

# Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 10, 2017

**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](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 637 0779

**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 637 0779

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

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**  
Rectory Office 882 3277

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

**RCIA**  
Deacon Steve 637 0779

**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 Al DeBlasio r/o Dolores DeBlasio  
 Godfrey Schroth r/o Elaine Palatine  
**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 8:30 AM People of the Parish  
 Fekete & Walley Families r/o Family  
 10:30 AM Nick Pratico r/o Peter Gaeta  
 Kay Urbano r/o Dolores DeBlasio  
**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Sally Ferraro-Wilker r/o The Gatto Family  
**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Phyllis Conturso r/o Mary Ellen Schragger  
**Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Special Intention  
**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Joseph Schoen r/o Lynn Lally  
**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 7:30 AM Catherine Vaneehoven r/o Russell & Debbie Vizzini  
**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:00 AM Special Intention  
 5:00 PM *Youth Mass*  
 Daniel DeFrancesco r/o Mary DeFrancesco  
 Linda Yanucil r/o Sharon Kowalik  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 8:30 AM Katherine McQuillan r/o Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith  
 10:30 AM People of the Parish  
 Theodora Hermanus & Julie Geurds r/o Kees &  
 Angela Geurds  
 4:00 PM *Advent Penance Service*

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5:00 PM Joyce Christensen, Ginny Evans, & Butch Kramer  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Michael Lake, Claude LeGall, & Mary Anne LeGall  
 10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Anna Adomaitis  
 10:30 AM Tony Jones, Brenda O'Callaghan, & Lind Reasoner  
**Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Reposition**  
 Fran Golinski

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	784 families
Parishioners using envelopes	233
Envelope Contributions	\$5,958.00
Average Contribution	\$25.57
Loose Cash	\$566.00
Contributions for December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$6,524.00

*I will hear what God proclaims  
 for he proclaims peace to his people.  
 Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him.  
 Kindness and truth shall meet;  
 justice and peace shall kiss.  
 Truth shall spring out of the earth.*

## READERS

5:00 PM Darlene Wilson  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Carol Lake  
 10:30 AM Michael Delehanty

## ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 PM Lauren & Marcus Christensen  
**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
 8:30 AM Chris Corban  
 10:30 AM Alex Medwick

## PARISH EVENTS

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>:** *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 Sunday Confirmation Classes will take place in the Church Hall from 9:15 to 10:25 AM.  
 Fall Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.  
**December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows morning Mass in the Church until 7:00PM.  
 On this Monday, a *Happy Birthday Jesus Party* will be celebrated for all Religious ED students.  
**December 12<sup>th</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup>:** The Commercial Cleaning Co. will clean the Church and Church Hall for the Christmas season.  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>:** The Delaware Valley Radio Association will meet at 8:00 PM in the Church Hall.  
**December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass.  
 The Children's Home Society of NJ will use the Church Hall to stage their Holiday Poinsettea distribution from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
 The *Parish Youth Group* will celebrate a Youth Mass with music provided by the Villa Victoria *Honey Bee Choir*. A Youth Meeting follows Mass with food, games, and fun. All teens are invited.  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 There are no Sunday Confirmation Classes. Fall Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM. An *Advent Penance Service* will take place at 4:00 PM.



## WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

*Bob Arcaidipane, Rosemarie Buker, Mary De-Francesco, Raymond Dietrich, Nick Gregorio, Joe Maloney, John Maye, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjan, Erin Noble, Jeff Papp, Stephen Thoma, Roy Toler, Gary Vanderbilt, Laura Varone, & Marion Vogler; 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

**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.

**Meals-on-Wheels Volunteers Needed** Are you looking for an opportunity where just your smile or a kind word will ease the daily isolation of a homebound person?

Then come join as a volunteer with Mercer County Meals-on-Wheels and see for yourself how nourishment is not just about food but also about the soul!

Meals on Wheels delivers meals Monday thru Friday to homebound residents and is in need of both regular (weekly) volunteers and substitutes. Volunteers meet between 10:00 and 10:45 AM at the ARC Mercer in Ewing to pick up the meals and driving directions. Volunteers typically go out in pairs, with one volunteer driving and the other delivering food to the door. Most routes are completed by 12:00 to 12:30PM. Please call 695 3483 for more information or send an e-mail to [volunteerservices@mealsonwheelsmercer.org](mailto:volunteerservices@mealsonwheelsmercer.org)

**TCA Concert** Trenton Catholic Academy will present *Fr. Alphonse and the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea Christmas Concert* on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Immaculate Conception Church in Trenton. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at [www.trenton-catholic.org](http://www.trenton-catholic.org) or by phone at 586 3705, X137.

**Cathedral High School Reunion** St. Mary's Cathedral High School Class of 1968 will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Route 130. For information, call 902 3133.

## *EUCHARISTIC ADORATION*

Blessed Pope John Paul II once said: *The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic Adoration. Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of love. May our adoration never cease.*



The greatest thing in the world that you can do is encourage others and yourself to participate in

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: IT IS THE REAL PRESENCE OF JESUS ON EARTH. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed every Monday following the 7:30 AM Mass until close at 7:00 PM. Come and rest in the Lord. He is waiting to see you.

## *THE ADVENT SEASON THIS YEAR*

As we continue through the Advent season, we hope that you are able to prepare yourself for Christmas by attending our Advent Penance Service with individual Confessions on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM.

Also, this calendar year has a scheduling quirk that only happens about once a decade.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent will be celebrated with Masses at 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> as well as 8:30 and 10:30 AM on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Masses will begin on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM with our Children's Choir. There will then be a celebration of the central Mass of Christmas, the Mass at Midnight, at 10:30 PM. Christmas Day Masses will be at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas are two separate celebrations, both of which carry the obligation to attend. This means that to fulfill our obligations we must celebrate at least one of the Masses for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and for Christmas as outlined. We thought that we would assemble this information so that there is no confusion.

Finally, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, which is typically a Holy Day of Obligation on January 1<sup>st</sup>, does not carry the obligation to attend this year because it falls on a Monday. We will still celebrate Mass for the Solemnity at 5:00 PM on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM to afford an opportunity to begin the New Year with the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Please join us for these holiday season celebrations.

## *CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR*



Our Children's Christmas Choir will be singing again at the Christmas Eve Mass, Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. All children, grades 2 to 8 are welcome to join.

Participation in the choir requires attendance at the following rehearsals which will take place in the Church:

- Sundays, November 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 to 10:25 AM.
- Three extra rehearsals will be scheduled between December 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Parents should contact Mary Anne LeGall at 883 4464 if their children will be able to participate in the Children's Choir this year.



# Reflection

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

Over the years, I have developed a great interest in and respect for John the Baptist, the last and greatest of the prophets: an eccentric individual with peculiar tastes in food and clothing a diet of locusts and wild honey, and clothing made from camel hair were not the norm in polite society even in those times; he arrived from the desert proclaiming a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. So powerful was his message that some thought him to be the Messiah; yet in his humility, he dispelled these beliefs and said: *One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.* He could have chosen to accept the adulation of the crowds for his own sake; rather, he remained true to his call as the herald of the Messiah.

John's arrival was foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures, specifically in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. As was written in the beginning of the Gospel according to Mark: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.*

The time of the Messiah, the Christ, was imminent. All of the Old Testament prophecies pointed to this time, a moment of salvation for Israel. As we heard in the first reading from Isaiah: *Here is your God! Here comes with power, the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; here his reward with him, his recompense before him.* The arrival of the Lord was foretold in pastoral imagery often heard in the Gospels: *Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.*

The coming of the Savior is fast approaching! Are we prepared? As we continue our journey in Advent, let us strive to open our hearts to hear his word. Let us remain open to his invitation to discipleship, acting in holiness and devotion to others as we follow the way of Christ, who entered this world to save us from our sins. The words of the Responsorial Psalm challenge us as we continue our Advent journey: *I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD – for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.*

*Deacon Steven Szmuto*



*Joachim Patinir, the Baptism of Christ, 1510.*

*One mightier is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.*

## CHRISTMAS GIVING OUTREACH



Once again, we invite you to participate in our annual Christmas Giving Outreach ministry. We need your help to brighten a needy family's 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 10<sup>th</sup>. Please do not wrap your gift.

We plan to deliver gifts on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions or wish to help, call Jim Gambino of our Social Services Team at 818-1708.

For those who like to wrap gifts, consider adopting a family this Christmas. Catholic Charities is searching for Adopt-a-Family donors right now. Struggling families provide wish lists for specific items, which all can help provide. Call MarKeesha Ferguson at 394-8847 to find out how you can help brighten Christmas morning for a struggling family in our Diocese.