



Our Lady of Good Counsel

www.olgcc.net
February 18, 2024

Tel: 609-882-3277

Fax: 609-882-4375

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

Parish email: olgccbulletin@proton.me

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

3:00 pm

Registration: All parishioners should be registered. Please contact the Rectory Office when entering or leaving the parish.

Parish Secretary:

Monday-Wednesday Debbie Smith

Webmaster/Bulletin 609-882-3277

Email: olgccbulletin@proton.me

Administrative Assistant:

Thursday-Friday Mary Szmuto

Email: Mszmuto@gmail.com

First Sunday of Lent



Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

137 West Upper Ferry Road, West Trenton, NJ

Parish Ministries & Services

Parish Rectory & Office 609-882-3277

Office Hours: M–F 9AM to 3PM

Fax: 609-882-4375

Religious Education—Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE

E-mail: olgc.re.wt@gmail.com 609-883-9005

Adoration Denise Hayes 908-242-2183

Adult Faith Formation/RCIA

Deacon Steve Szmuto 609-947-0587

Altar Mary Pat Voorhees 570-290-2373

Consolation Ministry Mary Szmuto 609-882-3277

Infant Baptism Mary Szmuto 609-847-0796

Knights of Columbus—

Tom DeFalco, Grand Knight 609-882-6480

Bob Smythe, Knight Liaison-NJ Bob10@Verizon.net

Liturgical Ministers Mary Szmuto 609-882-3277

Mary's of Mary-Mary Arcadipane 609-883-7620

Music Ministry Deirdre Hindley 609-882-3215

Sr.'s Club Mary Pat Voorhees, Pres. 570-290-2373

Dolores Sebasto, Vice President 609-882-5085

Social Services James Gambino 609-818-1708

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Mass Intentions

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | FEBRUARY 17, 2024 Francis Goeke r/o Elaine Palatine Michael Golinski r/o Fran, Sherri & Steve |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | FEBRUARY 18, 2024 First Sunday of Lent Carol Hanson Smith r/o Family People of the Parish |
| 10:30 AM | Richard L. Palatine r/o Gail Palatine Eleanor & Paul Gofus r/o Gail Palatine |
| MONDAY, 7:30 AM | FEBRUARY 19, 2024 Elena Brito r/o Daughter, Evelyn Miraglia |
| TUESDAY, 7:30 AM | FEBRUARY 20, 2024 Intentions of Linda Goeke r/o Elaine Palatine |
| WEDNESDAY, 7:30 AM | FEBRUARY 21, 2024 Intentions of Mary Lou Delahanty r/o Elaine Palatine |
| THURSDAY, 7:30 AM | FEBRUARY 22, 2024 M/M John Bernhard r/o Eileen & Michael Giglio |
| FRIDAY, 7:30 AM | FEBRUARY 23, 2024 Susan Hillman r/o Schulte Family Intentions of Bernadine & Paul Medwick (61st Wedding Anniversary) r/o Son, Paul Medwick |
| 7:00 PM | Stations of the Cross |
| SATURDAY, 8:00 AM | FEBRUARY 24, 2024 Priest's Intention |
| 5:00 PM | Intentions of Ilene Bulanowski r/o Elaine Palatine Healing of Kendall Grimm r/o Marie |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | FEBRUARY 25, 2024 Second Sunday of Lent John Robert Hartmann, Sr. r/o Evelyn Miraglia People of the Parish |
| 10:30 AM | Faith Holland r/o Mary Timlen Maureen Neville r/o Jack Flanagan |

COLLECTION REPORT

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Registered Parish Families | 688 |
| Parishioners using envelopes | 109 |
| Envelope Contributions | \$2,223.00 |
| Average Contribution | \$20.39 |
| Loose Cash | \$594.00 |
| Total Contributions February 11th: | \$2,817.00 |

Thank you for your generosity!

Readers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | FEBRUARY 24 Sherry Calderone |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | FEBRUARY 25 Laura Shea |
| 10:30 AM | Maggie Masterson |

Eucharistic Ministers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | FEBRUARY 24 Joyce Christensen, Ginny Evans |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | FEBRUARY 25 Dennis Hice, Danny Morales |
| 10:30 AM | Tony Jones, Mary Anne LeGall |

Altar Servers

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| FRIDAY, 7:00 PM | FEBRUARY 23 Stations of the Cross Daniel Wilkes, Liz Baron |
| SATURDAY, 5:00 PM | FEBRUARY 24 James Gummel |
| SUNDAY, 8:30 AM | FEBRUARY 25 Liz Baron, Brayden Spina |
| 10:30 AM | Ryan Spina, Dylan Rutkowski |

News & Events

Religious Education Classes are closed for all grades this week for the President's Day Holiday.

Tuesday, February 20, Ewing Knights of Columbus will meet in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm. **Diaper Drive** collection ongoing to February 25th.

Thursday, February 22, Good News Sunday Scripture Study. Join us weekly as we reflect on the upcoming Sunday Readings. We meet in the Opdenacker Room at 7:00 PM and on Friday morning at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.

Friday, February 23, Stations of the Cross at 7 PM.
Saturday, February 24, Novenas in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and St. Jude follow morning Mass. **Reconciliation** 4:00-4:30 PM.



Pray for our Sick:

Kevin Baker, Mitzi Baker, Erin Barbato, Col. Gabriel Beck, Christina Beck, Rosemarie Buker, Richard Cook, Sarah Dowd, Al Gatto, Leo Genovesi, Brian Gershon, Phil Glaser, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Theresa Gregorio, Sherri Hanlon, Eileen and James A. Keenan, IV, Mary Lou Kramli, Carol Lake, Laura Lynch, Kevin McBride, Keith Mello, Joan Moore, Marie Muscente, Kim Nash, Angelika Niranjana, Carol Perrine, Dominic Petito, Jennifer, Andres & Gadiel Qirroga, Lucy Saganowski, Vincent Schnell, G. Welly Samuels, Debbie Sattler, Gregory Schafer, Steve Schmierer, Dolores Sebasto, Kristy Shanahan, Linda Solinski, Brenda Thornley, Erin Cahill Wetzel, 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.

Friend us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/OlqcWestTrenton/>

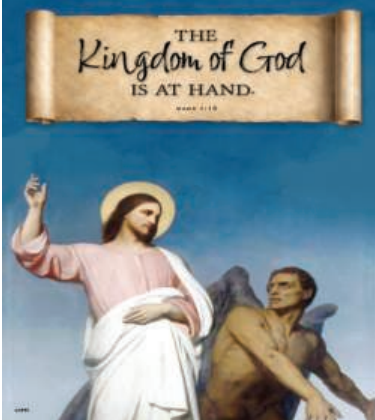


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FEBRUARY 18TH ~ FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Reflection on the Sunday Readings

February 18, 2024 – First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9: 8-15 Psalm 25: 4-9 1 Peter 3: 18-22 Mark 1: 12-15

Today is the First Sunday of Lent. The Season of Lent is the main penitential season in the liturgical year and commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert devoting himself to fasting and prayer. The Forty Days of Lent began just a few days ago with Ash Wednesday (observed with the placing of ashes on our forehead, reminding us of our mortality and calling us to repentance) and ends with the celebration of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil). Visually, Lent is observed by the lack of flowers or other decorations in the church and the wearing of purple vestments by the priest and deacon at mass (except for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, when rose colored vestments may be worn). The Sunday liturgies are also marked by a greater simplicity: The Gloria is neither said nor sung, and the traditional *Alleluia* at the Gospel Acclamation is replaced by

the less celebratory, *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory*. The Gospel readings in particular focus on the life and ministry of Jesus as the fulfillment of messianic prophecy as he journeys to Jerusalem and his Paschal Sacrifice.

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God," "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel."

Today's reading from the Gospel of Mark is one of the briefest of all in the lectionary; yet, in the evangelist's direct style, it recounts two of the most significant events in the life of Our Lord: Jesus' temptation in the desert, and his proclamation of the kingdom of God. With these two connected events, Jesus begins his public ministry, ushering in a new era in the life of humanity. In Christ, the prophecies have been fulfilled; he is the realization of the promise made by God in fidelity to his loving covenant with man. The coming of the Savior in the person of Jesus is prefigured in the reading from Genesis, whereby God established his covenant with Noah and his descendants. As we heard in the first Letter of Saint Peter: *Beloved: Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.*

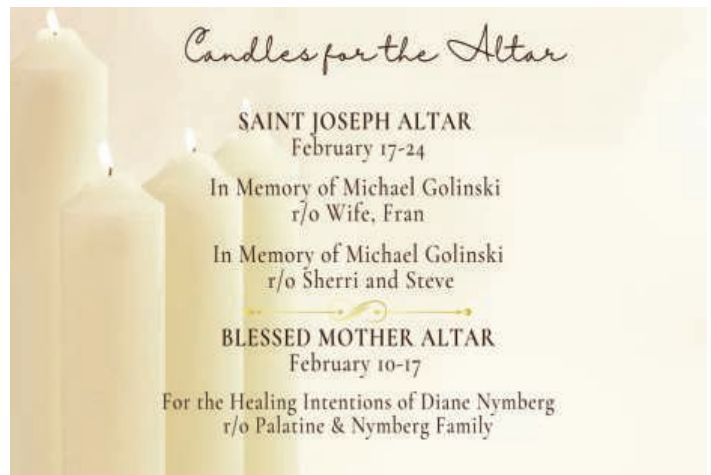
As the Season of Lent is a time of penance and solemn preparation for the joyful celebration of Easter, it is marked by days of fasting and abstinence from meat (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), and abstinence on all other Fridays. Traditionally, Catholics refrain from indulging in certain pleasures or participate in additional acts of prayer, service, and charity as part of their preparation for Easter. One particular way to enter more fully into the spirit of Lent is to participate in the *Stations of the Cross*, held in our parish at 7:00pm each Friday during Lent. The *Stations*, a traditional Lenten devotion, are in essence a 14-step, mini-pilgrimage recalling the journey of Our Lord to Calvary beginning with his condemnation and culminating with the laying of the body of the Lord in the tomb. Catholics are long familiar with this devotion. Since my ordination to the diaconate, I have been privileged to lead the congregation in praying the *Stations of the Cross* on many of the Fridays in Lent; personally, I find the devotion to be a profound form of prayer, allowing me (and hopefully others) to enter into a deep meditation on the great sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The devotion lasts no longer than 30 minutes, but is a wonderful way to deepen our spiritual journey with the Lord as he enters into his Paschal Sacrifice. Deacon Steven K. Szmuto



Ewing Knights of Columbus Diaper Drive to benefit **Choice One**, the weekends of **February 17/18 & 24/25**. You may bring your gifts to any mass those two weekends.

Please leave items in the Parish Hall on or under the tables marked "Diaper Drive." Diapers, wipes, new baby items, Bibs, Blankets, bottles, pacifiers, shampoo, brushes and combs are also requested. Gifts do not need to be wrapped. Gift Cards may be placed in the weekly collection basket in an envelope marked "Diaper Drive" or you may drop them off to the Rectory during business hours M-F 9-3:00.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS

The students and catechists of the OLGC Religious Education Program would like to thank you all for your generous contributions to our "Soup-er Bowl" soup collection. Last weekend we collected 670 cans of soup! Surpassing our Goal of 500 by 170 cans! Thank you parish family for helping us feed the hungry!



Panhandling

Periodically, there will be panhandlers in the church parking lot before or after the weekend Masses. As Catholic Christians we try to live the virtues of generosity and charity in our lives and therefore feel obligated to help those in need. Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine the exact needs of those who come to our campus. Please direct those who are asking for money in our parking lot to speak to the pastor or to a member of the parish staff for help and save your generosity for the trusted organizations that we support as a parish. These organizations (Mt. Carmel Guild, Catholic Charities, etc.) offer substantial help and ensure that charity is going to those who really need it. If you see anything questionable please contact the parish office, 609-882-3277 x3.

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.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 1, 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During the days and weeks of penance that lie ahead --- from **Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024,**

until Holy Thursday morning, March 28, 2024 --- the Catholic

Church throughout the world commemorates the penitential season of Lent ending with the Sacred Triduum of Holy Week. The model Jesus gave us for "these forty days" was his own experience in the desert and the temptations that followed him there where he encountered Satan face to face. And yet, Jesus, there in the desert --- alone, fasting and in intense prayer --- beat back the devil and triumphed over temptation, as strong and as unrelenting as it was throughout those forty days.

We enter the desert of Lent like Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, to face our devils, our temptations head on. But we are not alone. The Lord Jesus Christ is with us. And so, too, is the Church, the entire community of faith observing Lent. Here is what the Catholic Church in the United States requires of us as baptized Catholics:

1. **The days of FAST (only one full meal) and ABSTINENCE (no meat) are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. No dispensations are granted on these solemn days except for reason of sickness or those provided in canon law below. ALL OTHER FRIDAYS OF LENT are days of ABSTINENCE.**

The pastor of a parish has the faculty to give a dispensation to individual parishioners in his parish and the Diocesan Bishop alone has the authority to dispense groups of Catholics but only for a serious reason.

2. **Those who are automatically dispensed from fast and abstinence regulations outside the age limits noted below include: the physically or mentally ill, especially individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also included in the dispensation are women who are pregnant or nursing. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to FAST (only one full meal) as above. From the age of 14, people are also obliged to ABSTAIN (no meat): this obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat).

The obligation to observe the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious one for Catholics. Failure to observe one penitential day in itself is not considered a serious sin. It is the intentional failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of penitential days, that must be considered a serious matter.

The obligation, the privilege really, of receiving the Eucharist at least once a year --- often called "Easter duty" --- for those in the state of grace should still be fulfilled during the period from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 17-18, 2024, to Trinity Sunday, May 25-26, 2024.** However, the Church's law does permit this precept to be fulfilled at another time during the year when there is a just cause.

I want to encourage all Catholics, especially those who are conscious of serious sin, to go to confession and to make use of the sacrifices and traditions that have always been part of our Lenten practices in the Church.

We do, indeed, fast and pray with the Lord Jesus and with our fellow Catholics. May this Lent be a time of penance leading to grace and joy for us all at Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., Bishop of Trenton



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

March 9th, 10:00 am

Cohort 9 - Community of Parishes Lenten Penance Service will take place at Incarnation Church 1545 Pennington Road Ewing, NJ 08618 Additional priests will be available for Confessions

Calling all Youth! We are in search of volunteers who would like to lead a Station of the Cross on Friday, **March 15th at 7 pm.** Open to all parish youth. We will pray the Stations with The Way of the Cross for Children. If you can help - **Please RVSP to nfinn1121@gmail.com**

The Way of the Cross for Children

FRIDAY MARCH 15, 7:00PM

Come pray with us.

LENT AT OLGCC

OUR LENTEN SERVICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Beginning Friday
February 16th
7:00 PM

Friday evenings during Lent



Friday, March 15th at 7:00 PM

Children will lead

GOOD NEWS SUNDAY

THURSDAY'S

7:00 PM

and

FRIDAY'S

10:00 AM

in Parish Hall



Soup, Spiritual Talk, & Stations of the Cross

A Friday evening of spiritual preparation for Holy Week.

March 22, 2024 at 5:30PM

We shall start with a simple soup dinner at 5:30PM Then listen to a spiritual talk by Dan Palmieri of JMJ Missions and culminate with the Stations of the Cross.

free will offering
proceeds to help with
Meal and Speaker

**ALL ARE WELCOME AND
ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND**



I CAN, YOU CAN, WE CAN

40 CANS FOR LENT



Our Social Services Committee invites everyone to participate in this outreach program throughout the Lenten season. Instead of giving up something for Lent, consider giving out something. As Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights, we will be collecting and delivering canned goods to our local charities to help with the nutritional needs of needy families in the Trenton area. The idea is to donate one canned food item for each day of Lent, or 40 cans.

Please leave your donated cans of fruit, or low-sodium soup, vegetables and meat (chicken, salmon, tuna), in the designated area of the Parish Hall, which we will deliver to Mount Carmel Guild after Easter.

You don't have to wait until the end of Lent to bring your donation to the Church. You may donate as often as you would like; one-can-per-day, once a week, or whenever you visit the Church. Whatever you can give is greatly appreciated. Gift cards and monetary donations are also accepted. Please place an envelope in the collection basket marked "40 Cans for Lent" or take to the Rectory Office during the week M-F from 9 AM-3:00 PM. *Thank you!*



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Soup for the Soul REFLECTION EVENING

FEATURING THE INFORMATIVE TALK
HOPE IN SUFFERING BY DAN PALMIERI OF
POPULAR MEDIA TEAM **JMJ MISSIONS**

5:30 - SOUP AND FELLOWSHIP

6:00 - "HOPE IN SUFFERING" PRESENTATION

7:00 - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 22nd
137 West Upper Ferry Rd, West Trenton, NJ



DAY OF PRAYER FOR WOMEN ~ OASIS ~ sponsored by the Religious Teachers Filippini, will take place on **Saturday, April 20th** between 9:30 AM and 3:00 PM at Villa Walsh. Please send a Registration Fee of \$15 p.p., payable to Villa Walsh. Mail Payment to: Sr. Patricia Martin, MPF, Villa Walsh, 455 Western Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960 include your name, address, phone. For more information, call Sr. Alice at 732-238-9222. Includes: Mass, Reconciliation, Rosary/Stations & Adoration. (Outdoor Stations) bring your own brown bag lunch, drinks provided, Handicapped accessible. Gift Shop onsite.
Come aside and rest with the Lord.

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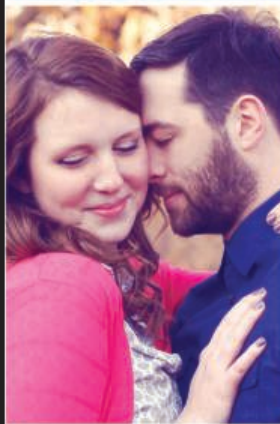
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