



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 31, 2017

PARISH STAFF

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Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus

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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. (Except June, July, & August)
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 FAMILY OF GOD

The themes of family, faith and legacy reach a crescendo in this portion of the infancy narrative of Luke's Gospel (Luke 2:22-40). In this story, Jesus emerges from within a family and social world deeply enmeshed in Israel's traditions. Joseph and Mary had observed the laws regarding circumcision and purification and now they follow the prescription of Exodus 13:2 regarding the presentation of the first born as dedicated to God. They take Jesus to Jerusalem and into the Temple where they encounter Simeon, a righteous and devout person who has received a divine promise: Before he dies, he will see the Messiah, Israel's consolation.

Sustained by faith, Simeon receives his heart's desire, and he is now peacefully ready to die. His words about Jesus are prophetic. Jesus' mission will be to the Gentiles and to the Jews. Both will be the recipients of God's salvific love. Hence, the promise to Abraham, specifically, that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed, comes to a deeper fulfillment through Jesus who, through Abraham, is related to both Isaac and Ishmael (Abraham's two sons), to Jews and Gentiles alike. Today, the promise extends to Jews, Christians and Muslims among others who are all part of the divine family living under blessing and promise.

Anna, a devout, aged prophetess, also encounters Jesus and his parents in the Temple. She, too, speaks well of the child whom she and Simeon see as leading Israel to God and God to Israel, symbolized by the city Jerusalem which represents the redemption and salvation of all God's people.

Both Simeon and Anna reveal to Joseph and Mary theirs and Jesus' future legacy. Yes, Jesus will be the hope of Israel – the Messiah and long-awaited one – but as Simeon points out, Jesus will be destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and will be a sign that will be contradicted. Furthermore, Mary will suffer terribly on account of her son's mission that will lead to his eventual death.

For Joseph, Mary and Jesus, joy, conflict and pain lie ahead as a result of those who will accept or resist God's saving initiatives through Jesus' mission and ministry. Such is the legacy bequeathed to all of us who dare to embody the life of Christ through our lives, who are willing to live as part of God's "family," and who choose to love those who walk in Jesus' footsteps.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Lori Lesutis,
 Carol Luty, Dahlia Nichols,
 Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
 Joan and Paul Gorham, Lenore Lilly,
 Alice Ritter, William O'Donnell,
 Paul Neff, Lois Egan and
 Emily Chaveriat

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 Helen O'Neill and for the consolation of her family.

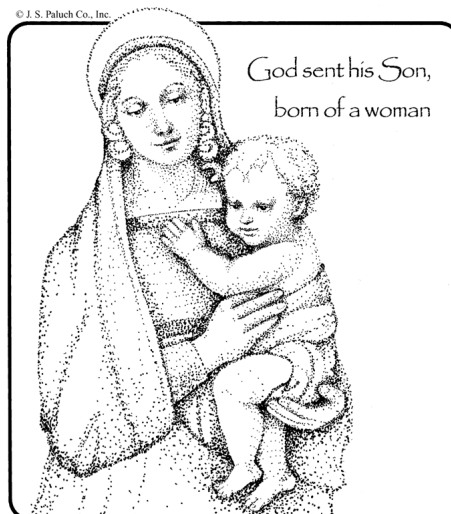
H.O.P.E

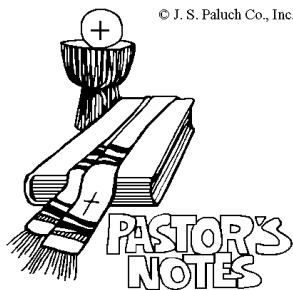
If you are in need of a ride to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Joanne Bramley at 610-457-6638 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of the Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God – January 1
One Mass Only at 10:30 a.m.

This Feast is not a Holyday of Obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. But it is a special way to honor Mary as the Mother of God, so join us for Mass at 10:30 if you are able.





CHRISTMAS 2017

Dear Friends,

My wish and prayer for you this Christmas Season is that the gentle Lord Jesus, born on Christmas Day, may bring peace into your soul and abundant blessings into your home. I pray that every heart be opened to the Infant Prince of Peace by a fervent reception of the Sacrament of His love – the Holy Eucharist.

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.

Again I thank you for the wonderful support you all were to me at the time of my Mother's death this past September. Many out-of-town friends and relatives who came for Mom's funeral Mass commented to me about the warmth of the people here at OMGC and the high quality of the liturgy. I told them how lucky I am to be pastor of a parish where community and striving for excellence in liturgy and worship have been priorities for many years.

As we enter into 2018 we will begin a new ministry – Discovering Christ. You have heard me speak about it a few times in the past few months. As a parish, our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to help one another to deepen our love for Him. Discovering Christ as a ministry has been very effective in doing this in many parishes, including my previous parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel in Staten Island. Please pray for our team as we prepare to launch in the Spring.

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

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Liam

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

“Whatever you do,” says St. Paul to the Colossians, “...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.” And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist “through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit...”

Due to the Christmas Holiday, collection totals for December 24 and Christmas will not be available until next week.

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

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

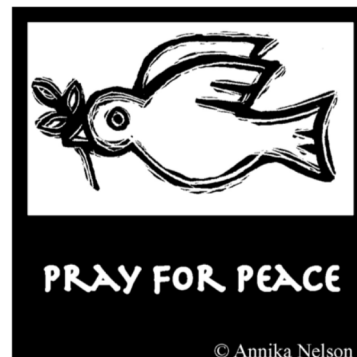
Meeting: The Parish Council will hold its next meeting on **Monday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center. Parishioners are always welcome and encouraged to attend these monthly meetings. If you plan to do so, please call President Barry Mulhern at 610-527-5197 or rmul742@gmail.com.

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



RCIA TEAM MEETING

The RCIA Team will meet on **Thursday, January 4 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center. We will continue to plan for our adult Catechumens, Camille Kautzmann and Moira Smith and two of our young Religious Education students who will be received into the Church at our Easter Vigil this coming year.



SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group will meet again on **Friday morning, January 5 at 10:00 a.m.** to complete their reading of the life and work of Corita Kent, an American nun and pop artist who led a life of creativity and love that took her in unexpected directions. The author offered us an in-depth look at Corita, a gentle revolutionary of the heart, letting the beauty and truth of her life and art speak for itself.

In February, we will begin reading about the life and priestly ministry of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin who lived a life of ministry in the Church marked by thoughtfulness, compassion and conviction. The author offers a fresh new portrait of one of the most remarkable Catholic leaders of the 20th century.

This reading group usually meets the 1st Friday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. If you would like to join us in February as we begin to learn more about Cardinal Bernadin's gift that he was to the church, please call Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234, soon so that enough books can be ordered. Thank you.



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ST. RAPHAELA CENTER
 616 Coopertown Road in Haverford
www.straphaelacenter.org
 610-642-5715

Come, join us for a monthly **Taize prayer**, including Eucharistic Adoration that will extend to midnight. **Dates: 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** No registration is needed. The next Taize prayer experience will be held on **January 10, 2018**. Questions will be answered either by phone or email as listed above.

Winter Directed Retreat Week/Weekend: St. Raphaela Center offers retreats for an extended time of prayer and silence, accompanied by a Spiritual Director.

Weekend Dates: January 26-28
Weeklong Dates: January 26-February 2
 Register by phone or email as listed above.



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FIRST RECONCILIATION
 is to be celebrated on
Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m.
 for our young people.

Grown-ups are asked to wait until the Children finish (around 12:00noon or so).

AN INVITATION
To a Morning of Reflection
Saturday, January 13
10:00am – 1:00 pm

If you are a single woman between the ages of 8 and 40, join the Sisters of Mercy for a morning of prayer and reflection and learn how we combine our ministries with a life of prayer and community living. The morning is hosted by the New Membership team of the Sisters of Mercy and will be held at the Convent of Mercy, 515 Montgomery Ave., Merion, PA. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 10 to Sr. Theresa Saetta, RSM at tsaetta@mercymidatlantic.org.

PEACE AND JUSTICE MEETING

The Peace and Justice Committee of Our Mother of Good Counsel and St. Thomas of Villanova Parishes will meet on **Thursday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m.** at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Center.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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Feast of
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 January 4

Feast of
St. John Neumann
 January 5



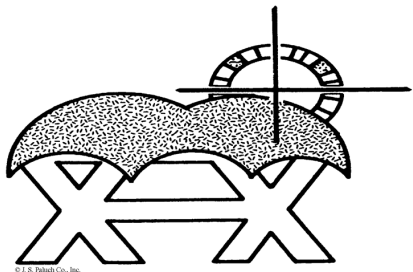
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On behalf of the Patrician society of Directors, staff, volunteers and clients, I thank the parishioners of Our Mother of Good Counsel for your food donations throughout the year to benefit clients of our Emergency Food Cupboard. The Patrician Society works with nearly 1,400 families year-round, using resources which are all privately donated. You may be assured that your ongoing contributions help to alleviate the problem of hunger in our area!

With best wishes to you during this Christmas season, I am:

Sincerely,
Joseph Maccolini
Executive Director



AN INVITATION
Birthplace Open House

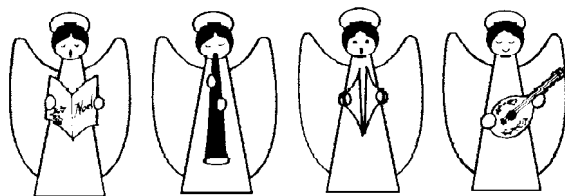
Were You Born at Misericordia Hospital???
Mercy Philadelphia Hospital, formally Misericordia Hospital, is celebrating 100 years of service. We invite those born at Misericordia to discover their birthplace and our proud heritage. Join us on **Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 2:00-4:00pm** for an Open House tour and reception, including cake and a birthday toast to celebrate our centennial. RSVP required: Call Mercy Philadelphia Hospital Administration at **215-748-9300** by January 21. Free parking is available in our parking garage, 501 South 54th Street, Philadelphia.

Margaret (Maggie) Fullmer
Board Chair
Mercy Catholic Medical Center

ARCH. PRENDERGAST ALUMNAE
January, 2018 Events

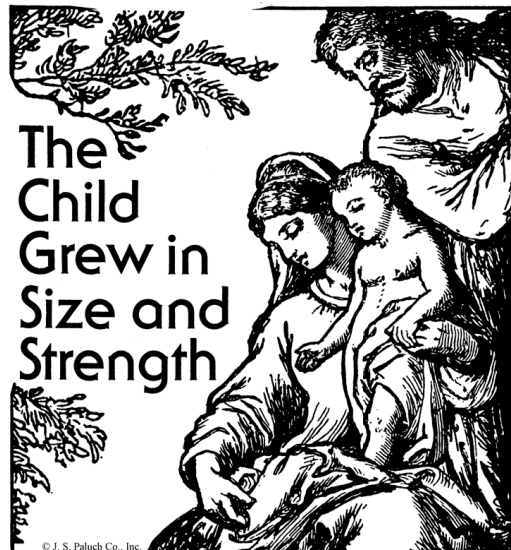
Basketball Alumnae Night – Tuesday, January 23: All Prendie alumnae basketball players are invited to a reception in the Bonner-Prendie building at 6:00 p.m. and then attend the girls’ basketball game vs. Archbishop Wood that follows at 7:00 p.m. Please pass the word to family and friends who played. For any questions, email APalumnaegames@aol.com.

Fourth Annual Prendie Alumnae Bowling Party – Sunday, January 28: Please join us for the Annual Alumnae Bowling Event from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at MacDade Bowl in Holmes. Included for \$20.00 are two hours of bowling, shoe rental and a casual lunch including pizza, hot dogs, snacks and soft drinks. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. For more information, email APalumnaebowling@aol.com.



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CHORALE
University of Notre Dame
2018 Winter Tour Concert
Monday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthews Roman Catholic church
219 Fayette Street in Conshohocken
Free and Open to the Public



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AN INCARNATION STORY TWINKIES AND ROOT BEER

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly woman. The woman was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the woman looked hungry, so he offered her a Twinkie.

The woman gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. Her smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer.

Again, the woman smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the woman, and gave her a hug. The woman gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mom, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

She replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before her son responded, she added, "You know, God's much younger than I expected."

Too often, we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace them all equally!

Author Unknown

MASS INTENTIONS



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 7:30 MARGARET AND JOHN PEPITONE
9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
11:15 JOANN DALESANDRO

MONDAY, JANUARY 1
FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

10:30

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

- 6:30
8:00 PEPPER GERHARD WHELEN
VAN DUSEN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

- 6:30
8:00 MARK, MICHELLE AND
MICHAEL CONNOR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

- 6:30
8:00 HELEN SEIFERT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

- 6:30
8:00 JOHN CAMPBELL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

- 8:00 JAMES YOUNG

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 AL AND PAULINE MANDES
11:15 SALVATORE PETROCCIA
(52ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY)

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(Supervisor)

John J. Stretch, IV F.D.

Timothy J. Stretch F.D.

Edward F. (Ted) Power, F.D.

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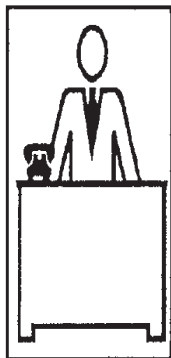
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