one to come after him. When Jesus comes for baptism, John protests saying that Jesus should baptize him instead. Now John makes his final pre-martyrdom appearance from prison. Today's Gospel (Matt 11:2– 11) offers one of the New Testament's clearest reflections on conflicting ideas of what it meant to be the Messiah. John was in prison precisely for being true to his vocation. He had denounced the immorality of a powerful, manipulative man and was suffering the consequences. Probably knowing that he would never leave that place alive, John wondered what was to come of his mission. Had he been correct that God's judgment was immanent? Was Jesus God's chosen one or not? Implicit in the question ("Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?") is the presumption that Jesus was not living up to John's expectations.

When John's disciples approached Jesus, they asked the question and got no direct answer. Instead, Jesus told them to pay attention to what was right there to be heard and seen. Rather than give himself any title or role, he did just what John the Baptist had required of his followers: Jesus described the fruits of his ministry and invited John and the others to make their judgment on the basis of his works. Jesus' response to John's disciples came straight from the writings of Isaiah. Jesus was acting out Isaiah 35: healing the blind and lame, curing the lepers, opening the ears of the deaf and raising the dead. Jesus' response to John's disciples put their concept of God on trial. If they believed in the God who protected the lowly and brought life to the people, then they could believe he had been sent by God. If they believed in a god of coercion, retribution and violence, then Jesus was not the one they were seeking.

Following his interchange with John's disciples, Jesus made one of the more definitive and audacious statements of his entire ministry. Praising John, Jesus called him "more than a prophet," saying he was greater than anyone born of woman. At the same time, making a clear distinction between the past and present, Jesus went on to say "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." This was not a put down of John, but the announcement that something new was happening.

Jesus represented God's definitive intervention in human history. The time of prophecy, the time of waiting had come to an end. From Moses through John, the prophets had talked about God. In Jesus, God had come to dwell among the people. With the culmination of Jesus' life in his death and resurrection, God would be as fully revealed as will ever happen in human history. The least of those who recognize that truth have received a greater revelation than John.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Margaret Simyak, Janine Hoffman,

Michael and Andrew McCaughey,

Deacon George McAndrews,

Christian Milton, Fr. Michael Hilden, OSA

Nancy McDermott Wallace, Peg Crothers,

And Eliana VanArsdalen.

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.

Baptism: We welcome to our faith community Millie Rose Dolderer daughter of Paul and Renee.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. and Mrs. Clorindo and Nancy Nepi and Miss Danielle Taggart who recently registered with us.

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 Shelley Preston at 484-412-8309 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext 234.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24 – 8:00am Morning Mass
Vigil Masses, December 24 – 6:00 and 9:00pm
Christmas Day Masses: 7:30, 9:30, 11:15am
 Parish Office will be closed:
 Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26.

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.

Seniors

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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 CONTACT

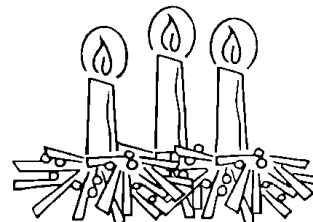
If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please call, Dianne Meyer at 610-310-0506 or dameyer1620@comcast.net.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 4, 2016

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Envelope Contributions	\$9,428.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$812.00
Mailed in.....	\$4,835.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$15,075.00
Offering this time last year	\$13,250.00
Parish giving	\$1,382.00

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



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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 a pledge form on the table 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.

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@omgcp parish.net so I can order food.

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.



**ADVENT 2016
Penance Services**

Mother of Good Counsel
Tuesday, Dec. 13 7:30 pm

St. John Neumann
Tuesday, Dec. 13 7:00pm

St. Denis
Wednesday, Dec. 14 7:30pm

St. Dorothy
Wednesday, Dec. 14 7:30pm

St. Katharine of Siena
(at Our Lady of the Assumption, Stratford)
Wednesday, Dec. 14 7:00pm

St. Thomas of Villanova
(Church on Campus of University)
Wednesday, Dec. 14 7:30pm

Annunciation B.V.M.
Monday, Dec. 19 7:00pm

Sacred Heart
Wednesday, Dec. 21 7:00pm

St. Pius X
Thursday, Dec. 22 7:00pm

ARE YOU
THE ONE
WHO IS
TO COME?



THANK YOU!

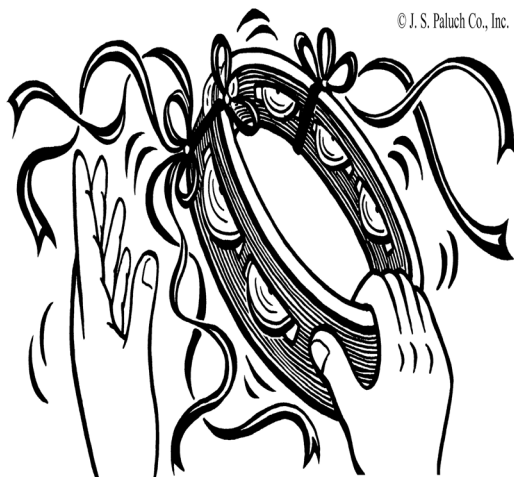
The Annual Advent Family Day was a huge success this year! Thank you to all those who attended (over 200 throughout the day!), those who planned, those who executed and of course, thank you to Santa for making the morning complete! We are already planning for a bigger and better day next year!

Special shout outs must go to: Joe Carey, Linda Short, Nancy Solano, Rusty Tinsley, Colleen Scharpf, Anne Garnett Dougherty, Siobhan Arnold, Dave Gaudio, Maryann Gallagher, Molly Dagit, Michelle Fronckiewicz, Colette Sutton, Lauren Stephens, Jennifer Webster, Jeannie Schultz, Mary Mikus, Lauren Murtaugh, Mary and David Eschelman, John Carey, Elizabeth Becker, Yvonne Murphy, Pat Snead, Sara Boyes, Kelly Croce Sorg and Jamie Saldutti! A wonderful time was had by all, thanks to everyone of you.

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.



YOUR SMALL SACRIFICE

Their Great Appreciation

For about 10 years, our parishioners have generously responded to the request of local Sisters for \$5, \$10 gift-cards for their clients, or financial help for their programs. The 3 Immaculate Heart Sisters and now a Deacon request the following:

1. Mr. Anthony Willoughby at St. Francis Homes in Bensalem has replaced Sr. Bernadine Schmalhofer, MSBT. He has asked for gift cards from McDonald's and Burger King to take the boys out for a treat after Sunday Mass.
2. Sr. Marcille McEntee, IHM serves about 180 Immigrants at the IHM Center at St. Bernard Parish. Her clients need financial aid or gift cards exchangeable for food at Acme, Giant and Walmart.
3. Sr. Sarah Lamb, IHM is at St. Francis de Sales Parish. Her clients also need financial help or food store gift-cards from Acme, Giant, Shop Rite or Walmart.
4. Sr. Bernadette Mary Hiester, IHM is at the IHM Family Literacy Center at St. Joseph's Parish in Coatesville. Food store gift cards at Acme or Giant and financial aid best suit her clients.

Donations or gift cards, checks or cash will be delivered to these Persons named above by Joe Betz (610-525-4499). You can place your gift in the church collection basket in an envelope with SISTERS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS on it, give to Barbara in the parish office or phone Joe Betz to pick it up from you. Please turn in the gifts by **Wednesday, December 21st**.

If you can donate and would care to give your name and address, these Recipients would be happy to thank you personally, You can specify your donation for one individual Center and her or his program.

God bless you for caring!
Joe Betz

**PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA,
PORTUGAL**
for Apparition's 100th Anniversary

Join us for the Archdiocesan pilgrimage in honor of the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Portugal! This Pilgrimage promises to be a deeply spiritual event in communion with our Mother Mary, with prayers for peace and healing for all of us. We'll visit Fatima, Lourdes and other major shrines from June 5 – 12, 2017. For more information and pricing, visit www.archphila.org/fatima.

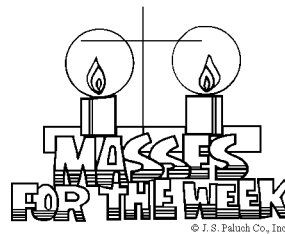
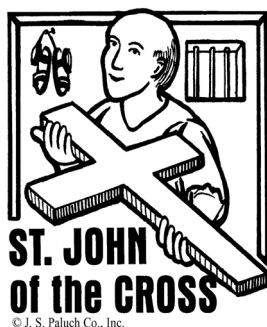
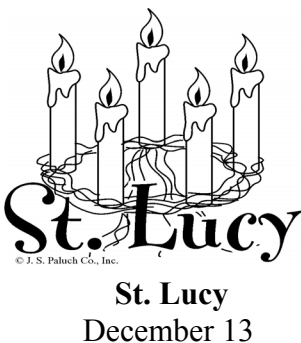
GROW CLOSER TO OUR LADY
This Winter

Join Folks from all over the greater Philadelphia in a 12-week long encounter with the Virgin Mary right from your own home! The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, founded by Dr. Scott Hahn, has partnered with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to offer limited-time free access to its new video Bible study series, *The Bible and the Virgin Mary*. You can access this 12-part series online at no cost beginning January 18, 2017. The videos can be used for individual or group study. To take advantage of this great opportunity to grow spiritually, sign up at: www.BibleandtheVirginMary.com/Philadelphia. Feel free to share this link with friends and family!

Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12



St. John of the Cross
December 14



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 6:30 ROSE AND EDWARD HARKIN
- 8:00 JAMES HAMILTON PAGE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 6:30 MRS. ISABEL DOLAN
- 8:00 SARAH P.G. WHELEN (56TH ANNIVERSARY)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 HAROLD AND ROSE IRVING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 SR. MARGUERITE MARIE MC GRANAHAN

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 MOONAN-VOGEL FAMILIES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 8:00 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CIRO AND IANNOTTA FAMILIES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 7:30 RAYMOND J. MURPHY
- 9:30 ELIZABETH BLIMM
- 11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS

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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