



Our Mother of Good Counsel

Parish Community

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31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
BRYN MAWR, PA 19010

March 26, 2017

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

Fr. Thomas Pohto, OSA, In Residence

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 Woodeshick, 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>

BRINGING LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS WITHIN

Just as God didn't consult Eve and Adam about the potential benefits of creating them, Jesus, in today's Gospel (John 9:1-41) approached the blind man with the earth-ointment of healing without asking him if he wanted to see. But once Jesus offered him the possibility of sight, mysterious as it must have sounded, the man did what Jesus told him to do and that led to transformation.

All might have been well if it hadn't been for the onlookers. They represent a special brand of people whose world goes out of whack when things go too well for others. Their world had been settled and stable and they knew the necessary number of poor, blind and lame people around to assure them that they themselves were God's blessed, whole-bodied favorites. But when the unchosen one was transformed, everything went up for grabs. There is a particular type of people that need underdogs to prop up their identity: when there is nobody under them, how can they feel important? Who could remain sure of being chosen when conditions could change with just a little mud and water? So they took the man-who-saw to the authorities, the Pharisee guardians of law and order.

After two interviews with the once blind man, the Pharisees lost their composure. The man-who-saw was incorrigible. He refused to appreciate their logic: that what had happened to him could not come from God because it was accomplished by someone who did not abide by the law. The man-who-saw had become identified with Jesus; he would have to be judged as the same kind of sinner as the healer.

As Jesus tried to tell them, blindness is no sin, but choosing blindness, refusing to believe in God's ongoing self-revelation and activity in the world is unforgivable because those who do so close themselves off from God.

Today's readings call us to the discernment that is based upon openness to the unruliness of God's word. We must accept that we are all blind when it comes to seeing the range of possibilities. As we learn to do that, we may just be surprised by a brand new vision.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Christian Milton, Ann Marie Dean,
Joann Dalesandro, Mary Campo,
Pat Mallon, Fr. Michael Scuderi, OSA,
Janine Hoffman, Carol Luty, and
Michael and Andrew McCaughey.

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 souls of Margaret Simyak and Joseph W. Rogers and for the consolation of their families.

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.

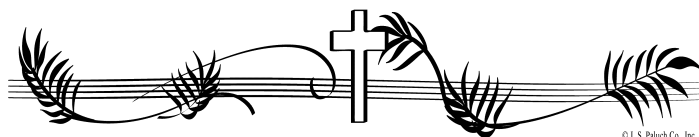


COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated communally on **Tuesday evening, April 4 at 7:30 p.m. in our Church.** The communal celebration of the Sacrament is a very meaningful experience as we join together as a community in celebration of God's ever-ready willingness to forgive, renew and strengthen our commitment to live more faithfully as disciples of Christ.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Penance will be available on **Wednesday evenings** during Lent from **7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** in our Parish Church.



PARISH LENTEN SERIES

Save the Dates

This year, our parish is providing six evenings of input and reflection on the Scripture Readings of Lent on **Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** The final two sessions of this series, presented by Michelle Francl-Donnay, are:

March 30 What prayers did Jesus say? Where might he have learned them, and when and how did he use them? In Lent and in Holy Week, how might we pray as Jesus did?

Week 5 of This Series:

My rock, my fortress, my deliverer

When challenged, whether by the Pharisees in the streets or Satan in the desert, Jesus often pulls from the Psalms in response. Amma Syncletica, one of the desert mothers, advised turning to the psalms when life and prayer felt challenging, a practice described by St. Augustine as well. When we are “surrounded by bees” (Ps 118:12) where can we turn in the psalms for help, as Jesus did?

April 6 Week 6 of this Series:

Jesus’ seven last words:

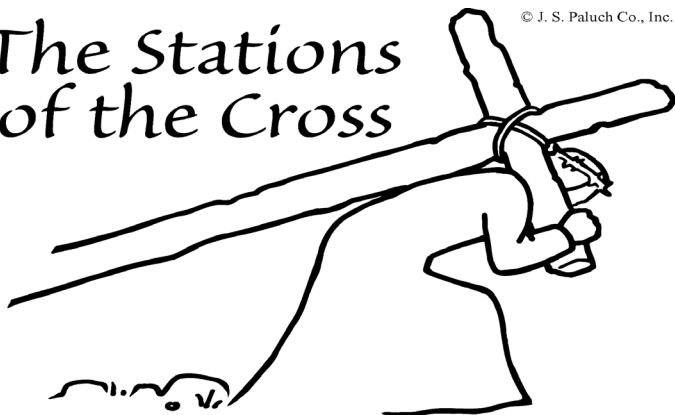
Into your hands I commend my spirit.

The last prayers Jesus prayed were the psalms, the very last words he breathed came from Psalm 31: “Into your hands I commend my spirit.” How might we use the psalms to pray with Jesus through Holy Week into Easter?

Thank you for those of you who were able to attend this year’s Lenten Series. Our presenters, Fr. Liam, Fr. John and Michelle Francl-Donnay gave us very effective and helpful presentations dealing with Lenten topics such as Baptism, Repentance, the Psalms and much more. Thank you to our presenters and participants.

The Stations of the Cross

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STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

for March 19, 2017

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees.

Envelope Contributions	\$7,497.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$875.00
Mailed in.....	\$860.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$9,232.00
Offering this time last year	\$19,776.00
Parish giving	\$1,015.00

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Meeting: The Parish Council will hold its next meeting on **Monday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center. Parishioners are always welcome and encouraged to attend these monthly meetings. If you plan to do so, please call President Barry Mulhern at 610-527-5197 or rmul742@gmail.com.

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 Ron Hicks at 610-449-2748.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

About First Sunday Liturgy

Next Sunday, April 2, we will celebrate our First Sunday Liturgy at the 11:15 Mass as usual. Immediately following the Mass, we will give our presentation of the **Living Stations**. This will last about 20 minutes. Following the Living Stations, all are invited to join us for our first Spring lunch, which will feature our **MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAY BAR!** We will provide the ice cream and fixings, you provide lunch. To sign up go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-april.

Our young people have worked hard on the Stations. Please join us.

LENTEN TAIZE PRAYER

Join us on **Sunday, April 2 at 4:00 p.m.** here at Our Mother of Good Counsel Church for an experience of Taize Prayer, facilitated by two members of the Spirituality Committee, Mary Callan and Joanne Bramley. This is a very reflective and quiet prayer experience that we could find very meaningful as we move closer to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. 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. *The prayer takes place in our Daily Chapel.*

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 6th through 12th grade students are invited to join us in the Parish Office on **Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 am** to help fill Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please let Karen Carey know if you will be attending by emailing kcarey@omgcp parish.net.

The Youth Group will be collecting bags of individually wrapped small candy for the filling of our Easter Eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the young people of the parish to be held on **Easter Sunday, April 16** following the 11:15 Mass. If you are able to contribute, please either drop your donation of candy at the parish office, or bring it to church and mark it "Youth Group" and place it in the food baskets.

We are still in need of students, any school, grades 3 through 12 to help out with the Living Stations. Please email Karen Carey at kcarey@omgcp parish.net if you can help and join us on **Saturday evening, April 1 from 6 – 7:30 pm** for practice.

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will meet again on **Friday morning, April 7 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Parish Center.



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2017 CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

Giving Hope to All

The Catholic Charities Appeal is the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's single most important annual fundraising initiative, and we are counting on your support. The Appeal's beneficiaries are grouped into five key areas of focus: **Education; Social Services; Evangelization, Parish and Spiritual Life; Clergy; Local Mission Activities.**

God, our Father, You call us to open our hearts to share what we have been given. Grant that through giving to the Catholic Charities Appeal, we may bring joy, hope and strength to those most in need. Amen.

SPIRITUALITY COMMITTEE

The Spirituality Committee will meet on **Wednesday, April 5 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).

HOPE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

Hope Partnership for Education and Polka Dots Boutique in Paoli are teaming up for an Easter pop-up shop! Polka Dots offers fun, trendy clothes and accessories for women of all ages. Between **4:00 – 8:00pm on Wednesday, April 12**, 20% of all sales benefit Hope Partnership, a private, independent Middle School, Graduate Support and Adult Education Center in one of North Philadelphia's most under-resourced neighborhoods. For more information on Hope, visit www.hope-partnership.org. Find your Easter outfit while helping deserving students and supporting a local small business! Polka Dots Paoli is located in the Paoli Shopping Center, 29 Leopard Road.

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE!

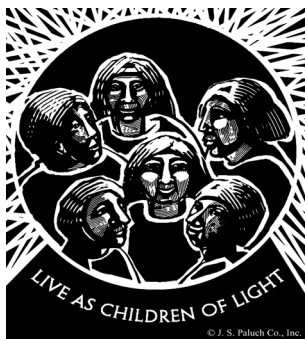
Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. *Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope of a different and better marriage.* Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and with God's help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program in your area begins on the **weekend of April 21 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.** Another weekend will be held in August. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

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.

BABY'S BREATH RUN FOR LIFE

Please come and enjoy a morning of family fun on **Saturday, April 8th** at the Norristown Farm for the annual Run for Life – benefitting A Baby's Breath Crisis Pregnancy Center – helping Moms and their families for 17 years! 1 Mile Fun Run - 9:00a.m.; 5K Run at 9:30 a.m. Walk, Run or Wheel! Please register at http://www.ababysbreath.org/events/NOR_RFL.html. For more information, please contact Dorothy Swedkowski, Race Director at 610-316-6281 or budswed@verizon.net.



HANDICAPPED ENCOUNTER CHRIST (HEC) Retreat – April 2, 2017

**St. Raphaela Center
616 Coopertown Road, Haverford**

Please RSVP by March 25!! We need to plan for food and space. Contact: Joanne Burns at joanne_c_burns@yahoo.com or phone Stephen Allman at 610-494-3032. HEC retreats were developed for people with disabilities who could not otherwise attend a spiritual retreat due to accessibility issues. All need the support of others on their spiritual journey. Come join us as we share talks, group discussions and song. Dinner is included.

NEEDED: A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

Dolphin Companions, formerly Dolphins of Delaware Valley, reach out in friendship to elderly residents of nursing and retirement homes by volunteers who visit on a one-on-one basis. Thus, while most nursing homes seek Volunteers to participate in many aspects of resident life, the Dolphins' one-on-one program is unique in that it focuses on elderly residents who might otherwise not be visited. Each of us has experienced some isolation and loneliness at some point in life. Magnify that experience and add to it the fact that the situation will never change for the better, and you will begin to approach the experience of many elderly people. Learn more about being a volunteer by checking out our website www.dolphinsofdelawarevalley.org or contact Marilyn Knox at 610-585-7141 or MarilynK@ecsphilly.org

SUMMER DIRECTED RETREATS

**and
Ignatian Spiritual Exercises**

St. Raphaela Center offers summer retreats as well as the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises retreat for an extended time of prayer and silence, accompanied by a Spiritual Director. Visit our website for July and September retreat dates. For more information or to register, call St. Raphaela Center in Haverford, PA at 610-642-5715 or www.straphaelacenter.org

HIGH SCHOOLS' SUMMER PROGRAMS

Merion Mercy Academy: We have a variety of academic, enrichment and athletic offerings for girls and boys, including our acclaimed pre-eighth grade **Summer Academy** and **High School Placement Test Preparation** course, and our popular 6th and 7th grade **Jump Start Program**, which focuses on math, language arts, writing and study skills. We also offer fun enrichment programs and sports camps such as field hockey and volleyball.

Please visit our website at www.merion-mercy.com/summerprograms to download a full brochure and to register online. For more information, you may also contact Mrs. Barbara Harrison, director of Summer programs at 610-664-6655 ext. 120 or email her at bharrison@merion-mercy.com.

Notre Dame de Namur Academy: This School will offer summer enrichment and athletic camps for elementary, middle and high school girls. Options include dance, science, basketball, rowing and Stix and Kicks.

Please visit www.ndapa.org/summercamps for specific details on dates and grade levels or call 610-687-0650.

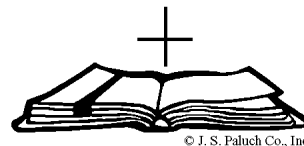
IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANS

Community Town Hall
Tuesday, March 28, 7PM
St. Maron's Maronite Catholic Church
1013 Ellsworth St., Philadelphia PA 19147

In Defense of Christians is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working with the United States Government to end the genocide of Christians and minorities in the Middle East. Come hear about national and international efforts to promote equal rights for Christians and other minorities. This is a concrete way to join the effort to be united with our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

<http://indefenseofchristians.org>

Mass Intentions



SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- 7:30 MARIA VAN DUSEN
(23RD ANNIVERSARY)
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
11:15 ACHILLE "KELLY" BARONE

MONDAY, MARCH 27

- 6:30 KATHERINE TINSLEY
8:00

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

- 6:30 EDWIN K. DALY
8:00 PHIL AND NELLIE SHERIDAN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

- 6:30 JOHN AND NORMA MC BURNEY
8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

- 6:30
8:00 FRANK QUINN (ANNIVERSARY MASS)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

- 6:30
8:00 CARMEN MARCHESANI

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

- 8:00 JOSEPH BLONSKI
(ANNIVERSARY MASS)

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

- 7:30 PATRICK CROSSAN FAMILY
9:30 FRANK AND ANN MINTON
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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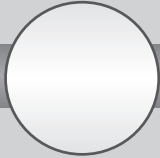
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