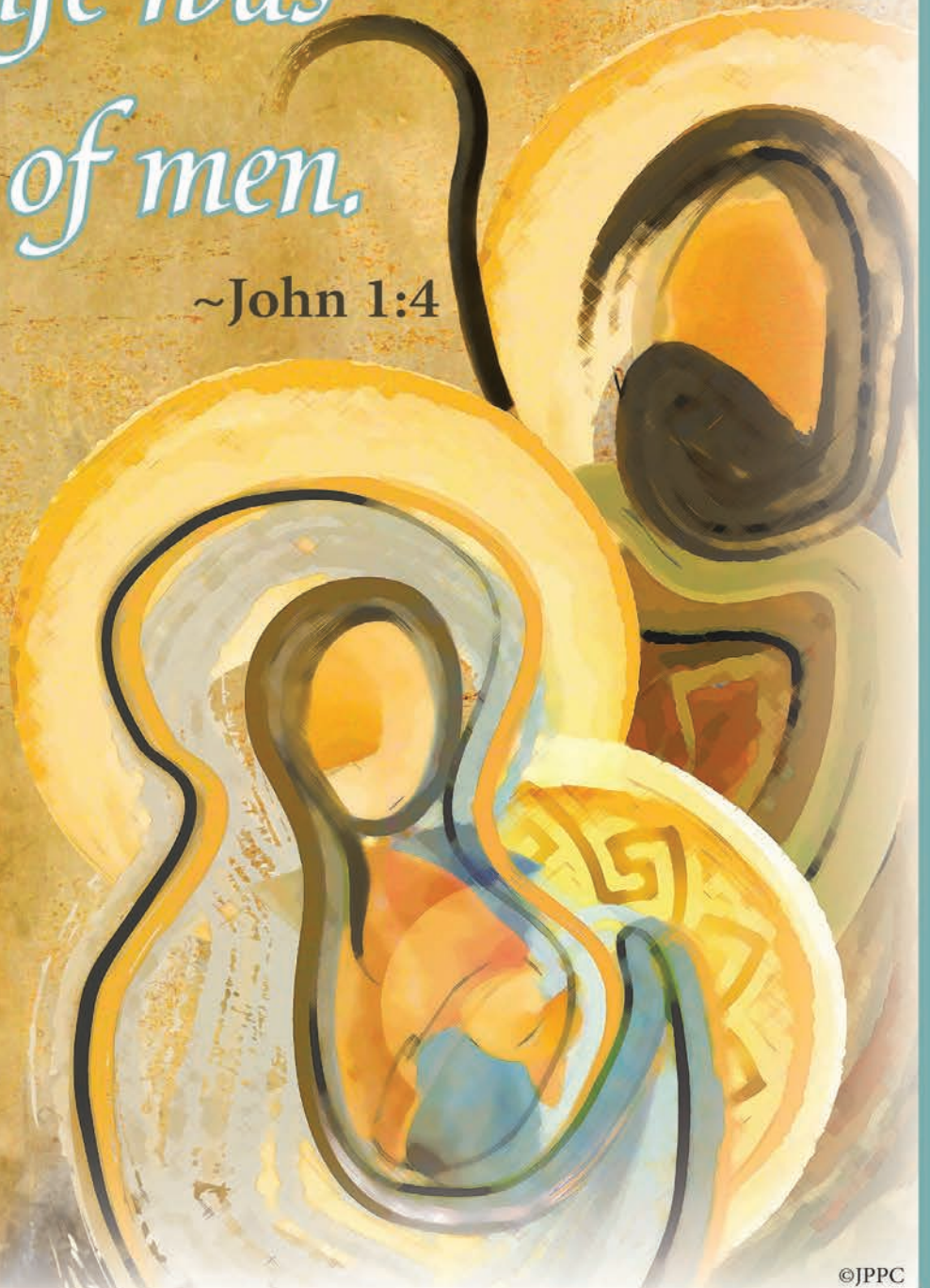


*Our Lady of Good Counsel*

*In Him was life;  
and the life was  
the light of men.*

~John 1:4





# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH

## Mass Intentions

<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 18, 2021</b> Eleanor & Paul Gofus r/o Gail A. Palatine Richard L. Palatine r/o Gail A. Palatine
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 19, 2021</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Peace</b> Janet Morris r/o Kees & Angela Geurds Leon Hendricksen r/o Family Hajjar Paul Sollami r/o Marlene Waldron People of the Parish
<b>MONDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 20, 2021</b> Richard W. Walley r/o Family Chris Carballeira r/o Niece
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 21, 2021</b> Louis, Philomena & Nicholas Sr., Muscente r/o Carol Muscente
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 22, 2021</b> Gloria Buttaci r/o Norman V. Buttaci Maria Stella Taylor r/o Deacon Steve & Mary
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 23, 2021</b> Janet McMyne r/o Daughter Margaret Salvatore r/o Jean O'Donnell
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 7:30 AM 5:00 PM 10:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 24, 2021 Christmas Eve</b> For Intentions of Madeleine Cahill r/o Elaine Palatine People of the Parish For the Living Members of Muscente Family
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 25, 2021 Christmas Day</b> Anne Rita & James Newell r/o Debbie & Family Paul Sollami r/o Marlene Waldron People of the Parish
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 26, 2021</b> <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b> For Intentions of Donna Collins r/o Angela Androla Ernie Legasi r/o Mary Abbe Mempoim Nicholas Muscente, Sr. & Intentions of Marie Muscente r/o Daughter People of the Parish

# PEACE

## Readers

<b>FRIDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve</b> Elise Stankus
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day</b> Laura Shea Maggie Masterson
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 26 The Holy Family</b> Fran Golinski Maggie Masterson

## Eucharistic Ministers

<b>FRIDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve</b> Joyce Christenson
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day</b> Tom Maguire Tony Jones
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 26 The Holy Family</b> Tom Maguire Tony Jones

## Altar Servers

<b>FRIDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve</b> Nathan Stankus & James Gummel
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day</b> Daniel Wilkes Dylan Rutkowski
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 26 The Holy Family</b> Brayden Spina Dylan Rutkowski

## Pray for our Sick:

Allan Baenziger, Rosemarie Buker, Richard Cook, Katie Dao, Al Gatto, Elizabeth Gervasoni, Theresa Gregorio, Sherri Hanlon, Marie Hegyi, Carol Lake, Kevin McBride, Keith Mello, Joan Moore, Marie Muscente, Kim Nash, Angelika Niranjana, Carol Perrine, Lucy Saganowski, Gregory Schafer, Kristy Shanahan, Steve Schmierer, Linda Solinski, Paul Sollami, Stanley Wrobel, Nancy Newell Yeomans 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:

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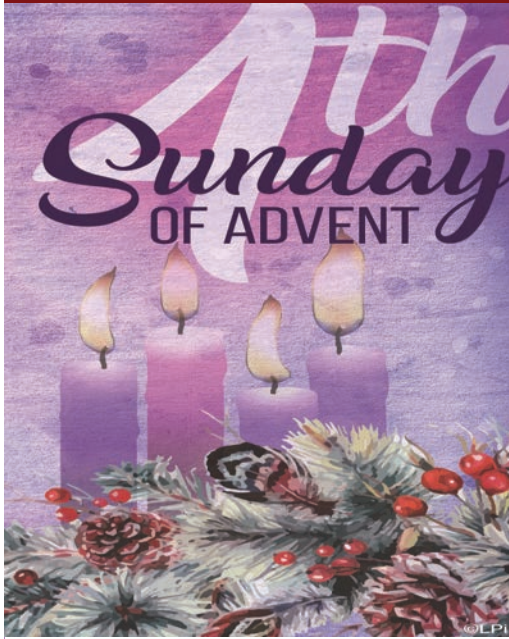
## CHURCH SUPPORT

Parishioners using envelopes	119
Envelope Contributions	\$2,431.00
Average Contribution	\$20.43
Loose Cash	\$436.00
Contributions for December 12th	\$2,867.00

Thank you for your generosity.



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Deacon Steve Szmuto's Reflection on the Sunday Readings

December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5: 1-4a    Psalm 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Hebrews 10: 5-10    Luke: 1: 39-45

*"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb . . . Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

The wait is almost over; the days before Christmas dwindle down to a precious few and anticipation is high. The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent point to the imminent birth of our Lord Jesus. The birth of the Messiah, the Christ, was long awaited and prophesized in the Old Testament. In today's Gospel, St. Luke describes the meeting of two women – Mary and Elizabeth – both of whom were blessed with child through unusual circumstances: Elizabeth, a woman advanced in years; Mary, a young virgin, with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. Their meeting was at once touching and poignant. It was, in a sense, a celebration of life, and a recognition of the fulfillment of prophecy, hope and promise. It was the strong demonstration of the Holy Spirit: both in the Son of God, now carried in the womb of this young woman; and of the knowledge of this truth by her cousin, pregnant with the child, who would be known as John the Baptist.

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognized Mary as the Mother of the Lord. Her own child, who would later baptize Jesus in the River Jordan, leapt with joy in her womb. What great faith! What an example of total obedience to God by these women of faith, who were entrusted with roles essential to the final fulfillment of the messianic promise: Elizabeth, the mother of the last and greatest of the prophets; Mary, the mother of our Lord and Savior. It was a moment of boundless joy, long awaited, yet never before or since experienced.

The obedience of the women in accepting and embracing God's Will, must have been a splendid example for their sons. Both grew to adulthood in fidelity to their mission. While Jesus, in his divine nature was the only begotten Son of God, the example of his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, provided him with the example of perfect human conformity to the Father's will. In the Blessed Mother, we find perfection in faithfulness. In her own words, asserted her loving and unconditional trust: *Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.* The trust exhibited by Mary and Elizabeth also serves as models of faith for all of us too. When God calls us, may we be open to him with joyful resolve.

As we anticipate the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord, let us remember the total submission of Mary to serve humankind as the mother of Jesus. In her willingness to do God's will, she is the exemplar of devotion and humility – the model to which we all can aspire to emulate.

**Deacon Steven Szmuto**





# DECEMBER 19, 2021 ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS



## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASSES

*Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>*

5:00 PM ~ Contemporary Group

10:00 PM Midnight Mass ~ Adult Choir

*Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*

8:30 AM

10:30 AM ~ Adult Choir

(There is no Vigil Mass for Sunday)

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph*

*Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>*

8:30 and 10:30 AM

*Mary, Mother of God*

*Vigil Mass, Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>*

5:00 PM

*New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1, 2022*

9:00 AM

(There is no Vigil Mass for Sunday)

*The Epiphany of the Lord*

*Sunday January 2, 2022*

8:30 and 10:30 AM

**Church Office is CLOSED**

**December 24 to 27 & December 31 to January 3**

**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**



## **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 being celebrated in nine different churches. Our Lady of Good Counsel Church has been chosen to host the Mass on December 21, 2021 at 7:00PM. All are invited to take part in this special Christmas preparation and celebration. See you!



Please help us put up the Nativity in the Church and finish our Christmas decorating following the 10:30 Mass on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Our Christmas Schedule will be the same as last year. Please note that we will celebrate the Mass During the Night (Mass at Midnight) with the Proclamation of the Incarnation at 10:00PM on Christmas Eve.



## **SAINT ANN YOUTH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

The **Saint Ann Youth Choir** will present their annual **Christmas Concert** on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>** beginning at **3:00 PM** in the **Church of Saint Ann, 1253 Lawrenceville road, Lawrenceville, NJ.**

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!!**



**Parish Office is CLOSED**

**December 24—27 and**

**December 31—January 3**

*Fourth Sunday* **Advent**



Many thanks to all who participated in this year's **gift giving** opportunity to help brighten Christmas morning for struggling families in our Trenton Diocese. The turnout was great. Together we helped provide gifts to Catholic Charities of Trenton and Mount Carmel Guild.

A special thanks to those who participated in the **Adopt-a-Family** program this year. Thanks also for the hard work of our Social Service Committee members and other volunteers who helped process the gifts, and to everyone for following the signs in the garage to drop off your donations! We knew you could do it!! **THANKS!**



### **Ewing Knights of Columbus Super 50/50**

Congratulations to the winner,  
Joan Gambino of Our Lady of  
Good Counsel. Prize was \$2,335.00.

### **COHORT 9 ~ CLERGY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., announced November 29<sup>th</sup> that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has appointed Father Dennis Apoldite, currently serving as Episcopal Vicar for Mercer County and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Trenton, as **Monsignor**, Chaplain to His Holiness.

**Congratulations Father Dennis!!**



### **Catholic Charities**

Thank you. Your generosity enables Catholic Charities to serve those in desperate need. That generosity was especially demonstrated by the rapid response to the urgent need of the Afghan children housed at McGuire Air Force Base. They and all we serve are so grateful for your support. If you know of anyone needing assistance, especially during this Christmas season, with food, housing, drug addiction, domestic violence or immigration services please contact us at: [www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org](http://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org) or call 800-360-7711. We wish you a blessed Christmas and holy, healthy and happy New Year.

## **BLESSING OF THE MANGER**

*God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love. Amen*

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**Go to our Face Book Page for Live Streaming:**

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Face Book—Daily Masses Monday through Saturday

Live Streamed at the regular Mass times.

Sunday Mass **10:30 A.M.**

YouTube—All Daily and Weekend Masses are

Live Streamed at the regular Mass times.

### **Prayer of Thanks for Vocations**

God our Father,  
We thank you for calling men  
and women to serve in your  
Son's Kingdom as Priests,  
Deacons, and consecrated  
Persons.

Send your Holy Spirit  
to help others to respond  
generously and courageously  
to your call.

May our community of faith  
support Vocations of  
sacrificial love in  
our youth and young adults.

Through our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who lives and reigns  
with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, One God,  
forever and ever.

Amen

—USCCB



# DECEMBER 19, 2021 ~ MERRY CHRISTMAS



**RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE** - Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



## Offering at Francis House of Prayer

Trenton Diocesan Spiritual Center & Retreat House  
84 Walnford Road • Allentown, NJ 08501  
609-877-0509 or [FHOP@verizon.net](mailto:FHOP@verizon.net)

Please check [www.FHOP.org](http://www.FHOP.org) for registration, directions and for our other offerings! All programs will be offered online and in person unless otherwise indicated.

## END OF THE YEAR RETREAT

Friday, December 31      9:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Since God gives us life and time and is Lord over all, it seems appropriate to end the year in prayer.

Francis House offers time, space and quiet for naming the graces of 2021 and expressing gratitude to God. The afternoon will focus on our goals, hopes and desires for 2022. We reverently say farewell to 2021 and cordially welcome 2022 as a gift from God. Please bring your lunch.

Donation: Love Offering.



**2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL -**  
**2021 is coming to a close Collected to Date = \$21,837.86**  
Our Parish Goal is \$28,000.00. We are \$6,162.14 away from goal. If you are able to help by making a pledge/contribution it would help us reach goal. When we reach goal the parish will receive a rebate of 15% for our parish needs. Your donation is important in building up our Church. Any size donation helps us reach our goal and is welcome! Please donate by making a check out to the **2021 ACA and drop it into the weekly collection basket, OR** Mail/take your donation to the Rectory Office OR online: <https://dioceseoftrenton.org/aca-donate-page>



## Christmas Gift

For a truly meaningful Christmas present, one that lasts long after the decorations have been put away, why not give your spouse the gift of 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 in Central NJ will be held February 4 – 6. Other Weekends are available in Cape May County, NJ and Bucks County, PA. Please apply ASAP as space is limited. Phone 1-732-904-9636 for application & information (Tom & Ruth DeFalco). Visit us at: [www.wmme.org](http://www.wmme.org) for more information.

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## Prayer to St Michael The Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our protection against  
the wickedness and snares  
of the Devil. May God rebuke  
him, we humbly pray, and do  
thou, O Prince of the heavenly  
hosts, by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan, and  
all the evil spirits, who  
prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
**Amen**

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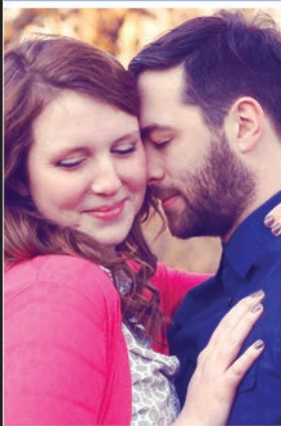
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