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31 PENNSWOOD ROAD
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December 15, 2019

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Liam O'Doherty, OSA, Pastor, Ext. 230

Fr. James Martinez, OSA, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. John Deary, OSA, Parochial Vicar...Ext. 228

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

Michelle Marchetti, Administrative Assistant...Ext. 221

Donna Descano, 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>

THE REVELATION OF GOD IN JESUS' MINISTRY

In Matthew's Gospel, as we heard last week, John preaches about the one to come after him. When Jesus comes for Baptism, John protests saying that Jesus should baptize him instead. Now John makes his final pre-martyrdom appearance from prison. Today's Gospel (Matt. 11: 2-11) offers one of the New Testament's clearest reflections on conflicting ideas of what it meant to be the Messiah. John was in prison precisely for being true to his vocation. He had denounced the immorality of a powerful, manipulative man and was suffering the consequences. Probably knowing that he would never leave that place alive, John wondered what was to come of his mission. Had he been correct that God's judgment was immanent? Was Jesus God's chosen one or not? Implicit in the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" is the presumption that Jesus was not living up to John's expectations.

When John's disciples approached Jesus, they asked the question and got no direct answer. Instead, Jesus told them to pay attention to what was right there to be heard and seen. Rather than give himself any title or role, he did just what John the Baptist had required of his followers: Jesus described the fruits of his ministry and invited John and the others to make their judgment on the basis of his works. Jesus' response to John's disciples came straight from the writings of Isaiah. Jesus was acting out Isaiah 35: healing the blind and lame, curing the lepers, opening the ears of the deaf and raising the dead. Jesus' response to John's disciples put their concept of God on trial. If they believed in the God who protected the lowly and brought life to the people, then they could believe he had been sent by God. If they believed in a god of coercion, retribution and violence, then Jesus was not the one they were seeking.

Following his interchange with John's disciples, Jesus made one of the more definitive and audacious statements of his entire ministry. Praising John, Jesus called him "more than a prophet," saying that John was greater than anyone born of woman. At the same time, making a clear distinction between the past and present, Jesus went on to say "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John." This was not a put down of John, but the announcement that something new was happening.

Jesus represented God's definitive intervention in human history. The time of prophecy, the time of waiting had come to an end. From Moses through John, the prophets had talked about God. In Jesus, God had come to dwell among the people. With the culmination of Jesus' life in his death and resurrection, God would be as fully revealed as will ever happen in human history. The least of those who recognized that truth have received a greater revelation than John.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Anne Shea,
Carol Luty, William O'Donnell, Fran Ward,
Michael and Andrew McCaughey,
Bill and Ella Denny, Jo-Ann Stigliano,
and Juliette Mikele Doty

and all who care for those who are sick and dying.

Please call the Parish Office at 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.

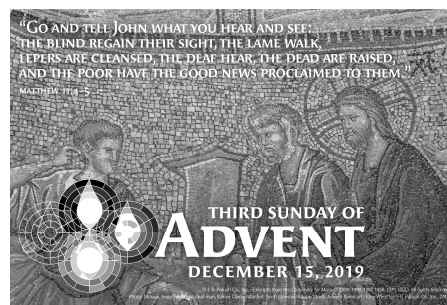
H.O.P.E.

Helping Other People in Emergencies

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



We welcome to our parish community the **Le Family, Anthony, Christine, Anthony Jr. and Andrew**, who recently registered with us.





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

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

Sunday, December 29 – Feast of the Holy Family
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 31 –
Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
5:00 PM Vigil Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 -
Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
One Mass only at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 5 – Feast of the Epiphany
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Sunday, January 12 – Feast of the Baptism of Jesus
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule
This Feast marks the end of the Christmas Season
and the beginning of Ordinary Time.

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (IHN)

Thank you to all who have volunteered your time, energy and hospitality to the families who will be joining us today, **December 15**, 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 15 – 22**. 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 Direct Line – 610-525-1727

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for December 8, 2019

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

Sunday Offertory Envelopes.....	\$5,765.00
Non-Envelope Cash Contributions	\$842.00
Mailed in Contributions	\$4,101.00
Total Offertory Collection.....	\$10,708.00
Offertory this time last year	\$14,137.00
On-line Parish Giving.....	\$380.00

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



YOUTH GROUP NEWS
All students in grades 6 through 12
are invited to join us!

Saturday, December 21, 2019 from 6:15 to 8:30 pm - Join us as we host the IHN families and sit down to dinner with them. Our plan is to have a pizza dinner with them and then spend some time playing with the children. Please RSVP to kcarey@omgcp parish.net.

PREP SCHEDULE

December 15 – Class 9:30 to 11am
December 22 – Class 9:30 to 11 am



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RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE
OMGC Gym – 2:30 – 7:30 pm
Tuesday, December 17

Please consider donating a pint of blood when the Red Cross Bloodmobile comes to OMGC's gym on **Tuesday, December 17th from 2:30 to 7:30 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, you can phone or email your pledge to Joe Betz at 610-525-4499, or email at joseph.betz@villanova.edu. Or you can also pledge on line at www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: our mother good counsel. Presenting donors are emailed a \$5 Amazon gift card.



YOUR SMALL SACRIFICE,
THEIR GREAT
APPRECIATION

For over a dozen years, our parishioners have generously responded to the request of local women religious 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. Kathryn Benham, 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, Haiti, Mexico and Venezuela. Acme, Shop-Rite and various Dollar 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 hundreds of immigrant clients are from 20 countries. Sr. Margaret prefers to provide them with the financial aid that they sometimes desperately need, or with Walmart, Acme or Shop-Rite gift cards.

The donations of gift cards made out to the individual Sister, or cash, will be delivered by Joe Betz (God willing), on **Monday, December 23rd**. Please, either 1) place your gift in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope with **SISTERS' CHRISTMAS GIFTS** written on it, or 2) give it to Michelle in the parish office, or 3) email or phone Joe Betz at joseph.betz@villanova.edu, 610-525-4499 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 to them.

LET US
ADORE HIM





PROJECT ELF NEEDS HELP!

We could still use some Elves to help needy families at Christmas. We have the families, we need a couple more people to purchase gifts for our project elf program at OMGC.

If you are in a position to purchase a gift or two to help out families, please call or email Karen Carey at 610-525-0147 or kcarey@omgcparrish.net. We will provide you with a wish list of gifts and you can choose what you would like to purchase.



PHOTOS



“O” ANTIPHONS Invoke Christ with symbols from the Hebrew Scriptures

The “O Antiphons” are a wonderful collection of brief but poignant prayers expressing the intense longing of God’s people for God’s coming among us as One of Us. They are the verses used before the Gospel at Mass on weekdays from December 17 to December 23 as Advent draws to its climactic fulfilment.

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God,
you govern all creation
with your strong yet tender care;
COME, and show your people
the way to salvation.

O ADONAI

O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
who showed yourself to Moses
in the burning bush, who gave him
the holy law on Sinai mountain:
COME, stretch out your mighty hand
to set us free.

O RADIX JESSE

O Flower of Jesse's Stem,
 you have been raised up as a sign
 for all peoples; kings stand silent
 in your presence; the nations bow down
 in worship before you.
 COME, let nothing keep you
 from coming to our aid.

O CLAVIA DAVID

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel
 controlling at your will the gate of heaven:
 COME, break down the prison walls of death
 for those who dwell in darkness and in the
 shadow of death, and lead your captive people
 into freedom.

O ORIENS

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of
 eternal light, sun of justice:
 COME, shine on those who dwell in darkness
 and in the shadow of death.

O REX GENTIUM

O King of all the Nations,
 The only joy of every human heart;
 O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity,
 COME, and save the creatures
 you fashioned from the dust.

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel,
 King and lawgiver,
 Desire of the nations,
 Savior of all people,
 COME, and set us free, Lord our God.

* * * * *

**The first letter of each Latin Word
 moving backwards is:
 ERO CRAS translated as
 I WILL BE HERE TOMORROW!**

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Be patient until the
 coming of the Lord

MassSchedule

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 ANNA McGUICKIN
 9:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
 PARISHIONERS
 11:15 JOSEPH GAGLIARDI

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:30 BENEFACTORS OF MISSIONARY
 SISTERS OF THE HOLY ROSARY
 8:00 ALYCIA GORLASKI ANDROS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 BENEFACTORS OF MISSIONARY
 SISTERS OF THE HOLY ROSARY
 8:00 JOHN PHILLIPS, JR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:30 BENEFACTORS OF MISSIONARY
 SISTERS OF THE HOLY ROSARY
 8:00 WILLIAM RISTER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:30 MARJORIE SCHMIDT
 8:00 MARK, MICHELLE, & MICHAEL
 CONNOR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30 ALICE DALY
 8:00 ELIZABETH McNALLY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE
 CIRO IANNOTTA FAMILY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL
 PARISHIONERS
 9:30 ELIZABETH BLIMM
 11:15 VINCENZO SALVATI



Third Sunday of Advent
 December 15, 2019

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
 and enter Zion singing,
 crowned with everlasting joy.

— Isaiah 35:10a

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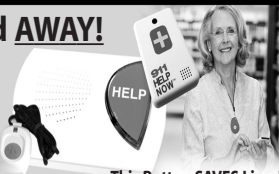
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