



# 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 25, 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>

### “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD...”

The first part of this story, Luke 2:1-14, was the Gospel reading for Mass at Night. We hear of Caesar's decree, and the trip to Bethlehem, the birth and the announcement to the shepherds. In the liturgy for Mass at Dawn we hear about the shepherds' response. Luke must have thoroughly enjoyed weaving together his infancy narrative. Perhaps, his genius is this: only people as simple as the shepherds could believe that such immense meaning could come from something as simple as the birth of a child. The truth is those shepherds as the story unfolds in Luke 2:15-20 didn't start out making any commitment, they simply decided to go and see. But that was enough.

Luke wove this story as a careful prologue to his Gospel and a bookend to pair with his nearly final story about the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Jesus' resurrection. In both cases, we have a journey: to Bethlehem or out of Jerusalem. In both stories, angels make an announcement about Jesus: in the first, that he had been born, in the second that he was alive! In both Bethlehem and Emmaus, Luke mentions an inn, the place where travelers lodge. In the first case, there is no room for Mary and Joseph who are awaiting the birth of their child. Going to Emmaus, the disciples make room, inviting the stranger to remain with them at the inn. In the nativity story, the baby was found wrapped and lying in the place where animals fed. In the Emmaus story the disciples recognize the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. Finally, both the shepherds and the Emmaus-bound disciples went to others with the joyful news of what they had seen and heard.

The feast of Christmas is a celebration of a new beginning. Christmas is a reminder that God appears in our midst as unobtrusively as a diapered baby or a fellow traveler on the road. There have been grand announcements, prophetic oracles, the equivalent of heavenly light and music shows, but in Bethlehem, God came in the gentlest of ways. We can never control the ways or times when God will become manifest in our lives. We are invited to seek God in the word, in sacrament, in community and in creation. Each of these carries within the power of *real presence*.

As we find joy in this feast, let us return with those shepherds to Bethlehem. Taking some quiet moments, let us enter into the contemplative prayer of imagining the scene and asking others to share his or her gospel perspective with us. Then let us listen to one another proclaim what it is that we have seen and heard in the contemplation of the feast. By so doing, we will join as fellow disciples with shepherds and travelers as we all journey toward enjoying the full and timeless presence of God.

### 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, Carol Luty,  
and Michael Canonico.

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.

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

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

Parish Office will be closed on

**Monday, December 26.**



### CHRISTMAS 2016

Dear Parishioners,

May the gentle Lord Jesus, born on Christmas Day, bring peace into your soul and abundant blessings into your home. May every heart be opened to the Infant Prince of Peace by a fervent reception of the Sacraments of His love.

This Christmas we, the Augustinian Friars of OMGC, express our thanks for your very enthusiastic service and generous support of our parish community during the past year.

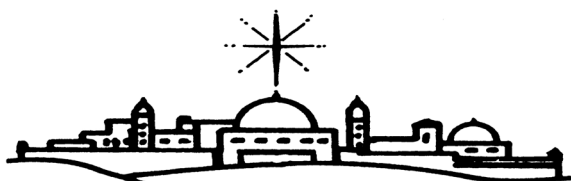
As I mentioned in a recent letter to you all, 2016 has not been a typical year. We lost Fr. Jack Denny, your beloved pastor and my good friend. As a nation, we have gone through a difficult election season and have entered into a challenging time of transition. And many of us have gone through trying and difficult times on personal and family levels as well.

But there have been blessings, too. Personally, I am happy to be back in the Philadelphia area after living and working in other regions for the past 44 years. I am glad to be assigned here with all of you at OMGC. I'm sure that for most of us there have been many reasons to offer thanks to God for His blessings during this past year.

The onslaught of so much advertising and commercialism makes it easy for us to forget the true meaning of the holy season of Christmas. As a parish, I think we have done our best this Advent to assist each other in the spiritual preparation for His coming. Let us continue to pray and support each other in our walk with Christ in the coming year.

May the grace and peace of Jesus be felt in your family this Christmas and during the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Liam



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 18, 2016

For unto us is born this day a Savior! In response to so great a love, only the gift of my whole self will do. You have given us Yourself, dear Lord, in love and thanksgiving. I commit myself afresh to you.

Envelope Contributions .....	\$8,532.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$3,151.50
Mailed in .....	\$2,290.00
Total Offertory Collection .....	\$13,973.50
Offering this time last year .....	\$13,334.00
Electronic giving of 12/15.....	\$4,247.00
Parish Giving.....	6,230.00

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



### 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 Dominic DiMartino at 610-525-6442.

### 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. For more information or to register for the classes, please call Fr. John Deary at 610-525-0147, ext. 228.

### UPCOMING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE

January 1 – No Class – Happy New Year!  
January 8 – Regular Class

## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

**Thank you** to all who have volunteered your time, energy and hospitality to the families who will be joining us today, *Christmas Day*, here in the parish for the week. We ask your prayers for the families in particular, but also that their time with us will be a safe, healthy and profitable one for these families who are temporarily without homes.

**Important IHN Phone Numbers:** Because of our phone system here in the parish, it is important that you know the numbers to call if you are trying to reach someone helping with the IHN families during the week of **December 25 to January 1**. These numbers will be necessary to have whenever the Parish Office is closed or after 5:00 p.m. on work days this week.

**Parish Phone – 610-525-0147 – Ext. 255**  
**(Social Center – school)**  
**IHN Phone – 610-525-1727 (direct line)**

### FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE!

You can find a copy of the OMGC 2017 calendar at [www.omgcp parish.org](http://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.

## STV WOMEN'S SPEAKER SERIES

**AUTHOR DOTTY BROWN**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 10 at 7pm**

Ever wonder about the stories behind one Philadelphia's most iconic landmarks, Boathouse Row? Journalist and author Dotty Brown will share the historical details and human drama she uncovered while researching and writing, *Boathouse Row: Waves of Change in the Birthplace of American Rowing*. Rowers and non-rowers alike will enjoy the stories of the "waves of change" that swept Boathouse Row as people of different races, classes and genders fought for access to the sport of rowing. Dotty will also share how rowing on the Schuylkill became central to her own personal quest for change.

**Wine and Cheese reception**  
RSVP to [office@stvparish.org](mailto:office@stvparish.org) or call 610-525-4801

## THANK YOU!

### Blood Donors and Recruiters

On Thursday, December 15, the Red Cross collected 39 pints of blood from the generous donors coming to our gym. Our recruiters signed up 50 pledges and 44 presented. From them, 35 whole pints were collected and 4 pints of double red cells. This blood is sorely needed for accident victims during the heavy travel of the Christmas season. Thanks, also, to our phone recruiters: Mary Somers, Frank Quinn, Laura Piantini, Kathy Dougherty and Joe Betz.

## SHARON'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER

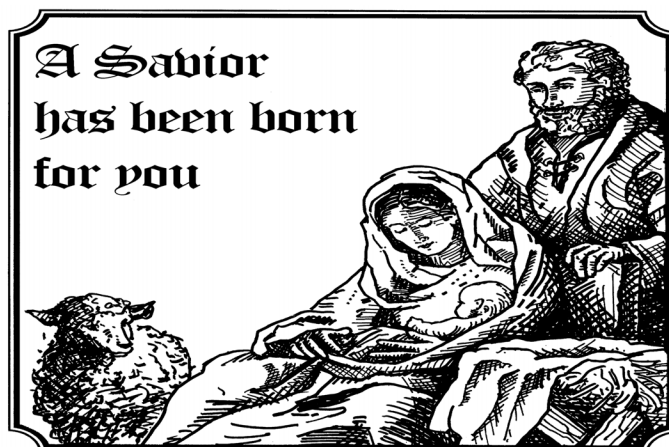
She was five, sure of the facts, and recited them with slow solemnity, convinced every word was revelation. She said: They were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat and they went a long way from home without getting lost.

The lady rode a donkey, the man walked and the baby was inside the lady. They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee), but the Three Rich Men found them because a star lited the roof.

Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them. Then the baby was borned. And do you know who he was? Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars.  
The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air, whirled round, dove into the sofa and buried her head under the cushion, which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

Fr. John Shea from "The Hour of the Unexpected"



**A Savior  
has been born  
for you**

### WALDRON MERCY ACADEMY

#### Open House Opportunities

Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

Tuesday, March 7 at 9:00am

Waldron Mercy (WMA), a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, located in Merion Station, PA, offers a Montessori program for children ages three to six and an Early Childhood Program for three year olds through grade 8. To learn more about WMA, please call Sr. Joellen at 610-664-9847, ext. 113 or [www.waldronmercy.org](http://www.waldronmercy.org).

### ST. ALOYSIUS ACADEMY

#### Open House

St. Aloysius Academy is a private, Catholic, all boy, K-8 Academy in Bryn Mawr, the only one in the 5-county Philadelphia region! We also have a co-ed Montessori pre-school. Come see us in action at our Open House on **Wednesday, January 11 from 9:30 – 11:30am**. Meet our teachers, parents and student ambassadors who will share what they love about the Academy. To register for the Open House or for further information, call Linda Hanson at 610-525-1670, ext. 313 or email [LHanson@staloyusiusacademy.org](mailto:LHanson@staloyusiusacademy.org).



### 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.

### IMPORTANT REQUEST

Please do not bring food that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut products or nut products inside the church; someone sitting near you may have a serious allergy.

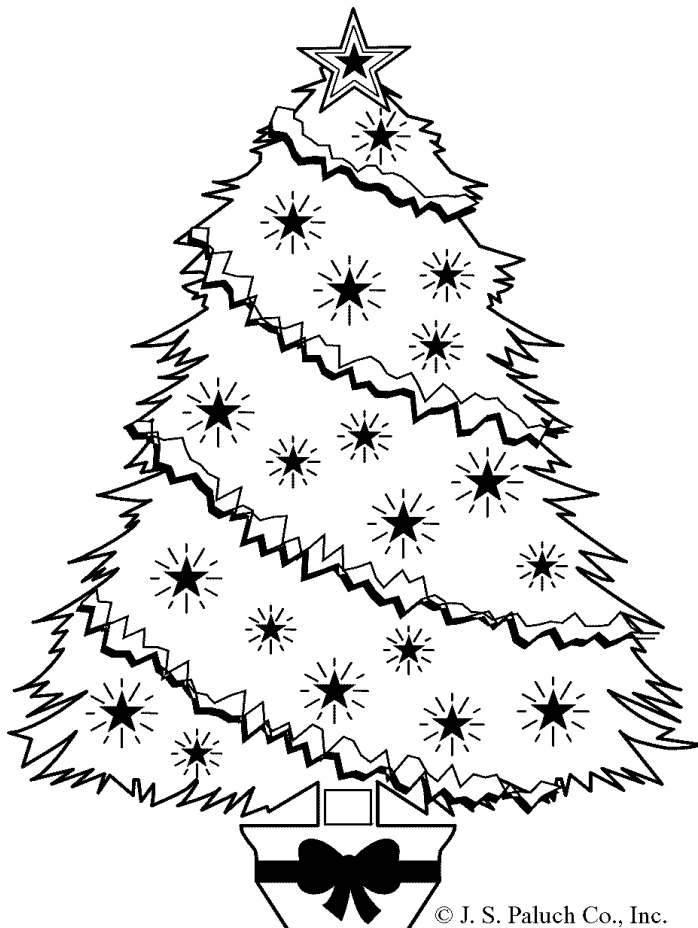
### REQUEST FOR RIDE TO MASS

A retired teacher and an OMGC parishioner needs transportation for the 7:30 am Mass on Sundays. I live on Barcladen Circle off of Lowry Lane. If you can help, please call Sally at 610-527-0879.

### GROW CLOSER TO OUR LADY

#### This Winter

Join Folks from all over the greater Philadelphia area 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](http://www.BibleandtheVirginMary.com/Philadelphia). Feel free to share this link with friends and family!



## THE CANDY MAKER

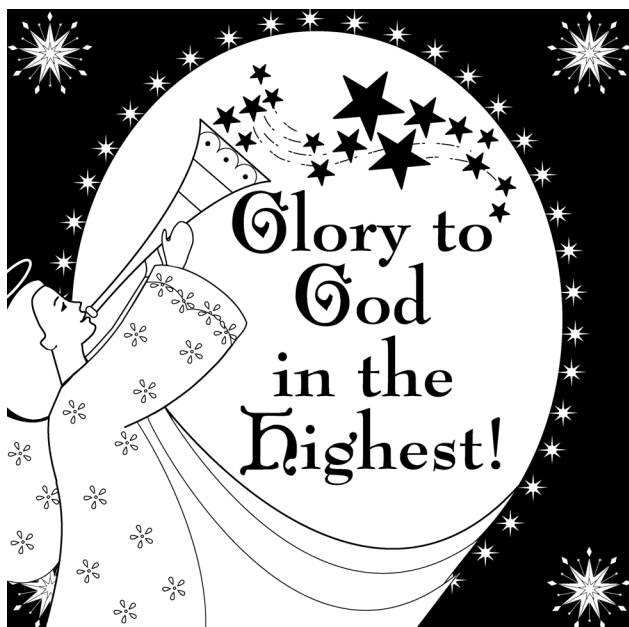
I am only a candy maker, he thought sadly. "No one will listen to me when I tell of the wondrous love of my Lord, about how and why God entered our world, born as a baby in Bethlehem. How can I tell the children about the love of Jesus" he wondered.

Then he smiled. "I will make them some candy. I will begin with pure white for the virgin birth of Jesus and his sinlessness. It will be hard and pure. I will make it into the letter J so that all may be reminded that it is by the name of Jesus that we are saved from our sins. Either the letter J or the shepherd's staff so that we may know Jesus is our shepherd, our Savior and Lord."

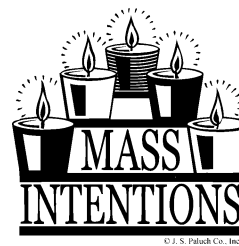
"To remember the awful price of Jesus' love for me, I shall include red to tell of the blood he shed to save me from my sins. Three small stripes to show his scourging, and a large red stripe for his blood shed on the cross by nails and spear."

And so was made the candy cane: Crafted in love and made to help us remember the costly love of Jesus for us. The Bible says: *For God so loved the world, that God gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16)

**The love of Jesus is for you.  
Open your heart and believe!**



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL  
PARISHIONERS

9:30  
11:15

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

6:30 GEORGE DONNELLY  
8:00 MICHELINA GAGLIARDI

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

6:30 ELIZABETH COYNE  
8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

6:30 GEORGE RADAN  
8:00 LUISETTA DI LEO CONICELLA

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

6:30 KAREN DE TEMPLE  
8:00 MARK, MICHELLE AND  
MICHAEL CONNOR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

6:30 FRANCES D'AMATO  
(10TH ANNIVERSARY)  
8:00 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN III  
(23RD ANNIVERSARY)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 FATHER JOHN DENNY, OSA  
5:00 VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

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.

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