

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29, 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: olgc.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

YOUTH MINISTRY
Darlene Wilson 882 2996

WEBMASTER
Maryanne Garcia 908 371 1150

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

Schedule for the Week

MASSES & SERVICES

8:00 AM **Saturday April 28th**
Special Intention
Michael Kelly r/o Wife Barbara & Family

5:00 PM Special Intention
Michael Kelly r/o Wife Barbara & Family

Sunday, April 29th
5th Sunday of Easter
8:30 AM Assad Y. Hajjar r/o Family
Ned O'Connor r/o Wife Antoinette & Son Sean

10:30 AM Anthony Canulli r/o Edith Guadagno
Alan Puleio r/o Harry & Sherry Masterson

Monday, April 30th
7:30 AM Martin Matuchek r/o Harry & Sherry Masterson

Tuesday, May 1st
7:30 AM James Gallo r/o Lorraine Papsycki

Wednesday, May 2nd
7:30 AM James Gallo r/o Janice & Bruce Richards

Thursday, May 3rd
7:30 AM Mary Guarino r/o Kathy, Harry, & Thomas Giordano

Friday May 4th
7:30 AM Eva Ungrady r/o Dolores DeBlasio

Saturday May 5th
8:00 AM Special Intention
9:00 AM *The Celebration of 1st Eucharist*
5:00 PM Brother Jack r/o Eileen Doyle & Daughter Nan
Michael Kozar r/o Family

Sunday, May 6th
6th Sunday of Easter
8:30 AM Robert Cook, Jr. r/o Wife, Patricia
Assad Y. Hajjar r/o Family

10:30 AM Raymond Dietrich r/o Nancy & Andy Zanatti
Timothy Gavin r/o Debbie & Bob Smith

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5:00 PM **Saturday May 5th**
Fran Golinski, Elaine Palatine, & Fran Zenchak

Sunday, May 6th
8:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall, Butch Kramer, & Michael Lake
10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Claude LeGall
10:30 AM Joyce Christensen, Tony Jones, & Laura Shea

Monday, May 7th. Reposition.
Mary Szmuto

CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	792 families
Parishioners using envelopes	218
Envelope Contributions	\$4,495.00
Average Contribution	\$20.81
Loose Cash	\$792.00
Contributions for April 22 nd	\$5,287.00

*The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep,
and willingly died for his flock.*

READERS

Saturday, May 5th
5:00 PM Tricia Williams

Sunday, May 6th
8:30 AM Carol Lake
10:30 AM Darlene Wilson

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, May 5th
5:00 PM Alex Medwick

Sunday, May 6th
8:30 AM Connor Greig
10:30 AM Nora Shea

PARISH EVENTS

April 28th: 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 29th: *5th Sunday of Easter*
Religious ED Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th Grade Students will take place at 9:15 AM in the Opendaker Room.

April 30th: *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.

May 1st thru 4th: Practice for 1st Communion students will take place in the Church and Church Hall at 5:00 PM.

May 1st: The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a social night at the Incarnation / St. James Church Center at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

May 2nd: The Senior's Club will meet in the Church Hall at 11:00 AM.

May 5th: Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude are cancelled.
1st Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:00 AM for Religious ED Students.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.

May 6th: *6th Sunday of Easter*
Religious ED Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th Grade Students will take place at 9:15 AM in the Opendaker Room.
Our *Annual May Crowning* will take place following the 10:30 AM Mass. 1st Communicants should wear their Communion Attire.



WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Bob Arcaidipane, Mason Brown, Peg Boylan, Rosemarie Buker, Anthony Carabelli, Gregory DeFilippo, Mary DeFrancesco, John Ginter, Nick Gregorio, Joe Maloney, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjan, Jeff Papp, 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

Roses for Life The Ewing Council of the Knights of Columbus will have their annual Roses for Life drive before and after all masses at Our Lady of Good Counsel the weekend of May 12th and 13th. All proceeds will be donated to local organizations who work with pregnant women in difficult situations and encourage them to choose life.

Coins for Charity Containers will be at the entrances to the church next weekend, May 5th & 6th. Please continue to place your Marrazzo's receipts in the containers at the entrances to the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Cash Bingo On Saturday, May 19th the Incarnation / St. James Church will host Cash Bingo in it's Auditorium beginning at 6:45 PM. Twelve games with 3 sheets per game, additional cards, 50 /50 round of bingo cards, raffle tickets for great prizes . . . all included.

Tickets are \$25. Snacks and beverages are included. For details, call 882 2860.

40 Cans for Lent Update Thanks to your overwhelming support and generosity during Lent, our Social Services Committee collected and delivered 119 bags and 12 boxes of donated canned goods to Mount Carmel Guild and Catholic Charities of Trenton. That's 1224 cans over the past seven weeks . . . Wow! We should all be very proud of this tremendous effort to help those most in need in the Trenton community. Although the emphasis during Lent was on canned food donations, non-perishable food donations and your homemade meals are always welcome throughout the year. Whatever you can give is greatly 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.

Bilingual Mass Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Trenton will celebrate a Spanish and English Mass on Friday, May 4th at 7:00 PM. The Central New Jersey Catholic Chorale will lead the signing in English, Spanish, and Latin.

CUTTING BACK

The Gospel this Sunday has a familiar story. Jesus, the vine, is rooted and stable and will always bring us all the nourishment we need. We are the dependent branches.

Maybe you would like to stop there and contemplate such a rich image. Do so if you would like. Why? Because just beyond it there is the small matter of being pruned. To prune a plant is to cut parts of it off. Jesus mentions it twice in our Gospel reading: Speaking as the vine, he says that the Father

takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes, so that it bears more fruit. Ouch! If we bring forth no fruit, we will be thrown out like a branch and wither. If we bear some, we have to be pruned. We lose either way! And it is all our fault: if only I were a better person, if only I had done the right thing, if only the world were different, if only I had been dealt a better hand in the game of life, or, or, or. If I weren't so full of guilt I wouldn't have to be pruned. It is all my fault!

But guilt is a major feature of human life. Everything goes wrong, it says. To tell the truth, many people take the crucifixion as a direct result of their own sins. I caused this. My sins killed Jesus. This is not completely false, but it is out of control. How could your small sins take down the Lord of the universe? So could there be a better way to deal with guilt? Yes.

First, decide whether you are bearing no fruit at all. None. If that is really and actually true, then get help from someone, because spiritually you are dying. Most of us do bear good fruit — it is just that we don't recognize that we do.

Second, with that settled, look at what pruning is. It is a way to make things better, make a better plant, a better tree, a better orchard. If you cut tired old branches from your Philodendron, for instance, it will begin to thrive again, not wither. Pruning encourages new growth and the overall health of the plant or tree.

Third, seen in that way, you and I do need to be trimmed regularly, don't we? Here is an example. Maybe unconsciously we have been thinking that we ourselves are the vine, independent of Christ, not just a branch. The reason pruning would help is not that we should be punished, but that pruning promotes health of the whole person, the whole garden, the whole orchard — the mystical body of Christ.

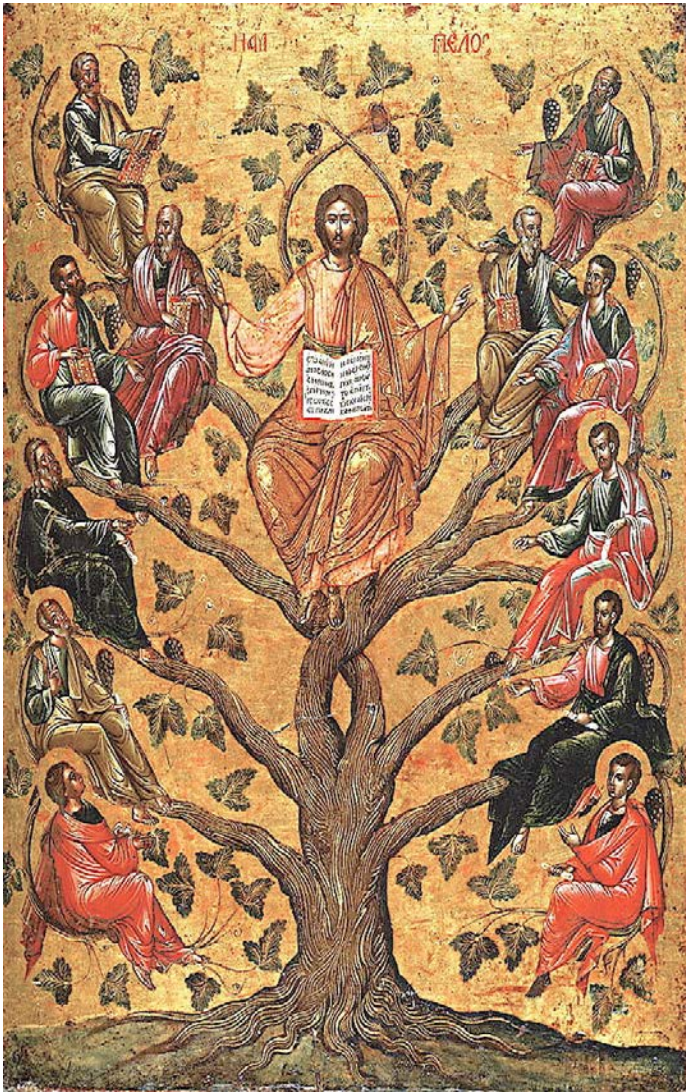
Can you trust the steadiness of Jesus' gardener hand. Trust even while suffering? Drink in your overflowing share of trust at Sunday's table of the Lord. Let the Word instruct you, let the body and blood of Christ, which was pruned to almost nothing, fill you and shape you. Then you can say to the Lord with the rest of us, go ahead, trim whatever gets in the way! I am not the vine, I am a branch.

My job is not to be perfect, it is to remain in you, Jesus and to let you do good within me and through me and us.

John Foley, SJ

Reflection

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Orthodox icon, the Tree of Life, Benaki Museum, Athens.

***I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.***

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.
He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit,
and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.
You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you.*

*Remain in me, as I remain in you.
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own
unless it remains on the vine,
so neither can you unless you remain in me.*

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.*

Jn 15

The passage from the gospel in which the Lord calls himself the vine and his disciples the branches affirms in its own way that, as mediator between God and the human race, the man Christ Jesus is head of the Church and we are his members.

It is beyond dispute that a vine and its branches are of one and the same stock. Since Christ, therefore, possessed a divine nature not shared by ourselves, he became man precisely in order that in his own person there might be a vine of human stock whose branches we could become. *Dwell in me*, said Jesus, *and I will dwell in you*. His disciples, however, do not dwell in Christ in the same way as Christ dwells in them. In either case, the benefit is theirs, not his.

If branches are attached to a vine, it is not to confer any advantage on the vine; it is rather that the branches themselves may draw their sustenance from the vine. The vine is attached to the branches to provide them with their vital nourishment, not to receive anything from them. In the same way Christ's presence in his disciples and their presence in him both profit the disciples rather than Christ. If a branch is cut off, another can grow from the life-giving root; but once severed from the root no branch can remain alive.

The incarnate Truth goes on to say: *I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever dwells in me and I in him yields fruit in plenty, because without me you can do nothing*. These are words to be weighed and pondered continually. Someone hearing Jesus say he yields fruit in plenty, might perhaps think that a branch can bear at least a certain amount of fruit on its own. Our Lord's words, however, were not: *You can do little without me*, but; *You can do nothing*. Little fruit or plenty, there can be neither without him, because without him nothing can be done.

Even if a branch does produce a little fruit, the vinedresser prunes it away so that it may produce more. But if the branch does not remain attached to the vine and draw its life from the root, it can bear no fruit at all. Now, although Christ could not be the vine if he were not human, he could not offer such a grace to his branches if he were not at the same time divine. Since without this grace it is impossible to have life and consequently death is the result of one's free choice, he said: *Whoever does not dwell in me will be thrown away like a branch and will wither, to be gathered in and cast on the fire to burn*.

And so the shame incurred by those branches that refuse to dwell in the vine is in direct proportion to the glory they will have if they do remain in him. *If you dwell in me*, said Jesus, *and my words dwell in you, you will ask for whatever you desire and it will be yours*. Can a person dwelling in Christ desire anything out of harmony with Christ? The very fact that people dwell in their Savior must mean that they have no desire that is opposed to their salvation. And yet we do indeed desire one thing insofar as we are in Christ, and another insofar as we are still in this world. Because of our sojourn here below, a thought sometimes steals into our ignorant minds to ask for something which cannot be good for us.

But this may not be, if we are dwelling in Christ. He does what we ask only if it is for our good. To dwell in him, therefore, is to have his words dwelling in us; whatever we desire we shall then ask for, and it will be given us.

Augustine, 354