

# Our Lady of Good Counsel



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT • MARCH 22, 2020—Laetare Sunday**  
**137 West Upper Ferry Road • West Trenton, New Jersey 08628**

**Rev. Michael Hall, Pastor**  
**Email: FrMike@olgcc.net**  
**Deacon Steven Szmuto**  
**Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE**

#### **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

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Closed during construction

**Infant Baptism:** Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at Noon with prior arrangements made at least three months in advance with the Infant Baptism Ministry. Parents are required to attend a parish preparation program. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing with their local parish. See the ministry brochure in parish Literature Racks.

**Marriages:** Arrangements should be made at least one year in advance. Couples are required to participate in a parish marriage preparation program and to attend a pre-marital conference sponsored by the Diocese. Weddings must be scheduled before 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

**Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:** To arrange for the spiritual needs of the homebound or sick, contact the Rectory Office and see the ministry brochure in parish Literature Racks. Urgent sick calls at any time.

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

#### **Parish Ministries & Services**

**Parish Rectory & Office** 609-882-3277  
**Office Hours:** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Fax: 609-882-4375  
Monday thru Friday  
**Website: olgcc.net**  
**E-mail: rectoryoffice@olgcc.net**

**Religious Education**  
Brenda O'Callaghan, CRE 609-883-9005  
E-mail: religiouseducation.olgc@comcast.net

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament—Closed for construction**  
Rectory Office 609-882-3277

**Adult Faith Formation**  
Deacon Steve Szmuto 609-947-0587

**Consolation Ministry**  
Rectory Office 609-882-3277

**Homebound Out Reach**  
Rectory Office 609-882-3277

**Infant Baptism**  
Mary Szmuto 609-847-0796

**Knights of Columbus**  
Frank Ferdetta, Grand Knight 609-883-1559  
George Steward, Church Director 609-883-9173

**Liturgical Ministers**  
Rectory Office 609-882-3277

**Music Ministry**  
Deirdre Hindley, Organist 609-882-3215

**RCIA**  
Deacon Steve Szmuto 609-947-0587

**Senior's Club**  
Mary Pat Voorhees, President 570-290-2373  
Dolores Sebasto, Vice President 609-882-5085

**Social Services**  
James Gambino 609-818-1708

**Youth Ministry**  
Darlene Wilson 609-882-2996

**Web Master**  
Debbie Smith 609-882-3277

# Our Lady of Good Counsel Church



All public Masses have been temporarily suspended until April 3, 2020 per our Bishop, David O'Connell. This Date is subject to change. (Document on Page 2) Masses listed below will still be offered privately and intentions will be said.

- SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020**  
Special Intention  
Emery Ungrady & Joan Ungrady  
r/o Dr. Tom Ungrady
- SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
For the Intentions of Mary Szmuto  
r/o Deacon Steve Szmuto  
Deceased Members of Muscente Family  
r/o Philomena Muscente  
Dolores Brienza r/o Margaret Babecki  
Megan Hellebuyck  
r/o Harry & Sherry Masterson
- MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020**  
Andrew Giancarli r/o Herceg Family
- TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2020**  
Joyce Walters r/o M/M Bob Dorio
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020**  
Fekete & Walley Families  
r/o Family
- THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020**  
Special Intention of Bernadette Korzon  
r/o Rose Ferri & Pat Cook  
**Confessions 6:30 – 7:30 PM during Lent**
- FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**  
Special Intention
- SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020**  
Special Intention  
Gary Ottaunick r/o Judy & Fred Totten  
Antonia (Toni) Gruerio  
r/o Elaine Palatine
- SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
People of the Parish  
Mildred Senior  
r/o German & Gladys Martinez  
Dolores Brienza r/o Margaret Babecki



## PARISH NEWS

Church doors are open from 6:30AM until 8PM all week for private prayer during this time of temporary suspension. The Blessed Sacrament is still present in the Tabernacle.

**Saturday, March 21**, The Sacrament of Reconciliation will still take place at 4:00 PM.

**Thursday, March 26, Confessions** every Thursday in Lent 6:30-7:30 PM.

**Wednesday, April 1, Senior's Club** meeting is cancelled.



**Sunday, March 22 & 29**, Grade 8 Classes are **CLOSED**  
**Monday, March 23 & 30**, Classes are **CLOSED**

**Confirmation Retreat Day – Incarnation Church Rescheduled** for Saturday, **May 16**, 9:30am-6:30pm

Confirmation **Sponsor Certificates** are due March 29th. Remember to keep our children and their families in your prayers as they continue preparation to receive the sacrament of First Communion and Confirmation.

### 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. The idea is to donate one canned food item for each day of Lent, or 40 cans. 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. Please leave your donated cans of fruit, soup, or vegetables in the designated area in the Rectory Garage, which we will deliver to Mount Carmel Guild and Catholic Charities of Trenton. You may donate as often as you would like; one-can-per-day, once a week, or whenever you visit the Church.



*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Pray for us.*

*Heart of Jesus,  
I put my trust in thee.*





**Pray for our Sick:** Margaret Babecki, Michael Babick, Rosemarie Buker, Dianne Claire, Richard Cook, Sara Cooper, Elizabeth Gervasoni, Nick Gregorio, Sherri Hanlon, Marie Hegyi, Kevin McBride, Dolores Megesy, Keith Mello, Joan Moore, Marie Muscente, Kim Nash, Angelika Niranjan, Rita Obed, Vincent O'Dell, Joan Pachuta, Jeff Papp, Germaine Ryan, Lucy Saganowski, Kristy Shanahan, Joan Shaw, Suzanne Sibley, Paul Sollami, Stephen Thoma, & Gary Vanderbilt 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.

**Weekly Collection Total**

Registered Parishioners	710 families
Parishioners using envelopes	98
Envelope Contributions	\$1,970.00
Average Contribution	\$20.10
Loose Cash	\$215.00
Contributions for March 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,185.00

Please mail your weekly contribution to the Rectory Office during the temporary closure if possible. Thank you for your generosity

**Cohort 9 (ISJ and OLGC)**

**Movie “Jesus” is cancelled for April 7@AMC24. For additional information** please contact Dan Gowaty– 609-658-1196 or Nina Gowaty – 609-658-7615.

*Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled for now. We will let you know if it can be rescheduled.*

**Ewing Knights of Columbus** March 29<sup>th</sup> Baby Shower at Incarnation Church is postponed. We will let you know when we reschedule.

**A Message from Bishop O’Connell On Measures to Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19.**

God has not abandoned us and is present among us. As we learn each day of the growing concern surrounding the spread of the coronavirus in our communities, we need to have faith and confidence in God, especially in times like these, praying that He will see us through the present adversity safely.

Mindful of the Lord Jesus' own words in St. Luke's Gospel, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his Cross daily, and follow me (Luke 9: 23)," the coronavirus pandemic has placed such a Cross before us.

In response to the latest guidelines from national and state health authorities aimed at stopping the spread of the disease, I have directed the following:

**MASSES, SACRAMENTS AND OTHER CHURCH SERVICES**

All public Masses throughout the Diocese of Trenton will be temporarily suspended through April 3, 2020. That date is subject to change as the coronavirus pandemic evolves.

- Baptism, funerals and weddings may continue based on the judgement of pastors, with the caution that crowds should not exceed 50 persons as mandated by the State of a New Jersey.
- Social distancing practices (3-6 feet of space between participants) should be observed for any event inside church spaces.
- Churches should remain open for prayer, private devotion and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Pastors are asked to consider Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the day. Praying in large groups, however, should be avoided.
- Attention should be paid to the cleanliness of our church facilities.
- Televised or online celebrations of the Mass and other religious programming are available for use of the faithful during this time.
- All scheduled Confirmations in the Diocese will be temporarily postponed until after Easter and will be re-scheduled after that time.
- The Sacrament of Penance should remain available according to need, but public Penance Services are not to be conducted.
- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should also remain available for true emergencies. Hospitals and nursing homes may be on lock-down and priests are advised to check on their status beforehand.

**SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND OTHER CLOSURES**

All Catholic schools in the Diocese will remain closed as mandated by the State of New Jersey. Directions for academic work have been provided by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools in coordination with Catholic school administrations.

- All religious education programs are suspended with at-home work provided by the local parish leaders where possible.
- The Chancery offices will be closed March 16 through March 23 and staff will work remotely during that time. A limited number of staff will be present in the office on an as-needed basis to provide essential services.
- Pastors should make appropriate judgments regarding parish offices. Other regular parish activities and previously scheduled events should be postponed or canceled.
- Catholic social and charitable outreach programs and services in the Diocese should be adjusted to meet directions mandated by the State of New Jersey.

The Catholic faithful of the Diocese — priests, religious and lay faithful — are advised to keep informed and updated regarding the progress of the coronavirus pandemic during this national and state emergency. You will find links to national, state and local agencies on our webpage: [dioceseoftrenton.org/coronavirus](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/coronavirus).

We will continue to evaluate new information that could impact these directives and will post regular updates to [dioceseoftrenton.org/coronavirus](http://dioceseoftrenton.org/coronavirus); [TrentonMonitor.com/coronavirus](http://TrentonMonitor.com/coronavirus) and on the Diocese's social media pages.

FINALLY, avoid crowded areas, observe careful hygiene, keep appropriate distances outside the home and if feeling sick, stay at home. I ask that all of the faithful remember the elderly and other persons at risk in their families and communities, and reach out to them by phone to see if help is needed.

# March 22, 2020

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

March 22, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13 Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41



He smeared the clay on [the man's] eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam." (Gospel)

As I write these words, all of us are experiencing a "new normal" in terms of how we work, how we and our children learn, how we socialize, and even how we worship. The restrictions placed upon us because of the Coronavirus have impacted every aspect of our lives. In some respects, it is as if we are traveling through a dark tunnel, looking for the light, and hoping it is not an oncoming train. As we seek to maintain a sense of normalcy in a unique time, we seek the light. Although public Masses are cancelled at this time, we are called to adopt an attitude of prayer and reflection. As many have access to the Sunday liturgical readings, I hope that these continued reflections will enable you to meditate more deeply as you pray in uncertain times.

The phrase, "I see the light!" is often shouted when we gain sudden insight, when we see clearly that which had been obscure. We are "enlightened" when we discover new information that helps us to know things in a deeper or more profound way. The term is also used to describe luminosity or radiance – the often-ethereal brilliance of elusive sensibility.

Light, as a symbol of Christ, is one of the recurring themes in the New Testament and the sacred liturgies and rites. In the Rite of Baptism, a burning candle is given to the parents and godparents of the child to be baptized as the priest or deacon proclaims: *"This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light."*

In today's readings, the symbol of light occurs both in the second reading and the Gospel passage. In his Letter to the Ephesians, Saint Paul reminded the brother and sisters, *"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth."* There is the direct contrast between the darkness of evil and the light of those things pleasing to Christ. Darkness is death; light is life.

In the reading from the Gospel of John, the fifth sign or miracle – the man born blind – focuses not merely light and darkness in the physical sense, but rather as Christ's teaching on faith in him as the source of spiritual illumination. Jesus said, *"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* Upon encountering the blind man, Jesus cured him, giving him his sight. And yet, in response to the miraculous cure, the Pharisees, ignoring their own senses, sought to discredit Jesus' powers as not from God, simply because he healed the man on the Sabbath. So focused were they on the time of the cure, that they missed the greater sign. The man formerly blind saw both spiritually and physically with the eyes of faith; he was enlightened by his faith in Christ who cured him. In response to the persistent accusation of Jesus' sinfulness by the Pharisees, he simply replied, *"If he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."* The man's blindness was cured so that all might see; the Pharisees' refusal to acknowledge the sign was clear evidence of their spiritual blindness. They continued to walk in spiritual darkness, despite the compelling evidence of Jesus' identity.

Do we walk in darkness? Do we turn from the light of faith, which shines before us, because we are convinced that only we possess truth? Do we look at Jesus and see only a teacher, only a healer, or even merely a prophet? Or do we see Jesus as the Christ, the only-begotten Son of God. Only by embracing Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior, in the fullness of both his divinity and humanity, are we cured of our own spiritual blindness! Only by turning our lives over to him do we walk in the glow of eternal salvation. *"I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life."* In good time and in challenging times, Christ is our light and our life. Let us turn to him and be comforted in him.

**Deacon Steven Szmuto.**



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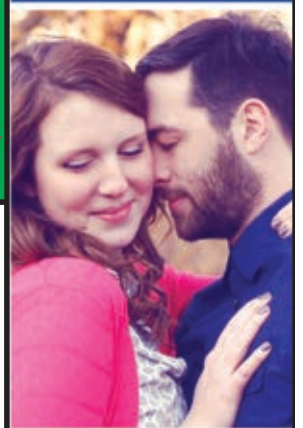
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