



Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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September 30, 2018

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Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director of Music Ministries...Ext. 238

Sr. Anne Woodeshick, RSM, Parish Ministry...Ext. 234

Donna Descano, Administrative Assistant...Ext. 221

Peggy Juhline, Business Manager...Ext. 225

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.

Summer: Office Closed on Fridays in July & August

Parish Office and Rectory Phone: (610) 525-0147

FAX NUMBER: (610) 525-0157

PARISH WEB SITE:

<http://www.OMGCPARISH.ORG>

REAL LIFE TAKES A TOLL ON ALL OF US

Today's Gospel (Mark 9:38-48) follows directly on last Sunday's Gospel. In response to the disciples' self-importance, Jesus has just placed the little child in their midst, explaining that real greatness comes from service, from living in solidarity with the lowly, and in service from below. Put in that context, we can see that the disciple John's statement to Jesus sounds pretty much like an attempt to change the subject. "Listen, instead of talking about serving the little people, here's a *real* problem that needs fixing: Somebody else is out there doing what we do! We tried to stop it, but we weren't successful. Now, Jesus, the ball is in your court!"

At this point, it is easy to imagine Jesus looking at the disciples as if they were total strangers. It seemed as if they had no clue about who he was, what he was all about and how he was living in response to his Father's will. Jesus' disciples had become so caught up in their status game that they had made discipleship an exclusive club in which only the bona fide members had the right to promote the kingdom of God. As the group tried to guard their privilege, they didn't realize that they were actually betraying Jesus and his life's cause. Was it jealousy? These are the disciples who shortly before had been unable to cast out a demon for lack of prayerfulness. Now they want to stop someone who actually does overpower the enemy of God because, note their words, "he does not follow us."

To move them beyond the status trap, Jesus returns to the theme of littleness. "You are worried about someone else casting out demons? Listen to me! Anyone who donates even a cup of water on behalf of God's kingdom deserves a reward!" Then, knowing that they need more tutoring on the theme, he goes on to talk about the horror of scandal. To a people who pride themselves on appearance (long fringes, overt signs of fasting, etc.), Jesus suggests that self-mutilation is preferable to giving scandal.

Mark repeats this story about the disciples not because he wants to put them down, but because their disoriented approach to discipleship didn't die with them. Mark surely saw the same tendency in his community 40 years after Jesus' death. The story must consistently accompany our preaching of the good news because the temptation to pursue prestige over the mission will never leave the church. Baptism does not drown our ego; it only brings us into the midst of a community that can tame us by calling us into service.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Anne Shea, John Cassandro,
Joseph Smith, William O'Donnell,
Carol Luty, Marie D'Ambrosio, Lori Lesutis,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Bill and Ella Denny, Karen Schubert,
S. Helena McNeill, MSHR,

and all who care for the sick and dying.

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.

Helping Other People in Emergencies

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

Marriages: Congratulations to Megan McKinney and Michael Kroener who were married in our Church last week. May you continue to grow in God's love for you through each other.

Deceased: We pray for the happy repose of the souls of Augusta Pettinati and Mary Ferrara and for the consolation of their families.

LATER TODAY!!!

Sorry For the Last Minute Notice

Thursday, October 4 is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis had a great love for all God's creation and especially animals. In honor of St. Francis, we would like to ask God to bless our beloved pets **this afternoon, Sunday, September 30 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Church.



Sunday, September 30

Thursday, October 4

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

In last week’s Parish Bulletin, we included a special insert of the **Parish Pastoral Plan**. After many months of work, this Plan has been finalized and formally adopted by the Parish Council.

Work began on this Plan in September of 2017, but the idea for it was inspired by our Parish-Wide Meeting in April of 2017. At that meeting, parishioners provided input about what our parish does well and what it could improve on. We decided that just identifying ideas for improvement was not enough and that we should take specific steps to put some of the ideas into action. With guidance from the Archdiocesan Office for Parish Services and Support, we identified three goals as the top priorities – **Evangelization, Families and Youth, and Communications**. A subcommittee of the Parish Council was assigned each goal, and objectives were drafted and then revised after further consideration by all of the members of the Parish Council. The goals and objectives were presented to the Parish at our Parish-Wide Meeting earlier this year, resulting in many comments and suggestions. They were also published on the parish web page with the opportunity for comments to be submitted by email, and several parishioners took advantage of that invitation. In May and June, the Parish Council made additional revisions based upon the feedback.

Some of the items listed have already been initiated, such as the ChristLife series, but the hard work begins now with respect to most of the objectives. The Parish Council will be addressing them promptly, and implementing and tracking the objectives will be a regular part of Parish Council meetings.

In other Parish Council news, a lengthy portion of the September meeting was devoted to a discussion about the **Grand Jury Report** of the Pennsylvania Attorney General, the allegations involving Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the evidence again of cover-ups by the church and the fallout of this news. The Parish Council supports Fr. Liam in encouraging open discussion about these topics and urges you to attend the parish conversation scheduled for **Sunday, October 7 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** in the school building.

As always, if you have any questions for the Parish Council, please contact Barry Mulhern at 610-527-5197 or rmul742@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for September 23, 2018

St. James warns in today’s second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

Envelope Contributions	\$3,415.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$786.00
Mailed in	\$540.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$4,741.00
Offering this time last year	\$5,683.00
Parish Giving.....	\$465.00

**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, October 1 at 7:30pm** 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.



COMMUNAL ANOINTING MASS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on **Saturday evening, October 6 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass**. The name of the Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick, tells us that the sacrament is for those who are sick, not just for the dying. It is a sacrament of healing, and the Church wants us to ask for this sacrament before we are at the point of death. It instructs all those who minister to the sick that great care and concern should be taken to see that those of the faithful whose health is impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament.

Please come to church in plenty of time to be registered for the sacrament and helped to be seated in special places for the priests to anoint you. People will be on hand by 4:30 p.m. to welcome you to this special celebration.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FEATURE

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

If a large number of the faithful are present at the celebration of the Mass, the presider will frequently need assistance in distributing Communion so that the Communion Rite is not unduly long. He will regularly need this assistance when Communion is given under both kinds, the form of Communion that more clearly signifies the Eucharistic banquet. To that end, deacons and concelebrating priests assist as ordinary ministers of Communion. However, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, either formally commissioned for a given period or temporarily deputed by the presider, will frequently give this assistance.

These individuals serve Christ who is present in the assembly by ministering his Body and Blood to their sisters and brothers. They also serve the Body of Christ by taking Communion to those members who, through sickness, old age, or other causes are prevented from taking part in the Mass. In accord with a most ancient tradition, it is most appropriate for Communion to be taken directly from the Sunday Eucharist to the sick and those unable to leave their homes. Genuine ministry is about humble service. The model for all ministry is Christ the Lord who came to serve, not to be served. His command to “love one another” was modeled throughout his life and ministry. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion give faithful testimony to Christ’s presence in the Eucharist by the reverence they show in giving Holy Communion to the people.

CHANGEOVER FOR OUR SUNSET LITURGY MUSIC GROUP

Our parish musical ensemble, formed over seven years ago, is making some changes. With a few exceptions, the First Sunday Celebration group will now be playing the 5:00 o’clock Mass on the first weekend of each month, from October through June. This will allow them ample time for set up and rehearsal on Saturday afternoons, as well as alleviate family scheduling needs on Sunday mornings. They may still sing an occasional 11:15 as needed throughout the year. Along with this transition, they are returning to their original name of “Sunset Liturgy”. We are blessed to have this dedicated and talented group of parish musicians in service to Our Mother of Good Counsel.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Inquiry Sessions: A new series of Inquiry sessions will begin on Wednesday evening, **October 10 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center of Our Mother of Counsel Parish. This is the beginning phase of the RCIA process for anyone who may be considering becoming a member of the Catholic Church or who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Church. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in learning more about the RCIA process, please call S. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147 (ext. 234) or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net.

Inquiry sessions, also known as the precatechumenate period, is a series of 6 or 7 Wednesday evenings this Fall, beginning on October 10 from 7:30 – 9:00pm. This initial phase is a time of discernment, the first stirrings of faith and conversion perhaps, a time to sort out questions and motivations and often the first introduction to the Catholic church. At this point in the process, the individuals are called “inquirers.”

We have a young college student who has already expressed her desire to begin the process this October. If you know someone who might need a gentle nudge to begin inquiring about the process, encourage them to email S. Anne at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net or call her at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 who would love to help with their initial questions.

I would also like to meet with any parishioner who would be willing to become a member of the RCIA Team. Team Members share their faith journey with the candidates as time goes on, either during the Inquiry evenings or on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 am Mass as the candidate(s) move along through the process.



PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Peace and Justice Committee will meet again on **Thursday evening, October 11 from 7:00 -8:30 p.m.** at Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Center.



FALL FESTIVAL NEWS How Can You Help?

Our Fall Festival is well underway and only a few short weeks away.

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We need your help!

Our Festival this year will be held on **Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20 from 5:30 until 9:00 and on Sunday from 10am until 2pm.** Please watch the bulletin for pre-sale information! The Annual HAUNTED MAZE will take place on Friday and Saturday nights. Are you brave enough?

How Can You Help???

1. We are looking for donations of gift cards, raffle baskets, or items to put in the raffle baskets. If you are in a position to help us out, please drop your donations off at the Parish Office marked Fall Festival. If you have any questions, please contact Maryann Gallagher at marebritt@msn.com.
2. We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the games and prizes. If you are able to help with the games and prizes, please contact Shannon at sscardecchio@gmail.com or Brittany at brittgallagher22@gmail.com
3. If you are not able to be here, perhaps you can bake or cook something to be sold! Please see enclosed flyer!
4. Please spread the word about our great event!!!

PREP NEWS

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make our first weekend of classes a success! It was a good class and we are so grateful for all the parents who stayed for the meeting!! We are looking forward to an awesome year!

FIRE PIT FRIDAY

Thank you to all those who joined us for our games, smores, and fire pit on Friday, September 21. It was great to meet new people and watch the children play so well together! We are looking to do this again so if you missed this one, keep an eye out for more! Thank you also for welcoming our IHN guests to our "party!" They were so very grateful for your hospitality!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

All 6th through 12th grade students are invited to participate in any and all Youth Group Activities.

On October 13 (NOTE DATE CHANGE), Youth Group will take their Annual trip to Cherry Crest Farms to complete the aMAZE-ing Corn Maze. All those interested should sign up by contacting Karen at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcp parish.net. This trip is always fun and the farm has alot to do! Please be sure to sign up soon so we can make sure transportation is covered! The cost is \$15. Transportation will be provided. We will meet in OMGC parking lot at 4 pm and will return home by 10 pm.

On Sunday, October 14, Youth Group will meet in the school from **2:30 until 4:00pm.** We will work on final preparations for the Fall Festival.

ALL YOUTH ARE NEEDED FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL!! The Fall Festival raises money that we use to help defray the cost of other activities we do during the year! We need everyone's help so that we can have fun doing things we love! Space is very limited for the Haunted Maze but we still need your help in other areas. Please contact Karen if you are interested in any way in participating! kcarey@omgcp parish.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday evening, October 26, OMGC will hold its 2nd Annual BYOB Pumpkin Carving! Bring your beverage and your pumpkin! Meet us in the Social Center for some snack food and fun! Party begins at 6 pm and ends at 8 pm. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!!** For more information, contact Karen at kcarey@omgcp parish.net.

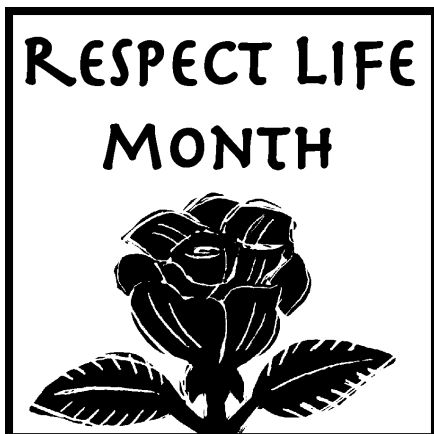


GO TEAM!

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CYO CROSS COUNTRY OMGC/STV Team

Best Wishes to the St. Thomas of Villanova/Our Mother of Counsel Cross Country Team for the upcoming season! Come out to the Belmont Plateau to support them on Sundays beginning at 12:30pm. Members of the team are: Madeline Becker, Everett Becker, Danny Bialka, Lilly Boles, Emma Boles, Colin Brown, Cole Cosgrove, Siobhan Kelleher, Finn Kelleher, Maura Kelleher and Therese Trainer.



© Annika Nelson

OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Caring for Loved Ones at Life's End

We are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when loved ones approach life's end, we may not know how to provide compassionate care. Surround your friend or family member with love, support and companionship that are "anchored in unconditional respect for their human dignity, beginning with respect for the inherent value of their lives."

Some tips to be aware of: Invite God in. Listen. Inform yourself. Be steadfast in compassion. Reminiscence. Provide a peaceful atmosphere. Show tenderness. Bear their transition patiently. Help them achieve closure. Provide opportunities for resolution.

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading Group resumed its monthly gatherings on Friday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Office/Parish Center building. The books we have been reading recently are published by Liturgical Press in Collegeville, Minnesota. The group began reading a biography of *Flannery O'Connor: Fiction Fired by Faith*.

The Spiritual Reading Group usually meets on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. If you think you would like to join us at our **October 5** gathering, please call S. Anne Woodeshick at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 or email her at awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net.

Beginning this new book in September, makes it possible for a new member to join us this early in our getting to know a Catholic author who had quite an impact in the literary and theological fields in our Church history.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 PHILOMENA VALENTINE
11:15 MARY BARONE
(8TH ANNIVERSARY)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 6:30 MICHAEL RONAN
8:00 DOMENICO CONICELLA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTIONS
8:00 ETHEL DAGIT CUNNINGHAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTIONS
8:00 THOMAS KEANE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 6:30 DECEASED MEMBERS
& BENEFACTORS OF OSA
8:00 ANTHONY TANZOLO

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 6:30 RYAN COLLERAN
8:00 NICHOLA MARCHESANI

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 8:00 GEORGE C. GUSS (1ST ANNIVERSARY)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
PARISHIONERS
9:30 JOHN GIANNONE (75TH BIRTHDAY)
11:15 McELWEE & ROUSSIN FAMILIES

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Tuesday, October 2

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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