

# Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 24, 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: [olgcc@comcast.net](mailto:olgcc@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.olgcc@comcast.net](mailto:religiouseducation.olgcc@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

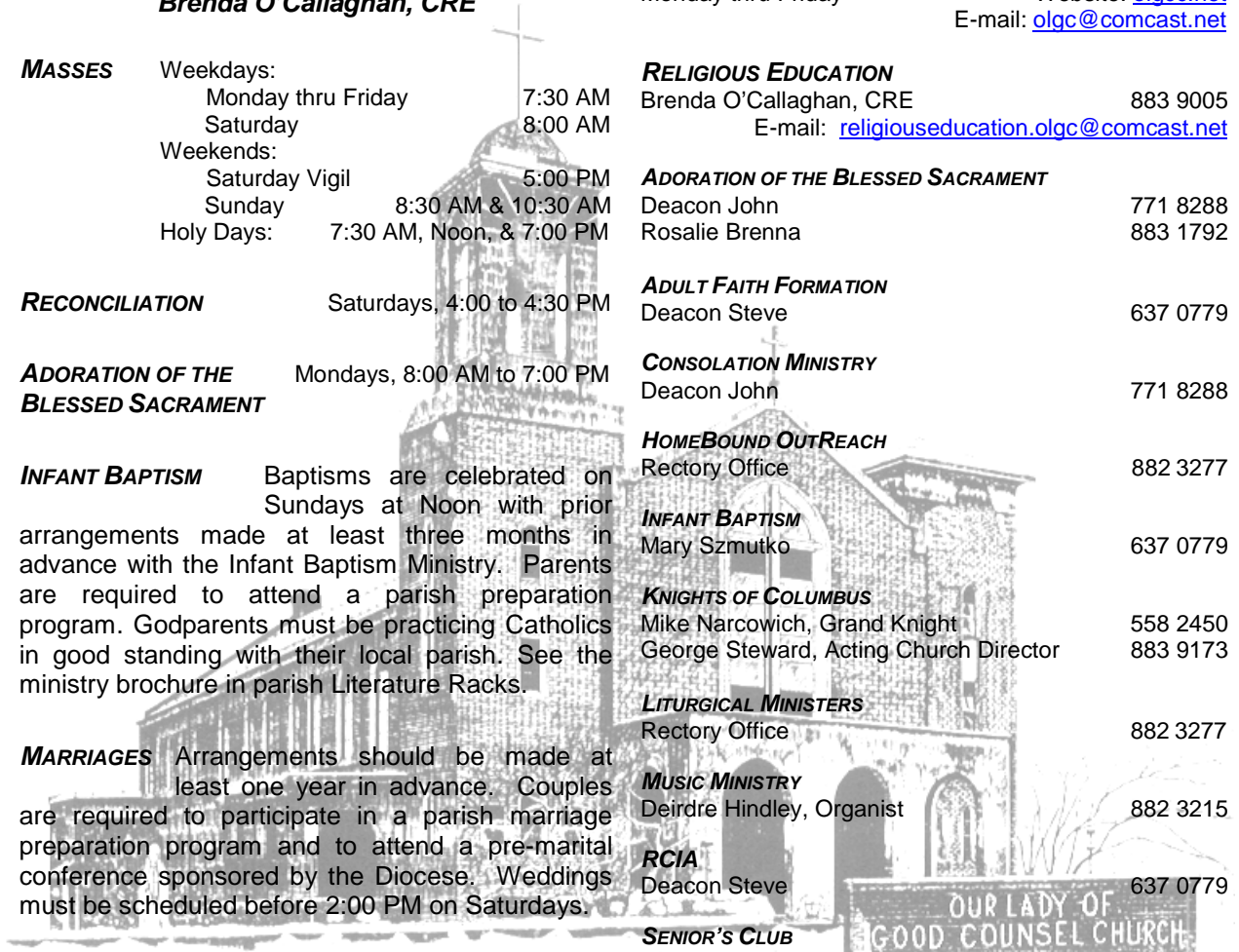
**SENIOR'S CLUB**  
Mary Pat Voorhees, President 570 290 2373  
Dolores Sebasto, Vice President 882 5085

**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 People of the Parish  
Msgr. William F. Fitzgerald r/o Sr. Marian William  
**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
8:30 AM Michael Golinski r/o Fran Golinski and Sherri & Steve Hanlon  
10:30 AM Nicolas Muscente r/o Carol & Marie Muscente  
Helen Thompson r/o the Czelusniak Family  
5:00 PM People of the Parish  
Stephen Schragger r/o Mary Ellen Schragger  
10:30 PM Andrew Tobias, Jr. r/o Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Tobias, Sr.  
**Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*The Nativity of the Lord*  
8:30 AM Gloria Buttaci r/o Norman Buttaci  
Anne & James Newell r/o Family  
10:30 AM Laura & Antonio DeLellis r/o Children  
Al Venanzi r/o Family  
**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 AM Stefanie Prychacki r/o Mother  
**Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 AM Walter Kramarz r/o Chuck & Barbara Heenan  
**Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 AM Yvonne deSouza r/o the DeSouza Family  
Msgr. William F. Fitzgerald r/o Sr. Marian William  
**Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30 AM Frank Petrino r/o Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Delahanty  
**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 AM Joseph Gambino, Jr. r/o Mom & Dad  
5:00 PM Marie & William Dolton r/o Helen Marie Dolton  
Gofu & Palatine Family r/o Gail Ann Palatine  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*  
8:30 AM People of the Parish  
Dorothy Mikolai r/o Mike & Carol Lake  
10:30 AM Pat, Anthony, & John Muscente r/o Joan Muscente  
5:00 PM *Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary*  
Special Intention

## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5:00 PM **Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Anna Adomaitis, Jacqueline Crane, & Elaine Palatine  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
8:30 AM Carol Lake, Michael Lake, & Thomas Voorhees  
10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Claude LeGall  
10:30 AM Vickey Aneser, Tony Jones, & Brenda O'Callaghan  
5:00 PM Anna Adomaitis & Fran Golinski  
**Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Adoration is cancelled.**

## READERS

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 PM Theresa Gregorio  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
8:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall  
10:30 AM Linda Schmeirer  
5:00 PM Jacqueline Crane

## ALTAR SERVERS

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
5:00 PM Marshall Barrett  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
8:30 AM Chris Corban  
10:30 AM James Gummel

## PARISH EVENTS

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
There are no Sunday Confirmation Classes or Adult Faith Formation sessions.  
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>.  
Masses for Christmas 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 celebrated at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.  
**December 25<sup>th</sup>:** *The Nativity of the Lord*  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled. There are no Religious ED classes.  
**December 30<sup>th</sup>:** Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.  
**December 31<sup>st</sup>:** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*  
There are no Sunday Confirmation Classes or Adult Faith Formation sessions.  
A Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary will be celebrated at 5:00 PM.

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

# Announcements

## PARISH NEWS

**New Year's Eve Party** St. Raphael - Holy Angels Elderberry Club will throw a New Year's Eve Party on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:30 PM to 1:00 AM in the Parish Center in Hamilton. Live music, hot buffet catered by Amari's, \$35 per person, BYOB: call 802 1711 for tickets.

**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!

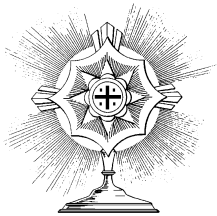
Meals on Wheels delivers meals Monday thru Friday to homebound residents and is in need of both regular (weekly) volunteers and substitutes. Volunteers meet between 10:00 and 10:45 AM at the ARC Mercer in Ewing to pick up the meals and driving directions. Volunteers typically go out in pairs, with one 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).

**Shrines of Italy** Saint Ann's Church is planning a trip to Italy in the fall of next year and will be conducting meetings with presentations beginning February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Church Hall. For details call Graycar Travel at 587 7050.

**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.

*I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: forever will I confirm your posterity.*

## *THE ADVENT SEASON THIS YEAR*

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. Christ-mas 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.

## *THE JOY OF LIBERATION*

The focus of today's liturgy is the Davidic covenant, the promise of a throne that will last forever. It appears in the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, the Psalm, and the Gospel, where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that the Lord God will give (her son) the throne of David his father.

Jesus is to transform that covenant, revealing *the mystery hidden for many ages*. The throne in this new kingdom is to be occupied by *the Son of the Most High, the Son of God*. Indeed, he is Emmanuel, God-with-us. We are very close now to the coming of Christ tomorrow. What would the world be like if we were to allow Christ to really come as king? What would a world ruled by Jesus Christ be like?

If only we could join in consenting to God's rule as Mary did: *Let it be done to me as you say*. Who knows what joy the world would know!

*Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One.*



# Reflection

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*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.*

This year, for the first time since 2006, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. In the span of two days, we experience a magnificent liturgical whirlwind; yet, the readings mesh seamlessly, opening our eyes to the splendor of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel readings rapidly unfold to reveal the depth of both his divinity and his humanity in the fulfillment of the Messianic promise.

The promise that the time of fulfillment is near begins with the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary of Nazareth, betrothed to a man named Joseph: *Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.* Mary's assent to God's call sets in motion the events leading to the entry of the Messiah into human history. Joseph, initially perplexed by unexpected events, experienced the voice of the angel in a dream: *Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.* Taking Mary and the unborn Jesus into his home, Joseph's faithfulness served to provide a home for the Savior, just as Mary embraced the Lord in her person.

When the time came, Mary, in the humble surroundings of a stable, with only her husband Joseph, gave birth to her son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. The birth of the Lord was announced by the angel of the Lord to the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. To these humble men the news of this most significant event in human history was first revealed: *For today in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord, and this will be a sign for you; you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

The story of Christmas is an ancient one, familiar to most of us, yet each year, as it is proclaimed anew, it remains as fresh as it first did on that first night, when the Eternal Word entered into human history. As we celebrate the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let our hearts and minds be filled with the grace, joy and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to save all men and women. *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.* May all of you, along with your families and friends, have a Merry and Blessed Christmas . . . *Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*



Ambrogio Lorenzetti, *Annunciation*, 1344.

*May it be done to me according to your word.  
Then the angel departed from her.*



## **WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

*Bob Arcaidipane, Mason Brown, Rosemarie Buker, Mary De-Francesco, Raymond Dietrich, Nick Gregorio, Joe Maloney, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjan, Erin Noble, Jeff Papp, Stephen Thoma, Roy Toler, Gary Vanderbilt, Joel Van Ness, 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.

*Deacon Steven Szmuto*