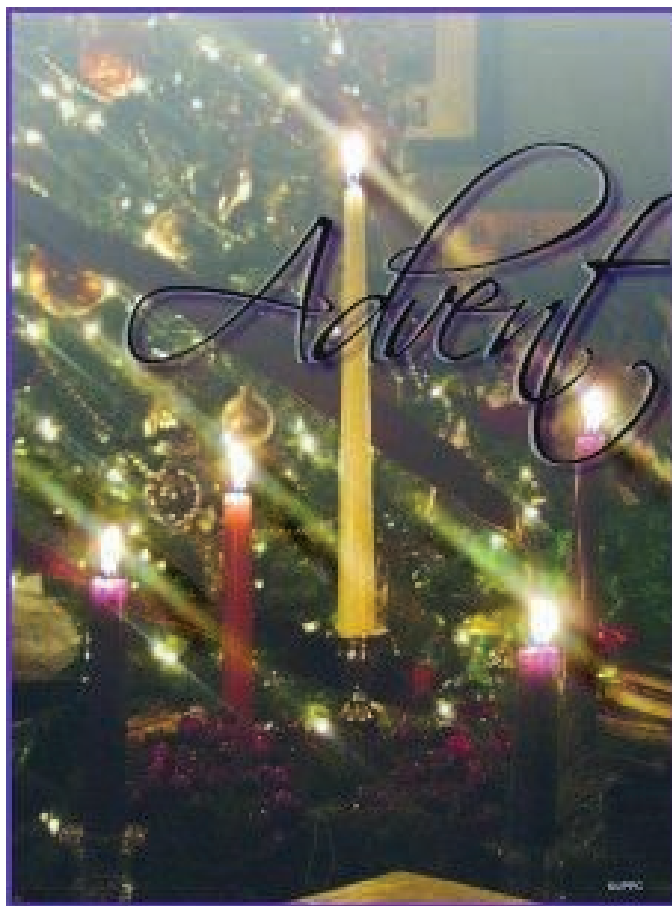


Our Lady of Good Counsel

Township of Washington



Served by:
Rev. Raymond Rodrigue, Pastor
Assisting Priests: Rev. Thomas J. Norton
Rev. Stephen J. Toth
Rev. Mr. Robert Glasner, Deacon
Mrs. Jennifer De Caux, Director of Rel. Ed.
Mrs. Patricia Marcinek, Parish Secretary

Rectory: 201-664-6624
Fax: 201-664-0095
E-mail: olgwt@aol.com

Parish Web Site: <http://www.olgwt.org>

Religious Education & Youth Ministry Office
201-664-1679

E-mail: olgcreligioused@gmail.com

Web site: <http://www.olgwt.org/wordpress>

Sunday Masses: Saturday 5:00 pm, Sunday
8:00 and 11:00 am

Confessions: By Appointment - Call the
Rectory at 201-664-6624

Daily Masses: 8:45 am

****** FROM THE PASTOR ******

Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare to celebrate Christmas, the day on which we commemorate the first coming of Christ, at the Incarnation, some 2,000 years ago.

In that celebration, we focus on the great and profound mystery of our faith that God became man. In the person of Jesus Christ, God's full presence came to dwell with His people.

We also prepare for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. In fact, the word "Advent" means "coming."

We are reminded during this season that Christ is coming back and we look forward to that time with great anticipation and hope, while also doing our diligence to prepare well, so that it is indeed a time of celebration as well.

The first reading today from Isaiah takes us back to the time of the Exile in Israel's history. The Israelites were conquered and taken into captivity by the Babylonians. This was a low point in the history of Israel.

Yet, today's reading offers great hope. We hear in this passage the promise of the coming of the Lord. The people are called to "prepare the way" for His coming. God is coming to rescue His people and reign among them.

This passage has dual meanings. First, in its original context, it refers to God coming to save His people from their exile and captivity and restoring them to the land of Israel with its great Temple in Jerusalem. And, as prophesied, this did eventually happen.

Second, it points to the coming, the "advent," of Jesus Christ, when God would come to dwell with His people in the flesh. Again, as prophesied, this did happen.

We see that second reference fulfilled in today's Gospel. We hear the words from the prophet Isaiah in the first reading quoted, and we see the ultimate fulfillment of those words in the prophet John the Baptist.

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Messiah and helps people prepare their hearts to meet Him by "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Let us hear the voice of the prophet John and take the opportunity this Advent to heed his call to repentance by visiting the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

God is waiting there to offer you His forgiveness and help you prepare for the second coming of Christ.

Because this too, as prophesied, will happen.

2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	5:00 pm Mass in the Church
Monday, December 25 Christmas Day	8:00 am Mass in the Church 11:00 am Mass in the Church
Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve	8:00 am Mass in the Church 11:00 am Mass in the Church
Monday, January 1 The Holy Family	8:45 am Mass in the Church



Because in falls on Monday New Year's Day is not a Holyday of Obligation this year

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God’s forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today’s Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus.

(Credit: Loyola Press)

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT: Friday, December 15th, from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Rackley Room: Enjoy a night out while teens and adults entertain your kids ages 4+ with a story, movie, craft, and snacks! Free will donations are always accepted! Call Jennifer DeCaux for more information!

THE YOUTH GROUP is hosting its annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 20th, at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH FOOD COLLECTION - Let us not forget our food pantry. There is still a great need for donations of non-perishable food, paper products, personal hygiene items, etc. The suggested donations are **Soup, Cookies/Crackers and Tuna**. We thank you in advance for helping those who are less fortunate than most of us. Donations may be placed in the basket at the back of the church.



CONGRATULATIONS CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS
 Last weeks winners of our calendar raffle were: December 1 - Marie Carbone, December 2 - Mike O’Shea, December 3 - K. Schmalz, December 4 - Brian and June Murphy, December 5 - Elizabeth Dugan, December 6 - Anthony Cucurullo, December 7 - Justin Doyle. Tickets are available in the rectory for the remainder of the raffle which runs until January 31st

PARISH NEEDS COLLECTION will be taken up next weekend. Please be generous.

FLOCK -We love having you as a part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text! Text OLGCWT to 84576 to receive alerts of parish events and news right to your phone! There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

The parish is hosting an **ADVENT REFLECTION EVENING** on Monday, December 18th from 7-8pm in the Church featuring Fr. John Gordon, the Secretary for Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Newark. This evening is a great way to prepare for Christmas and reflect on the coming birth of the Lord and the true meaning of Christmas.

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK OF DEC 10TH

Let us pray this second week of Advent that all the preparations for the Christmas Season may open the hearts of those who have fallen away from the faith to return to the Church. Also, may it open the hearts of those who do not know Jesus to come to him as he calls out to them during this holy season.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection 11/25 & 26, 2023	\$3,883.00
Last Year	\$3,707.00
Increase	\$ 176.00

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

“**A VERY BROADWAY CHRISTMAS**” will be presented at St. John the Baptist Church, Hillsdale on Tuesday, December 19th. General admission seating will be available on both sides of the church in the East and West wings only. General admission price is \$40.00 per seat. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Pickets are available at the rectory Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to noon and 1:00-4:00 pm. For additional information please call Cathy Williamson at 201-664-3131. Email sjbchristmasconcert@gmail.com.

Christmas Plants

If you wish to donate a Christmas Plant to decorate the altar in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it to the rectory with your offering of \$20.00 by Tuesday, December 19th.

Enclosed is my donation of \$20.00 for a Christmas Plant in memory of:

Name: _____

Donated By: _____

THIS WEEK AT OLGC

SUNDAY: 9:30-10:45 am Pre-K-8 Rel. Ed. Classes
12:30 pm Baptism

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 4:15-5:30 pm 1-6 Rel. Ed. Classes
7:15-8:30 pm 7-8 Rel. Ed. Classes

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 pm Youth Group

THURSDAY:

FRIDAY: 6:00-9:00 pm Parents' Night Out
8:00 pm AA Meeting

SATURDAY:

SUNDAY:

REMINDER

SUNDAY COMMITTEE - Next Sunday, December 17th, Group A under the direction of Patricia Holland is scheduled for duty at the rectory.

ARCHDIOCESAN CRISIS PREGNANCY HELPLINE - 1-888-4 OPTIONS.

WEBSITE - Our website is www.olgcwt.org. You can find our bulletin on it, schedules and Religious Education news, parish activities and Parish Giving. Check us out.

THE SUNDAY MASS - WCTV broadcasts the Sunday Mass from OLGC on Optimum channel 77 or Fios channel 24 every Sunday at 8:00 am and 12:00 noon. Every Sunday the televised Mass produced by the Passionist Community is available in the New York Metropolitan area. (WLNY at 9:00 am; WNYW at 5:30 am.) Mass is also available on EWTN at 8:00 am and noon. Check your newspaper or television listing for the channel number. Closed Captioning is also available.

MISA EN ESPANOL, DOMINGO 2:00 pm - St. Andrew's Church, Washington Avenue in Westwood, 201-669-3900. **Please note new time and phone number.**

MASS TIMES - Free Ministry to traveling Catholics for Nationwide Mass times and locations on the internet at: www.Masstimes.org or by phone at 858-207-6277 and then entering the zip code for where you are going.

CATHOLIC RADIO - "Relevant Radio" is a Catholic program with music and interesting information located at 1430 AM. In addition to the general audience, this might be appealing to the home-bound and/or visually impaired.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

of December 10, 2023

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Virginia Simon

SUNDAY: 8:00 am Lydia Busanic
11:00 am Edith and Nicholas Baldini

MONDAY: 8:45 am Joseph Fulco

TUESDAY: 8:45 am Michelle Paparella

WEDNESDAY: 8:45 am Gaudenzia Mattessich

THURSDAY: 8:45 am Martino Matesic

FRIDAY: 8:45 am Bernard (Bob) McManus

SATURDAY: 8:45 am People of the Parish
5:00 pm Ernie Mazzei

SUNDAY: 8:00 am Bob Mahan -
16th Anniversary
11:00 am Nicholas Baldini -
48th Anniversary

SCRIPTURE READING

SUNDAY: Is 40:1-5,9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

MONDAY: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

TUESDAY: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,10ab;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

WEDNESDAY: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

THURSDAY: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

FRIDAY: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

SATURDAY: Sir 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:9a,10-13

SUNDAY: Is 61:1-2a,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8,19-28

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn during the week of December 10th in memory of Edith and Nicholas Baldini.

"Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation."

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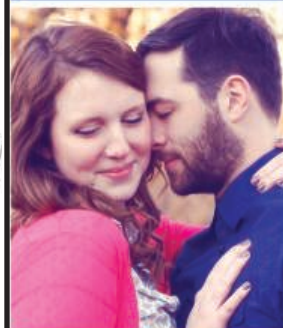
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