



JOY

DECEMBER 15TH ~ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Fr. Ariel Robles, Pastor

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Deacon Steven Szmuto

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Parish Secretary:

Monday-Wednesday Debbie Smith

Webmaster/Bulletin

Email: Dsmith@olgcc.net

Administrative Assistant:

Thursday-Friday Mary Szmuto

Email: Mszmuto@olgcc.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Friday 7:30 am

Saturday – 8:00 am

Monday's of Holiday Weekends - Daily

Mass time moves to 8:30 am

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm

Sunday – 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Confessions Saturday: 4:00 to 4:30 pm

Holy Days

7:30 am, 12 Noon & 7:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament First
Friday of every month 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

Registration: All parishioners should be registered. Please contact the Parish Office.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

Masses For The Week



SATURDAY, 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 14, 2024 Helen Marie Dolton r/o Ron & Edie Kolodziej Mary DeFrancesco r/o Dave & Donna Collins
SUNDAY, 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 15, 2024 Gaudete Sunday <i>Gaudete Sunday-The Third Sunday of Advent</i> Intentions of Nancy Finn r/o Debbie People of the Parish Patrick D. & James Keenan, III r/o Eileen Keenan Intentions of Pat Vetter r/o Donna & David Collins
MONDAY, 7:30 AM	DECEMBER 16, 2024 Intentions of Eileen & Michael Giglio Fred Warner r/o Family
TUESDAY, 7:30 AM	DECEMBER 17, 2024 P. Norman Deitch r/o Stankus Family Maria Monaco r/o Vince Monaco
WEDNESDAY, 7:30 AM	DECEMBER 18, 2024 Dominic Trusky r/o Paul A. Medwick Steve Czehut r/o Family
THURSDAY, 7:30 AM	DECEMBER 19, 2024 Bernadine Medwick r/o Antinette & Sean O'Connor Dennis Durling r/o DiMascio Family
FRIDAY, 7:30 AM	DECEMBER 20, 2024 Deceased Fekete & Walley Family r/o Family Dr. Thomas Spitzer r/o Family
SATURDAY, 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 21, 2024 Priest's Intention Gloria Buttaci r/o Husband, Norman Jennie Ferri r/o Dave & Donna Collins
SUNDAY, 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 22, 2024 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Gloria Buttaci (Anniv) Husband, Norman People of the Parish Richard L. Palatine r/o Wife, Gail Eleanor & Paul Gofus r/o Gail Palatine

Readers

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 21 Sherri Calderone
SUNDAY, 8:30AM 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 22 Fran Golinski Laura Shea

Eucharistic Ministers

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 21 Joyce Christensen
SUNDAY, 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 22 Dennis Hice Wendy Reading

Altar Servers

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 21 Nathan Stankus, Alana Colazzo
SUNDAY, 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	DECEMBER 22 Brayden Spina MacKaylah Yung, Sebastian Reyes

News & Events

Saturday, December 14, Parent's Night Out 6-8:30 pm in Parish Hall. Movies and Pizza and Fun!
Sunday, December 15, Central Jersey Choral Society Handel's Messiah Sing-A-Long 2 PM in Church.
Monday, December 16, Religious Education
Classes are closed for Christmas until January 6th.
Tuesday, December 17, The Ewing Knights of Columbus will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:30 PM.
Saturday, December 21, Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow morning Mass.
Reconciliation 4-4:30 PM.



Pray for our Sick:

Kevin Baker, Mitzi Baker, Rosalie Baldanzi, Erin Barbato, Col. Gabriel Beck, Rosemarie Buker, Richard Cook, Joseph and Marilyn Dablewski, Jack Devlin, Al Gatto, Leo Genovesi, Brian Gershon, Phil Glaser, Sandra Goeke, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Theresa Gregorio, Sherri Hanlon, Eileen and James A. Keenan, IV, Mary Lou Kramli, Carol Lake, Mary Leary, Laura Lynch, Kevin Mattis, Kevin McBride, Keith Mello, Joan Moore, Marie Muscente, Kim Nash, Angelika Niranjan, Debbie Paterson, Carol Perrine, Dominic Petito, Jennifer Andres, Gadiel Quiroga, Lucy Saganowski, Vincent Schnell, G. Welly Samuels, Debbie Sattler, Gregory Schafer, Steve and Pamela Schmierer, Dolores Sebasto, Kristy Shanahan, Linda Solinski, Dorothy Stanley, Brenda Thornley, Erin Cahill Wetzell, Stanley Wrobel and all parishioners who are sick or homebound.

Please call the parish office 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.



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Deacon Steve Szmuto's Advent Reflections Week Three
December 15, 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3: 14-18a Isaiah 12: 2-6 Philippians 4: 4-7
Luke 3: 10-18

While the Season of Advent is a solemn one with its focus on repentance and preparation, it is not a sad season. Rather, it is a time of anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, into history and humanity. The word “advent” is derived from the Latin word for “coming” and so, represents a season of hope. Soon, the world will celebrate the birth of Christ, a solemnity of boundless joy for what is to come. Open your hearts, O people of faith! Allow his light to banish the darkness of our hearts with his glory!

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for “rejoice.” And indeed, rejoicing of the coming of Our Lord permeates the readings heard today in the Sacred Liturgy. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.” From Saint Paul’s Letter to the Philippians this quotation emphasizes the peace and mercy inherent in our faith in Christ Jesus. Ours is not a religion of fear, but ultimately of wonder, even in a time of repentance. One of the symbols of penitence and preparation is the wearing of purple vestments by the clergy during the mass. However, on Gaudete Sunday, many priests and deacons wear rose (or pink) colored vestments, a symbol of joy at the nearness of Christ. The

lighting of the pink or rose candle in addition to the two purple candles previously lit also marks the theme of anticipatory joy in the Sunday Liturgy.

The readings reflect both the eager anticipation by the people for the coming of the Lord and the ongoing need for preparation and purification. In the first reading, God, speaking through the Prophet Zephaniah, foretells a time of peace and consolation for His people. He boldly proclaimed: “The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.” Today’s Responsorial Psalm is taken from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, echoing the words of Zephaniah: “God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of Salvation.”

In the reading from the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist was once again preaching to the people. So powerful was his message of repentance, many wondered if he might be the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah “John answered them all, saying, ‘I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.’” Although John, by his own admission, was not the one, he was a man of commanding wisdom and foresight, exhorting the people to turn away from sinful ways so as to be worthy of the Promised One.

Today, as the world once awaited the coming of the Lord into human history, so too does it wait for Christ at the end of time, when he will “. . . gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” During Advent, we recall the past, anticipate the future, and celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Gaudete Sunday carries with it a special sense of urgency. There are but a few days left before Christmas. Have we prepared for the Lord’s coming? Are our hearts open to the Lord, who is the center of our existence? Although the secular aspects of the season often overshadow our thoughts and minds, let us make room for Christ: through prayer, through love, through compassion, and through service to others. Jesus deserves a place at the center of our existence, whether in quiet contemplation within the silence of our thoughts, or in our faith community with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Let us resolve to help the poor, the suffering and the vulnerable in our society. By these things, we can re-dedicate ourselves as disciples, witnesses to the Gospel and a reminder of God’s tenderness and mercy.



Deacon Steven K. Szmuto

DECEMBER 15TH ~ THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

My Dear Parishioners,
A Blessed Advent to all!

We are currently improving the lighting inside the church in preparation for Christmas. We are using some big equipment to reach up and replace the old bulbs in the chandeliers. Please stay away from the equipment for your own safety. We apologize for the inconvenience. Thank you very much for your patience and understanding and for all your support to the parish.

In Christ, Fr Ariel Robles, OLGC Pastor

CJCS
central jersey choral society

COMMUNITY SING OF HANDEL'S MESSIAH



\$10 FREE WILL OFFERING AT DOOR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

2:00PM

**OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH
137 WEST UPPER FERRY ROAD
EWING, NJ 08628**

WE HAVE SCORES (SCHIRMER) TO LOAN
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
WILL FOLLOW IN PARISH HALL

SAINT ANN YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th



The Saint Ann Youth Choir will present their annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15th beginning at 3:00 PM in the Church of Saint Ann.

Please mark your calendar for a wonderful way to celebrate the coming of the birth of baby Jesus and have an enjoyable afternoon with our talented Youth Choir. The concert is free and open to the public. **You are in for a GREAT TREAT!!**



Christmas Gift's are Due, Monday, December 16th is the Deadline

Please return your gift with tag attached to the designated table in the Parish Hall. **Please do NOT wrap your gift and do NOT place your gifts in bags.**

Adopt-a-Family gifts may also be left in the Parish Hall in the designated area.

Thanks for your generosity!

**ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL BELONG
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**



SENSORY FRIENDLY SUNDAY MASS



CELEBRATED BY BISHOP DAVID O'CONNELL

CO-CATHEDRAL OF ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE

**DECEMBER 15, 2024
2:00PM**

**61 GEORGIA ROAD
FREEHOLD, NJ 07728**

Join us afterwards for a Christmas Party.




Families are welcome to attend this Mass adapted to accommodate individuals with autism or other sensory needs. Any questions email NORMONHIS@gmail.com

Please email if you can attend so we have enough refreshments at


holyinnocentsociety@dioceseoftrenton.org



EWING KNIGHTS
 The Ewing Knights #3756 will be selling **"Keep Christ in Christmas"** Car Magnets and Christmas Cards at **all Masses** the Cost is \$5 per magnet and \$10 per box of cards. Proceeds will be used to support our various charities.
Thank you for your support!



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: 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, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 All are invited to take part in this special Christmas preparation and celebration.
See you there!



Annual Catholic Appeal 2024 Wow!
We did it! Goal: \$24,500.00
Pledged: \$28,727.00 (117% of Goal)
Paid: \$28,442.00 (116% of Goal)
Total Donors: 112
Total Gifts: 158
Average Gift: \$181.82
Congratulations on reaching goal! Your estimated rebate due is: \$5,646.00

The 2024 Annual Appeal's final outreach arrived in homes last month. Thank you to those who have made a gift to get our parish to our goal! If you would like to make a gift to help our parish go over the goal please respond to the mailing or fill out a pledge card found in the back of the church - every gift helps! Remember, we get 15% of funds received to goal and **50% of funds beyond goal** for our parish's needs, enhancing our services, programs, and facilities. Gifts to the 2024 appeal are being accepted until **12/31/2024**. Your support means the world to us - thank you for your consideration!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR KIDS
 The Ewing Knight are dedicated to bringing warmth to underprivileged young children through their annual Coats for Kids initiative.
 Your generous contribution will significantly help us achieve our goal. Just imagine the joy on the children's faces when they receive a cozy winter coat this season.
 If you're interested in assisting the Knights in providing as many coats as possible, please send your donation to the following address:

Ewing Knights of Columbus Council 3756
Coats for Kids
Post Office Box 7647
Ewing, NJ 08628



Each coat costs approximately \$25.00.
Thanks for your support!



Consecration to the Holy Family
 A prayer of Consecration to the Holy Family will be read at all of the masses on the Vigil and Feast of the Holy Family,
December 28 and 29
 The Knights of Columbus are providing prayer cards that will be available at all the doors of the church on those days.
 Families are also encouraged to pray the prayer together at home in the week following the Feast of the Holy Family.





Special Christmas Gift for Married Couples

For a truly meaningful Christmas/ New Year's gift, consider treating each other to a



Marriage Encounter Weekend. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held **February 14–16**. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application and information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco).

Visit us at:

www.wwme.org for more information

For unto us
a child is born!

Calling all Parish children!
Come be a part of the
Annual Christmas Pageant

Tuesday, 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 - Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 pm and Monday, December 23 at 3:00 pm

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



2024 CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th

5:00 PM ~ Children's Pageant ~ Contemporary Group
10:00 PM Mass of Midnight ~ Adult Choir
Music starts before Masses.

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25th

8:30 with Contemporary Group and
10:30 AM with Adult Choir
Music starts before Masses.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Saturday, December 28th 5:00 PM Vigil
Sunday, December 29th 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

Mary, Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31, 5:00 PM Vigil Mass (only)
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 9:00 AM only

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 4th 5:00 PM Vigil
Sunday, January 5th 8:30 and 10:30 AM

Church Office is CLOSED

**December 23 to December 26 and
December 31 and January 1st**

*May God's richest blessings continue with
you through the coming year.*

*God bless you and your family,
Rev. Ariel Robles, Pastor
Deacon Steven Szmuto,
Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE
and the Parish Staff*



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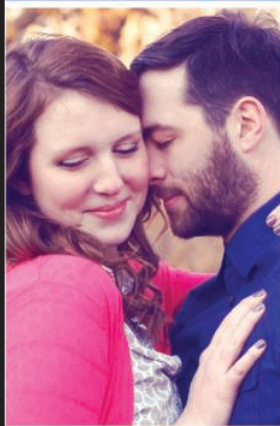
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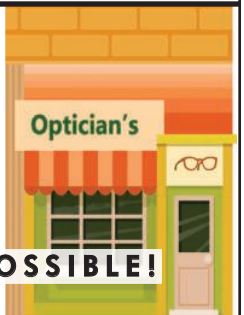
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