The image shows the front cover of a church guide book. The background is a photograph of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a clear blue sky. The steeple is made of brick and has two circular windows with decorative patterns. In the foreground, there are lush green bushes and flowers, including hydrangeas. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

2022 - 2023

GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

OUR MOTHER
OF CONSOLATION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Mother of Consolation Parish

“Growing in Mission... to be the presence of
Christ in our world.”

9 E. Chestnut Hill Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118
215-247-0430 - www.omcparish.com

Parish Mission Prayer

Nourished by the Word and Eucharist, we, the members of Our Mother of Consolation Parish, strive to create a vital, welcoming Catholic faith community that embraces each person. Acknowledging our blessings and supporting one another, we humbly serve the needs of God's people and work to be the presence of Christ in our world.

2022-2023 Parish Ministry Guide

Live + Jesus

Dear Parishioners,

It is no secret that the people of the parish make the faith community what it is. Centering ourselves on Christ, “Nourished by the Word and Eucharist,” parishioners freely respond with the grace given to each one so as to serve others and “to be the presence of Christ in our world.” Indeed, we are one body, one spirit who collectively share many, different, and varied gifts. When we put these gifts in the hand of God and in service to one another, we build the Kingdom of God; we live our call and our dignity to be co-creators, and in so doing, we find ourselves enriched to accompany one another on the journey. Over the years and from a distance, I heard of and saw in action, the work of these ministries listed within this guidebook. The parish where I ministered before was the recipient of your outreach and generosity so many times.

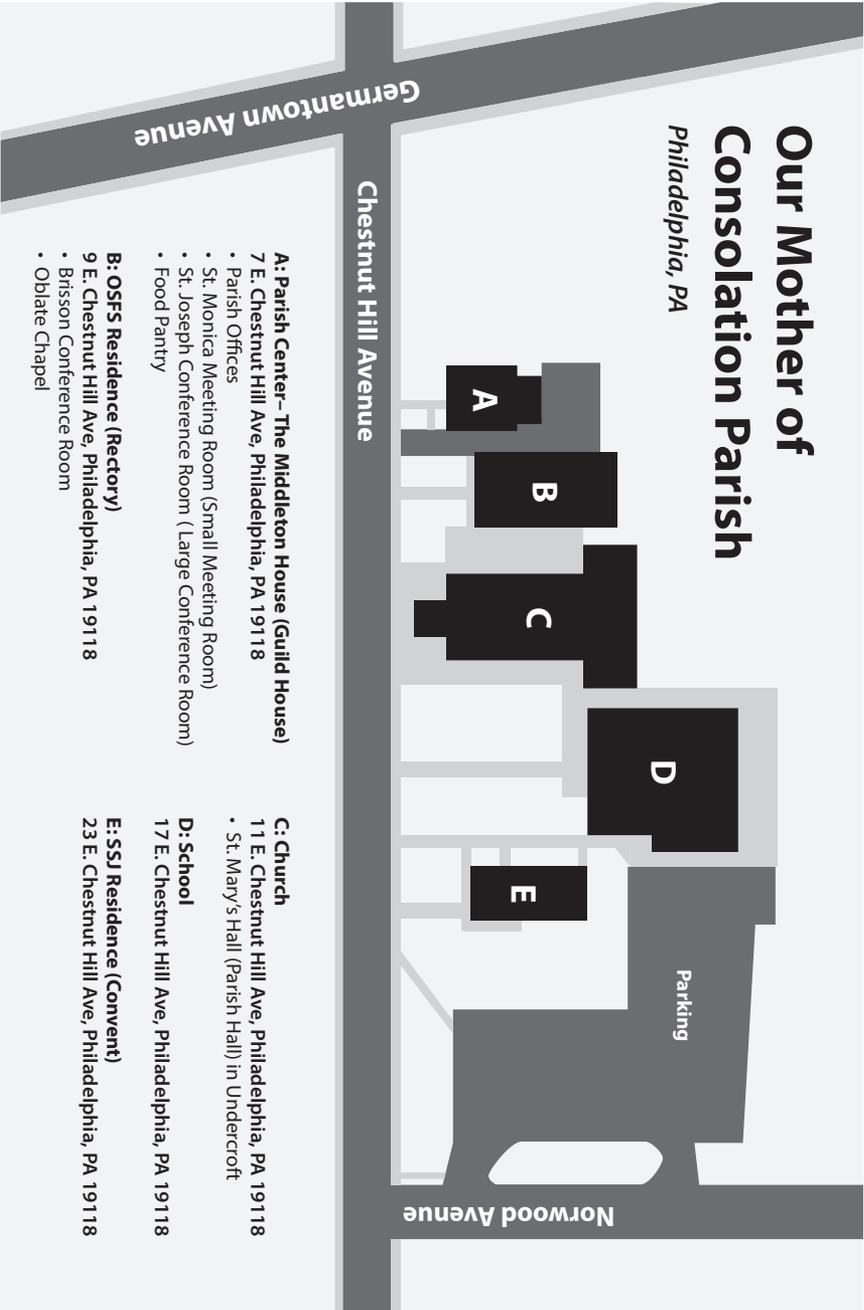
I am truly blessed to witness this ministry firsthand now. It is my prayer that you may find a ministry or two in this booklet and learn more at our annual parish ministry fair at the end of October, where you can share your gifts, where you can proffer the mission of OMC, and where you can grow in awareness of the infinite love God has for you and for our faith community. Our children, our church, and we ourselves need a vibrant parish life. Let us continue to make this happen. Like Paul in his letter to the Philippians, “I am confident that God, who has begun this good work in you will bring it to fruition” as we accompany each other under the protection of Our Mother of Consolation.

Blessings and Prayers,

Fr. John Fisher, OSFS
Pastor

Our Mother of Consolation Parish

Philadelphia, PA



A: Parish Center – The Middleton House (Guild House)
7 E. Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118

- Parish Offices
- St. Monica Meeting Room (Small Meeting Room)
- St. Joseph Conference Room (Large Conference Room)
- Food Pantry

- B: OSFS Residence (Rectory)**
9 E. Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118
- Brisson Conference Room
 - Oblate Chapel

- C: Church**
11 E. Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118
- St. Mary's Hall (Parish Hall) in Undercroft

- D: School**
17 E. Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118

- E: SSJ Residence (Convent)**
23 E. Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19118

Our Mother of Consolation Parish Ministry Directory

For Ministry contacts and scheduled meeting times, please refer to the OMC website: www.omcparish.com or contact the Parish Office at (215) 247-0430.

Liturgical Ministries

The Mission of all Liturgical Ministries of Our Mother of Consolation Parish is to acknowledge God's presence in our preparation and celebration of the Liturgy and to facilitate the prayer of the Assembly. Through the coordinated efforts of all ministers, the Eucharistic Liturgy is enhanced and the Assembly experiences being the Body of Christ as they worship God together, so that, nourished by the Word and Sacrament, they leave as Disciples on Mission to "be the presence of Christ in our world." Parish catechesis in Liturgy and the Sacraments, theology, and the formation of Liturgical Ministers are important components of this mission.

Individuals are asked to pray and discern the one Liturgical Ministry through which they will serve the community: Altar Server, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion during the Liturgy, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to the Sick/Homebound, Lector, Music Minister, or Usher/Greeter. All Liturgical Ministers are required to participate in training sessions before participation. In addition, Ministers are strongly encouraged to attend a yearly retreat/training session to refresh and update their ministry. Using the Parish internet-based Ministry Web Terminal Scheduling Program, Ministers update their profiles, and determine their availability and frequency of ministering. Other important Liturgical Ministries are the Altar Linen Caretakers, Flower Committee, and Sacristans.

Liturgy Committee

The Liturgy Committee is dedicated to the "full, active and conscious participation" of our parishioners in worship. The Committee assists the pastor in providing for the spiritual formation of parishioners through liturgical celebrations and other prayer experiences. The Liturgy Committee, which meets monthly (September through July), assists the pastor and pastoral staff in forming and maintaining a Vatican II vision of liturgy as the center of our Parish life and the "Source and Summit" of our lives as Catholic Christians.

Altar Servers

Altar Servers play a pivotal role in the Liturgy by assisting the Presider and other ministers during the celebration of the Mass. Anyone, Fourth Grade and older, is eligible. Typically, the time commitment is service at one or two Masses monthly. Servers are assigned to the Mass of their choice and can include other family members who might also have a ministry.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the Scriptures at all Liturgical Celebrations in a manner that enables the Assembly to understand and appreciate the beauty and rich content of the Word of God. They proclaim the First and Second Readings and, in the absence of the Deacon, carry the Book of Gospels to the altar during the Entrance Procession and lead the assembly in the Prayer of the Faithful. Those seeking to participate must have received all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist. Ordinarily, Lectors serve monthly, but this may vary depending on the number of Lectors.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The Bishop, Priest, and Deacon are the Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are members of the lay faithful who distribute the Body and Blood of Christ at OMC. Those seeking to participate must have received all three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist.

- **During the Liturgy:** EMs join the Presider in distributing the Body and Blood of Christ to the Assembly. The time commitment is usually monthly but may vary depending on the number of Eucharistic Ministers.
- **To the Sick & Homebound:** EMs bring the Eucharist and “the Parish” to the sick confined in their homes (weekly), and Chestnut Hill Hospital (various ministers, scheduled one day a week).
- **To Nursing Homes:** Two-person teams visit the five area nursing homes on a weekly basis to pray the rosary and distribute Holy Communion to those able to attend a group session, and to those confined to their rooms. A monthly Mass is offered at each residence.
- **To Hospice:** A minister visits the Keystone Hospice weekly, and on an as-needed basis to bring Communion and a compassionate presence at a much-needed time.

Ushers

Ushers and Greeters are women, men, families, and teens who provide a warm, Christian welcoming presence to all entering the Church. They also convey a sincere and true sense of community by their hospitality. Serving at the weekend Liturgies and on major Feast Days, they are custodians of order. They welcome and assist with seating, facilitate the Presentation of the Gifts and the Communion procession, and assist with the collection(s). After Mass, the ushers tidy up the church. Ordinarily, the time commitment is monthly but may vary depending on the number of ushers.

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Altar Linen Caretakers

Altar Linen Caretakers wash and iron all linens used during Mass and Baptisms. All linens are picked up on Sunday and returned during the week. Instructions are provided for the proper care and folding of the linens. Caretakers work on their own time. Scheduling depends on the number of Caretakers.

Flower Committee

The Flower Committee attends to the church environment, helping to beautify God's House, and by preparing our worship space to reflect the Liturgical Seasons, foster our prayer, and honor God with the flowers and plants He gave us. The time commitment varies throughout the year, increasing for the Seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, special Feasts, and important occasions in the life of the Parish. Little or no experience is necessary.

Sacristans

Sacristans are High School students or adults who prepare the vessels and books for the Eucharistic Celebration, set the altar, light candles, and make sure that all is in order for the celebration of Mass.

Funeral Sacristan-Minister of Consolation

Ministers of Consolation prepare all necessary items that are used during the Funeral Mass and assist the priest and ministers as needed. Ordinarily, the time commitment is service at one Mass monthly, but may vary based upon need and the number of funerals.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is held on First Fridays, beginning immediately after the 7 AM Mass and continuing until 5:30 PM in the Oblate Residence Chapel. Parishioners sign up for a half hour to one hour of silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration provides a structured time for one to grow in God's love and to intercede for one's own intentions, the entire OMC Parish Community, the Church, and the world.

Music Ministries

The Music Ministry of Our Mother of Consolation Parish is comprised of vocalists and skilled instrumentalists who lead us in prayer through music. Recognizing the gifts of composers and poets through the centuries, we strive to use a variety of music, instruments, and musicians to bring God's Word alive in our worship. We embrace music that supports the teachings of our Faith and the rich traditions of our Liturgy. An audition is required with the director of the group you would like to join, as well as regular attendance at Mass, rehearsals, and personal preparation.



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Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is open to singers of high school age and older. This choir leads the congregation in song and offers meditative anthems at the 11 AM Sunday Mass, once a month at the 4:30 PM Saturday Mass, and occasionally at the 9 AM Mass. The choir season generally begins after Labor Day in September and ends on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ in June. Our Adult Choir also serves on Christmas, The Paschal Triduum, Easter, and other major Feasts and Holy Days.

Youth Choir

The Parish Youth Choir, comprised of students in Grades 4-8 from the many schools our children attend, sings at the 9 AM Mass once a month (September-June), sharing their God-given talents with the community. Practices are held on select Sunday mornings from 10-11 AM.

Teen Choir & Instrumentalists

Our Teen Music Ministry sings at selected Saturday Masses throughout the year. Teen singers are invited to join us as we lead the congregation in prayerful worship through the use of our God-given musical talents. Students who play musical instruments are also encouraged to join. Practices are held on selected Saturdays throughout the year.

Cantors

The primary responsibility of the Cantor is to serve as Psalmist, i.e., to lead and proclaim the Responsorial Psalm. Their secondary responsibility is to lead the songs and acclamations of the Assembly. In addition to regular weekend Masses, Cantors may be called upon for weddings, funerals, or other special liturgies.

Instrumentalists

We welcome skilled instrumentalists to serve on a regular, or occasional, basis to enhance our liturgies.

Social Justice Ministries

The Social Justice Ministries of OMC, like Catholic Social Teaching itself, reflect the scars of history, the currents of the present, and the many gifts, both divine and human. Some, like the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, have labored for decades; while others, like the Climate Ministry, are of very recent genesis. Some, like the Peace & Justice Committee, trace their beginnings to a parish-wide commitment of resources, while others, like Advent Giving Tree and Caring for Friends, transform the inspiration of one or two parishioners into the cause of many. Some, like the Respect Life Committee, are distinct efforts from their inception, while others like the Migration Accompaniment Ministry have taken on a life of their own after seeds were planted in other forums such as the Peace and Justice Committee. All strive to embody Catholic Social Teaching by serving the needs of God's people and working to be the presence of Christ in our world.

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Peace and Justice Committee

The Peace and Justice Committee was formed in 2008 when it was decided that 10% of the OMC capital campaign revenues would be designated toward the support of peace and justice work. The mission of the Committee is to deepen understanding of past Catholic Social Teaching, along with current statements of Pope Francis and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, and to apply that understanding through three components of the Committee's work: 1) Action: Organize, coordinate and promote events and service opportunities for the Parish and School Community (i.e., Ethical Trade sales, service days, food preparations for homeless, invite service organizations to talk to students about their work); sponsor Parish/School collections (i.e., toiletries, school supplies, diapers) to distribute to community groups carrying out the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching. 2) Grants: Provide financial awards given to local organizations working in the community to serve the needs of God's people and to foster the work for peace and justice. 3) Education: Sponsor in-person or in-print presentations/discussion of topics related to Catholic Social Teaching and current justice issues while striving to be aware of and attentive to present-day concerns. The Committee also encourages new initiatives such as promoting and educating the Parish community about Catholic Relief Services' important global reach and engaging with and supporting the work of the OMC Climate Ministry. Finally, the Committee welcomes contributions to the OMC Peace & Justice Fund to help us continue our community grants program and support the funding of Parish Peace and Justice Ministry events.

Advent Giving Tree

OMC's annual Advent Giving Tree, which provides Christmas gifts to families in need, is an important ministry of giving and service, one that reminds us to acknowledge our blessings and humbly serve the needs of God's people. Over the past few years, we have assisted over 150 families in parishes throughout the Philadelphia Archdiocese, as well as Camden, NJ. OMC parishioners are invited to participate through gift-giving by selecting a person and/or family in need from our virtual Giving Tree and/or our in-person Giving Tree. Parishioners are also invited to give of their time to help facilitate this special ministry by collecting gifts after mass to be placed in the Parish Hall, as well as delivering the gifts along with fellow parishioners and volunteers to the participating parishes. Your generosity and support of those in need is truly a blessing upon your family and our entire Parish community as we work to be the presence of Christ in our world.



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Caring for Friends

OMC volunteers make dinners at home and freeze them in trays provided by Caring for Friends before bringing them to our Parish freezer. Over 300 Meals from OMC are taken monthly to Caring for Friends headquarters. The meals are then home delivered weekly by volunteers who also provide a friendly visit to people who are homebound. Additional opportunities for OMC Parish community members to serve include delivery of food and visiting a designated Caring for Friends client on a weekly basis (www.caringforfriends.org).

Catholic Charities Appeal Committee

The Catholic Charities Appeal Committee works to encourage parishioner participation in the annual Archdiocesan Catholic Charities Appeal. Funds from the Appeal go directly to provide services to persons in need in the Philadelphia region.

Climate Ministry

Environment, weather, climate, clean water, fresh air: we take all of this for granted until something goes wrong. Our Parish Mission prayer proclaims: “Acknowledging our blessings and supporting one another, we humbly serve the needs of God’s people and work to be the presence of Christ in our world.” In 2015 Pope Francis published his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, On Care for Our Common Home. In it, he examines numerous aspects of climate and what our responsibilities as Christians are towards our precious God-created earth and our fellow creatures. This ministry seeks to raise awareness and concern for the environment within the framework of Christian social justice teachings. Awareness and education should lead to individual concern and action and maybe even more. Please join this ministry to learn together what our responsibilities are and what we can and should do. We don’t have all the answers, but we do need to ask the questions. Pope Francis implores us to recognize that it is our responsibility to care for our common home and to leave it cleaner and more productive than we found it.

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Migration Accompaniment Ministry

Backed by Auxiliary Bishop Edward J. Deliman, a coalition of agencies/organizations drew together parishioners from around the Archdiocese in 2019, heeding a call for teams to go with individuals and families attending their immigration “check-ins” and/or hearings in immigration and family courts, etc. One of the participating organizations, New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Philadelphia, already had an accompaniment program. Because the OMC Peace & Justice Committee was a member of the New Sanctuary Movement (NSM) of Philadelphia, OMC team members relied on NSM for notices of accompaniment requests, logistics coordination, and updates. OMC accompaniment team members helped provide spiritual, emotional, and social support by their presence at several court hearings in late 2019 and early 2020. With court shutdowns and restrictions brought on by Covid-19, NSM shifted to focusing on immediate needs of those ineligible for mainstream supports through food distribution and financial assistance. As both the Archdiocese and NSM regroup and reorganize post-pandemic efforts, OMC’s Migration Accompaniment Ministry has resumed responding to the call for accompaniment needs in 2022.

Family Promise of Philadelphia

Family Promise of Philadelphia is a program that unites Churches, Synagogues, and Meeting Houses in Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy to host homeless families in transition and provide shelter, meals, mentoring, and comfort during the period they are awaiting placement in permanent housing. It is a “shelter that’s not like a shelter.” OMC has been part of the Network since 1993. We partner with St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church to provide volunteers to host dinner and spend the night at St. Paul’s. St. Paul’s provides the accommodation component usually once a year for three or four weeks. OMC volunteers help for one of those weeks. OMC also participates in other opportunities for family and alumni support throughout the year. Family Promise of Philadelphia has been recognized for outstanding results achieved over the years. Hundreds of families have been placed in permanent housing. Because the program is thorough in its approach, many of the families are able to permanently move out of homelessness and poverty. Opportunities to humbly serve the needs of our homeless neighbors are announced in the OMC Sunday Bulletin.

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Red Cross Blood Drive Team

The Red Cross Blood Drive Team of Our Mother of Consolation Parish supports at least two Red Cross Blood Drives annually at OMC Parish in order to assist our community in filling the ongoing local and national needs for blood products to treat acute injuries and medical illness and to support surgical procedures. The OMC Volunteer Blood Drive Team works with the Parish and School leadership to arrange suitable dates with the Red Cross on which the OMC Parish Hall or School Music Room can be prepared to host a Blood Drive. The Team prepares Drive announcements, coordinates schedules for signups, arranges the area for the Blood Drive, and welcomes donors on the day of the drive. Through the welcoming presence of the team, we strive to serve and be Christ's presence to those donating blood and to those in need of blood within our community.

Respect Life Committee

The Respect Life Committee serves the unborn child and its mother and father by keeping before our eyes the fact that God is the Creator of human life and that we must always remain in His presence at the time of procreation and afterwards. All the members of OMC Parish are welcome to join in the defense and support of human life. We recommend everyone pray the rosary daily for the unborn. Attending the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, on January 20, 2023 (even if limited to Holy Hours at the National Shrine) is also suggested. In addition, we encourage all to support the annual Baby Bottle Campaign, which urges parishioners to take one of the baby bottles made available on Respect Life Sunday in October and filling it with change/bills to help support Mothers' Home. Human life is sacred; from the first moment of conception, it reveals the creating hand of God.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Inspired by the Gospel, the men, and women of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering. Our members and volunteers work directly with families in our surrounding area, providing emotional, spiritual, practical, and financial support during emergencies. We frequently prevent families from becoming homeless by covering past due rent or utility bills. After receiving a call from our hotline, a referral from the Parish Office or a local social service organization, we meet with the person or family to understand their needs, and then determine how we can best help them get back on their feet. We also provide food staples to our clients and to soup kitchens in the area from our Parish food pantry, stocked by contributions from parishioners. We regularly visit the elderly and homebound and each year we collect gently used clothing and household goods that are donated to families in need through GreenDrop's network of local thrift stores or to shelters in Camden. Please consider joining or contributing to SVdP at OMC for the chance to provide hands-on help to persons in need in Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy, and other surrounding communities. You can make a difference in your community in a very tangible way!

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Outreach Ministries within OMC Community

Some of our Outreach Ministries provide various opportunities to serve those within our own Parish Community. These provide encouragement, support, and celebration within our community of Faith.

Caring Hearts: A Prayer Shawl and Baptism Baby Blanket Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? You are invited to join OMC parishioners most Monday afternoons from 1 to 3 PM in the Springfield Township Library. Currently, baby blankets are being made as a gift of welcome on Baptism Day for the newest members of our Catholic OMC family. All are welcome to join!

Hospitality Ministry

Throughout Scripture, there are accounts of the significance and benefits of sharing Hospitality. Men and women in the Old and New Testament welcome friends and new acquaintances to come together to share as a sign of gratitude for the blessings received in their lives. Gathering around the table allows us to share fellowship and get to know each other better. The mission of the OMC Hospitality Committee is to enable all parishioners and guests, young and old, to be welcomed as we gather around the “table” to share together the goodness of the Lord. Opportunities to serve include providing hospitality and refreshments for Parish events and socials.

Ministry of Disability Accommodation

The Ministry of Disability Accommodation serves OMC Parish by raising awareness and assisting all members as they share their gifts and participate fully within our Parish. OMC seeks to support people with special needs, as well as their families, in their spiritual growth, including participation in Mass, Sacraments, and other activities sponsored by OMC. The ministry is comprised of members with backgrounds in social work, disability services, and behavioral, physical, and occupational therapies. Any parishioner with accommodation requests or concerns is invited to reach out to the committee (allbelong@omcparish.com) and together we can work to increase engagement within the OMC Parish family.

Parents and Tots

Once a month on designated Sundays (the second Sunday of each month), parents of children ages 0-5 meet to support each other in fostering their children’s early development of Catholic values and faith development through fun and fellowship. Opportunities to serve include facilitator and hospitality.

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Welcoming Committee

Our Mother of Consolation believes that all parishioners - those new to the Parish, those born into the Parish, and everyone in between - should feel a sense of welcome and belonging. To help foster a sense of connection, the Welcoming Committee contacts newly registered parishioners, greets parishioners and visitors before and after weekend Masses on “Name Tag” Sundays. The Welcoming Committee also hosts an annual Welcome Event to which all parishioners, veterans, and newly registered parishioners are invited to mingle and share hospitality. It is a family-friendly event. Please join us!

Walking With Moms in Need

This grassroots initiative is aimed at helping pregnant women and parenting moms in need. It provides resources and accompaniment for local assistance, social services, and resources to women who are looking for somewhere to turn for help. Resources are found on the parish website and additional support is provided by “Parish Moms” who offer their support where possible. Examples of our ministry include helping to direct women in need to a wide variety of social services and other types of support we have identified, social “meet-up’s” for Mom’s, organizing collections to be donated to pregnancy centers throughout the Philadelphia area, and offering meal assistance to new parents.

Life-Long Faith Formation Ministries

The Parish Faith Formation Ministry provides opportunities for people of all ages to grow in Mission as disciples of Jesus through engaging processes which deepen our information, formation, and transformation. Designed to touch the heart, as well as the intellect, Faith Formation helps people to deepen their relationship with God and grow in knowledge of the Catholic Church’s teachings and traditions, Scripture, Liturgy, Morality, Social Justice, Prayer, and Spirituality. Each person is encouraged to integrate their Faith into their everyday life experiences and to live their Baptismal call to be disciples of Jesus while serving the needs of God’s people and working to be the presence of Christ in our world.

Faith Formation Advisory Board

Members are charged with implementing a Parish-wide Faith Formation Program. The team strives to do so by fostering an atmosphere of ongoing individual and communal formation in a way that is accessible and relates to individual life experiences. Allowing for diverse learning needs and a variety of opportunities helps create a life-long, vibrant learning environment as we continue to grow as a community of disciples of Jesus.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Adults entering the Catholic Church, or those just thinking about it, embark on a faith journey known as the RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. These individuals meet as a small-faith community to learn about the Catholic Faith, Church teachings and traditions, and to pray together and share scripture in order to deepen their relationship with both God and the Catholic community.

- **RCIA Sponsors:** Confirmed adults in good standing in the Catholic Church willing to attend some, but not all, of the RCIA sessions and be role models in living the Faith for the person they sponsor. They support those they sponsor as they journey in faith.
- **RCIA Team:** Confirmed adults in good standing in the Catholic Church form a small Christian community with those interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church. The team shares the responsibility of leading prayer and scripture, and catechizing the Candidates and Catechumens about the Church, its teachings, and traditions.

Parents' Prayer

Parents' Prayer meets at 8:15 AM every Friday in the Parish Hall when OMC School is in session. All parents, grandparents, parishioners, and friends are welcome to join in this ministry of prayer and fellowship ~ it is not necessary to be an OMC School parent. Babies, toddlers, and home-schooled children are very welcome, too! We pray for the needs of our children, teachers, school, families, Parish, community, and world. Our brief prayer service is followed by coffee and conversation and is an opportunity to build community and support the work of all parents.

PREP Catechists and Assistants (Parish Religious Education Program, Years 1-7)

PREP Catechists and Classroom Assistants support children, from First to Seventh Grade and older, on their Faith journey. PREP classes are held on the First and Third Sundays of the month from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. On alternate weeks, the children receive home instruction from their Parents and complete assignments which are reviewed by their Catechists at the next onsite PREP session. If a student is unable to attend a class, the Parents are responsible for the assigned onsite lesson which is posted online on the Parish website. The time commitment for Catechists is usually about 3 hours every other week which includes preparing lessons and teaching the students. Assistants work directly with the Catechist during the onsite PREP Class. Volunteers must submit to a Criminal Background Check, Child Abuse Clearance, complete an online Mandated Reporter Training, and attend a required Safe Environment Training.

Movie Group at OMC

To provide an opportunity for fellowship and faith-sharing in a relaxed and welcoming setting, the Movie Group at OMC hosts films that are entertaining and also stimulate discussion of social, historical, or spiritual topics. Handouts and background information on the films are provided, as well as movie theater-style refreshments. Following the film, a facilitator leads a group discussion. Movie nights take place three-to-five times a year.

Reach More Small Communities of Faith

Small Group Leaders are trained to facilitate small communities of faith which meet in their homes, on the OMC campus, or by Zoom. The groups gather once a week for eight weeks during the Lenten/Easter season and share prayer and faith around the Sunday Mass Scripture Readings. In addition, some groups meet regularly throughout the entire year. As a member of a Reach More Small Community of Faith, people witness to their faith and support one another as we grow as disciples on Mission with Jesus in our world today.

Sunday Story Catechists

Each Sunday during the 9 AM Mass, trained Catechists share their faith and the joy of the Gospel with children ages 5 to 8. Training and all materials are provided. The commitment is approximately once every four weeks. Volunteers are scheduled using the Parish Ministry Scheduler. Volunteers must submit to a Criminal Background Check, Child Abuse Clearance, complete an online Mandated Reporter Training, and attend a required Safe Environment Training.

Spirituality & Catholic Faith Studies

As part of ongoing Faith Formation, there are opportunities for Retreats, Prayer Studies, Bible Studies, and Catholic Faith Studies. Each offering provides for a deepening of our understanding and practice of our Faith, helping us to integrate our beliefs with our everyday lived experience as baptized Catholics called to be the presence of Christ in our world. People come together to learn, share faith, and grow in their understanding of how God works in their lives. Opportunities include facilitating, evangelizing, and hospitality.

Spiritual Book Group

Once a month, the Spiritual Book Group meets to discuss works of Catholic fiction, spirituality, theology, history, philosophy, current events, biography, and scriptural studies. The members of the group select the books in advance, and one member typically serves as the discussion leader. The only prerequisite is the desire to enjoy reading and discussing books. Participants often find them to be guideposts for examining their own journeys of faith. With all the superb books that abound, to paraphrase the hymn, “How Can We Keep from Reading?”

Salesian Lay Association of Men

The Salesian Lay Association of Men (S.L.A.M.) is a local chapter of an existing Secular Institute of Catholic men. This group meets twice a month (2nd and 4th Saturdays) and focuses on the practical and optimistic spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. Its Apostolic Mission is “living Jesus” by learning about and practicing Salesian Spirituality through prayer and daily life. Monthly meetings take place from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on the second and fourth Saturday of the month. We meet in the large conference room of the Parish Office and usually discuss the Mass Readings for the coming Sunday through the lens of Salesian Spirituality. One need not make any form of commitment to the group, but simply join us as you are able.

Teen and Youth Ministry

Teen Ministry focuses on meeting the spiritual and social needs of teens in Eighth to Twelfth grades in order to help them become lifelong disciples of Jesus within the Catholic Church. Through partnering with parish and adult mentors, Teen Ministry accompanies the teens of OMC as they grow deeper in their faith. Monthly events are planned that focus on teaching the faith, experiencing God, praying, worshipping, serving our world, and creating community.

Teen Ministry Leadership Team

The leadership team is open to high school students and meets monthly to plan and review the monthly events for Teen Ministry. They commit to praying for the teens of OMC, growing as disciples, and planning events that are focused on service, spirituality, and socializing.

Teen Ministry Prayer Team

Teen Ministry can only be successful through the help of God. All parishioners are invited to join in praying for the specific needs of teen ministry. A list of prayer requests is sent to the Prayer Team throughout the year. The prayer team is encouraged to lift up the needs of Teen Ministry in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sunday Night Gatherings (Acts 2:42)

Teens are invited to join us on Sunday nights for dinner followed by small group discussion. We alternate between bible studies and topical discussions that focus on Jesus, prayer, Catholic teaching, service, Scripture, discipleship and other areas in which they are interested. Adult mentors are asked to commit to assisting twice a month for the duration of the school year. All volunteers must complete required Archdiocesan Safe Environment certifications. Families are asked to help provide the meal which consists of a rotating menu.

First Fridays and Monthly Events

Teens are invited to attend our First Friday adorations and other monthly events. Events vary month to month but each one focuses on spiritual, social, or service activities. This year, the events include: First Friday Adoration followed by socials, volunteering at Face to Face, and providing meals for a homeless shelter. Adult volunteers are invited to share their time and talents by chaperoning and leading some events. All volunteers must complete required Archdiocesan Safe Environment certifications.

Summer Mentoring Program

Teens are invited to meet with the Pastoral Associate for Youth over the summer to ask questions about the faith, develop the habit of prayer, learn to discern God's will, and to grow as a disciple of Christ. They can sign up to meet anywhere from once over the summer to once a week and can come with 1-2 friends.

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

CYO is one component of our Parish's comprehensive youth ministry program that enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic Faith. Adult leaders use the challenges of athletic competition to create a fun environment which fosters spiritual growth, as well as emotional, social, and physical development. CYO assists Parish leadership in nourishing the emotional, spiritual, social, and physical needs of young people; encourages young people to appreciate the gifts that they possess and challenges them to share these gifts with their community; allows youth to witness the life of Christian discipleship in their coaches and adult leaders; and encourages youth to become responsible members of their faith community. Opportunities to serve include coaching, treasurer, registration, and fundraising. Volunteers must submit to a Criminal Background Check, Child Abuse Clearance, complete an online Mandated Reporter Training, and attend a required Safe Environment Training.

Cub Scout Pack 1855

A Scout is reverent. In the Catholic Church, Scouting has been a longstanding partner in the development of character, values, and conscience in young people. Scouting is more than just an activity for our youth to learn about the outdoors and earn badges. It provides fun, fellowship, and training to our youth. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, and respect. Through a year-round program, it affects character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Cub Scout Pack 1855 is open to boys and girls of all faiths in our Parish, School, and Community-at-large in Grades 1-5. Adult volunteers are needed also to serve in a variety of leadership roles, both directly with the Scouts and also behind the scenes on committees.

Committees & Councils

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The Parish Pastoral Council is an advisory body assisting the Pastor and staff in achieving the Vision and Mission of the Parish as articulated in the Parish Pastoral Plan. The Council normally meets on the First Thursday of the month from 7:15 PM to 9 PM, approximately ten times a year. Members participate in projects undertaken by the Council and other ministries of the Parish. The term of office is three years. Prospective members are chosen through a selection process wherein the parishioners nominate themselves or others. After verifying the commitment required with each prospective member, the Council members are selected by lot during a Sunday Mass. In addition, the pastor appoints three members to the Council from the list of nominees not selected, as well as a teen representative.

Parish Finance Council (PFC)

The Parish Finance Council advises the Pastor and Parish Business Manager on all financial matters affecting the Parish. Responsibilities include financial oversight of capital campaigns and building improvement funds, review and approval of the annual budget, long-term investment planning, financial planning and preparation of financial reports, monitoring of financial procedures, and assisting the Parish staff in improving financial practices and procedures. A background in finance, accounting, law, communication, or business management is preferred. The Council normally meets monthly. The term of office is five years.

Building Committee

The Building Committee's mission is to be good stewards of the Parish finances by effectively attending to the maintenance needs of the buildings and grounds, so they are able to serve the needs of the Parish community. The Building Committee works with Parish maintenance staff, the Pastor, and outside consultants on developing and implementing plans for the upkeep and improvement of OMC Parish buildings based on a master facility plan.

OMC Garden Committee

The OMC Garden Committee maintains the landscaped areas around the church, school, parking lot, convent, and rectory. Parishioners who join this ministry weed and feed, plant and prune. The Garden Committee sponsors Saturday workdays in the Spring and Fall when members work together in the gardens and on the grounds. During the high summer season, a small group works on Saturday mornings for an hour weeding and trimming plantings as needed. We welcome anyone who has an interest in gardening and beautifying the parish property.

Collection Counters

Collection Counters tabulate the weekly offertory and special Diocesan collections. The counters work on Mondays from 9 to 10:30 AM in teams of three, approximately once every six weeks.

Our Mother of Consolation Parish School

A Catholic elementary school of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia was founded in 1862 and serves the educational needs of children from Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8. The triad of Church, School, and Home provides a positive, Catholic/Christian faith-filled educational environment. Our Parish School offers volunteer opportunities for individuals who value Catholic Education and are willing to share their strengths by enriching the school programs. Some opportunities to serve include a Spirituality committee, lunch supervision, Home and School Association, Diversity Committee, class trips, a hot lunch program, and many other ways which offer service to the school. Volunteers are greatly appreciated but must have all clearances in order to participate in school activities. Volunteers must submit a Criminal Background Check, Child Abuse Clearance, complete an online Mandated Reporter Training, and attend a required Safe Environment Training. For a complete list of volunteer opportunities, visit the school website at <http://omcschool.com/volunteerism/opportunities/>.

Parish Staff

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales

- Fr. John Fisher, OSFSPastor
jfisher@omcparish.com
- Fr. Bob Mulligan, OSFS In Residence
rmulligan@omcparish.com

Parish Staff

- Mrs. Mary Cassidy Director of Parish Services
mcassidy@omcparish.com
- Mrs. Laura Demkovitz Choir Director
ldemkovitz@omcparish.com
- Mr. Paul Cillo Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry
youthministry@omcparish.com
- Mrs. Suzanne Danella Bookkeeper/Tuition Officer
sdanella@omcparish.com
- Sr. Christine Konopelski, SSJ Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
christinessj@omcparish.com
- Deacon Joseph Nines Permanent Deacon
jnines@omcparish.com
- Deacon Christopher Roberts Permanent Deacon
croberts@omcparish.com
- Mr. Dave Vogelbacker Business Manager
dvogelbacker@omcparish.com

Parish School Staff

- Mrs. Patricia Sheetz Principal
psheetz@omcschool.com
- Ms. Kate Daly Admissions Coordinator & Administrative Assistant
kdaly@omcschool.com
- Mr. Paul Cillo School Minister
pcillo@omcschool.com