

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 8, 2017

Fr. Michael Hall, Pastor
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: 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.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

8:00 AM Special Intention.
 5:00 PM John Lally r/o Elaine Palatine
 Don Smith r/o Bonny & Jack Kelly
Sunday, January 8th
The Epiphany of the Lord
 8:30 AM People of the Parish
 John Lally r/o Angela & Kees Geurds
 10:30 AM For the Intentions of Pauline Dauphers & Family
 r/o Harriet & Albert Waranis
 Gerard Finn r/o Nancy Finn
Monday, January 9th
 7:30 AM Nicole Dennion r/o Janice & Kenneth Ellsworth
Tuesday, January 10th
 7:30 AM Mary Scarano r/o Helen Marie Dolton
Wednesday, January 11th
 7:30 AM Angeline Gioscio r/o Eileen & Harry Masterson
Thursday, January 12th
 7:30 AM Marjorie Papp r/o the Wilson Family
Friday, January 13th
 7:30 AM Msgr. William F. Fitzgerald r/o Sr. Marian William
Saturday, January 14th
 8:00 AM Special Intention.
 5:00 PM Anthony DiStefano r/o the Zangrilli Family
 Don Smith r/o Kristy & Jack Fleming
Sunday, January 15th
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:30 AM C. Fernandez r/o the deSouza Family
 John Lally r/o the Kolodziej Family
 10:30 AM People of the Parish
 Francis Crivelli r/o Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gambino
 Eileen Fair & Family r/o Harriet & Albert Waranis

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Friday, January 13th, Home visits arranged.
Saturday, January 14th
 5:00 PM Joyce Christensen, Fran Golinski, & Michael
 Manion
Sunday, January 15th
 8:30 AM Joan Fallon, Claude LeGall, & Mary Anne LeGall
 10:00 AM *PreferredCare Visits:* Anna Adomaitis
 10:30 AM Tony Jones, Brenda O'Callaghan, & Linda
 Reasoner
Monday, January 16th. Reposition.
 Nancy Mahony

*O God, with your judgment endow the king,
 and with your justice, the king's son;
 He shall govern your people with justice
 and your afflicted ones with judgment.
 Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
 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.*

READERS

Saturday, January 14th
 5:00 PM Darlene Wilson
Sunday, January 15th
 8:30 AM James King
 10:30 AM Linda Schmierer

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, January 14th
 5:00 PM Lauren & Marcus Christensen
Sunday, January 15th
 8:30 AM Chris Corban & James Gummel
 10:30 AM Kevin Toler

PARISH EVENTS

January 7th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.
 Novenas follow morning Mass.
 Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
January 8th: *The Epiphany of the Lord*
 Sunday *Religious ED* Classes will take place in
 the Church Hall Opdenaker Room from 9:15 to 10:45 AM
 for Grade 8 students.
January 9th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* will
 begin at Noon due to a funeral.
Religious ED classes will take place at Villa
 Victoria Academy from 4:30 to 6:00 PM for Grades 1 to 7.
 The West Trenton Garden Club will hold a
 membership meeting in the Church Hall from 6:30 to 8:30
 PM.
January 11th: *Catholic Preschool* will meet in the
 Church Hall from 9:00 AM to Noon.
 The Delaware Valley Association will meet at
 8:00 PM in the Church Hall.
January 14th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.
 Novenas follow morning Mass.
 Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
January 15th: *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*
 There are no *Religious ED* Classes.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	767 families
Parishioners using envelopes	323
Envelope Contributions	\$8,741.00
Average Contribution	\$27.06
Loose Cash	\$599.00
Contributions for January 1, 2017	\$9,339.00

Our special collection next week for the Bishop Asili Medical Center in the Diocese of Kasana-Luweero Uganda marks a solidarity in service to the medical needs of the people of a poor subsistence farming community in Uganda where infant mortality, malaria, and widespread malnutrition are never-ending daily killers, especially of the young. We have helped the original Asili Clinic grow into a Medical Center through our donations. Thanks for your support of the Asili Medical Center.

Announcements

PARISH NEWS

Life in Today's World We would like to share an invitation to you to discuss current world issues and how to deal with them: such issues as Gangs, Drugs, Alcohol, Law Enforcement, and Security on Social Media. This program will be conducted at Blessed Sacrament / Our Lady of Divine Shepherd Parish in Trenton. If you are interested in attending this program, contact its Rectory Office at 696 9231.

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.

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 kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.
All kings shall pay him homage;
all nations shall serve him.*

*For he shall rescue the poor when they cry out,
and the afflicted when they have no one to help them.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.*

THE WAY THINGS ARE

In the Gospel Reading, by means of heavenly signs God sent the Magi to the baby Jesus. In the end, the signs in heaven were not enough; but there was a special revelation about this child that added the missing element. When they did find the child, the Magi left him rich gifts. And then God warned the Magi in a dream not to return to King Herod to tell him where the baby was. Because of that dream, the Magi went home another way, and the baby was kept safe from Herod.

Just look at all the things God does for this one child! Signs in heaven, miraculously helpful strangers, special messages from God, rich gifts, and warning dreams, divine protection against powerful bad people.

How many children die, who might have been saved if even one of these things had been done? A sign that brings help from afar, a special instruction from God, huge amounts of money, a dream that projects from bad guys — these things are not enough to keep children from early death, but surely many children could have been saved by any of these means.

Why does God give all these things to Jesus? Why doesn't God give even some of them to all children?

The answer to both questions is the same, I think. The first thing that happens after the Fall is that Abel, one of the children of Adam and Eve, dies at the hand of Cain, their other child. God could have protected Abel from Cain by any of the means God used to help Jesus — but God doesn't do so. From the very beginning of our post-fall world, God establishes this policy: he will not force anybody to omit what is evil or to do what is good. God will call his people and shepherd them — but he will not force them. And so countless children die because of the evil of other human beings.

But the powerless baby Jesus is God's best hope of healing for human evil. Jesus is God's call of love. And that is why God's power can be used to keep Jesus from dying as a baby. He needs to die on the cross. That death is the last, most powerful call of love.

*Eleanore Stump
Professor of Philosophy, SLU*

Reflection

Announcements

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Lo, how a Rose ever blooming, from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

The words of this 15th century German Christmas Carol is a reminder that Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and, as the *Rose E'er Blooming*, his Gospel message — the promise of salvation — continues to be spread by his Church to all men and women, bringing joy and comfort who struggle in a weary world. In the past several weeks, we have heard the story of Jesus' birth, the proclamation of the angels to the lowly shepherds, and the visit and witness of these men to see the blessed infant. Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, this year, the last Sunday in the Christmas Season. We are reminded that Christ came not only to a chosen few, but to all men and women of all nations. In today's Gospel, *Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.*

We do not know much about the magi; tradition numbers them as three, and they are described as astrologers, wise men and even kings. We do know, however, that they came in response to the appearance of a star, a prophetic sign in nature, and sought audience with the king to seek the truth. Following an audience with King Herod, a man concerned not with truth, but instead only with the consolidation and maintenance of his own power, they set off once again in search of the newborn king: *And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.* Upon arrival at the house, where Jesus was, they offered him gifts: Gold, to signify his kingship; Frankincense, used in the Temple as a sign of divinity; and Myrrh, often used as a burial spice and thus a sign of his humanity. In these gifts, we see their recognition of truth and fulfillment in the person of the newborn king.

In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, we hear words of great joy: *Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.* In due time, all would experience the promise of blessed fulfillment. The promise would bring with it a wellspring of grace as heard 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 in faith, let us rejoice in the coming of the Lord: in history, in his presence in the Eucharist, and at the end of time. Through Christ, we have been saved. As Saint Paul said in his letter to the Ephesians: *The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.* In Christ Jesus, we are all one!

Deacon Steven Szmutko



Rubens, *Adoration of the Magi*, 1629.

*They were overjoyed at seeing the star,
and on entering the house
they saw the child with Mary his mother.*

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, *where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.* When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

They said to him, *In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.