

# Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2016

**Fr. Michael Hall, Administrator**  
**Msgr. James G. Innocenzi, 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](http://olgcc.net)  
E-mail: [olgc@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**  
Michael Murphy, Grand Knight 575 7699  
Gary Vanderbilt, Church Director 882 8474

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**  
Rectory Office 882 3277

**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
Deirdre Hindley, Organist 882 3215

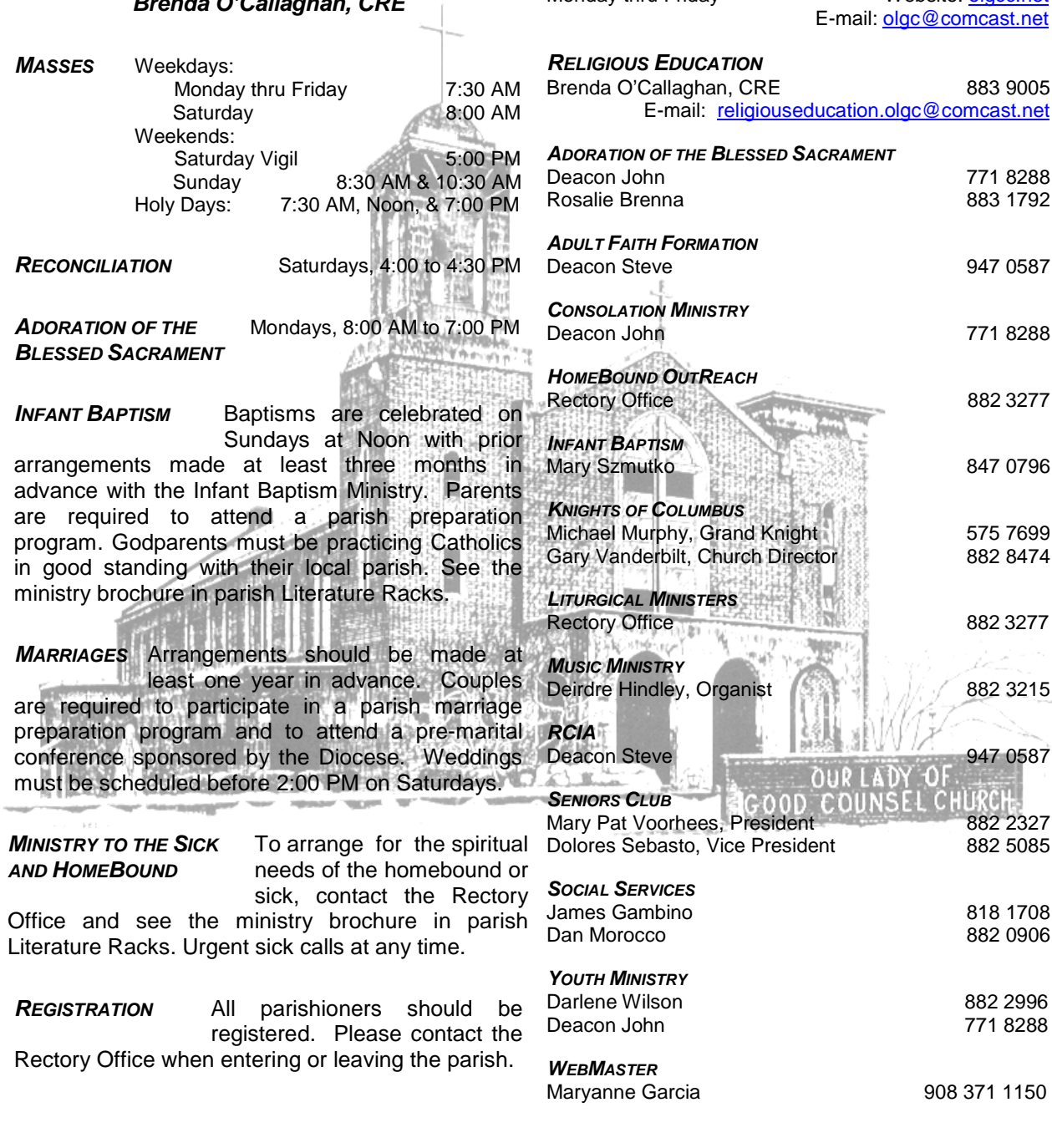
**RCIA**  
Deacon Steve 947 0587

**SENIORS CLUB**  
Mary Pat Voorhees, President 882 2327  
Dolores Sebasto, Vice President 882 5085

**SOCIAL SERVICES**  
James Gambino 818 1708  
Dan Morocco 882 0906

**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 Jennie Ferri r/o Philomena Muscente  
 Eileen Reilly r/p Sliwinski Family  
**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 8:30 AM People of the Parish  
 John Lally r/o Anna & Joe Shields & Family  
 10:30 AM Anthony Bua r/o Maria Bua  
 Francis Crivelli r/o Cecelia Vagnozzi  
**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Charles Donald Smith r/o Eileen & Harry  
 Masterson  
**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Charles Donald Smith r/o Ed, Cindy, Edward, &  
 Brittany Masterson  
**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM John Lally r/o Eileen & Harry Masterson  
**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*The Immaculate Conception*  
 7:30 AM People of the Parish  
 Mary & Thomas Miles r/o Helen Marie Dolton  
 Gofus & Palatine Family r/o Gail Ann Palatine  
 Noon Stephen Peter Hritz r/o Sam, Irene, & John  
 7:00 PM Colavita  
**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Francis Crivelli r/o Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Milano  
**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00 AM Special Intention  
 5:00 PM Al DeBlasio r/o Dolores DeBlasio  
 Fekete & Walley Families r/o Family  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 8:30 AM John Lally r/o Sara & Graham Cove & Family  
 Don Smith r/o DeMascio Family  
 10:30 AM People of the Parish  
 Angela Mignone r/o Robert & Yvonne Chianese

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Home visits arranged.**  
**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 PM Jacqueline Crane, Joan Fallon, & Elaine Palatine  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Carol Lake, Michael Lake, & Linda Reasoner  
 10:00 AM *PreferredCare Visits:* Carol Lake  
 10:30 AM Tony Jones, Brenda O'Callaghan, & Linda  
 Reasoner  
**Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, Reposition.**  
 Mary Szmuto

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	767 families
Parishioners using envelopes	240
Envelope Contributions	\$4,808.00
Average Contribution	\$20.03
Loose Cash	\$716.00
Contributions for November 27 <sup>th</sup>	\$5,524.00

## READERS

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 PM Helen Marie Dolton  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Laura Shea  
 10:30 AM Patricia Williams

## ALTAR SERVERS

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
 5:00 PM Marshall Barrett  
**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Nora Shea  
 10:30 AM Chris Corban & James Gummel

## PARISH EVENTS

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.  
 Novenas follow morning Mass.  
 Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 Sunday Religious ED Classes will take place in  
 the Church Hall Opendaker Room from 9:15 to 10:45 AM  
 for Grade 8 Students.  
 Our Adult Faith Formation Program will continue  
 at 6:00 PM in the Church Hall.  
**December 5<sup>th</sup>:** *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*  
 will take place from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The Rectory-  
 side door of the Church will be open.  
 Religious ED Classes will take place at Villa  
 Victoria Academy from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, Grades 1 thru 7.  
**December 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Children's Home Society of NJ will  
 meet in the Church Hall at 7:00 PM.  
 The Knights of Columbus Council 3756 will  
 sponsor a social night at the Incarnation / St. James  
 Church Center at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>:** The Senior's Club will meet in the  
 Church Hall at 11:00 PM.  
**December 8<sup>th</sup>:** *The Immaculate Conception.* This day  
 is a holyday of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at  
 7:30 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM.  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.  
 Novenas follow morning Mass.  
 Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 Sunday Religious ED Classes will take place in  
 the Church Hall Opendaker Room from 9:15 to 10:45 AM  
 for Grade 8 Students.  
 Our Adult Faith Formation concludes it's winter  
 program at 6:00 PM in the Church Hall and will include a  
 potluck or pizza dinner.

*A flower arrangement has been placed in front of the  
 Statue of the Blessed Mother by the family of  
 Jennie Ferri in her memory.*

# Announcements

## PARISH NEWS

**Christmas Giving Outreach** Once again it is your opportunity to participate in our Christmas Giving Outreach ministry where our parishioners purchase gifts for the needy in our Diocese to help brighten their Christmas holiday.

To participate, please take a gift tag, or more, from the baskets at all Church entrances, purchase the gift, attach your gift tag to it and return it to the designated table in our Church Hall by Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap your gift.

We plan to deliver gifts on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions or wish to help, call Jim Gambino of our Social Services Team at 818 1708.

Struggling families also provide wish lists for specific items; and, Catholic Charities is searching for Adopt-a-Family donors right now. Call MarKeesha Ferguson at 394 8847 to find out how you can help brighten Christmas morning for a struggling family in our Diocese.

**Keep Christ in Christmas Cards** The Ewing Knights of Columbus will continue their annual Christmas Card sale at all weekend Masses. There will be a wide variety on hand in addition to brochures for you to place a special order if you would like. There will also be *Keep Christ in Christmas* car magnets available for purchase.

**Senior Club News** Thirty members were present at the last Club meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> which was the last day to sign-up and to pay for the Club's Christmas Luncheon to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Noon at the Blooming Grove Inn.

Refreshments for the Club's meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> will be provided by Maria Hegyi, Deirdre Hindley, and Rosalie Comisky. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Club's food pantry.

**The Capital Singers of Trenton** The Capital Singers of Trenton will present *Winter Songs 10* at Sacred Heart Church in Trenton on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. This concert will feature the Chorale, Chorus, strings and continuous performing pieces in the classical, folk, and gospel styles.

The second half of the concert will be *A Folk Song and Gospel Christmas* featuring solo selections by Ms. Deborah Ford, music director at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Mr. Keith Spencer, a dynamic versatile baritone vocalist and concert entertainer. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door, \$15 for seniors and children under 18, and children under 12 are free. Advanced tickets are available by calling 434 2781 in addition to group sales and more information.

*The Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the glory of his voice will be heard  
in the joy of your heart.*

## PARISH NEWS

**Good-going Guys** Principal Dr. Logan of Ewing High School has announced that *Olivia Czelusniak* and *Alex Toler*, both members of our parish family, have been named Commended Students in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Foundation which conducts this program has been presented by the Principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

Approximately 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students are among the top 5% of more than 1.6 million students who had entered the Scholarship Program.

**New Jersey Adoption Law Change** Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, adoptees and certain relatives will be able to obtain a copy of their original birth certificate without a court order. The birth certificate will include the names of the birth parents who placed children for adoption unless a birth parent requests their name be omitted.

Birth parents who wish to preserve their privacy must submit a *Redaction Request Form* to the New Jersey Department of Health no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year: this *Request Form* can be obtained by calling 866 649 8726, X582.

The Catholic Church has always supported reunions between adoptees and birth parents if such unions are by mutual consent. The Church continues to do so through their Catholic Charities agencies. If you are aware of someone who would be affected by these adoption law changes, suggest that they call a free helpline at 989 4809.

**Christmas Breakfast with Santa** Trenton Catholic Academy is hosting a *Christmas Bazaar and Breakfast with Santa* on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> in Hamilton. *Breakfast with Santa* will take place from 8:00 to 10:30 AM and includes all you can eat pancakes, sausage, eggs, fresh fruit, assorted pastries, and beverages. Tickets are \$8 for Adults and \$5 for Children if purchased before December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The *Christmas Bazaar* will take place from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Come and eat breakfast with Santa and finish up any shopping you may have to do! For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Rose O'Connor at [roconnor@trentoncatholic.org](mailto:roconnor@trentoncatholic.org).

**Thanksgiving Food Drive Success** Thanks to our parish generosity, our Outreach Team was able to deliver to local charities 13 turkeys and 50 bags of non-perishable food items. We were able to make a difference in the Thanksgiving dinner of many needy people.

**Holy Land Christian Art** Olive wood carvings from the Holy Land will be available for purchase in the Church Hall on the weekend of January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Olive wood carvings have evolved as a cultural tradition over the centuries and is dedicated to supporting the Christian community in the holy land.

# *Reflection*

# Announcements

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Edward Hicks, *The Peaceable Nation*, 1845.

*Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the young lion shall browse together,  
with a little child to guide them.*

### MUSIC FOR THE SEASON

The adult choir of the Church of St. Ann in Lawrenceville will present a Ceremony of Lessons and Carols at 3:30 PM on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Church. The program is free and all are welcome. The fifty voice choir will perform traditional and contemporary music to inspire and help prepare listeners to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. Works include *And the Glory of the Lord* from Handel's "Messiah," *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Creation Will Be at Peace* by J. Paul Williams as well as favorite music of the season such as *O How A Rose E'er Blooming* and a contemporary arrangement of *Let Your Little Light Shine*.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrates the birth of Jesus by telling the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine short Bible readings from Genesis and the prophetic books and the Gospels. The program was first offered in 1878 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England. Bishop Edward Benson, later the Archbishop of Canterbury, formalized the ceremony in 1880, and started a tradition which continues to this day.

St. Ann's version of this classic program will remind listeners of what Christmas is all about. The program will be followed by light refreshments. For more information, please call 882 6491.

Last week, the readings from the First Sunday of Advent, focused on the end times and the unexpected hour at which the Son of Man will come. The focus was not on the historical coming of Jesus into the world as the son of the Blessed Virgin Mary, but rather on his triumphant return in glory. Today, the readings take a more familiar turn to the anticipation of the birth of the Lord Jesus.

The Gospel reading from Matthew tells of John the Baptist's appearance and preaching in the desert of Judea: *Repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand!* John was the last and greatest of the prophets, proclaiming the Messiah just before Jesus entered into his ministry. John was the one of whom Isaiah spoke: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John was not a highborn member of elite society; rather he was a somewhat disconcerting figure. The son of Elizabeth and Zechariah, and Jesus' cousin, John was rough in appearance and bold in his demeanor. Despite this, he attracted quite a following and many in the region journeyed into the desert to hear him and be baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. Yet, despite his compelling presence, he was not the Messiah, but rather the one, who foretold of the imminent coming of the Christ. John told those who came to him: *I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.* John's prophecy was a caution; the time to repent was now. The Christ, the Messiah, would usher in a new age.

In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we heard the words of deliverance from the turmoil of that time, the promise of a Messiah from the line of David (the son of Jesse). The prophet proclaimed: *On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.* The shoot from the stump of Jesse (the foreshadowing of Jesus Christ) would usher in a new age of peace and reconciliation. The joy of promised salvation in that new age is revealed in the responsorial psalm: *Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

As we continue our journey of repentance and preparation during the Season of Advent, let us take time from the cares and burdens of holiday preparations to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ. Through prayer, through reflection on the Sacred Scriptures, through the participation in the Liturgy and reception of the Holy Eucharist, and through bearing witness to the Gospel in acts of simple kindness, mercy and charity, let us offer ourselves in humility and service to others, so that our hearts may be ready for the Christ Child — the one who, in his divinity, humbled himself to share in our humanity. As Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: *Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Deacon Steven Szmuto