

Our Lady of Good Counsel

137 West Upper Ferry Road West Trenton, New Jersey 08628

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 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: olgc.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 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
 Jennie Ferri r/o Philomena Muscente
Sunday, December 3rd
1st Sunday of Advent
 8:30 AM Michael Kozar r/o Theresa Kozar
 John Mahan r/o Harry & Sherry Masterson
 10:30 AM The Intentions of Marie Muscente r/o Daughter
Monday, December 4th
 7:30 AM Edward Pulsinelli r/o Russell & Debbie Vizzini & the Staff at Sal De Forte
Tuesday, December 5th
 7:30 AM Michael Kelly r/o Jenny Peterson
Wednesday, December 6th
 7:30 AM Special Intention
Thursday, December 7th
 7:30 AM Elizabeth Schoen r/o Lynn Lally
Friday, December 8th
Immaculate Conception
 7:30 AM Mary & Thomas Miles r/o Helen Marie Dolton
 Noon People of the Parish
 7:00 PM Jack Cole r/o Jean O'Donnell
Saturday, December 9th
 8:00 AM Special Intention
 5:00 PM Al DeBlasio r/o Dolores DeBlasio
 Godfrey Schroth r/o Elaine Palatine
Sunday, December 10th
2nd 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

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5:00 PM **Saturday, December 9th**
 Jacqueline Crane, Joan Fallon, & Elaine Palatine
Sunday, December 10th
 8:30 AM Fran Golinski, Carol Lake, & Michael Lake
 10:00 AM *Preferred Care Visits:* Carol Lake
 10:30 AM Ellen Everett, Timothy Everett, & Tony Jones
Monday, December 11th, Reposition
 Thomas Voorhees

CONTRIBUTIONS

Registered Parishioners	784 families
Parishioners using envelopes	223
Envelope Contributions	\$4,419.00
Average Contribution	\$19.82
Loose Cash	\$660.00
Contributions for November 26 th	\$5,079.00

The flower array at Our Ladies' Altar has been donated by David and Donna Collins in memory of Jeannie Ferri.

READERS

Saturday, December 9th
 5:00 PM Mary Lou Delahanty
Sunday, December 10th
 8:30 AM Laura Shea
 10:30 AM Darlene Wilson

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 9th
 5:00 PM Marshall Barrett
Sunday, December 10th
 8:30 AM Nora Shea & Connor Greig
 10:30 AM James Gummel

PARISH EVENTS

December 2nd: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
December 3rd: *1st 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 4th: 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.
December 5th: The Knights of Columbus Council 3756 will sponsor a social night at the Incarnation / St. James Church Center at 7:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.
December 6th: The Seniors Club will hold its *Christmas Luncheon* at the Blooming Grove Inn at Noon for those who have previously indicated their attendance.
December 8th: *The Immaculate Conception*, a holy day of obligation: Masses are celebrated at 7:30 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM.
December 9th: Morning Mass takes place at 8:00 AM. Novenas follow morning Mass. Reconciliation will take place at 4:00 PM.
December 10th: *2nd Sunday of Advent*
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 Fall Adult Faith Formation sessions will take place in the Church Hall at 6:00 PM.



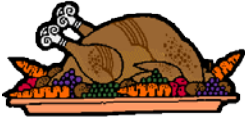
WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Bob Arcaidipane, James Aversano, Rosemarie Buker, Mary DeFrancesco, Raymond Dietrich, Nick Gregorio, Joe Maloney, Dolores Megyesy, Marie Muscente, Angelika Niranjan, Jeff Papp, Linda Solinski, 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



Food Drive Success Catholic Charities and Mount Carmel Guild have expressed their best wishes to all of our parishioners who participated in this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Thanks so much to all who made Thanksgiving this year a warm, pleasant experience for so many.

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 Can you spend a few morning hours to make a difference in the lives of homebound residents of Mercer County? 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 M-F 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@meals-onwheelsmercer.org

TCA Concert Trenton Catholic Academy will present *Fr. Alphonse and the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea Christmas Concert* on Thursday, December 14th at the Immaculate Conception Church in Trenton. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased online at 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 50th reunion on June 2nd, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn on Route 130. For information, call 902 3133.

Jesus said to his disciples: Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR



Our Children's Christmas Choir will be singing again at the Christmas Eve Mass, Saturday, December 24th 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 19th and 26th and December 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 9:15 to 10:25 AM.
- Three extra rehearsals will be scheduled between December 18th and 22nd.

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

CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

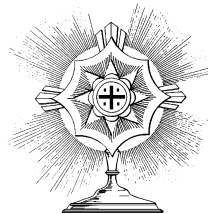
As we move towards the end of the calendar year, we have received an update on our parish's contribution to the Diocesan Appeal. We have achieved, at this time, 77% of our goal of \$33,000 from 148 parish donors.

This appeal is significant for the diocese for its administrative costs, Religious Education and School aid, Tuition for our Seminarians (there are 2 from our parish), and charitable work of the Church in the four counties of Trenton. Many thanks go to those who have already generously given to this annual appeal, and if you have not yet done so, please consider supporting the diocesan Church this year.

Fr. Michael Hall

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

Reflection

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Jean-Francois Millet, Noonday Rest, 1866.

Jesus said to his disciples: Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.

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 10th. Please do not wrap your gift.

We plan to deliver gifts on Tuesday, December 12th. 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.

Today, we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. The purpose of Advent is two-fold: First, it is a season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, when we recall the coming of Jesus into human history to save men and women from their sins and to reconcile humanity with God — a purpose fully realized in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection at Easter. Second, Advent is a time to pray and reflect upon the Second Coming of Christ, which will occur at the end of time. In this dual period of recollection and expectation, we are called to prepare through prayer and devotion to the Lord. It should be a time of both solemn preparation and joyful anticipation: *Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.*

These words, imparted by the priest at the Blessing of the Advent Wreath, remind us of the illuminating power of Christ, who is both God and Man, the eternal Word, and his entrance into the world of men. Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus — the eternal Word, draws us to him in the promise of redemption, both in history and at the end of time. With eager hearts, we turn toward him with open hearts and minds. We do not know the hour of his second coming, but we are called to be vigilant. As we hear in today's reading from the Gospel of Saint Mark: *Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.*

In the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, not only must we be watchful in faith, but we must be obedient, trusting in God and his desire for covenant with us. As the Prophet proclaimed: *Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.* If we are to prepare, then we must place ourselves under His care and trust in him.

As we recall the coming of Christ in history and await his second coming, we must remember that Jesus Christ is with us always, especially in his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. Each time we partake of his Precious Body and Blood, we become one with him as we journey to the Heavenly Kingdom. Let prayer, the Sacred Liturgy and the Eucharist be the sources of God's infinite love for us as we journey toward a deeper relationship and approach the celebration of the Birth of Our Savior.

Deacon Steven Szmuto