

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 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

HOMEBOUND OUTREACH
Rectory Office 882 3277

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.

INFANT BAPTISM
Mary Szmuto 847 0796

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Michael Murphy, Grand Knight 575 7699
Gary Vanderbilt, Church Director 882 8474

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.

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

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
Deceased Members of the Dolton Family r/o
Helen Marie Dolton
Sunday, November 27th
1st Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM Eileen Cantwell r/o Peggy McDermott
John Lally r/o Carol & Elmo Snyder
10:30 AM William Everett r/o the Smith Family
Andrew Gladin r/o Geri & Ken & Family
Monday, November 28th
7:30 AM Robert Campbell r/o Denis & Joyce Gallagher
Tuesday, November 29th
7:30 AM Thomas Mortin r/o Lynn Lally
Wednesday, November 30th
7:30 AM Dee Bozzo r/o Friend
Thursday, December 1st
7:30 AM Gregory Kazyston r/o Friend
Friday, December 2nd
7:30 AM Francis Crivelli r/o Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Zangrilli
Saturday, December 3rd
8:00 AM Special Intention
5:00 PM Jennie Ferri r/o Philomena Muscente
Eileen Reilly r/p Sliwinski Family
Sunday, December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent
8:30 AM People of the Parish
John Lally r/o Anna & Joe Shields & Family
10:30 AM Anthony Bua r/o Maria Bua
Francis Crivelli r/o Cecelia Vagnozzi

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Friday, December 2nd, Home visits arranged.
Saturday, December 3rd
5:00 PM Elaine Palatine, Mary Szmuto, & Fran Zenchak
Sunday, December 4th
8:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall, Mary Serafine, & Thomas Voorhees
10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Claude LeGall
10:30 AM Vickey Aneser, Tony Jones, & Linda Reasoner
Monday, December 5th, Reposition.
Nancy Mahony

**I rejoiced because they said to me,
We will go up to the house of the LORD.
According to the decree for Israel
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
May those who love you prosper!
Because of my brothers and friends
I will say, Peace be within you!
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will pray for your good.
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

READERS

Saturday, December 3rd
5:00 PM Jacqueline Crane
Sunday, December 4th
8:30 AM James King
10:30 AM Laura Shea

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 3rd
5:00 PM Chris Corban
Sunday, December 4th
8:30 AM Alex Medwick
10:30 AM Mary Catherine Shea

PARISH EVENTS

November 26th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.
Novenas follow morning Mass.
Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
November 27th: *1st Sunday of Advent*
There are no Religious ED Classes.
November 28th: *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
will take place from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Rectory-side
door of the Church will be open.
There are no Religious ED Classes. The Sacra-
ment of Reconciliation will be celebrated at 4:30 PM for all
Religious ED Students.
December 3rd: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM.
Novenas follow morning Mass.
Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
December 4th: *2nd Sunday of Advent*
Sunday Religious ED Classes will take place in
the Church Hall Opendaker Room from 9:15 to 10:45 AM
for Grade 8 Students.
Our Adult Faith Formation Program will continue
at 6:00 PM in the Church Hall.

**Jesus said to his disciples: *As it was in the days
of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
In those days before the flood, they were eating and
drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the
day that Noah entered the ark.***

***They did not know until the flood came and
carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of
the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one
will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be
grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be
left.***

***Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on
which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the
master of the house had known the hour of night when
the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and
not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must
be prepared, or at an hour you do not expect, the Son of
Man will come.***

Announcements

PARISH NEWS

Thanks for the Memories A Halloween Thanks to all who attended and supported this year's Halloween Party in our Church Hall, particularly the Knights of Columbus. The help and generosity of our parish community was key to our party's fun and success.

Christmas Giving Outreach Once again it is your opportunity to participate in our Christmas Giving Outreach ministry where our parishioners purchase gifts for the needy in our Diocese to help brighten their 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 11th. Please do not wrap your gift.

We plan to deliver gifts on Tuesday, December 13th. Should you have any questions or wish to help, call Jim Gambino of our Social Services Team at 818 1708.

Struggling families also provide wish lists for specific items; and, Catholic Charities is searching for Adopt-a-Family donors right now. Call MarKeesha Ferguson at 394 8847 to find out how you can help brighten Christmas morning for a struggling family in our Diocese.

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.

Senior Club News Thirty members were present at the last Club meeting on November 2nd which was the last day to sign-up and to pay for the Club's Christmas Luncheon to be held on December 7th at Noon at the Blooming Grove Inn.

Refreshments for the Club's meeting on January 4th will be provided by Maria Hegyi, Deirdre Hindley, and Rosalie Comisky. Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item for the Club's food pantry.

The Capital Singers of Trenton The Capital Singers of Trenton will present *Winter Songs 10* at Sacred Heart Church in Trenton on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 PM. This concert will feature the Chorale, Chorus, strings and continuous performing pieces in the classical, folk, and gospel styles.

The second half of the concert will be *A Folk Song and Gospel Christmas* featuring solo selections by Ms. Deborah Ford, music director at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and Mr. Keith Spencer, a dynamic versatile baritone vocalist and concert entertainer. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door, \$15 for seniors and children under 18, and children under 12 are free. Advanced tickets are available by calling 434 2781 in addition to group sales and more information.

WAIT A BIT

St. Louis has a custard stand that many people think of as the heart of the city. It's not actually near the center of the city at all, it is on the South Side. But it is "thee" place people gather on summer days. Its name is Ted Drewes.

In the evening, hundreds, literally hundreds, of hungry folks gather outside the many serving windows of this old timey place, waiting in line for a chance at the tasty stuff in all its variations ("concrete Terra Mizzou"). One evening I even saw a just-married couple pull up in a horse-drawn buggy, wearing their formal wedding clothes, and order frozen custard (with the obligatory pictures being snapped), and then go on to their honeymoon.

The funny thing is that no one in line is in a hurry. They talk, they enjoy the weather, they enjoy being in "the" place. If someone is needy, that person can cut into line and no one cares. These folks seem to have turned waiting into a social affair, a time of lingering patiently together. What does this have to do with Advent? Well, look at it: in Advent, we too wait. Jesus is to be born, and in fact we have experienced him many times before at Mass. We join each other not around frozen custard but around the peace and goodness that the birth of Jesus will bring to our hearts and our relationships. We will line up together at this Sunday's Mass, and God will turn our waiting into a social, prayerful event.

Ordinarily we do not like to be delayed. Think of traffic jams, lines at the grocery store, etc. We project our minds forward to the many things we have on our list besides wasting time. But can there really be nothing to interest us as we wait in mundane situations? At the custard stand, of course, there is the pleasant St. Louis air, people to talk with, and of course the promise of a tasty reward that will do its will with our taste buds. Our senses open up.

Is there anything we can open to when highway traffic is creeping along at six miles per hour? Yes. If we come to our senses we will not need a hot fudge sundae to make it worth our while to wait. In the present moment, as you read these words, hundreds of real and God-filled objects are all about you. Did you ever really feel the texture of the steering wheel you grasp every day? How about letting in the colors of the trees? The people in other cars — visible to you at six miles an hour speed? If you stay in the present instead of mainly the future or the past, you will find subtle and obvious beauty all about you. Your goal will arrive when its time comes. Meanwhile, the present tense is still happening.

Advent is like this. A time to pull in our scope a bit and realize that emptiness is a healthy and normal part of our lives. We are continually refilled if we let ourselves be. Strange to say, waiting for fulfillment is also itself a fulfillment. It lets us be what we are — not God but human. Even in these troubled times.

John Foley, SJ

Reflection

Announcements

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In our Gospel Reading, Christ gives a warning about his coming again. Stay awake and wait for me, he says, or else it will be for you the way it was for the people left behind in Noah's time.

Those people watched Noah build his big boat on dry land, and they must have laughed at him. They weren't worried. They ate their dinners and held their weddings just as always. And then the flood came. In one day, it swept them all away. And here is what Christ says: It will be like when I come again; those who weren't waiting for me will be left behind when I return.

These are puzzling words. Are we supposed to expect Armageddon any day now, for every day of our lives? Will we be left behind if we don't? Well, look at Noah's flood. Human beings had gotten so evil that it began to look as if God had made a mistake in creating them. So, in the flood, God did something like an autologous bone marrow transplant on the human race. God sifted through the bad cancerous lump of humanity and found a few human beings who looked morally and spiritually healthy. The idea was to re-produce those spiritually healthy human beings after the flood, when the evil people were gone. By this means, the human race could have a rebirth.

The people who laughed at Noah's boat were so evil that they could be waked up to their spiritual peril only when the water rose. Their only chance of salvation came in the catastrophe of the flood when the fear of death may have prompted them to turn to the Lord for salvation. There are things much worse than physical death.

But physical death is the end of the line as far as chances for salvation go. Those who will not turn to the Lord before they die will just be left behind, without the Lord, as Christ says. They will have missed the boat permanently. So Christ isn't directing us to keep an anxious eye out for Armageddon's advent. Any day now — who knows when? — we may die. What we need to be waiting for while we live is Christ. If we live in expectation of the Lord's coming for us, we will not be left behind on that day.



Joseph Mallard William Turner,
The Wreck of a Transport Ship, 1810.

*In those days, they did not know until the flood came
and carried them away.*

MUSIC FOR THE SEASON

The adult choir of the Church of St. Ann in Lawrenceville will present a Ceremony of Lessons and Carols at 3:30 PM on Sunday, December 11th in the Church. The program is free and all are welcome. The fifty voice choir will perform traditional and contemporary music to inspire and help prepare listeners to celebrate the great feast of Christmas. Works include *And the Glory of the Lord* from Handel's "Messiah," *O Magnum Mysterium* by Tomas Luis de Victoria, *Creation Will Be at Peace* by J. Paul Williams as well as favorite music of the season such as *O How A Rose E'er Blooming* and a contemporary arrangement of *Let Your Little Light Shine*.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols celebrates the birth of Jesus by telling the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine short Bible readings from Genesis and the prophetic books and the Gospels. The program was first offered in 1878 in Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England. Bishop Edward Benson, later the Archbishop of Canterbury, formalized the ceremony in 1880, and started a tradition which continues to this day.

St. Ann's version of this classic program will remind listeners of what Christmas is all about. The program will be followed by light refreshments. For more information, please call 882 6491.

Eleonore Stump
Professor of Philosophy, SLU

Reflection