

*O*UR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL

Roman Catholic Church

668 Ridgewood Road • Washington Township, New Jersey 07676

Serving the people of Washington Township, New Jersey



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

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

Daily Masses: 8:45 am



Confessions: By Appointment - Call 201-664-6624

Rectory Phone: 201-664-6624 • Rectory Fax: 201-664-0095

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

When the Jewish priests asked John, are you Elijah?' He said: "I am not." But two years later Jesus said just the opposite: "I say to you that Elijah has already come and they did not recognize him... John the Baptist."

The Jews questioning John thought that Elijah would be resurrected to return and fulfill Malachi's prophecy. But Jesus knew that Malachi's prophecy did not mean Elijah himself would come again, but that one like Elijah would come to do a work similar to that done by Elijah, a work of turning sincere Israelites to true repentance.

John knew he was no resurrected Elijah, so he correctly denied that he was Elijah, even as Jesus would later affirm that he was. John didn't even see himself as a prophet. He simply saw himself as an ordinary man, doing what he believed God wanted him to do. He said, "yes" when God called.

That's a very important point.

I am writing this homily on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, when we recall the day that Mary said, "yes" to God's Will, that she should be the mother of the Messiah. Up until that point, and frankly even afterwards, Mary would have seen herself as an ordinary girl living an ordinary life, just like John the Baptist. In both cases these ordinary people accepted God's Will, calling them to extraordinary undertakings.

I say extraordinary, but it only seems so to us now, in light of the facts of history. In reality, what John did was nothing overtly exceptional. Mary's life too, overall, was rather ordinary in the way it played out.

It is their connection to Christ that makes them exceptional.

The lesson from their lives is a reminder to us all that, although we may see ourselves as ordinary people living ordinary lives, when we say, "yes" to God's Will for us, He can do extraordinary things.

We should never underestimate the value of our lives when we are living them in accordance with God's Will.

Today is the third Sunday in Advent. We light the pink candle as a reminder that we are getting very close to Christmas Day, and, by extension, to the second coming of Christ.

This particular Advent is the shortest one possible. It's effectively just three weeks instead of four. Next Sunday we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass in the morning, and just a few hours later, that evening, we will be celebrating Christmas Mass!

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just about here already! There is still so much to do!

Life, like this Advent, can be much shorter than we expect. And it can be much more impactful than we think.

Let this shortened Advent season, and the extraordinary impact of the lives of two otherwise ordinary people, serve to remind us of the important role we can potentially play in bringing about God's Kingdom.

Let us not waste a moment of the time we have remaining, but say, "yes" to God's Will for us. Let us completely and uncompromisingly connect our lives to Christ today, that He might use us in unexpected and extraordinary ways, for a better tomorrow.

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 Because it falls on Monday, New Year's Day is not a Holyday of Obligation this year.	8:45 am Mass in the Church



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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 8 - Brigit Witrak, December 9 - Diane Mariconti, December 10 - Amy Dunphy, December 11 - Pamela Schuck, December 12 - William Peterson, December 13 - Tony Constantinople, December 14 - Mary Bolton. Tickets are available in the rectory for the remainder of the raffle which runs until January 31st.

FLOCK -We love having you as a part of our Flock! Keep in touch with us via email and text! Text OLGJWT 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. 17TH

Let us pray this third week of Advent that all may make these final weeks of Advent a time to receive the gift of grace through prayer and reflection. Also, we should prepare ourselves for the Birth of Jesus through His gift of reconciliation in the Sacrament of Penance.

STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Collection 12/2 & 3, 2023	\$4,672.00
Last Year	\$5,176.00
Decrease	\$ 504.00

Electronic Giving for the month of November amounted to \$7,053.00.

“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.

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.

BAPTISM

Felicity Gianna Maliani daughter of Peter Christopher and Laura Marie Smith Maliani

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:****MONDAY:** 7:00-8:00 pm Evening of Reflection**TUESDAY:****WEDNESDAY:** 7:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party**THURSDAY:****FRIDAY:** 8:00 pm AA Meeting**SATURDAY:****SUNDAY:** Christmas Eve**REMINDER**

SUNDAY COMMITTEE - Next Sunday, December 24th, Group B under the direction of Nancy Peters 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 17, 2023

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm Ernie Mazzei

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

MONDAY: 8:45 am Maria Bussanich**TUESDAY:** 8:45 am Christopher Picinic**WEDNESDAY:** 8:45 am Paul and Emily Gabel**THURSDAY:** 8:45 am Victor Peterson**FRIDAY:** 8:45 am Jane and William Logan

SATURDAY: 8:45 am People of the Parish
5:00 pm Patrick Villano

SUNDAY: 8:00 am Maria Bozzone
11:00 am Golick Family
4:00 pm William Zitko

SCRIPTURE READING**SUNDAY:** Is 61:1-2a,10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:8,19-28**MONDAY:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25**TUESDAY:** Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25**WEDNESDAY:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38**THURSDAY:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45**FRIDAY:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56**SATURDAY:** Mal 3:1-4,23-24; Lk 1:57-66**SUNDAY:** 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38