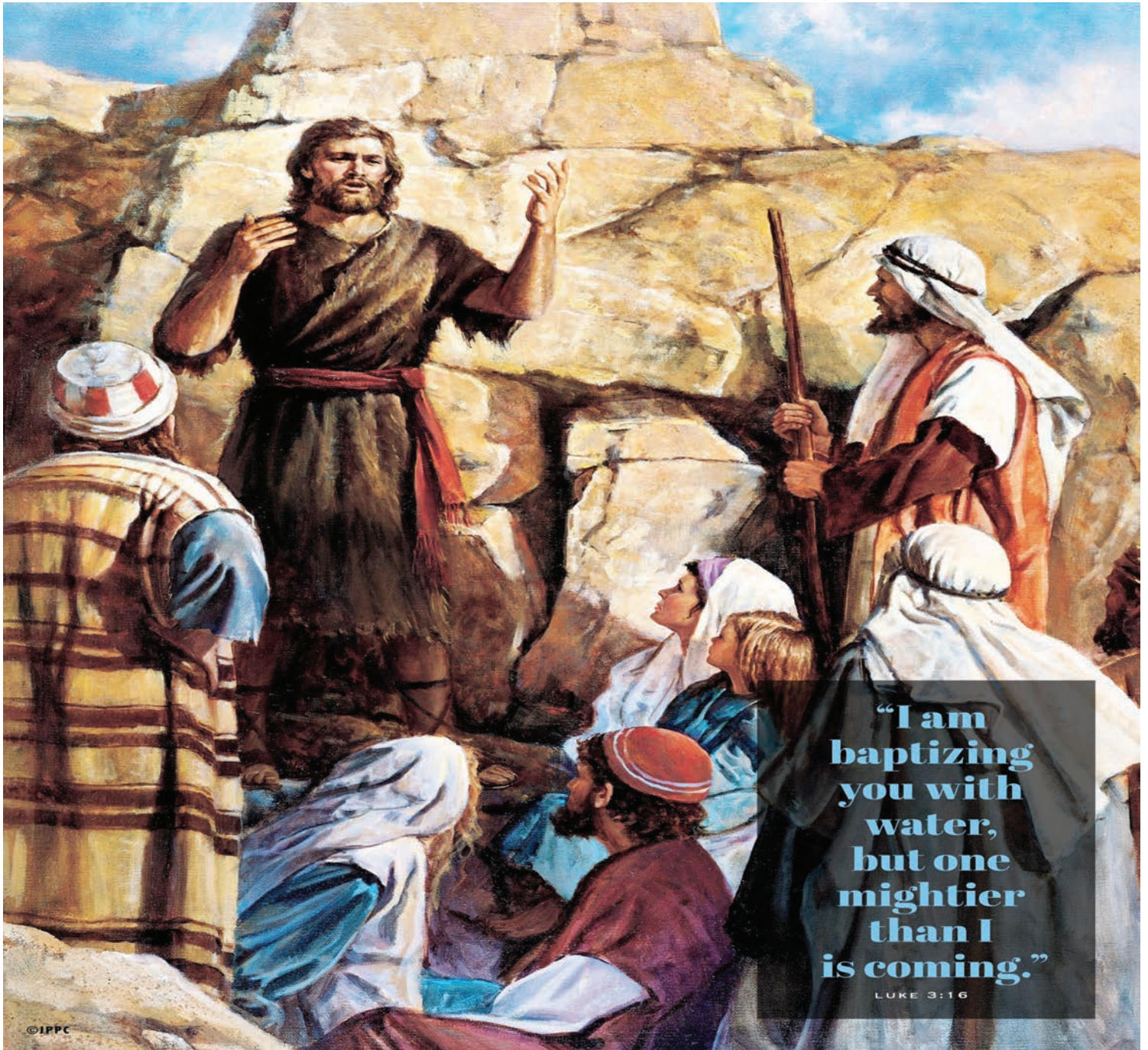


# Our Lady of Good Counsel

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT • DECEMBER 12, 2021



Rev. Ariel Robles, Pastor  
Email: [FrAriel@olgcc.net](mailto: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](http://olgcc.net)  
E-mail: [rectoryoffice@olgcc.net](mailto: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 ~ Mask are required

# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH

## Mass Intentions

<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 11, 2021</b> Paul Sollami r/o Charles & Diane Fair Jennifer Englander r/o Arcadipane Family
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 12, 2021 ~ Gaudete Sunday</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy</b> Marie J. Hall r/o Tedeschi Family People of the Parish Grace Venanzi r/o Marlene Waldron Carol Smith Hanson r/o Mom & Family
<b>MONDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 13, 2021</b> Intentions of Batt & Joan O'Rahilly r/o Andrew O'Rahilly
<b>TUESDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 14, 2021</b> Patricia Smith r/o Andrew O'Rahilly
<b>WEDNESDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 15, 2021</b> Intentions of Donal & Nuala O'Rahilly r/o Andrew O'Rahilly
<b>THURSDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 16, 2021</b> Chester A. Wisneski r/o Andrew O'Rahilly
<b>FRIDAY,</b> 7:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 17, 2021</b> John O'Rahilly r/o Andrew O'Rahilly Maria Monaco r/o Vincent Monaco
<b>SATURDAY,</b> 8:00 AM 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 18, 2021</b> Special Intention 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 ~ Love</b> Janet Morris r/o Kees & Angela Geurds Leon Hendricksen r/o Family Hajjar Paul Sollami r/o Marlene Waldron People of the Parish

## CHURCH SUPPORT

Parishioners using envelopes	133
Envelope Contributions	\$3,471.00
Average Contribution	\$26.10
Loose Cash	\$513.00
Contributions for December 5th	\$3,984.00

Parish Giving for November amounted to \$4,005.00.

This weekend is the Annual Religious Retirement Collection. There will be two separate collections.

Thank you for your generosity.

Friend us on Facebook:

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



### Readers

<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 18</b> Jackie Crane
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 19</b> Sean Feddema Maeve Cannon

### Eucharistic Ministers

<b>SATURDAY,</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 18</b> Joyce Christenson
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 19</b> Tom Maguire Tony Jones

### Altar Servers

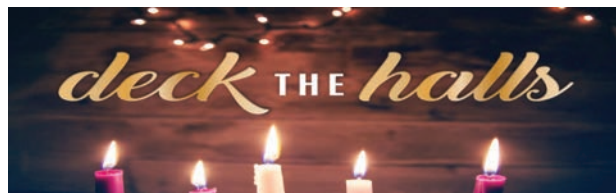
<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00 PM	<b>DECEMBER 18</b> James Gummel
<b>SUNDAY,</b> 8:30 AM 10:30 AM	<b>DECEMBER 19</b> Brayden Spina & Daniel Wilkes Dylan Rutkowski

### News & Events

**Saturday, December 18** Novenas follow morning Mass. **Reconciliation** at 4:30, Mask are required.

**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.



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

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.



# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-18a   Isaiah 12: 2-6   Philippians 4: 4-7   Luke 3: 10-18

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The word “*Gaudete*” is a Latin word meaning “*Rejoice*,” the call to which is proclaimed throughout the readings this weekend, especially in the second reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.*”

The Season of Advent (the name itself is derived from the Latin word for “*coming*”) is a time of anticipation and preparation for the Solemnity of Christmas. As with Lent, the season also has a penitential character to it, reflecting the need for people of faith to turn away from sin and prepare their hearts and minds and souls for the coming of Our Lord into human history. 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 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 said, “*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.*”

In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist was preaching to the people, who wondered if he might be the Christ. “*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.'*” While John, by his own admission, was not the Messiah, he was a powerful prophet, offering a way for the people to prepare for the coming of Christ. 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.

Are we ready for the coming of Christ? Have we made room for him in our hearts? Or have we focused solely on the secular aspects of the season at the expense of prayer, love, compassion, and service to others. Let us take time each day to allow the Lord to enter our lives, whether through prayer, meditation, or even the celebration of the Holy Eucharist not just on Sunday, but on other days throughout the season. And we should throughout the year, let this be a time of kindness towards others, especially, the poor, the vulnerable and the suffering. Through the reception of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ with open hearts disposed to loving compassion toward others, we are gifted with the sacramental grace to grow in the love of the Savior, whose birth we commemorate in just a few short days, a reminder of the infinite love of God, Father, Son and Spirit.

**Deacon Steven K. Szmuto**



## 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 Dec.11-12.

**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.

# DECEMBER 12, 2021

December 12th ~ Come join us for the RAS meeting after the 9:30 mass in Trinity Hall and help writing Christmas Cards for St. Lawrence Nursing Home.



## Please join us at the Rosary Altar Society's annual **Little Christmas Luncheon**

Sunday, January 16, 2022 ~ 12:30 p.m.  
Acacia Restaurant ~ 2637 Main Street,  
Lawrenceville

Choice of Mesclun Green Salad or Caesar Salad  
Penne Vodka

Your choice of: Organic Chicken Breast with  
Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable

Roasted Scottish Salmon with Roasted Potatoes &  
Sautéed Spinach

Eggplant Parmesan with Mixed Vegetables

Flourless Chocolate Torte or Coffee Cake  
Soft Drinks/Coffee/Tea - BYOB

No need to select entrée.

Choice will be made at the restaurant.

Parishioners are welcome to bring a guest.

\$40 per person, payable to ISJ Rosary Altar Society  
RSVP by Sunday, January 6

Please drop in the collection basket marked RAS luncheon. There is plenty of parking behind the restaurant. Directions will be provided.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ check# \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP to: ISJ RAS

1545 Pennington Road Ewing, NJ 08618.

Questions call Joyce Raymond at 609-306-0663  
or Mary Frances Mendola at 609-883-1865.



## Christmas Gifting Outreach

Once again it is your opportunity to participate in our **Christmas Gifting Outreach** ministry where our parishioners purchase gifts for those in need in our Diocese to help brighten their Christmas holiday.

To participate, please take a gift tag, or more, from the baskets located in the front Church vestibule. This year's 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 Rectory Garage by **Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please do NOT wrap your gift.

For those who do like to wrap gifts, consider **adopting a family** this Christmas. Catholic Charities of Trenton is searching for **Adopt-a-Family** donors right now. 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 this program and help brighten Christmas morning for a struggling family in our Diocese this year.

**Adopt-a-Family** gifts may also be left in the Rectory Garage.





**CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

**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 and 10:30 AM  
(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 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!



**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!!**



**Please Note Early Bulletin Deadlines**  
Articles for 12/26 Bulletin Due 12/13  
Articles for 01/02 Bulletin Due 12/20

*He comes to save you*

Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.  
He comes with mercy and pardon,  
He comes to save you.  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
and the tongue of the mute sing.  
Those whom the Lord has ransomed  
will return signing, crowned with everlasting joy.  
Sorrow and mourning will flee.  
The Prophet Isaiah





## *Share the Light*

Advent is about the coming of the Light----  
JESUS CHRIST. This Advent season, let's brighten  
up our church with Christmas lights.

This is to remind everybody,  
especially those who are losing hope, that the  
Light of Christ is greater than the darkness of  
evil. The pandemic has brought darkness to our  
lives, but the light of our hope will always shine.

Let us **share the light**. We will be accepting  
donations that we will use to buy Christmas  
lights to decorate our church property. Drop  
your donation in the collection basket or  
mail/take to the rectory in an envelope marked  
Christmas Lights.

Don't forget your name for credit.

Thank you very much.



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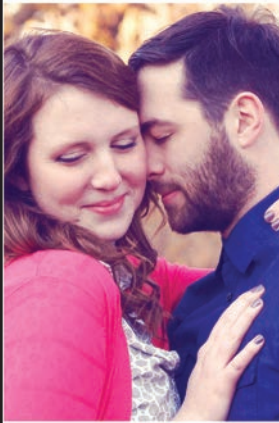
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