

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 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
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
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

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 Al DeBlasio r/o Dolores DeBlasio
 Fekete & Walley Families r/o Family
Sunday, December 11th
3rd 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
Monday, December 12th
 7:30 AM Kathleen Urbano r/o Dolores DeBlasio
Tuesday, December 13th
 7:30 AM John Lally r/o Ed & Cindy Masterson
Wednesday, December 14th
 7:30 AM Connie Davidson r/o Dolores DeBlasio
Thursday, December 15th
 7:30 AM Geraldine Bagot r/o Elaine Palatine
Friday, December 16th
 7:30 AM Jessica Masterson r/o Masterson Family
Saturday, December 17th
 8:00 AM Special Intention
 5:00 PM People of the Parish
 Daniel DeFrancesco r/o Mary DeFrancesco
Sunday, December 18th
4th Sunday of Advent
 8:30 AM John Lally r/o Laurie & Rudy Esteves
 Paola Travaglini r/o DiMascio Family
 10:30 AM Nicholas Muscente, Sr. r/o Marie & Carol
 Muscente
 Helen Thompson r/o Czelusniak Family
 4:00 PM *Christmas Penance Service*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Friday, December 16th, Home visits arranged.
Saturday, December 17th
 5:00 PM Joyce Christensen, Ginny Evans, & Michael
 Manion
Sunday, December 18th
 8:30 AM Michael Lake, Claude LeGall, & Mary Anne LeGall
 10:00 AM *PreferredCare Visits: Anna Adomaitis*
 10:30 AM Fran Golinski, Tony Jones & Linda Reasoner
Monday, December 19th, Reposition.
 Adoration is cancelled.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	767 families
Parishioners using envelopes	246
Envelope Contributions	\$6,564.00
Average Contribution	\$26.68
Loose Cash	\$712.00
Contributions for December 4 th	\$7,231.00

*Glorious things are spoken of you, O Mary,
 for from you arose
 the sun of justice, Christ our Lord.*

READERS

Saturday, December 17th
 5:00 PM Mary Lou Delahanty
Sunday, December 18th
 8:30 AM Carol Lake
 10:30 AM Darlene Wilson

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 17th
 5:00 PM Lauren & Marcus Christensen
Sunday, December 18th
 8:30 AM Chris Corban
 10:30 AM Marshall Barrett & Ken Foreman

PARISH EVENTS

December 10th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass.

Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.

December 11th: *3rd Sunday of Advent*

Sunday Religious ED Classes will take place in the Church Hall Opdenaker 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.

December 12th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* will take place from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Rectory-side door of the Church will be open.

A *Happy Birthday Jesus Party* will be celebrated for all Religious ED Students in the Church Hall beginning at 4:30 PM.

December 13th, 15th, & 16th: The Church and Hall will be professionally cleaned on these weekdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

December 14th: *Catholic Preschool* will hold its first meeting geared towards parents and caregivers and their young children. This meeting is open to all, with no dues, and begins at 9:00 AM.

The Delaware Valley Radio Association will meet at 8:00 PM in the Church Hall.

December 17th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass.

Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.

December 18th: *4th Sunday of Advent*

There are no Sunday Religious ED Classes.

A *Christmas Penance Service* will take place beginning at 4:00 PM. Several Priests will be available.

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 11th. Please do not wrap your gift.

We plan to deliver gifts on Tuesday, December 13th. 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.

Catholic Preschool & Playdates This Catholic ministry is geared towards parents and caregivers and their young children. This ministry will hold weekly *playdates* on Wednesday mornings, excepting the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning at 9:00 AM with prayer, craft, snacks, and open play time with toys or games. The 1st meeting is Wednesday, December 14th.

This ministry is open to all who would want to participate: there are no dues; parents or care-givers must stay with their children; it is not a day-care, drop-off style group. Right now, there are about five moms and their children who will participate. For information, contact Michele Solomon at 731 1694.

Christ in Christmas Cards – All Gone The Ewing Knights of Columbus thank all parishioners for supporting our card sale . . . thanks to you, we have sold all of our cards. The Knights wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes Fr. John Garret extends an invitation to join a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from October 7th to October 17th. For complete details join those attending the pilgrimage at the Parish of the Resurrection on January 26th at 7:00 in Delran. Contact Graycar Travel at 800 214 6723 for information and specifics.

PARISH NEWS

New Jersey Adoption Law Change Beginning January 1st, 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 31st 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 17th 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 15th.

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.

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 21st and 22nd. Olive wood carvings have evolved as a cultural tradition over the centuries and is dedicated to supporting the Christian community in the holy land.

*O God, with your judgment endow the king,
he shall govern your people with justice.
Justice shall flower in his days,
for he shall rescue the poor when they cry out.
In him shall all of the nations be blessed.*

Reflection

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. (James 5: 7-8a)



Andrea Pisano, Disciples Visit John the Baptist in Prison, 1330.

***When John the Baptist heard in prison
of the works of the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus.***

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 11th 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.

The words of James remind us that all good things unfold in due course. Many years ago, when I was in diaconal formation, there was often a feeling of impatience by many to complete our studies and be ordained. One of our gifted mentors and teachers, Deacon Jerry Henwood, who assisted Monsignor Ralph when the latter was the head of the Diaconate Program for the Diocese of Trenton, counseled us to be patient and, while being mindful of the goal of our studies and preparation, to enjoy the process in our spiritual journey. He would often remind us that, *Life happens on the way to ordination*. And, I might add that life happens after ordination as well. Our time on earth is a journey, and while eternal salvation remains the goal, the journey too is precious. Now ordained more than ten years, I still reflect on his words. Ultimately, our time on this earth is short. If we are to attain eternal salvation, then we must savor the precious gift of the life He has given us. In the end, it is in all, one.

This weekend, we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word "Gaudete" means, "rejoice" and is taken from the Entrance Antiphon from the Liturgy, *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near*. Today is a reminder that, although we are still in the Season of Advent, the coming of the Lord is at hand. The first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah foretells of the coming of the Messiah, who will usher in a new age. *The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song*. To the people who have struggled and suffered, there would be a new beginning: *Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you*.

In today's reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, John the Baptist, languishing in prison, dispatched his disciples to Jesus to ask: *Are you the one to come, or should we look for another?* The question is somewhat curious; after all, John knew the Jesus in his humanity and bore witness to his divinity when he baptized him in that great Trinitarian moment with the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the words of the Father in praise of His Divine Son. Perhaps it was that human need for final reassurance for John, who was facing imminent death at the hand of Herod for his prophetic preaching. Rather than answering him directly, Jesus told the Baptist's disciples to *Go and tell John what you hear and see*. . . Jesus' deeds and actions were the signs foretold by the Old Testament prophet for the coming of the Messiah, that same prophecy revealed by John. He also gave praise to the Baptist saying: *Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he*.

Salvation was unfolding in its due course; and so, we anticipate with great joy, the coming of the Savior in history, now, and at the end of time.

Deacon Steven Szmuto

Announcements