

Our Lady of Good Counsel

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 10, 2023



Prepare
the way of the
Lord.

MATTHEW 3:3

Rev. Ariel Robles, Pastor
Email: FrAriel@olgcc.net
Deacon Steven Szmuto
Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE

Parish Rectory & Office 609-882-3277
Office Hours M-F: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Fax: 609-882-4375

Website: olgcc.net
E-mail: rectoryoffice@olgcc.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

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 4:00 to 4:30 PM

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH

Mass Intentions

| | |
|--|---|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | DECEMBER 9, 2023 Al DeBlasio r/o Dolores DeBlasio Maria DeFrancesco r/o David & Donna Collins |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | DECEMBER 10, 2023 Second Sunday of Advent Healing Intentions of Mary Timlen Hope Holland Fekete & Walley Deceased members r/o Family |
| 10:30 AM FAMILY Sunday | Rocco Zangrilli r/o Craig, Jamie & Chloe Smolar For the People of the Parish |
| MONDAY, 7:30 AM | DECEMBER 11, 2023 Anthony Carabelli r/o Elaine Palatine |
| TUESDAY, 7:30 AM | DECEMBER 12, 2023 Lucille Sebben r/o Maria & Jody |
| WEDNESDAY, 7:30 AM | DECEMBER 13, 2023 Intention of Philip r/o Claude & Mary Ann Le Gall |
| THURSDAY, 7:30 AM | DECEMBER 14, 2023 Rocco Zangrilli r/o Peter & Josephine Zangrilli |
| FRIDAY, 7:30 AM | DECEMBER 15, 2023 Phillip LoSordo r/o Heenan Family |
| SATURDAY, 8:00 AM 5:00 PM | DECEMBER 16, 2023 Priest's Intentions Anthony Carabelli r/o Stan & Joanne Sliwinski |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | DECEMBER 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent Rocco Zangrilli r/o Maria Zangrilli Carol Hanson Smith r/o Family |
| 10:30 AM | Nicholas Muscente, Sr. and Intentions of Marie Muscente r/o Daughter For the People of the Parish |

Readers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | DECEMBER 16 Sherri Calderone |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | DECEMBER 17 Kerri Wilkes |
| 10:30 AM | Maeve Cannon |

Eucharistic Ministers

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | DECEMBER 16 Ginny Evans |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | DECEMBER 17 Dennis Hice |
| 10:30 AM | Wendy Reading |

Altar Servers

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | DECEMBER 16 Nathan Stankus |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | DECEMBER 17 Brayden Spina, Daniel Wilkes, Elizabeth Baron |
| 10:30 AM | Dylan Rutkowski, Ryan Spina |

News & Events

12/10 Sunday - RCIA Session 11:30 am.
Religious ED Grade 8 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall.
12/11 Monday— Religious ED All Grades **Happy Birthday Party for Jesus Party—Parish Hall.**
12/13 Wednesday—Delaware Valley Radio Assoc. will meet in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm.
12/14 Thursday Good News Sunday 7pm
Opdenacker Room of Parish Hall and Friday morning at 10am.
12/16 Saturday - Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow morning Mass. **Reconciliation** 4:00-4:30 pm.
Christmas Movie Night for kids after the 5 pm Mass in the Parish Hall. Pizza, Popcorn and snacks. Come enjoy the double feature and fun!


EUCHARIST FOR THE HOMEBOUND




If you or someone you know is unable to come to Mass because of significant illness or long-term disability, Fr. Ariel and our Eucharistic Ministers will visit area homes to bring the Blessed Sacrament. Please call the parish office at 609-882-3277 to inform us you would like to be added to the **Communion Call**

list. Homebound members will be scheduled to receive the Eucharist at home.



 **Friend us on Facebook:**
<https://www.facebook.com/OlgcWestTrenton/>

 **FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:**
<https://www.instagram.com/olgcchurch/>

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection 2nd Sunday of Advent

Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6

"The word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah in the desert." (Lk 3:3)



In the scriptures, we find numerous encounters with God in places of solitude and quiet. Typical for that part of the world, God's encounters often occur in the desert. I often wondered why that was. Could not God speak to us anywhere he chooses? Why would he choose to communicate with his prophets in such a desolate place?

Perhaps the answer is that, while God continually reaches out to us, we are not always receptive to Him. Just as we lead lives of busyness and activity, I am sure that those in ancient times also filled their days with hectic toil and labor. When we are on "activity overload," we often confuse what is urgent with what is important and fail to recognize that which is most essential for our being. This happens especially around the holidays when we tend to juggle so many balls in the air, fearful of dropping even one as we try to make the holidays perfect. It is only when we find (or make) the time for God, do we step back from all of our daily activities and routines to contemplate that which is truly important in our lives. These desert times – times of solitude and reflection – can paradoxically be the most fertile of times. It was in the

desert that God spoke to John the Baptist; it was in the desert that John listened and responded to the word of God. So too, can we find God – if only we still our hearts and remain open to His word.

"The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed." (Ps 126:3)

As we are blessed by God, so we must reach out to others less fortunate to share those blessings. Even though we try to capture the "Christmas Spirit," we frequently lose sight of the Gospel message, caught up as we are, with frantic preparations for the Feast. We are best served, and serve best, when we step back, if only for a few moments each day, to reflect upon the goodness of God and His many gifts and blessings. Over the next few weeks, let us take the time to step away from the frenzy and rest in the Lord. In this way, we will be open to His word.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." (Lk 3:5b)

Deacon Steve Szmuto



Pray for our Sick:

Kevin Baker, Erin Barbato, Col. Gabriel Beck, Christina Beck, Rosemarie Buker, Richard Cook, Steve Dill, Sarah Dowd, John Finn, Al Gatto, Leo Genovesi, Brian Gershon, Phil Glaser, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Theresa Gregorio, Sherri Hanlon, Eileen and James A. Keenan, IV, Henry Louis Kopruckim, Mary Lou Kramli, Carol Lake, Laura Lynch, Kevin McBride, Keith Mello, Joan Moore, Marie Muscente, Kim Nash, Angelika Niranjan, Carol Perrine, Lucy Saganowski, Vincent Schnell, G. Welly Samuels, Debbie Sattler, Gregory Schafer, Steve Schmierer, Dolores Sebasto, Kristy Shanahan, Linda Solinski, Ann Szostak, Brenda Thornley, Cherylann Wilson, Stanley Wrobel and all parishioners who are sick or homebound.

Please call the parish office at 609-882-3277 to add a name to the prayer list and to inform us when all is well so we may take a name off the list.



Pray for our Military:

TSgt. Andrew G. Vrancik, Air National Guard

Please email: dsmith@olgcc.net to add your soldier to the prayer list.

Central Jersey Choral Society Presents A Community Singing Event: The Messiah

by George Friedrich Handel

Join our choir singing the classic Christmas masterwork
(or just come to listen)
Sheet music provided for those wishing to sing

Sunday, December 10,
2023, 3:00 pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Roman Catholic Church
137 West Upper Ferry Rd.
Ewing, NJ



Suggested Donation: \$10

For more information visit cjchoralsociety.org

CJCS
central jersey choral society

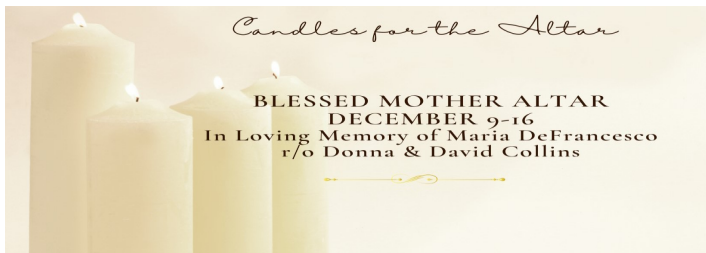
Christopher Loeffler,
Artistic Director



The Jersey Choral Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is a member of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Jersey Choral Society is a member of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Jersey Choral Society is a member of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Candles for the Altar

BLESSED MOTHER ALTAR
DECEMBER 9-16
In Loving Memory of Maria DeFrancesco
r/o Donna & David Collins



GIVING TREE

Please take a tag!

Due Monday! 12/11!

Christmas Gift's are Due,
MONDAY, December, 11th

This weekend is your last chance to take a tag from the baskets in the Vestibule and return a gift for our Social Services Gift Giving Project. Please take a tag and return your gift on **Monday** to the Parish Hall. Thanks for your help!

FAMILY SUNDAY

**FAMILY SUNDAY ~ CHILDREN'S LITURGY ~
DECEMBER 10TH at 10:30 AM MASS**

On the 2nd Sunday of each month our religious education children will take part in serving at the 10:30 AM Mass. The children will serve as Greeters, Ushers and Readers. All children of the parish are welcome to participate! For information please email:

Brenda O'Callahan CRE: olgcc.re.wt@gmail.com

Family Sunday ~ Refreshments will follow the 10:30 Mass in the Parish Hall. Join us for some hot brewed coffee and treats.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

A special collection to benefit the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken up during Masses in parishes across the Diocese of Trenton the weekend of **December 9-10**.

Aging Religious need your help. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please say, "Yes Sister", one more time.



Did you know?
OLGCC has our own **imprinted Shirts and Jackets** available to order. Please contact Mary Pat Voorhees at 570-290-2373 for more information.

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM | December 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent Fulfills Sunday obligation only |
| 5:00 PM | December 24th Christmas Eve Children's Pageant with Contemporary Group. Music starts before Mass. |
| 10:00 PM | December 24th Christmas Eve Mass of Midnight - With our Adult choir. Music starts before Mass. |
| 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM | December 25th Christmas Day Contemporary Group at 8:30 a.m. Mass Adult Choir at 10:30 a.m. Mass Music starts before Mass. |
| 5:00 PM | December 30th Vigil - Holy Family |
| 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM | December 31st Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph |
| 9:00 AM | January 1st Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Not a holy day of obligation) |
| 5:00 PM | January 6 Vigil - The Epiphany of the Lord |
| 8:30 AM AND 10:30 AM | January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord |

SIMBANG GABI

A special part of Christmas celebrations of the Filipinos is **Simbang Gabi** (literally means "night Mass"). This is a novena of Masses in preparation for Christmas. The Filipino-American community has organized *Simbang Gabi* here in Mercer County: a Nightly Mass is being celebrated in nine different churches. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church has been chosen to host the Mass on **December 22, 2023 at 7:00PM**. All are invited to take part in this special Christmas preparation and celebration. See you there!

Central Jersey Choral Society Presents

Lauda Sion

by Felix Mendelssohn

Requiem

by Gabriel Fauré

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7:30 pm

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Roman Catholic Church
137 West Upper Ferry Rd.
Ewing, NJ

Tickets: cjchoralsociety.org
\$20 adv. \$25 at door

Christopher Loeffler,
Artistic Director



CJCS

central jersey choral society



This program is made possible in part by the Mercer County, NJ Cultural and Arts Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Chosen Free Will and all of the participating municipalities in the Mercer County Cultural and Arts Commission.





OLGCC Advent Mission Day
Saturday, December 16th

8 a.m. - Mass

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Talk presented by
JMJ Missions - **"Source & Summit"**

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Exposition, Adoration and
Benediction



Evangelizing for Christ... one soul at a time

Advent

PLEASE JOIN US



Christmas
Movie Night
Double Feature

ANGELA'S CHRISTMAS
THE VERY FIRST NOEL

Saturday, 16 December 2023

Following 5 PM Mass in the Parish Hall
Pizza, Pop Corn and Light Refreshments

Please RSVP to:
Nfinn1121@gmail.com
This will help us plan quantities!



Christmas
Church Decorating

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT THE WORK. JOIN US
DECEMBER 17TH AFTER THE 10:30 AM MASS AS
WE DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



Calling all Parish children!
Be part of the
Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 24, 5:00 pm Mass

- Multiple non-speaking roles - You could be a King, a Shepherd, an Angel, Mary or Joseph!
- Narrator needed
- Practice in Church - Friday, December 22 - 4:00 pm
Saturday, December 23 - 3:00 pm

For more information contact:
✓ Brenda O'Callaghan at olgc.re.wt@gmail.com