

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 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

YOUTH MINISTRY
Darlene Wilson 882 2996
Deacon John 771 8288

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

Saturday, December 24th
The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
There is no morning Mass.
5:00 PM Special Intention
Gloria Buttaci r/o Norman Buttaci
9:00 PM People of the Parish
Stephen Schragger r/o Mary Ellen Schragger
Sunday, December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord
8:30 AM Lar & Antonio DeLillis r/o Family
Anne Rita Newell r/o Family
10:30 AM John Lally r/o Pam & Steve Roman
Al Venanzi r/o Family
Monday, December 26th
7:30 AM Mary DeForte r/o Marianne Benkort
Tuesday, December 27th
7:30 AM William & Anna Fitzgerald r/o Sr. Marian William
Wednesday, December 28th
7:30 AM Yvonne deSouza r/o deSouza Family
Thursday, December 29th
7:30 AM Mary DeForte r/o William Dill
Friday, December 30th
7:30 AM Mary DeForte r/o Melissa Dill
Saturday, December 31st
The Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary
There is no morning Mass.
5:00 PM People of the Parish
Marie & William Dolton r/o Helen Marie Dolton
Sunday, January 1st
The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
8:30 AM John Lally r/o Angela & Kees Geurds
Don Smith r/o Gail Ann Palatine
10:30 AM Mary DeForte r/o Philomena Muscente

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Friday, December 30th, Home visits arranged.
Saturday, December 31st
5:00 PM Mary Szmuto
Sunday, January 1st
8:30 AM Vicky Aneser, Joan Fallon, & Laura Shea
10:00 AM PreferredCare Visits: Claude LeGall
10:30 AM Ellen Everett, Timothy Everett, & Darlene Wilson
Monday, January 2nd. Adoration is cancelled.

*In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways
to our ancestors through the prophets;
in these last days, he has spoken to us through his Son,
whom he made heir of all things
and through whom he created the universe,
who is the refulgence of his glory,
the very imprint of his being,
and who sustains all things by his mighty word.
When he had accomplished purification from sins,
he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
his name he is most excellent.*

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READERS

Saturday, December 31st
5:00 PM Theresa Gregorio
Sunday, January 1st
8:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall
10:30 AM James Barker

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 31st
5:00 PM Michael Montagna
Sunday, January 1st
8:30 AM Mary Catherine Shea
10:30 AM Alex Medwick

PARISH EVENTS

December 24th: There is no morning Mass or Novenas. There is no afternoon Reconciliation.
The Masses for the *Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord* will be celebrated at 5:00 and 9:00 PM.
December 25th: *The Nativity of the Lord*
There are no Sunday Religious ED Classes.
December 26th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* is cancelled.
There are no Religious ED Classes.
December 28th: *Catholic Preschool* will meet in the Church Hall from 9:00 AM to Noon.
December 31st: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass.
Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
January 1st: *The Solemnity of Mary*
There are no Sunday Religious ED Classes.

*Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
his right hand has won victory for him.
The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness
toward the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise.
Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.*

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Announcements

PARISH NEWS

Catholic Preschool & Playdates This Catholic ministry is geared towards parents and caregivers and their young children. This ministry will hold weekly meetings on Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall from 9:00 AM to Noon with prayer, craft, snacks, and open play time with toys or games, excepting the 1st Wednesday of each month which will be a field trip with no meeting in the Church Hall.

This ministry is open to all who would want to participate: there are no dues; parents or caregivers 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.

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.

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.

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.

THE GOOD NEWS

The person who brings the good news of salvation has beautiful feet, Isaiah says in the 1st Reading. Hardly anyone has beautiful feet. On the contrary, human feet are often so ugly that they are funny. They tend to be dirty and smelly, too. When Jesus wants to set the apostles an example of humility, he washes their feet.

In this 1st Reading, the person with the beautiful feet brings the good news that God has provided salvation for his people. And, of course, this text is read at Christmas because the word of salvation that God speaks to his people is his Son, born as a baby in Bethlehem. The beautiful feet are his. He is the Savior.

The 2nd Reading says that the Savior is the refulgence of the glory of God. Could anything be more beautiful than this glorious light? Maybe Isaiah means that for the Savior *even* the feet, the human feet, are beautiful since the whole person of the Savior is so luminous in glory.

But what did the Savior, with his beautiful feet, bring? What is the good news?

The Gospel says that the Savior gives any person who comes to him the power to be a son of God, a child of God, like the Savior himself. But to be like him, refulgent in glory, is to be beautiful too.

And so the person with the beautiful feet, the Savior, brings this good news: he can make beautiful all those who come to him. He brings beauty all through, even for ugly feet, even for broken hearts, to all those who open to his coming.

*Eleanore Stump
Professor of Philosophy, SLU*

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying your God is King!*

Break out together in song.

*For the LORD comforts his people,
he redeems Jerusalem.*

*The LORD has bared his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations;
all the ends of the earth will behold
the salvation of our God.*

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THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

At last, The Nativity of the Lord, the wondrous Feast of Christmas is here. Throughout the Season of Advent, we have prepared our hearts and minds and souls for the coming of Christ, a celebration of eternity, promised at the beginning of history, fulfilled in God's good time, present in the Eucharist, and anticipated at the second coming of Christ. The prophecies have been fulfilled: the Kingdom of God is near at hand; *Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King.* As the Prophet Isaiah foretold: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.* There is good news in the land and the world rejoices in the light.

For more than two thousand years, Christians everywhere have celebrated the birth of the Savior, the king who came to earth as a little child, born of the humble virgin in a stable, *because there was no room for them in the inn.* Unlike the birth of earthly kings, Jesus' coming was not marked by boisterous celebration by the affluent and powerful in the land. There were no attendants or courtiers; rather, the first witnesses to his coming were the shepherds in the fields, those who lived outside the mainstream of polite society. Yet, to these simple men, the wonder of the Son of God come to earth was made known. The angel of the Lord announced: *I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.*

For many at this time of year, joy is conspicuously absent. Pain, suffering, mourning are around us. In the world at large, nations and peoples are torn by war and strife. Closer to home, there are those who have suffered loss, those who are weary, exhausted, estranged and lonely. Let us offer them our prayers, our aid, and our friendship. Love is the only thing that can overcome the dark night of the human heart. Joy is a process, a glorious rose that can unfold and blossom only with care and tenderness. It is the gift of presence, the act of being there for the other person that can overcome despair and sadness.

And so, as we celebrate Christmas with the exchange of presents, let us never forget the greatest gift: Joy! It is a time to celebrate in the Lord, to offer him praise and thanksgiving, and to demonstrate our discipleship in an outpouring of kindness and compassion to our fellow man — to give to those who cannot repay, just as the gift of grace is given to us, who cannot possibly repay in full measure of that which God has given us. As disciples, we owe this to all men, women and children, regardless of their race, color, creed, simply because they are human beings — creatures made in the image and likeness of God.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth set in motion, the means of our redemption, bestow every grace and blessing upon you and your families this Christmas, and indeed throughout the year. Let us, with loving and faithful hearts, join in the chorus of the heavenly host and sing: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*



Rembrandt, the Holy Family, 1645.

*He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of his servant David.*

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

*He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.*

*What came to be through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming
into the world. He was in the world,
and the world came to be through him,
but the world did not know him.*

*He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.*

Reflection