



“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”

LUKE 3:4

DECEMBER 8TH ~ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Fr. Ariel Robles, Pastor**

Email: FrAriel@olgcc.net

Deacon Steven Szmuto

Email: Deaconstevenszmuto@gmail.com

Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE

Email: olgc.re.wt@gmail.com

**Parish Website: [www.olgcc.net](http://www.olgcc.net)**

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 reg-  
istered. Please contact the Parish Office.

# Our Lady of Good Counsel Church



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024**  
 5:00 PM Bernadine Medwick r/o Ron & Edie  
 Intentions of the Sisters at Villa  
 r/o Donna Collins

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
 8:30 AM Jean Budney r/o Parish Council  
 Al DeBlasio (Anniv) r/o Wife, Dolores

10:30 AM Mary Ann Prunetti  
 r/o John & JoAnn Jarembak  
 People of the Parish



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024**  
**The Immaculate Conception  
 of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
 7:30 AM Mary & Thomas Miles  
 r/o Helen Marie Dolton  
 12 Noon Respect Life and an end to  
 abortion r/o Mary Arcadipane

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**  
 7:30 AM Dec' Fekete & Walley Family r/o Family  
 Carol A. Moran r/o Terry & Jayne Martin

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024**  
 7:30 AM Intentions of Eileen & Michael Giglio

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**  
 7:30 AM Healing Intention r/o Hope Holland  
 Rose Anna L. Romello  
 r/o M/M Nicholas Solimando

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024**  
 7:30 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory  
 r/o Mary Arcadipane  
 Donald Misiura r/o Family

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024**  
 8:00 AM Priest's Intention

5:00 PM Helen Marie Dolton  
 r/o Ron & Edie Kolodziej  
 Mary DeFrancesco  
 r/o Dave & Donna Collins

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 Gaudete Sunday**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
 8:30 AM Intentions of Nancy Finn r/o Debbie  
 People of the Parish  
 10:30 AM Patrick D. & James Keenan, III  
 r/o Eileen Keenan  
 Intentions of Pat Vetter  
 r/o Donna & David Collins

## Readers

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 Immaculate Conception**  
 7:30 AM Art Amaral  
 12 Noon Jackie Crane

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
 5:00 PM Chaya Colazzo

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
 8:30 AM Maeve Cannon  
 10:30 AM Mary Anne LeGall

## Eucharistic Ministers

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 Immaculate Conception**  
 7:30 AM Mary Szmuto  
 12 Noon Mary Anne LeGall

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
 5:00 PM Ginny Evans

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
 8:30 AM Dennis Hice  
 10:30 AM Tony Jones

## Altar Servers

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**  
 5:00 PM James Gummel, Alana Colazzo

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
 8:30 AM Brayden Spina  
 10:30 AM Ryan Spina, Sebastian Reyes

## News & Events

**Monday, December 9, Holy Day of Obligation.**  
**Masses are at 7:30 a.m. and 12 Noon only.**  
**Religious Education** Grades 1-7, 6:00-7:15 pm in  
 the Parish Hall last class before Christmas holiday.  
**Wednesday, December 11,** The Delaware Valley  
 Radio Assoc will meet in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm.  
**Saturday, December 14,** Novenas in honor of Our  
 Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow  
 morning Mass. **Reconciliation** 4-4:30 PM.  
**Parent's Night Out.** Please see the information  
 in this bulletin.

**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.



### Coins for Charity Weekend

Containers are available at each Church entrance  
 December 7/8 for your donations. Don't forget your  
 Marrazzo Receipts. **Your support is appreciated!**



**Deacon Steve Szmuto's Advent Reflections Week Two**  
**December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent**  
Baruch 5: 1-9 Psalm 126: 1-6  
Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11 Luke 3: 1-6


*"Up Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children, gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God." (Baruch)*

John the Baptist has often been called the last and greatest of the prophets: the last, because he appeared on the scene just before the beginning of Jesus' ministry; greatest, because he immediately foreshadowed and foretold the arrival of the Christ. In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, we learned that: *"The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."* John, in turn, was foreshadowed in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah as the herald of good news. Invoking the words of the Old Testament, John cried out, *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* The one to come would bring God's salvation to all. The connection between John and Jesus was strong – both on a human level and from the standpoint of salvation history, as we will discover in the Gospel readings on the third and fourth Sundays of Advent.

John the Baptist is mentioned in each of the Gospels. When he came from the desert, many wondered if he was the Messiah, so powerful was his preaching. Yet from the beginning, he characterized himself as simply a messenger, calling for a change in the hearts of the people in anticipation of the Lord. Men and women were drawn to John's simple, direct, and bold call to repentance so that they might be ready for the coming of the Savior. His words echoed that of the prophets before him, as foreshadowed in the Book of the Prophet Baruch. *"God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God."*

The readings of Advent remind us of the need to prepare. What must we do to open our hearts to embrace Jesus Christ into our very being? Pray, contemplate the Lord always, and treat others with genuine compassion and kindness in loving service, not for our glory, but for the glory of God. The time of fulfillment is nigh! Soon, the time will come when we experience the arrival of the Messiah, the Son of God who humbled himself to enter our humanity in loving sacrifice for the sake of our eternal souls. As we heard in the Responsorial Psalm, *"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."*

Deacon Steven K. Szmuto



From  
the  
Pastor

*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, OLCG Pastor

**CHURCH  SUPPORT**

COLLECTION TOTALS	SUNDAY	SUNDAY	SUNDAY
	11/17/2024	11/24/2024	12/1/2024
<b>Registered Parishioners</b>	688 Families	688 Families	688 Families
<b>Parishioners using envelopes</b>	119	107	128
<b>Envelope Contributions</b>	\$3,015.00	\$2,513.00	\$3,439.00
<b>Average Contribution</b>	\$25.34	23.49	26.87
<b>Loose Cash</b>	\$803.00	\$689.00	\$681.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,818.00</b>	<b>\$3,202.00</b>	<b>\$4,120.00</b>

**FAMILY SUNDAY ~ CHILDREN'S LITURGY ~  
DECEMBER 8TH at 10:30 AM MASS.**

Each Month on the 2nd Sunday our parish 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: [olgc.re.wt@gmail.com](mailto:olgc.re.wt@gmail.com)

**EXCITING NEWS FOR FAMILY SUNDAY!  
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (CLOW)**

JOIN US FOR THE 10:30 MASS  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

The 2nd Sunday of the month, is dedicated to Family Sunday and **CLOW**. The CLOW program is designed for **children up to 7 years old**. Before the first reading, children along with a parent or adult will depart from mass to attend a class in the hall, returning after the Homily. The session will feature:

- Listening to a children's version of the Gospel
- Engaging in prayer
- Enjoying a story, song, or even acting out a skit
- Participating in a coloring page or craft activity
- Mark your calendars for upcoming CLOW Sundays:

**December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9**

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



*Immaculate  
Conception*

**December 9th**

**Holy Day Masses:  
7:30 AM AND 12 NOON**  
*The Rosary will be  
recited after the  
7:30 AM Mass  
and 30 minutes before  
the 12 Noon Mass.*

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 8 AND IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION. THIS YEAR, BECAUSE DECEMBER 8 FALLS ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, THE SOLEMNITY IS TRANSFERRED TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 9.

CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASS FOR THIS SOLEMNITY, IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR SUNDAY MASS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

The Diocese of Trenton  
presents  
George Frideric Handel's  
**Messiah**  
Part One  
featuring the combined  
choirs of the Diocesan Festival Choir &  
the Choir of the Red Bank Oratory  
with the Orchestra of St. Cecilia  
under the direction of Shawn Mack  
Sunday December 8, 2024 3:30 p.m.  
Admission: Adults \$20  
Seniors & Students \$15  
under 8 free  
(Tickets may be purchased  
at the door or in advance online at  
[https://dioceseoftrenton.org/  
diocesan-festival-choir](https://dioceseoftrenton.org/diocesan-festival-choir)  
For Further Information contact  
St. Aloysius Church  
935 Bennetts Mills Road,  
Jackson, NJ 08527  
Phone: 732-370-0500

Parents' Night Out/  
Family Movie Night  
Saturday, December 14  
6:00 to 8:30 pm  
OLGC Church Hall

- We'll supply dinner and a movie  
And some fun and games too
- You can stay with your children  
or leave them with us while you  
Shop, decorate or wrap it up!

Pizza will be served. Featured  
Movies: The Crippled Lamb and A  
Charlie Brown Christmas  
sponsored by the OLCG Parish Council  
Youth Engagement Committee

Please RSVP to [nfinn1121@gmail.com](mailto:nfinn1121@gmail.com)



**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE ~ Cohort 9 ~**

**Sacred Heart Church**  
343 South Broad Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m.**

**Priests from OLGCC, I-SJ and Sacred Heart will be available for Confession.**

**Come prepare your heart for our Infant King.**



**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!**



**Christmas Gift's Due, December 16th**

To participate, please take a gift tag, or more, from the baskets located in the front Church vestibule. This years' tags include infant (0-2 yrs), toddler (2-4 yrs.), child (5-10 yrs.), and teen (11-13 yrs.). Purchase the gift, attach your gift tag to it and return it to the designated table in the Parish Hall by **Monday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Please do NOT wrap your gift and do NOT place your gifts in bags.**

For those who like to wrap gifts, consider **Adopting A Family** this Christmas. Catholic Charities is searching for **Adopt-a-Family** donors. Struggling families of various sizes provide wish lists for specific items, which you can help provide. Family sizes include Small (2 people), Medium (3-5 people), Large (6 or more) or No preference. Please call Jim Gambino of our Social Services Committee at 609-818-1708 to find out how you can participate in Adopt-A-Family and help brighten Christmas morning for a struggling family in our Diocese this year. **Adopt-a-Family** gifts may also be left in the Parish Hall in the designated area. **Thanks for your generosity!**



**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



**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!**

**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**

# SPOONS OF LOVE

## ADVENT PROJECT 2024

We are now on the last pillar of the National Eucharistic Revival called MISSION. We who are nourished by the Eucharist have the mission to go and feed the hungry.

The 2024 USDA Food Security Report shows a significant increase in food insecurity due to inflation and the pandemic with 47.4 million people affected including 13.8 million children.

Mother Teresa said: If you cannot feed a hundred people, at least feed one. She also said that the greatest hunger in the world today is not hunger for food but hunger for love. This Advent, we want to carry out our Eucharistic mission to feed the hungry, not only those who are hungry for food but also those who are hungry for love.

The SPOONS in the baskets represent our love. Use the pen provided to write on the spoons the works of love which you have done or planning to do. Then place the spoons in the baskets by the altar. Offer them to the Lord as you say a prayer. The spoons we offer will be used to build a house for the Holy Family.

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### SPOON EQUIVALENTS

- Feeding a hungry person = **10 spoons**
- Donate a meal to Freeze a Meal or any feeding program = **10 spoons** (food trays and instructions for donating meals is next to the freezer in the parish hall)
- Donate canned goods = **10 spoons**
- Volunteering in any feeding program = **20 spoons**
- Other donations: Look at the Parish Hall bulletin board near elevator = **5 spoons**
- Cash donation = **\$1 per spoon** (put in an envelope and label "ADVENT PROJECT")
- Any act of love to a family member/relative = **5 spoons**
- Any act of kindness or help given to a neighbor = **5 spoons**
- Praying for the less fortunate = **5 spoons**
- Christmas Gift Giving = **10 spoons per tag**
- Adopt a Family Program = **10 spoons per family**



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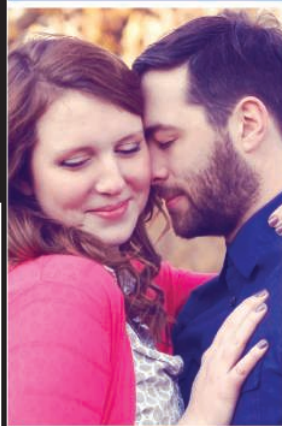
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