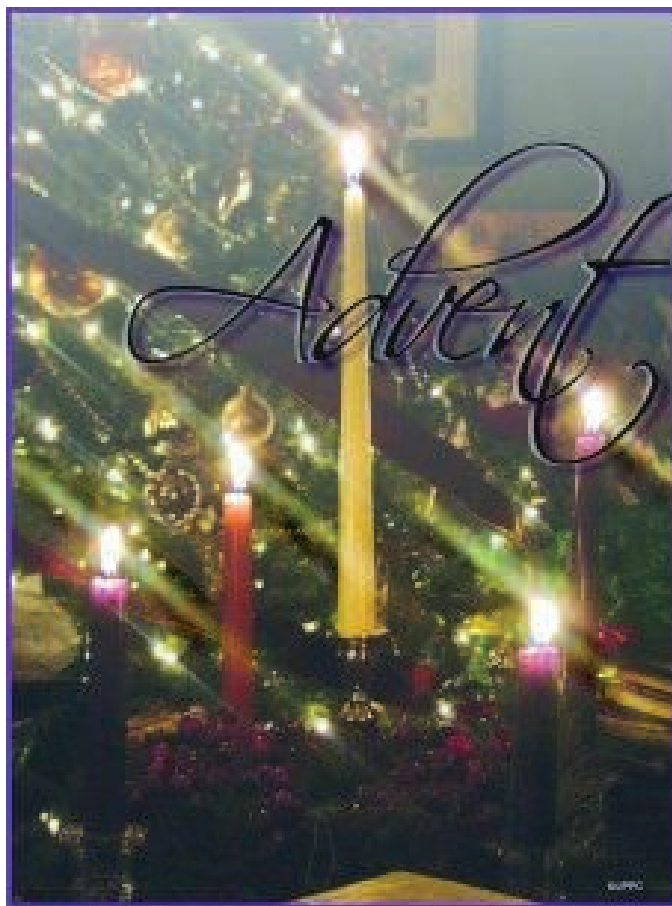


Our Lady of Good Counsel

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 ******

In the gospel reading this morning, Mary is portrayed as someone whose initial response to the call of God was to raise questions.

Luke, tells us that after Mary was greeted by the angel Gabriel as, "highly favored," she was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean.

Then, when Gabriel announced that she would give birth to a child who would be called, "Son of the Most High," she asked, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

Mary's questioning did not cease when her child was born. When the shepherds came and told her all they had seen and heard, Luke tells us that, "Mary pondered them in her heart."

Twelve years later, when Mary's son went missing in the Temple, and she questioned him about it, Jesus answered her by saying that he must be about his Father's business. Luke tells us that Mary did not understand his response, but again pondered this, like all things, in her heart.

The picture Luke gives us, of Mary, is one of a woman who is full of questions, who ponders deeply on all that was happening in her life so as to understand it more fully.

In that respect, Mary models for us a reflective faith; a healthy, questioning faith that seeks to understand.

And as such, Mary has a lot in common with the infamous, "Doubting Thomas." As you may recall, Thomas did not initially believe his fellow apostles when they tried to tell him they had seen Christ resurrected from the dead.

We might not normally think of Mary and Thomas in the same breath, but like Mary, Thomas also had questions. He didn't just accept at face value, what the other disciples were telling him. Thomas had his doubts. He had questions that needed answers. And to his credit, he actively sought out those answers. He didn't just say, "I don't believe it," and stop there, any more than Mary did. Both remained open-minded, even though their initial reaction was, "how can this be?!"

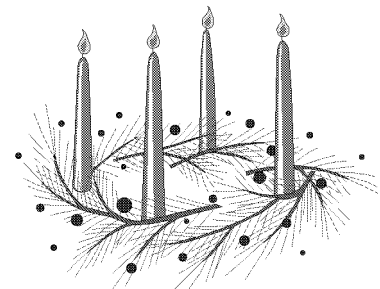
Theology has been described as faith seeking understanding. Both Mary and Thomas were theologians in that sense. Indeed we are all called to be theologians in that sense. Like Mary and Thomas we too have our doubts. We too ask questions about God and Jesus and about what it means to respond to God's call to us. Like them, we are invited to ponder the great mysteries of our Catholic Faith, so as to grow in our understanding of the faith.

As modern-day disciples of Christ, we are to be searchers after truth, like Mary and Thomas. In our searching we have the encouragement of the Lord's promise to us, "Seek and you will find."

The answers are indeed out there, however unlikely or difficult they may be to comprehend, because as the angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Nothing is impossible for God."

2023 CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 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 New Year's Day	8:45 am Mass in the Church



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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

YOUTH GROUP will meet this Wednesday 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 **Pasta and Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly, 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.



FLOCK -We love having you as a part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text! Text OLGWWT 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.

CONGRATULATIONS CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS
Last week's winners of our calendar raffle were: December 15 - Elizabeth Marcinek, December 16 - Georgine Sfraga Panza, December 17 - K. Schmalz, December 18 - Elizabeth Golick, December 19 - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tasca, December 20 - Mike Nick, and December 21 - Sarlo Family. Tickets are available in the rectory for the remainder of the raffle which runs until January 31st

MEN'S GROUP will meet in the Rackley Room on Saturday after the 8:45 am Mass

PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 24TH

Let our prayer intention for this week of Christmas be that we may open our hearts, our homes, and our community to welcome Christ our Lord into our lives.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection 12/9 & 10, 2023	\$4,123.25
Last Year	\$5,800.00
Decrease	\$1,676.75

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious amounted to \$1,440.00 and the Immaculate Conception collection was \$878.00.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ANCIENT GREECE & EPHEBUS - Fr. Stephen Toth will be leading a pilgrimage in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul to

Ancient Greece and Ephesus including a 4 day cruise on the Aegean Sea to the Greek Isles from April 29th to May 10th, 2024. For more information call Syversen Touring at 1-800-334-5425.

WESTWOOD REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT will open online Kindergarten pre-registration for the 2024-25 school year on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Your child must reside in the Borough of Westwood or Township of Washington **and** be five (5) years old on or before October 1, 2024 to enter Kindergarten in September. Please visit the district's website to complete the online pre-registration process, review important registration procedures, and download the required checklist and forms. When visiting the district website, navigate to MENU, FAMILIES and select STUDENT REGISTRATION.

ST. JOSEPH REGIONAL HS, MONTVALE, NJ presents 'LES MISERABLES'. The cast is made up of talented boys from St. Joe's and girls from a variety of high schools in Bergen, Rockland, and Westchester Counties, as well as from NYC. Performances will take place at the Inserra Theater on the campus of St. Joseph's Regional HS on January 26th at 7:00 pm, January 27th at 2:00 and 7:00 pm, January 28th at 3:00 pm, February 2nd at 7:00 pm and February 3rd at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. There is a special Senior Citizen's Preview Performance on Wednesday, January 24th, at 3:00 pm including a special nosh and a pre-show discussion at 2:15 pm, all for \$10.00 Tickets can be purchased the day of the show at the nosh. Regular tickets are \$17.00 and \$23.00 and are on sale now through SJR.Booktix.com or in person one half-hour before each show. Questions should be sent to SJRTheater@sjrnj.org or by calling 201-391-7422.

PARISH GIVING

- Sign up for Electronic Giving -

Please prayerfully consider joining fellow parishioners by supporting Our Lady of Good Counsel through a recurring online contribution. Your weekly contribution can automatically be deducted from your checking account or credit card.

It's Secure: Parish Giving is Payment Card Industry compliant and uses the strongest Secure Service Sockets Layering encryption technology available.

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THANK YOU! GO TO www.parishgiving.org or phone 800-333-3166

THIS WEEK AT OLGC

SUNDAY:	CHRISTMAS EVE
MONDAY:	CHRISTMAS DAY
TUESDAY:	
WEDNESDAY:	7:00 pm Youth Group
THURSDAY:	
FRIDAY:	8:00 pm AA Meeting
SATURDAY:	
SUNDAY:	NEW YEAR'S EVE

REMINDER

SUNDAY COMMITTEE - Next Sunday December 31st, Group C under the direction of Joe Molnar 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 24, 2023

SATURDAY:	5:00 pm	Patrick Villano
SUNDAY:	8:00 am	Marie Bozzone
	11:00 am	Golick Family
	4:00 pm	William Zitko
MONDAY:	8:00 am	Deceased Members of Miller and Ciocco Families
	11:00 am	Mickey Cavallo
TUESDAY:	8:45 am	Lillian Wischusen
WEDNESDAY:	8:45 am	Clem Polukis
THURSDAY:	8:45 am	Joseph Fulco
FRIDAY:	8:45 am	Frank Micheal Gottardo
SATURDAY:	8:45 am	People of the Parish
	5:00 pm	Hackett Family
SUNDAY:	8:00 am	Marie Bozzone
	11:00 am	Mary Lou Catalano

SCRIPTURE READING

SUNDAY:	2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
MONDAY:	Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14
TUESDAY:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
WEDNESDAY:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8
THURSDAY:	1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
FRIDAY:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
SATURDAY:	1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
SUNDAY:	Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22,39-40



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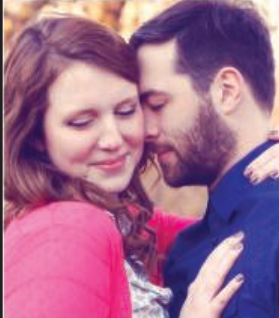
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