

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018

Rev. Michael Hall, Pastor
Rev. Jason Parzynski, in Residence
Deacon John Bonner
Deacon Steven Szmuto
Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE

Parish Ministries & Services

PARISH RECTORY & OFFICE 609 882 3277
Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Fax: 609 882 4375
Monday thru Friday Website: olgcc.net
E-mail: olgc@comcast.net

MASSES Weekdays:
Monday thru Friday 7:30 AM
Saturday 8:00 AM
Weekends:
Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Holy Days: 7:30 AM, Noon, & 7:00 PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE 883 9005
E-mail: religiouseducation.olgc@comcast.net

RECONCILIATION Saturdays, 4:00 to 4:30 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Deacon John 771 8288
Rosalie Brenna 883 1792

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Mondays, 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
Deacon Steve 947 0587

INFANT BAPTISM Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at Noon with prior arrangements made at least three months in advance with the Infant Baptism Ministry. Parents are required to attend a parish preparation program. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing with their local parish. See the ministry brochure in parish Literature Racks.

CONSOLATION MINISTRY
Deacon John 771 8288

MARRIAGES Arrangements should be made at least one year in advance. Couples are required to participate in a parish marriage preparation program and to attend a pre-marital conference sponsored by the Diocese. Weddings must be scheduled before 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

HOMEBOUND OUTREACH
Rectory Office 882 3277

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND To arrange for the spiritual needs of the homebound or sick, contact the Rectory Office and see the ministry brochure in parish Literature Racks. Urgent sick calls at any time.

INFANT BAPTISM
Mary Szmuto 847 0796

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Mike Narcowich, Grand Knight 558 2450
George Steward, Church Director 883 9173

LITURGICAL MINISTERS
Rectory Office 882 3277

MUSIC MINISTRY
Deirdre Hindley, Organist 882 3215

RCIA
Deacon Steve 947 0587

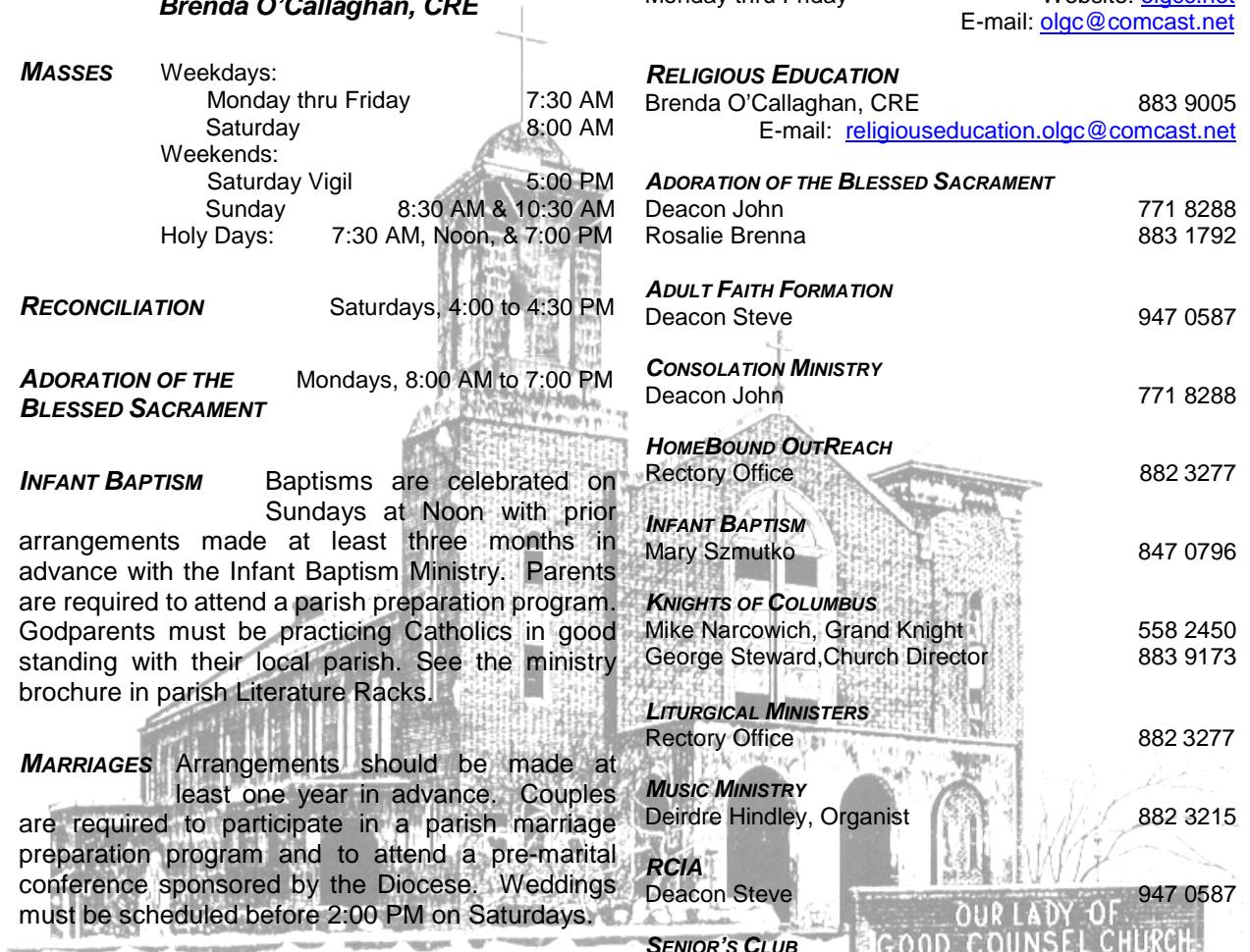
SENIOR'S CLUB
Mary Pat Voorhees, President 570 290 2373
Dolores Sebasto, Vice President 882 5085

SOCIAL SERVICES
James Gambino 818 1708
Dan Morocco 882 0906

REGISTRATION All parishioners should be registered. Please contact the Rectory Office when entering or leaving the parish.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Darlene Wilson 882 2996
Deacon John 771 8288

WEBMASTER
Maryanne Garcia 908 371 1150



Schedule for the Week

MASSES & SERVICES

8:00 AM Special Intention
5:00 PM Living & Deceased Members of the Muscente Family r/o Philomena Muscente
Albert Anthony Ramoli r/o Elaine Palatine
Sunday, April 8th
2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday
8:30 AM Ann & Andy Charnick r/o the Cook Family
Rosario deSouza r/o the deSouza Family
10:30 AM Robert Carmignani r/o Judith Fielding
Thomas Dow r/o Carol Golden Przechacki
Monday, April 9th
7:30 AM Ralph Barone r/o Rosemarie Ferri
Charlotte Cetkowski r/o Wes & Christina Reiser
Tuesday, April 10th
7:30 AM Helen DiMaggio r/o Dolores DeBlasio
Wednesday, April 11th
7:30 AM Timothy Gavin r/o Steve & Mary Szmuto
Thursday, April 12th
7:30 AM Maria Lehmann r/o Eileen Masterson
Friday April 13th
7:30 AM John Maye r/o Dee Davis & Angeline and Ed Martin
Saturday April 14th
8:00 AM Special Intention
Dorothy Blicharz r/o Gerry & Jay
5:00 PM Phyllis Falzini-Conturso r/o Mary DeFrancesco
Catherine Evans r/o Ed & Ginny Evans
Sunday, April 15th
3rd Sunday of Easter
8:30 AM Assad Y. Hajjar r/o Family
Charles Ruch r/o the deSouza & Tentum Families
10:30 AM Special Intention
Marie Melchiondo r/o Cheryl Cvetan

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5:00 PM **Saturday April 14th**
Fran Golinski, Elaine Palatine, & Fran Zenchak
Sunday, April 15th
8:30 AM Vickey Aneser, Michael Lake, & Thomas Voorhees
10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Mary Anne LeGall
10:30 AM Joyce Christensen, Tony Jones, & Linda Reasoner
Monday, April 16th. Reposition.
Mary Szmuto

I was hard pressed and was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.
The joyful shout of victory
in the tents of the just:
The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

READERS

Saturday, April 14th
5:00 PM Theresa Gregorio
Sunday, April 15th
8:30 AM Carol Lake
10:30 AM Michael Delehanty

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, April 14th
5:00 PM Marshall Barrett
Sunday, April 15th
8:30 AM Chris Corban
10:30 AM Marcus Christensen

PARISH EVENTS

April 7th: Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow morning Mass.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
April 8th: *2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday*
Religious ED Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th Grade Students will take place at 9:15 AM in the Opendaker Room.
Lent / Easter Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.
April 9th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* follows morning Mass in the Church until 7:00 PM.
Religious ED classes will take place at Villa Victoria Academy from 4:30 to 6:00 PM for Grades 1 thru 7.
April 11th: The Delaware Valley Radio Association will meet at 8:00 PM in the Church Hall.
April 14th: Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow morning Mass.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
Our *Parish Youth Group* will celebrate a Youth Mass at 5:00 PM with music provided by the Villa Victoria *Honey Bee Choir*. A Youth Meeting follows Mass with food, games, and fun. All teens are invited.
April 15th: *3rd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday*
Religious ED Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th Grade Students will take place at 9:15 AM in the Opendaker Room.
Lent / Easter Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.



WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Bob Arcaidipane, Mason Brown, Rosemarie Buker, Glenda Cain, Anthony Carabelli, Gregory DeFilippo, Mary DeFrancesco, John Ginter, Nick Gregorio, Joe Maloney, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjana, Patricia Stahl, Stephen Thoma, Brenden Trevors, Gary Vanderbilt, & Laura Varone; and, all parishioners who are either sick or homebound.

To pray for a family member or friend,
just contact the Rectory Office.

Announcements

PARISH NEWS

JESUS STOOD IN THEIR MIDST

Blue Devils Bag Bingo The Ewing High School Class of 2019 Project Graduation will host a Blue Devils Bag Bingo on Saturday evening, April 28th in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$30 which includes two cards for each of the ten games and light refreshments. Contact Tracy Kueny at 635 6288 to purchase tickets. Bonus game tickets, Basket Raffle, Bingo Daubers, 50/50 tickets, and hot food will be available for purchase. Please support our local high school students.

Trenton Academy Open House Trenton Catholic Academy is hosting an Open House for prospective families on Wednesday, April 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Students will have the opportunity to tour our facilities, meet the teachers, and ask questions about our academic programs, curriculum, and extracurricular activities. All interested families are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend you may schedule a tour or visit at any time by contacting Ms. Rogers, Admissions at 586 3705, X 119. Come see why, *It's a Great Day to be an Iron Mike!*

The Trenton Catholic Academy School community also invites you to our *Celebrate Iron Mikes Gala* on April 21st at 6:00 PM at Nottingham Ballroom, Hamilton. Here we will honor Sr. Dorothy Payne, SSJ, Fr. Cesar Rubiano and Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Michael Maloney, and Kevin and MaryAnn Meara. Tickets are available by contacting Tracey Destribats at 586 3705, X135.

Special Thanks A *Special Thanks* is extended to all who helped plan and conduct our parish Easter Egg Hunt this year, with special mention to the Knights of Columbus whose continued support is particularly appreciated.

Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower The Knights of Columbus Centennial Chapter sponsors an Annual Pro-Life Baby Shower and Buffet Lunch. This year it will be hosted by: Knights of Columbus Hopewell Council 7103 at St. James Church on East Delaware Ave in Pennington on Sunday, April 29th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. This year guest speakers are Choice One Pregnancy Care Center and First Way of Burlington.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Ewing Knights of Columbus would like your help, which is needed, with the purchases of some basic baby necessities for these two great services. Please leave any donations of baby diapers, formula contents and baby wipes on the community services basement tables. For information, contact John Flanagan through the Ewing Knights of Columbus at kofc3756olgc-@gmail.com.

Self Defense Seminar A Self Defense Seminar that is open to all is being sponsored by the Ewing Knights of Columbus in cooperation with the Israeli Krav Maga Association. The cost of attendance is \$20 and tickets can be purchased at the door or in the Church Vestibule after Mass. This event will take place on Thursday, April 26th at the Incarnation / St. James Church Hall from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. For more information, contact Gene Blicharz at 462 2689.

Dressbarn Fashion Show The Sanctuary Guild of Our Lady of the Angels Parish will celebrate its 63rd Fashion Show and luncheon on Sunday, April 15th at the Stone Terrace by John Henry. This year's fashions will be presented by *Dressbarn*.

The cost of tickets is \$50. For reservations, contact Josephine Tancreda at 584 2281.

Thomas' profession of faith came swiftly when, eight days after he had declared his unwillingness to believe, Christ showed him his side and the nail marks in his hands and removed every possible doubt. Our Lord Jesus Christ had miraculously entered the room when the doors were closed. As this would have been impossible for an ordinary earthly body, he reassured Thomas, and through him the other disciples, by letting him see his side and the wounds in his flesh.

Only Thomas is reported to have said: *Unless my hands touch the marks of the nails and I see them, and unless I put my hand into his side, I will not believe;* yet to some extent all the disciples were guilty of disbelief. Doubt remained in their minds even after they had told Thomas that they had seen the Lord. Saint Luke's account says that while they stood amazed, torn between joy and disbelief Christ said to them: *Have you anything to eat?* They gave him a piece of broiled fish and part of a honeycomb, which he took and ate before their eyes. This surely proves that it was not only in the mind of blessed Thomas that disbelieving thoughts still lurked, but in the minds of the other disciples as well. It was their very astonishment that made them slow to believe; but, when it became impossible to disbelieve what they could see with their own eyes, blessed Thomas made his profession of faith: *My Lord and my God.* Jesus said to him: *Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe.*

There was a wonderful providence behind these words of the Savior, and they can be of very great help to us. They show once again how much he cares for our souls, for he is good and as Scripture says: He wants everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. Even so, this saying of his may surprise us.

As always, Christ had to be patient with Thomas when he said he would not believe and with the other disciples too when they thought they were seeing a ghost. Because of his desire to convince the whole world, he most willingly showed them the marks of the nails and the wound in his side; because he wished those who needed such signs as a support for their faith to have no possible reason for doubt, he even took food although he had no need for it. But when anyone accepts what he has not seen, believing on the word of his teacher, the faith by which he honors the one his teacher proclaims to him is worthy of great praise.

Blessed, therefore, is everyone who believes the message of the holy apostles who, as Luke says, were eyewitnesses of Christ's actions and ministers of the word. If we desire eternal life and long for a dwelling place in heaven, we must listen to them.

Cyril of Alexandria., 444

Reflection

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Doubting Thomas, unknown illustrator, 1190.

**He said to Thomas: Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe.**

The disciples said to Thomas, *We have seen the Lord.*
But he said to them, *Unless I see the mark of the nails in his
hands and put my finger into the nailmarks
and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.*

Now a week later his disciples were again inside
and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked,
and stood in their midst and said, *Peace be with you.*
Then he said to Thomas, *Put your finger here and see my hands,
and bring your hand and put it into my side,
and do not be unbelieving, but believe.*

Thomas answered and said to him, *My Lord and my God!*

Jesus said to him, *Have you come to believe
because you have seen me?*

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter, the conclusion of the Easter Octave, and since 2000 Divine Mercy Sunday. The Sunday after Easter was renamed the Feast of Divine Mercy by Saint Pope John Paul II. The origin of Divine Mercy Sunday can be traced to Sister Faustina Kowalska, who was only 33 years old when she passed away in 1938. Relatively uneducated, and accepted into the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy on the condition that she pay for her own habit, she was at last accepted into the order.

Despite her humble upbringing, Faustina had received a number of visions and in 1931, she was visited by Jesus, who offered himself as the King of Mercy. She wrote this entry in her diary: *In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.*

She followed Jesus' command, but lacking artistic skills, she searched for three years until she found an artist willing to paint the image from her description (Our Lady of Good Counsel has this image in the vestibule at the main entrance to the Church). Pope John Paul II was an ardent admirer of Sister Faustina; and, as Archbishop of Krakow, he commenced the investigation into her life in 1965 and recommended that the beatification process begin. During his papacy, he beatified her in 1993 and canonized her in 2000, dedicating her as the Patron Saint of Mercy.

Today's reading from the Gospel of Saint John focuses on Jesus' loving mercy in his appearance to the disciples who were hidden in the upper room. He showed them his wounds and said to them: *Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.* Jesus, who came to save all men and women from their sins, instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation so that all who repented of their transgressions throughout the course of their lives would receive the grace of mercy from God. Even Thomas, who was not present at the original appearance after the resurrection, would encounter Our Lord the following week and receive Jesus' peace and grace as he exclaimed, *My Lord and my God!*

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, came to call sinners. The spotless Lamb, he willingly sacrificed himself in expiation for our sins, and offers his love, grace and mercy to all men and women today each time we share in his Precious Body and Blood of the Eucharist. Through our faith and trust in the Lord, may we be open to God's infinite and divine compassion and mercy. As we heard in today's Responsorial Psalm: *The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.*

Deacon Steven Szmuto