

Good News from Good Counsel

A Message from our Pastor...



My dear friends in Christ of Our Lady of Good Counsel, I hope this letter finds you well. Please be assured that you are all in our prayers, every day.

A few weeks ago, we received protocols, put in place by the diocese, that we are to follow once we receive permission from the governor's office to reopen. These protocols, emphasize that our priority is your safety; therefore, we have been asked to disinfect the church prior to reopening as well as after each liturgy we celebrate. This includes funeral Masses, weddings and the celebrations of the Sacrament of Baptism.

My friends, I come to you, asking you for help. I ask that you please be mindful of our expenses which are increasing due to the pandemic. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul says, *"Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* With that said, you can help us, beginning with your prayers.

On the next page of this letter is information on two programs we have available and we ask that you to register for each. The first is Flocknote, a program that will enable us to communicate with you via text message and/or emails. This has become our primary method of communication as it will save us both time and money. Going forward, we will no longer send letters or newsletters through regular mail, they will be sent via Flocknote.

The other program is WeShare, for electronic contributions. Online giving can make giving easier for you and, especially during difficult times like these, it assures the parish of a steady income.

I thank each one of you for your support of our parish; without your support we would be not able to maintain our staff, our programs, our church - the place where we worship the One who loved us first: Jesus.

I invite you, my dear friends, to keep praying to God with me, for the day that we can all come together for worship. With the grace and help of God, that day will be soon.

May the Risen Lord, in His goodness, bless us always and may Our Lady of Good Counsel protect us with her maternal mantel.

In Him,

Father Darwin





Parishioner Benefits:

- **Control** - budget, plan and control your monthly contributions
- **Consistency** - No need to be concerned about missed donations because of illness or vacations
- **Security** - Transfers from your bank account or credit card are made with bank-level security
- **Conservation** - Help the environment by no longer using paper checks

Parish Benefits:

- Overall contributions increase with a steady revenue stream
- Convenient tool for members who do not write checks or carry cash
- Simple setup and management

Online Giving is not meant to replace the traditional Sunday offertory collection; it is meant to enhance it.

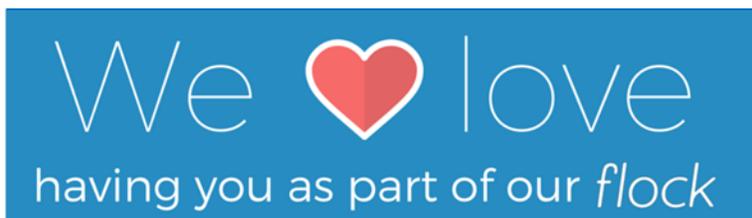
Many parishioners would rather have the option of giving without writing a check or remembering to bring the check and envelope to church each week.

It gives you the opportunity to contribute to first and/or second collections even if you are out of town, etc.

For more information or to sign up for Online Giving, visit our website at www.goodcounsel.org and click on the “About Our Parish” tab, then scroll down to the “Online Giving & Donations” link.

You can sign up online or download an enrollment form.

Join Flocknote !



Keep in touch
with us via
email & text

- Choose to get updates from groups you're interested in
- Unsubscribe anytime, no spam we promise

Text: “**OLGC-PP**” to 84576 or visit: goodcounsel.flocknote.com

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Carla Troast at ministries@goodcounsel.org or call 973-839-2447

For the Public Celebration of Mass

All the faithful of the Diocese of Paterson are **dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass** on Sundays and holydays of obligation until further notice.

How we are preparing

The church has been professionally cleaned and disinfected.

Regular cleaning and disinfecting of commonly-touched surfaces in the church will be done after every public liturgy.

Holy Water & Hymnals - The Diocese requires every parish to remove holy water from all fonts & hymnals/missalettes from the pews.

Those assisting at the altar will maintain a 6-foot distance from the priest and from each other. The Roman Missal will be placed on a stand before the presider's chair or in the center of the altar. It will not be held by a server.

Altar Servers may not assist at the altar until a later date when the risk of contagion is further ameliorated.

There is to be no choir. Singing is discouraged in general as singing, especially in close proximity to others, may increase the risk of viral spread.

The parts of the Mass, e.g., Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, etc. will be recited.

There is to be no offertory procession. Collection baskets will be placed in the gathering area to receive the offerings of the faithful.

Church capacity is limited. No group, for any celebration of the Mass, sacraments, and funerals should be larger than 25% of the total seating capacity within the Church.

Certain pews may be closed to make certain that social distancing is maintained.

Electronic giving through WeShare is encouraged.

The Exchange of Peace will be shared without human contact.

The Body of Christ will be placed in the hands of all communicants by the priests. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will not be invited to serve until further notice.

The distribution of the Precious Blood from the chalice is discontinued for the foreseeable future. The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is received under either species.

To avoid crowding at the end of Mass, people will be dismissed by the ushers, one pew at a time.

How you must help

Those who are particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, i.e. those sixty (60) years of age and over, and especially those with one or several underlying medical conditions, should follow Mass at home via live stream or television until all restrictions are removed.

Those who feel sick, a person with a cough or fever of any kind, should stay home to protect the health of others.

Live-streaming of Mass: OLCG will continue to live stream our 10am Sunday Mass for those unable to attend in person.

Registration will be required to attend Mass - Because church capacity is limited, to ensure the ability to social distance, those who would like to attend Mass in person, will register on our website. A link will be sent to everyone via Flocknote and the form will be available until the Masses are filled to capacity. If somehow, the number of participants exceeds the limit, the priest or a minister would have to ask individuals to leave. Please avoid putting our priests & ministers in such an unpleasant position.

Masks must be worn by everyone 2 years old + during all public Masses. They may be removed for reception of Communion and immediately replaced. Please bring a mask with you.

Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance into the church for the faithful, and in a place easily accessible to the priests during the liturgy. The faithful are encouraged to bring hand sanitizer to use before the reception of Holy Communion.

All people inside the church must practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet from other persons. People in the same household do not have to follow the social distancing guidelines, but must keep 6 feet from all those not in their household.

Social distancing should be maintained by the faithful when they approach to receive the Eucharist at Communion time. Please allow six feet between each person in the line going to receive the Eucharist.

Restrooms should only be used in case of necessity. They will be supplied with cleaning materials and instructions will be posted so that anyone who uses the facility knows exactly what to do.

The protocols noted above were adapted from those put in place by the Diocese of Paterson.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Hark, hear the bells!

OLGC is excited to announce that our church bells, which have been silent for several years, will be ringing once again thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. As you may recall, our Christmas concert last year raised just over \$1000 dollars towards the repair of the bells. The additional funding came from 2 individual donations, specifically for this project.

Their beautiful sound can be heard this Sunday, May 31st in celebration of Pentecost. If you would like to join us, please come to the church parking lot at 11:30am. We ask that you stay in your cars and lower your windows, for social distancing. Worship aids will be distributed to those in attendance so you can join in prayer and song as we “christen” the bells!

OLGC’s bells will ring a “Call to Worship” each day at 7:55am, on Saturdays at 4:55pm and on Sundays, in addition to the 7:55am call, there will also be Calls to Worship at 9:55am and 11:55am. Further, at Noon and 6pm each day the Angelus Bells will ring. The Angelus Bells (named for the Angel Gabriel) are rung in honor of the incarnation when the Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary that she was to become the mother of the Savior. The bells call the faithful to the service that includes a series of prayers.

We are also excited to offer “Bells of Hope” which will sound every day at 3pm for the duration of the COVID-19 crises. These bells are to honor all those serving on the front lines of the pandemic.

Thank you for your generosity!



Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

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