

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 11, 2018

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
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.olgcc@comcast.net

RECONCILIATION Saturdays, 4:00 to 4:30 PM
During Lent on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:15 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

REGISTRATION All parishioners should be registered. Please contact the Rectory Office when entering or leaving the parish.

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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS
Rectory Office 882 3277

MUSIC MINISTRY
Deirdre Hindley, Organist 882 3215

RCIA
Deacon Steve 947 0587

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

YOUTH MINISTRY
Darlene Wilson 882 2996
Deacon John 771 8288

WEBMASTER
Maryanne Garcia 908 371 1150

Schedule for the Week

MASSES & SERVICES

Saturday March 10th
 8:00 AM Special Intention
 4:00 PM *The Conclusion of 24 Hours for the Lord*
 5:00 PM Fekete & Walley Families r/o Family
 Henry Zawadniak r/o Mr. & Mrs. Nino Como
Sunday, March 11th
4th Sunday of Lent
 8:30 AM Annuncia Panzitta r/o Fred & Mary Como
 Tricia Elizabeth Cook Parziale r/o Mother Patricia
 10:30 AM Christina Marie Garip r/o Norman Buttaci
 Joan Ungrady r/o Thomas Ungrady
Monday, March 12th
 7:30 AM Charlotte Cetkowski r/o Eileen Masterson
Tuesday, March 13th
 7:30 AM Michael Kozar r/o Family
 Marijo Murphy r/o Frank & Kathleen Golazeski
Wednesday, March 14th
 7:30 AM Kathleen Ilvaine r/o Elaine Palatine
Thursday, March 15th
 7:30 AM John Lally r/o Lynn Lally
Friday, March 16th
 7:30 AM For the Intentions of Patricia Voorhees r/o Family
 7:00 PM *Stations of the Cross*
Saturday March 17th
St. Patrick's Day
 8:00 AM Special Intention
 5:00 PM Daniel DeFrancesco r/o Mary DeFrancesco
 William Kelly r/o Kate Helms
Sunday, March 18th
5th Sunday of Lent
 8:30 AM Robert Patrick Cook r/o Rose Ferri
 Annuncia Panzitta r/o Nino & Angela Como
 10:30 AM James Aversano r/o Elvie Sgro
 Marie Melchiondo r/o Grace Venanzi
 4:00 PM *Lenten Penance Service*

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, March 17th
 5:00 PM Ginny Evans & Elaine Palatine
Sunday, March 18th
 8:30 AM Claude LeGall, Fran Golinski, & Thomas Voorhees
 10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Fran Golinski
 10:30 AM Ellen Everett, Timothy Everett, & Linda Reasoner
Monday, March 19th Reposition
 Fran Golinski

CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	790 families
Parishioners using envelopes	207
Envelope Contributions	\$5,536.00
Average Contribution	\$26.74
Loose Cash	\$1,378.00
Contributions for March 4 th	\$6,914.00

*Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
 it is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
 to praise the name of the Lord.*

READERS

Saturday, March 17th
 5:00 PM Mary Lou Delahanty
Sunday, March 18th
 8:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall
 10:30 AM Linda Schmierer

ALTAR SERVERS

7:00 PM **Friday, March 16th**
 Lauren & Marcus Christensen & Marshall Barrett
Saturday, March 17th
 5:00 PM James Gummel
Sunday, March 18th
 8:30 AM Chris Corban
 10:30 AM Ken Foreman

PARISH EVENTS

March 10th: *24 Hours for the Lord* will continue with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, morning Mass at 8:00 AM, and Confessions from Noon to 4:00 PM.

Our *Parish Youth Group* will celebrate a Youth Mass at 5:00 PM with music provided by the Villa Victoria *Honey Bee Choir*. A Youth Meeting follows Mass with food, games, and fun. All teens are invited.

March 11th: *4th Sunday of Lent*

Sunday Confirmation Classes will take place in the Church Hall from 9:15 to 10:25 AM. Lent/Easter Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.

March 12th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament* follows morning Mass in the Church until 7:00PM.

Religious ED classes will take place at Villa Victoria Academy from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

March 14th: The Delaware Valley Radio Association will meet at 8:00 PM in the Church Hall.

March 16th: *Stations of the Cross* will be prayed at 7:00 PM.

March 17th: *St. Patrick's Day*.

A Retreat for 1st Communion students will take place in the Church and Church Hall from 10:00 AM to Noon.

On the Church Grounds at the Fatima Statue, a Rosary Rally for Traditional Marriage will take place.

Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.

March 18th: *5th Sunday of Lent*

Sunday Confirmation Classes will take place in the Church Hall from 9:15 to 10:25 AM.

A *Lenten Penance Service* with several priests will begin at 4:00 PM.

Lent/Easter Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept
 when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land
 we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked of us
 the lyrics of our songs. And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:
Sing for us the songs of Zion!

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land?
 If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!
 May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not.
 If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

Announcements

PARISH NEWS

Rosary Rally for Marriage Come and join others, nation-wide . . . praying for the defense of marriage, one man and one woman. The Rally will be held on Saturday, March 17th at Noon on Church grounds in front of Our Lady of Fatima Statue.

For details, call Marge Stanford at 882 6555.

St. Patrick's Day Gaelic Mass The annual St. Patrick's Day Mass in English and Gaelic will be celebrated on March 17th at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Trenton at 11:00 AM. The Mass will be concelebrated by Msgr. Michael Walsh of St. James, Pennington and Fr. Caser Rubiano all together with bagpipes. For details, call 695 6089, X3.

Parish Easter Egg Hunt On Saturday, March 24th at 10:00 AM, our parish will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Rectory grounds.

If any Confirmation students would like to help-out, this is a great way to obtain community service hours. If you are able to donate your time or have any questions contact Joyce Christensen at 651 0466.

Beauty and the Beast Villa Victoria Academy proudly presents a family-friendly show and musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, on the following dates: Friday, March 23rd at 7 PM, Saturday, March 24th at 7 PM, and Sunday, March 25th at 3 PM. Tickets are on sale now for \$16 each online at www.villavictoria.org or by calling 882 1700, X 401. Seating is assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Villa Victoria Academy is located at 376 West Upper Ferry Road in Ewing, New Jersey.

40 Cans for Lent Our Social Services Committee invites everyone to participate in this year's outreach program throughout the Lenten season. Instead of giving up something for Lent, consider giving out something. The idea is to donate one canned food item for each day of Lent, or 40 cans. As Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights, we will be collecting and delivering canned goods to our local charities to help with the nutritional needs of needy families in the Trenton area.

Please leave your donated cans of fruit, soup, or vegetables in the designated area in our Church Hall, which we will deliver each week to Mount Carmel Guild and Catholic Charities of Trenton.

You don't have to wait until the end of Lent to bring your donation to the Church. You may donate as often as you would like: one-can-per-day, once a week, or when-ever you visit the Church. Whatever you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Spiritual Tea The Rosary Altar Society of Incarnation / St. James will be holding a *Spiritual Tea* for Men and Women on Saturday March 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Incarnation Church Auditorium.

The Presenter will be Sr. Josephine Apará, M.P.F. from the Morning Star House of Prayer on *Jesus, The Treasure*. There will be finger sandwiches, cookies, and an assortment of Teas. Call Diana at 882 8549 by March 12th to register.

St. Joseph Feast The New St. Joseph's Society of Incarnation / St. James invites all to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on March 18th from 1:00 to 5:00 PM at the Stone Terrace in Hamilton. The cost is \$50 for adults and \$15 for children. Music and dancing will be hosted by Frank Oliveti. Contact Lynn at 306 7185 for reservations.

HEARTBREAK

As the 1st reading describes it, the enemies of the Jews smash Jerusalem. The walls of the city are torn down. The Temple of God is burned up, and all its holy things are destroyed. And the people are taken captive to Babylon. Their country, their customs, their language, their cult, their Temple — it's all lost.

In the Psalm, there is a poignant picture of the people's heartbreak over this destruction of their home. The enemies who had wrecked Jerusalem want the Jews to sing Hebrew songs for them: *How can we sing the Lord's songs in a strange land?* The captive people say to themselves in their grief. The 2nd reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why doesn't God protect his people from the heartbreak that his people had when Jerusalem was destroyed? The answer to the question lies in the Readings.

God doesn't want to destroy people and God doesn't allow suffering for the sake of hurting people either. Instead God is looking for a remedy, as the 1st reading implies. God is willing to use desperate measures, even the heartbreak of his people, to save them. And not only that, but God is willing to use his own suffering too. As the Gospel reading says, God gave his beloved Son to save the world. Christ was betrayed by his disciple, shamed in front of his family and friends, mocked by his community, condemned by the legal authorities, publicly flogged, and put to death by crucifixion. Any one of these things is enough for heartbreak, isn't it? And so, in the incarnate Christ, God uses his own great suffering as the final remedy to bring people from death into life, when all other remedies have been tried and failed. Heartbreak by us, by Christ, is for life not for death.

And here is what else we need to see. Jerusalem was rebuilt and the Temple was restored, as the 1st reading explains. Christ's death was followed by his resurrection. In each of these cases, heartbreak was turned into joy. And so heartbreak is not the last word. Elsewhere the Psalmist says, *Put your trust in the Lord . . . and he will give you the desires of your heart*. When the story is God's, heartbreak is not the end of the story. Joy in finding your heart's desire in God is.

Eleonore Stump, SLU



WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Bob Arcaidipane, Mason Brown, Rosemarie Buker, Glenda Cain, Anthony Carabelli, Mary DeFrancesco, Raymond Dietrich, Nick Gregorio, James & Eileen Keenan, Margaret Kristofik, Joe Maloney, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjana, Jeff Papp, Patricia Stahl, Stephen Thoma, Roy Toler, Brenden Trevors, Gary Vanderbilt, & Laura Varone; and, all parishioners who are either sick or homebound.

To pray for a family member or friend,
just contact the Rectory Office.

Reflection

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

If you see your priest and deacon wearing rose-colored vestments this weekend, don't be surprised! The Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as *Laetare Sunday*, offers a brief respite from the penitential season of Lent. The word "*Laetare*" means "Rejoice" in Latin and the name is taken from the words spoken (in the absence of an opening hymn) at the Entrance Antiphon: *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.* These words are taken from the final chapter of the Book of the Isaiah, where the prophet foretells of the Judgment of God and the joy that awaits all who are faithful to him.

The readings heard this Sunday reflect optimism for the future, even during times of trial and difficulty. In the first reading from the Second Book of Chronicles, the author shares the account of the release of the people and their invitation to return to Jerusalem from their exile to Babylon, which was inflicted due to their infidelities to the LORD.

This optimism continues in the reading from the Gospel of Saint John. In a continuation of the theme from last week's Gospel Acclamation, the reading recounts Jesus' conversations with Nicodemus. He was a member of the Sanhedrin, the council that governed Jewish matters. Nicodemus, educated in the Law of Moses, would approach Jesus at night, to avoid notice by other leaders, who were already apprehensive of the Lord. Jesus revealed his nature and mission to Nicodemus: *Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.* In words that have become so familiar to us, Jesus revealed to Nicodemus that he was the realization of God's infinite love for us: *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.*

Those who believe in the name of the Son of God are saved provided that they live out their belief in their daily lives. Jesus is the light of the world. Those who believe in him must come to the light. And they come to the light by their search for the truth. *Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.*

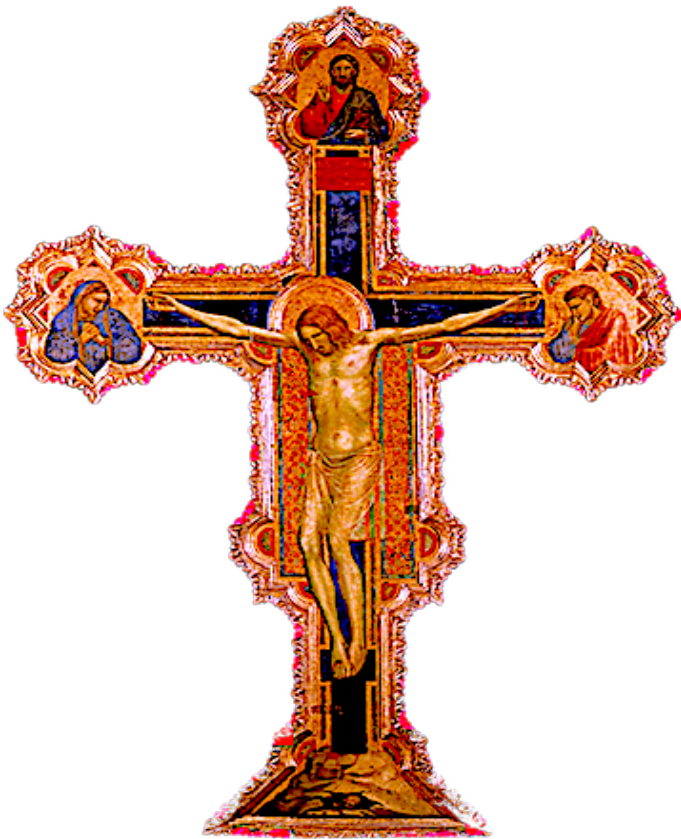
Although Nicodemus came to our Lord in the darkness of night, his search for the truth would lead him to the light, as we will discover when we once again experience the Passion of John's Gospel on Good Friday. As we continue our preparation during the Season of Lent, let us remain optimistic as we follow the footsteps of the Lord. Although the journey initially leads to his suffering and death, it will culminate in his resurrection and our redemption.

Deacon Steven Szmuto



LENT

PRAY + FAST + GIVE



*The Son of Man must be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.
For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.*

*For God did not send his Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,
but whoever does not believe has already been condemned,
because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

*And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.
For everyone who does wicked things hates the light
and does not come toward the light,
so that his works might not be exposed.
But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,
so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.*