

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
AND THE BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Last month I wrote about the advantages of getting Newman and St Michael's together in a permanent location. It now appears possible, and we have a plan. Each of the three properties we were considering has its advantages and disadvantages. It would have been great if we could mix and match! Considering location, facilities, mission needs and potential, Our Lady of Mount Carmel seems the best choice. Sacred Heart, the parish into which Mount Carmel merged, has offered us some very generous financial terms, including a lease-purchase, with rent payments going towards the cost of the purchase. We will be acquiring the church, rectory and parking. Sacred Heart will retain ownership of the school since they are still using it for their Sunday Prep program (catechesis for children not in Catholic schools). We will share the use of the school building for our Sunday School and other meetings, and the parking. At this point we have an outline of the agreement, with a few things left to be settled. Then it all needs to be reduced to writing, reviewed, approved by the various authorities, and signed. This is bound to take a little while. But we have sufficient clarity that we can begin planning for the move. When all the details of the agreement are settled, I'll share them.



Interior of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

I would like to begin having Sunday services there as soon as we can arrange things. The present aim is to begin Mass there on the Fourth Sunday of Advent – a quick shake-down cruise before Christmas. Moving the rectory and offices would come later in the winter. I'll be discussing times for Sunday Mass and Christmas with

both congregations. Before we begin using the church, there are a couple of things which need to be done in the church. The sanctuary needs modest reconfiguration to allow for an Eastward celebration, and for kneeling Communion. At the other end of the church, the current arrangement of the choir gallery does not allow for the organist to conduct the choir (which is what Bill Gatens does for us), and the organ will need some augmentation. Since this work will take some time to plan and effect, we have arranged with Kevin Chun (as you know, a great friend of St Michael's) to loan us an electronic organ, which will be placed in the back of the church for interim use. The choir will also sing from there until the work in the gallery is completed. I'm grateful to Kevin for helping us out once again.

As you may recall from our visit to Mount Carmel, the church is handicapped accessible, and has a handicapped bathroom in the narthex of the church. The church is air-conditioned, and appears to be in good shape (a building inspection is in progress). It is in a good, stable neighborhood, with ample parking, and some public transportation (of course, Septa service tends to be limited on Sunday morning). Bridgeport is only a few minutes from I-76, I-476 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, though the drive will be longer for most of the St Michael's folk, and for some of the Newman people. It is also convenient to King of Prussia and the Route 422 corridor, and should be a good location for future growth.

There is a lower church at OLMC, which has not been used much in recent times. After we get settled, we will look at how that space might be better used – perhaps reconfigured along the lines of what Our Lady of the Assumption did with their lower level of the church building. When we move, coffee hour will be in one of the two large rooms on the lower level of the school building, next to the kitchen. Until the rectory moves, weekday Masses, youth group, Bible study and such like will continue in Mount Airy; Sunday (and Christmas) Masses in Bridgeport.

There are many details to be settled in moving and merging, and suggestions are always welcome. I already mentioned service times. We can now set these for our own convenience. I expect that we will choose a new name and patron for the merged parish. My thinking tends along the lines of British saints, preferably not already in use among the Ordinariate communities (and not too obscure). Send me your ideas! I would like to set up a combined parish Pastoral Council this month to help with the move. Since the St Michael's Council is fairly small, I will ask those folk to continue, and add some from Newman. Next Sunday (the 8th), I will also Newman parishioners to list their preferred choices for Pastoral Council. The Pastoral Council is appointed by the pastor, and in doing it, I need to take account of the Finance Council membership, since one cannot serve on both. Nor is a spouse of a member or either Council eligible to serve. The plan is for the Finance Councils to merge after the first of the year.



Sactuary as it is now

There will be some costs involved with this move. The alterations to the church and offices, and the moving costs will come soon. Then we will need to pay off the cost of the purchase. The lease should be pretty well within our current budget. To help with all this, we are setting up a building fund. For convenience, the account will be at St Michael's, until we have merged the finances. If you would like to get in on the ground floor, before we have actually started raising funds, make your check payable to St Michael's, and mark it "Building Fund." Checks can be mailed to me or put in the Sunday collections. Credit card and Paypal donations can be made at ordinariatephiladelphia.org. This is also the time of year when we solicit pledges from our parishioners for the coming (calendar) year. Parishioners at Newman and St Michael's will hear more about this later in the month.

It will be wonderful to be "settled" after these years of wandering, and we should be grateful that things are working out to allow for it. We also need to remember that having a permanent home is a *means* and not an *end*. God alone is our end, our goal, He for whom we do everything else. In the midst of all the myriad details of moving and merging, it will be easy to lose sight of this. Fortuitously we have in November the month of Holy Souls to remind us of purgatory and our own preparation for judgment. And in December, we will be in Advent and facing the Four Last Things: heaven, hell, death and judgment. This should help to keep us centered on God, in surrender and gratitude for having gotten us this far. We must continue to let Him direct us, as we seek before all else His glory and His kingdom. God willing, our new home will be our means for doing exactly that.

Advent

Tempus fugit: Advent begins November 29th. The Advent Quiet Day is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th, at St Therese. Mass at 9:30, as usual, followed by breakfast before the silence begins. During the day, there are the usual addresses, quiet, and opportunity for confession. We'll end around 2 with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Plan to bring something for lunch. Breakfast provided.

We also begin use of *Divine Worship: The Missal* on Advent Sunday. Our copies have not yet arrived, so I cannot provide details. I do not expect major changes from what we are now doing. I do know that the booklets in the pews will be changed. We'll all know by the end of the month!

The Little Douglings

Patrick and Carissa Douglas and their ten children were among those who stayed with us at the rectory during the World Meeting of Families. Carissa – in addition to home schooling her children – writes children's books. These are about being Catholic, and the characters are her children – the Little Douglings. The idea is to get children to think about dealing with their challenges as Catholics, something which appears to be pretty rare in children's books these days. She has done three books so far, and I am happy to commend them to you, especially to those of you with children. They are not yet available on Amazon, but can be found at www.littledouglings.com. Also on Facebook at [facebook.com/LittleDouglings](https://www.facebook.com/LittleDouglings).

Father Clayton Hewett, R.I.P.

Mea culpa: I failed to mention in POP that Fr Clayton Hewett, predecessor as Rector of St James the Less (1971-1983), died, August 1st this year in Maine. He was 88, and had been ailing for some time. He had previously served parishes in Morton and in Delaware. Noted for his involvement in the civil rights movement, he was also solidly committed to the catholic faith. This led to increasing tensions with the Episcopal Church, as it did (or does) for all those committed to the historic faith. I have always been grateful for the sound foundation he left for me at St James. May he rest in peace.

Intercession

After St Michael's left St James, one of the outreach projects we started was the Prayer Box Project:

we put small boxes around in public places (stores, a cafe, etc.), with pad and pen for people to solicit our prayers. Volunteers in the parish committed to praying for each request every day for a week. While we no longer have boxes out, we continue to offer the intercessions. Parishioners and friends request prayers, and some requests come from the web site. These are circulated by email. We would be happy to enlist additional pray-ers (including Newman folk). If you are interested, give me your email, and I'll see that you are added to the list.

Coming Events

Parishioners at St Michael's and at Newman should expect continuing **updates** and discussions about the move to Bridgeport after Sunday Masses during November. I will be sharing details as they become available, and will want counsel about the various things which need to be decided. I would appreciate it if you would plan to stay at least for a little while each week. Given this need, I am not planning any adult classes after Mass this month.

The 2016 Ordo **Calendars** are here. They are available at the Sunday Masses. If you would like one mailed, let me know (a donation



Church & Rectory on Ford Street

of \$5 would be appreciated). The Ordinariate calendar differs in some respects from that of the Latin Rite, so this is probably the only calendar available with our actual calendar. I am grateful to Jacob Ruth Funeral Directors for sponsoring the calendars and to John Covert from the Ordinariate community of St Gregory's in Massachusetts for putting the calendar together. Also to Elieen Dantas and her sister for preparing the St Michael's/Newman masthead.

Two lectures are coming up in the **Archbishop's Lecture Series** at St Charles Borromeo Seminary. On Thursday, November 12th, Kenneth Myers of Mars Hill Audio will speak on *Neither Worldly nor Worldless: Faithful Christian Living in a Post-Christian Society*. On Monday, December 7th, Michael Hanby of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family will speak on *The Truth Will Set You Free: Liberal Order and the Future of Christian Freedom*. Both begin at 7 p.m. and are free. Online RSVP is requested at PhillyEvang.org/lectures. While I do not know either of these speakers, the speakers in the series last year were all very well received. I would also suggest that you mark your calendars for a later lecture in the series by Anthony Esolen from Providence College. He is always worth reading and listening to. He will be speaking on March 7th next year.

The **Youth Group** at St Michael's (for teenagers) will meet on Friday, November 13th at 6:30 at the rectory. Let me know if you need information or know youth whom we should invite.

The **Thanksgiving Day** Mass (November 26th) will be at 10 a.m. at St Therese.

Faithfully,

Fr David Ousley