



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 18, 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>

AWAKE! LET US TAKE JESUS INTO OUR HEARTS!

In keeping with his Jewish perspective and audience, Matthew's nativity narrative emphasizes Joseph, the patriarch of the family. Without repeating the well-known details, we can note how Matthew presents Joseph as a bridge figure from one covenant to another. His name recalls Joseph, the son of Jacob, the rejected dreamer who saved his family from famine. Like Joseph of Egypt, Joseph of Nazareth would meet God in dreams that revealed how to save his own family.

When Matthew tells us in today's Gospel (Mt. 1:18-24) that Joseph was a righteous man, he hints at the terrible dilemma Joseph faced upon discovering Mary's pregnancy. The law allowed him to have Mary stoned. It actually obliged him to divorce her, annulling the marriage contract lest he sully the line of David with impurity. Joseph's religious heritage offered him no single answer to the dilemma presented by his pregnant spouse. The demands of the law seemingly contradicted the divine practice of mercy. His own preferences must have led the way because in the end, all it took was an angel appearing in a dream to convince Joseph that he could bypass the law and make the child of God his own.

Of course, Matthew's nativity account is the overture of his Gospel. Matthew presents Joseph not only as a dreamer, but also the son of David which means he is the heir of God's promise of a kingdom that would last forever. Thus there is a wonderful paradox in the angel's comforting message. Joseph is called, precisely as the son of David, to allow an unknown into the lineage, trusting that Mary's child has been engendered through the work of God's Spirit and carries its own purity, a holiness beyond what any ethnic lineage could assure.

The angel of the dream instructed Joseph to call the child "Jesus," a common name whose etymology probably means "God saves." In the act of naming him, Joseph both claimed Jesus as his own and foreshadowed his divinely determined vocation. As a last word, just to bolster him, the angel made the first evangelical reference to the fulfilment of prophecy. Joseph should not worry, the angel assured him. Isaiah the prophet had spoken of this day as the time when God would dwell among the people.

The time of Emmanuel had come. Although Matthew probably intended no double meaning, he explained that Joseph awoke and did what the angel had commanded. Mary's predicament and the best of his tradition had awakened him to the *new thing* God was working in his day.

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,

Eliana VanArsdalen, and Carol Luty.

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.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the soul of Mrs. Mary Medd and for the consolation of her family.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Maureen Keavney who recently registered with us.

H.O.P.E.

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Joanne Bramley at 610-459-6638 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext 234.

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 Steve or Colette Sutton at 610-520-2501 or colettesutton309@yahoo.com.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24 – 8:00am Morning Mass

Vigil Masses, December 24 – 6:00 and 9:00pm

(Christmas Music Prelude begins at 8:30pm)

Christmas Day Masses: 7:30, 9:30, 11:15am

Parish Office will be closed:

Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26.

Please arrive in plenty of time Christmas Eve to take part in the Congregational Caroling, beginning a half hour before the 9:00 PM Mass. Downbeat starts at 8:30 sharp with all of your favorite carols, gloriously accompanied by organ, trumpet, strings and the full Choir. The season is just too short to get in all of the traditional sacred hymns, from The First Noel, to Hark the Heralds Angels Sing and everything in between. So come early, come sing, and Come Let Us Adore Him.

TAIZE PRAYER OFFERING

Members of our Spirituality Committee will offer an opportunity to come together for quiet, contemplative prayer this Advent season **later today, 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.



LONNEMAN

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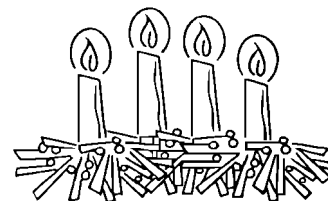
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

for December 11, 2016

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Envelope Contributions	\$6,950.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,033.00
Mailed in	\$1,209.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$9,192.00
Offering this time last year	\$15,599.50
Parish giving.....	\$1,710.00

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



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INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Food Needs for IHN: If you can donate any of the following food items for our guests when they arrive on **Christmas Day, December 25**, please put them in the food box at the entrance of the church next Sunday:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| soup | crackers | tuna fish |
| salad dressing | jelly | mustard |
| lemonade mix | ice tea mix | coffee |
| tea bags | cookies | peanut butter |
| cold cereal | ketchup | mayonnaise |
| juices: boxes or bottles | | |
| hot cereal (in individual pkgs.) | | |

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.

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

December 18 – Regular Class

December 25 – No Class – Merry Christmas!

January 1 – No Class – Happy New Year!

January 8 – Regular Class



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.

AUGUSTINIAN SPIRITUALITY

On the first and third Tuesdays of each month, a group of people come together to learn more about the spirituality of St. Augustine. At the present time, we are reading together *Confessions of St. Augustine*. We gather from 7 to 8 PM in the Social Center of the school building. If you are interested in St. Augustine, please come and join us. The next meeting is **December 20**. If interested in joining this group, please call Fr. John Deary at 610-525-0147, ext. 228.

DRIVER NEEDED

Part-time Driver is needed two afternoons per week (Tuesday and Friday, 1:00-5:00pm) to support retired religious sisters located in Rosemont, PA. Must have a valid PA driver's license, excellent driving record, with minimum of one year experience. Please contact J. Todd-Marrone at 610-525-9900, ext. 656.

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.



“O” ANTIPHONS**Invoke Christ with symbols
from the Hebrew Scriptures**

The “O Antiphons” are a wonderful collection of brief but poignant prayers expressing the intense longing of God’s people for God’s coming among us as One of Us. They are the verses used before the Gospel at Mass on weekdays from December 17 to December 23 as Advent draws to its climactic fulfillment.

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation
with your strong yet tender care;
COME, and show your people
the way to salvation.

O ADONAI

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to Moses
in the burning bush, who gave him
the holy law on Sinai mountain:
COME, stretch out your mighty hand
to set us free.

O RADIX JESSE

O Flower of Jesse’s Stem,
you have been raised up as a sign
for all peoples; kings stand silent
in your presence; the nations bow down
in worship before you.
COME, let nothing keep you
from coming to our aid.

O CLAVIA DAVID

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel
controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
COME, break down the prison walls of death
for those who dwell in darkness and in the
shadow of death, and lead your captive people
into freedom.

O ORIENS

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of
eternal light, sun of justice:
COME, shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

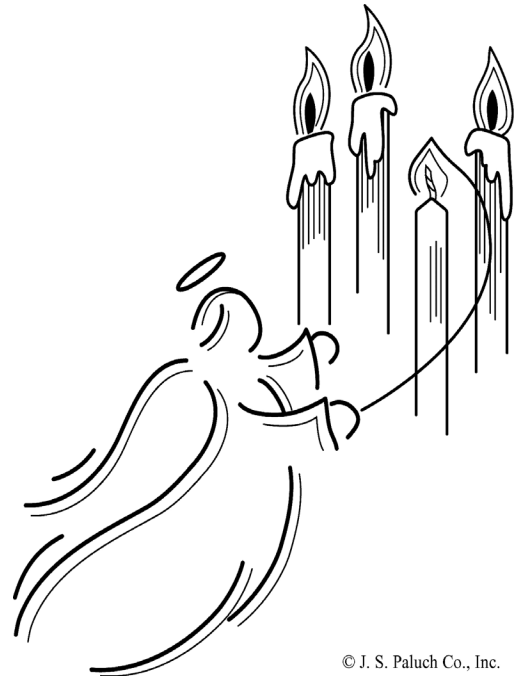
O REX GENTIUM

O King of all the Nations,
The only joy of every human heart;
O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity,
COME, and save the creatures
you fashioned from the dust.

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel,
King and lawgiver,
Desire of the nations,
Savior of all people,
COME, and set us free, Lord our God.

The first letter of each Latin Word
moving backwards is:
ERO CRAS translated as
I WILL BE HERE TOMORROW!



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!

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.



Mass Intentions



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 6:30 LAWRENCE GUINAN
8:00 JENNIFER ANN BREAM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 6:30 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
MC GRANAHAN FAMILY
8:00 LAURA AND ANTONIO MARCHESANI

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 6:30 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.
8:00 JOSEPH AND ELEANOR VAN DUSEN

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
8:00 ELIZABETH BLIMM
(14TH ANNIVERSARY)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 6:30 MR. AND MRS. ANGELO IANNAcone
8:00 MARGARET SHERIDAN

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA
6:00 CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS
9:00 CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30
11:15

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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