

**Our Lady of Good Counsel Church**

137 West Upper Ferry Road

West Trenton, NJ 08628

609-882-3277

Dear Parishioners,

I created an email batch list so that I could reach out to you. Don't worry; I will not be spamming your inbox. However, we only have emails for just over 100 parishioners, so many will not receive this, so I hope that you can share this with others so we can build this database a bit.

We are all aware that this has been an unprecedented week in the history of our Church and truly globally. The Covid-19 Pandemic has literally put a stop to many people's lives and has forced us into our homes as we have learned new terms like "self-isolation" and "social-distancing." Unfortunately, this does not seem like a situation that is going to be ending any time soon, and much will be asked of us in the next few weeks and months: in sacrifice, in prayer, in lifestyle change.

I know that many are anxious, scared: for health and risk reasons, which are primary right now, but also for financial reasons, and just due to the uncertainty over when the world will start to return to normal. I encourage you; take the time to pray for and with one another, even if there is physical distance between us. Unfortunately, we are unable to have public gatherings in the Church, which means all Masses and other prayer gatherings are going to be suspended and this suspension is going to extend beyond Easter. However, I am still praying for you at Mass every day. As long as we are allowed, the Church doors will be unlocked until 8PM daily. You can still come, if you can do so safely, and pray privately, spend some time in adoration of the Sacrament that is present. Even if you cannot come to the building we are still connected as a Church in private prayer, even in our homes: through Rosaries, Scripture reading, our devotions, our recitation of the Stations of the Cross, and Spiritual Communion.

I am giving constant updates on our parish Facebook page, and hopefully starting tomorrow Saturday 3/21/2020, if I can make it work, I will start live-streaming my private Mass on Facebook live <https://www.facebook.com/OlgcWestTrenton/?ref=settings>

Please continue to check in on our parish website: [www.olgcc.net](http://www.olgcc.net) especially to see the online bulletins which will continue to be updated.

I would like to offer you two additional things from Bishop O'Connell. One is a video message that he recorded yesterday, <https://youtu.be/h2exTjtQn8E>

the second is a letter that was sent out today sharing his thoughts and the plans that we will be implementing for Holy Week, this I will place on the Facebook page.

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Finally, I am still offering the Sacrament of Penance for individuals on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons, as long as we are allowed to do so. The sacrament will be and has been celebrated in the Church Cry room where we can practice appropriate social distancing. I can be available for an appointment confession as well, just email or call me (609)882-3277 x 4

Know of my constant prayers for you, and that I will reach out again in the near future, but not too often. Below the signature I will include the prayer of Spiritual Communion which can be said in times when physical communion is impossible. I hope to see you all very soon. Our Lady of Good Counsel.....pray for us

Fr. Michael Hall

Pastor: Our Lady of Good Counsel West Trenton

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that  
You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.