



Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish Community

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31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
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December 16, 2018

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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...Ext. 250
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
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>

JESUS' FIRE IS THE FIRE OF LOVE: THE HOLY SPIRIT

After two readings that call us to joy, today's Gospel (Lk. 3:10-18) sends us to the river to listen to John the Baptist. Although he is one of the greatest saints of Advent, he is never going to replace Santa's jolly elves or the joyous angels as a symbol of the season. Even though Luke skips over any mention of John's desert diet and style of dress, he still gives us an earful of the Baptist's fiery rhetoric. Instead of inviting people to rejoice because God's chosen one was coming, John warned them of the wrath to come, threatening that the ax was already aimed at the roots of their ancestral tree.

John had an interesting teaching technique of conversion. The first people to ask him how they should change their lives were *ordinary folk*. John instructed them to treat the poor as honored members of their own families. Whoever had two inner garments was told to give one to someone who had none. If they had more food than necessary, they were to do the same. That calls for a level of solidarity rarely understood by people who have not experienced the precariousness of extreme poverty.

Addressing the *tax collectors* who had built their fortunes by overcharging the powerless, John only told them to stop collecting more than required. Their scam was based on an agreement to pay Rome a certain amount for the position of tax collector; whatever else they could amass was for their own pockets.

Amazingly, Luke tells us the *soldiers* also came to John. These were probably not Roman soldiers, but Herod's forces. Again, John seemed to go easy, telling them only to stop their most flagrant abuses, such as bullying, false accusations, etc.

Perhaps, the key to John's popularity was his authenticity. He did everything he demanded of others and more. He knew who he was and did not claim to be anything more. The word of God had come to him; he was a prophet, but he was not the one to come. He baptized with water whereas the unknown one to come would bring fire. Little did John imagine that Jesus' fire would be gentler than his water, and perhaps he did not understand that it was still just as demanding.

While all our readings this week deal with hope, we might say that the Gospel is specifically about Christian or messianic hope. God is near, and that is a wonderful thing for those who want what God offers. It will be as costly as the cross. But the results will bring joy and peace for the converted as well as for all who benefit from the changes they bring about.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Anne Shea,
Carol Luty, Lori Lesutis, Jane Shaw,
William O'Donnell, Pelham McClellen,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Bill and Ella Denny, Karen Schubert,

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 Sr. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

New Members: We welcome to our parish community Dina DiValerio who recently registered with us.



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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 contact Domenic Di Martino at 610-525-6442.

Christmas Schedule...

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Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
Masses at 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day
Masses: 7:30, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 30 – Feast of the Holy Family
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Tuesday, January 1, 2019
Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
One Mass only at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 6 – Feast of the Epiphany
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

Sunday, January 13 – Feast of the Baptism of Jesus
Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

This Feast marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time

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JOIN US FOR DISCOVERING CHRIST in January

Curious about the meaning of your life? Join us at **6:45 p.m. on Thursdays** for the seven-week series **Discovering Christ** starting January 17th. Come for a delicious dinner, great conversation, an engaging talk and the opportunity to share your thoughts about Jesus, Christianity and the meaning of life.

There will also be the opportunity for a one-day retreat on **Saturday, February 16th**. Learn more at <https://omgcp parish.org/christlife-discoveringchrist>. This program is free and open to everyone who registers.

To sign up, please contact Kevin Potts at 617-283-0880 or kevinpotts7@gmail.com or on the web page above.

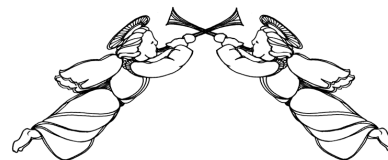
STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 9

Today’s Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: “Let the one who has two coats give to someone who has none. The one who has food should do the same.”

Envelope Contributions	\$7,957.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$909.00
Mailed in	\$5,271.00
Total Offertory Collection	\$14,137.00
Offering this time last year	\$9, 567.50
Parish Giving.....	\$1,090.00
Mission Sunday.....	\$1,252.00

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

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

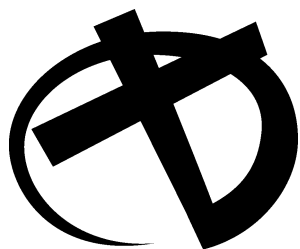


REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

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RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE OMGC Gym Tuesday, December 18 2:00 – 7:00 pm *Please note the change of time*

Please consider donating a pint of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC’s gym on **Tuesday, December 18th from 2:00 to 7:00 pm**. Please invite a friend to come with you to donate as well. The number of willing donors decreases as the busy Christmas week approaches, yet the need for blood increases because more travel means more travel accidents. If you can donate, please fill out the pledge form here, or one from the pews, and place it in the Red Cross box at the entrance of the church. Also, you can phone or email your pledge to Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, or email at joseph.betz@villanova.edu. Or you can pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother good counsel.



Young Adults

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**ADVENT TAIZE
PRAYER
for Young Adults
December 18th
7:00 – 8:00pm
Light refreshments to
follow**

Immerse yourself in music and silence; *Find* yourself in letting go; *Wrap* yourself in the Mystery of the Creator. This prayer service includes repetitive prayers, music and silence. This service is based on prayer that was begun by an ecumenical community in Taize, France.

Join us at the Sisters of Mercy Convent
515 Montgomery Avenue in Merion, PA
RSVP: tsaetta@mercymidatlantic.org



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**ST. RAPHAELA CENTER
616 Coopertown Rd. in Haverford**

***New Year's Eve Retreat:*
December 31 – 6:00pm to January 1 – 11:00am**

Join us as we say farewell to **2018** and welcome **2019** in God's presence. We will begin at 6pm with a feast, followed by a presentation, quiet time for personal prayer and Adoration. Mass will be celebrated at midnight followed by light refreshments. We will conclude the retreat with Morning Prayer and a New Year's Day brunch.

Presenter: Rev. Bernard Farley
Date: December 31, 2018 to January 1, 2019
Time: 5:00pm Registration; Dinner 6:00pm
Cost: \$90.00 per Person, \$155.00 Couple
\$60.00 Commuters
Registration: Call St. Raphaela Center at
610-642-5715
Or register online at www.straphaelacenter.org

YOUR SMALL SACRIFICE Their Great Appreciation

For over a dozen years, our parishioners have generously responded to the request of local religious women for gifts for their clients, or financial help for their programs. They are requesting, once again, monetary gifts of \$5 or \$10, or any gift cards for presents to those they serve. The three Immaculate Heart Sisters and a Deacon replacing a Trinitarian Sister and their programs are:

- 1. Deacon Anthony Willoughby** at St. Francis/St. Joseph/ St. Vincent Homes in Bensalem requests gift cards for McDonald's, Burger King, Five Below, Walmart or cash donations. He takes the boys and girls out for treats after communal Masses.
- 2. Sr. Bernadette Mary Heister, IHM** heads the IHM Family Literacy Program in Coatesville. She prefers Acme, Giant or other food-store gift cards and cash donations. She provides this financial assistance to her mostly Latina clients, such as mothers and children from Mexico, Ecuador and other Latin American countries.
- 3. Sr. Sarah Lamb, IHM**, manages the IHM Center for Literacy at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Southwest Philadelphia. Her clients are newly arrived adult immigrants, often from West Africa (Sierra Leone) or Haiti. Acme and Kmart gift cards would be useful to them. However, cash donations are the most useful helps they could receive.
- 4. Sr. Margaret Paul Longshore, IHM** heads the IHM Center for Literacy at St. Bernard Parish in Northeast Philadelphia. Her 242 immigrant clients are from 26 countries. Sr. Margaret prefers to provide them with the financial aid that they sometimes desperately need, or with Walmart or Acme gift cards.

The donations of gift cards made out to the individual Sister, or cash, will be delivered by Joe Betz (610-525-4499) the evening of **Sunday, December 23rd**. Please, either **1)** place your gift in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope with SISTERS CHRISTMAS GIFTS written on it, **2)** give it to Donna in the parish office, or **3)** phone or email Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, joseph.betz@villanova.edu) to come to you to pick it up.
God bless you for caring. Providing your name and address will make their thank-you (s) possible. Gifts received late will be mailed.

LETTER REGARDING OUR CHURCH ROOF

Dear Friends,

We have entered the holy season of Advent; we prepare for the coming of our Infant Savior at Christmas.

Starting with Father Denny in 2014, we pastors of OMGC have made replacement of the church roof the centerpiece of this annual year-end appeal letter. As most of you are aware, we recently had small pieces of plaster falling from the ceiling in the second, third and fourth rows of pews on the railroad side of the church. Recently, we have had small water leaks in other parts of the church as well.

We have formed a campaign committee to raise funds for the roof and other necessary repairs. We had hoped to begin work on the roof in October and have the bulk of it done before Christmas, but we met with delays. I am happy to report that the final “small print” contract details between the Archdiocese and our roofing contractor have been worked out, as have issues between us and the local historical commission. Unfortunately, we had to move our start date to March 1. This will avoid the cold weather which can be unsafe for the workers and would degrade the quality of the end product.

So, this letter is the annual year-end appeal letter, and we are appealing for donations to pay for the new roof. But this is not the start of the roof campaign as such. The campaign committee is still working on informational materials that we’ll send you at a later date, after the details are worked out.

Since the August 14 Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report, we as Catholics have been dealing with the upsetting fallout from long years of abuse by clergy and cover-ups by the bishops. We pray for the victims and their families.

On Sunday, December 2, we held our 2nd Parish Conversation on the Crisis in the Church. One question that came up in that discussion (a question that comes up often) was: “Will funds collected for the roof go to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia?” The answer is: “No. All funds collected for the roof will stay in the Parish and be used only for the roof and ancillary repairs.

Many of you have heard me say that I believe that this time in the history of the Church is one of repentance and purification. This is a time of testing and a time of grace. In the context of this time of grace, I urge you to give generously to this project.

Give as an expression of your love for and faith in God – as an expression of thanks for His graces. Give in thanks for the work and generosity of previous generations of OMGC, so that we can pass on this parish as a living legacy to those who come here after us.

As we prepare for the celebration of His birth, I pray that Our Lord Jesus may fill you and your family with much joy, blessings and hope.

In His peace,
Fr. Liam Tomas O’Doherty, OSA
Pastor



MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are looking for parishioners who are interested in serving on this committee. We have 4—6 meetings per year and about 30 minutes of work on your own time each month analyzing the monthly financial reports.

Professional credentials (e.g., CPA, CFA, etc.) are not as important as experience in a commercial environment dealing with profit and loss statements, budgets, revenue and expense analysis and projections, allocation of resources, capitol expenditure recommendations and experience dealing with general financial issues.

If interested, please submit a letter of interest outlining your professional experience to Peggy Juhline at pjuhline@omgcp parish.net.

**THE MANY DISGUISES OF
EMMANUEL**

*Emmanuel, God-with-us,
long awaited, eagerly anticipated,
delicious dreams of royal robes,
a messiah enthroned with elegance.*

False notions and easily accepted illusions.

*A few open ones, full of surprise,
heard the fresh, full cry of life
echoed in the uninhabited haven,
the only place ready for a birth that was ripe.*

*Shepherds, sages and scribes,
drawn by angels and stars,
discovered this divine simplicity,
then hurried from the hillside
with news that amazed them all.*

*But many years later the cry goes unheard,
stifled in the roar of unyielding opinions,
submerged in the noise of hasty judgments,
masked in the false folds of cultural glitter.*

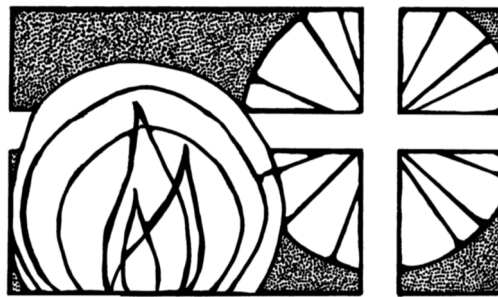
*The Surprising One continues to come,
entering the world in endless disguise,
concealed in those we have never forgiven,
secreted in the hearts of people we despise,
found in the rejected and unacceptable,
hidden in the ones we ignore and criticize.*

**Taken from *Out of the Ordinary* (2000)
by Joyce Rupp.
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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

- 7:30 DECEASED MEMBERS OF CIRO AND IANNOTTA FAMILIES
- 9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS
- 11:15 JOSEPH GAGLIARDI

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 PEG CROTHERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 6:30 LAWRENCE GUINAN
- 8:00 LEWIS H. VAN DUSEN, JR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 6:30 MARJORIE SCHMIDT
- 8:00 THE PHILLIPS FAMILY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 ELIZABETH McNALLY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 6:30 SPECIAL INTENTION
- 8:00 MARIE REILLY McCLOSKEY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 8:00 ELIZABETH BLIMM
(16TH ANNIVERSARY)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 7:30 ANNA McGUCKIN
- 9:30 ELIZABETH BLIMM
- 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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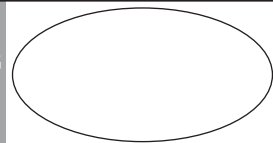
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