

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3 DECEMBER 2017

Readings for Sunday, December 3: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Come and save us from our sins. Let us turn again to you and so be found blameless when you return in glory.

Readings for Sunday, December 10: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
4 Dec. MON. 9:00 AM	John Glass	Wife, Donna
6 Dec. WED. 9:00 AM	Katharine Bolak	Sister, Monica
7 Dec. THU. 9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy	Ron & Kathy
7 Dec. THU. 7:00 PM	Edward Burris	St. Gabriel PREP Staff & Students
8 Dec. FRI. 9:00 AM	Jim & Dorothy Moore	Catherine Miller
8 Dec. FRI. 7:00 PM	Helen Pota	Jack & Lori Carr
9 Dec. SAT. 4:00 PM	James Bracaglia	Daughter-in-law & family
10 Dec. SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.
REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 PM in the social hall. We will be making candy.

SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, December 10 after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.



ST. NICK PARTY - Please join us on Sunday, December 10 after the 9:00 AM Mass in the social hall. We will celebrate with St. Nicholas. There will be crafts, games, card making, and music. Please bring some

baked goods to share and your camera for any photos with St. Nicholas. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** If your child is not in PREP, please call/text 610-506-2455, or email mboyer@sgsm62.org to let us know how many children you will be bringing so St. Nicholas has enough treats.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 9/10:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - Mara Tammaro, Vincent Tammaro, Helen George, John Nester
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
 Extraordinary Ministers - Chris Gerasimowicz, George Siver, Rita Templin
 Altar Server - Dominic Gerasimowicz
 Greeter - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

"1st Sunday of Advent"

Happy New Year! We begin a new liturgical year in the Church today and we will begin a new cycle of readings for Cycle "B." Although our society has begun its preparations for the birth of Christ, even as they are hesitant to mention His birth, the Church begins its preparations today. Our Liturgy, however, wants us to know that we are not only preparing for a special celebration four weeks from now, but our readings put before us the bigger picture. It's not just the celebration of Jesus' birth that we are to prepare for but also we must prepare for the day when He comes again to bring us His kingdom. Advent tells us that Christ is coming, but it also asks us, are we ready to meet Him? If we're not, His coming 2,000 years ago will have little or no value to us.

For some people His second coming will be a frightening time. "People will die in fright in anticipation of what is coming into the world..." But if we are prepared, not just for Christmas, but for Christ, the Lord tells us "stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." His coming will be for those who have followed him faithfully every day. Each day brings forth victory and joy.

Doesn't it sound as if Our Lord is speaking to us today when He tells us: "Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence and drunkenness and worldly cares?" We have to struggle against this happening to all of us this time of year. I'm going to add a thought of my own to this list of things Jesus tells us to guard against. Make sure to get enough rest. When we are tired, it's hard to stay organized, focused, and to keep our priorities straight, and to pray. If we don't pray and keep our priorities straight, Christmas will leave us feeling empty and relieved that it's all over.

The Gospel's suggestion for us today as we begin Advent is: "Be vigilant at all times and make time to pray..." Is there a better formula we can apply to this season to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth or the coming of Christ at the end of our lives or at the end of time? I'm not going around like Scrooge saying "Bah, humbug!" to Christmas. I like decorations, lights, parties, cards, and gifts, but to prepare ourselves for what this season of the year is all about, nothing will do the job better than prayer and good works.

You might consider attending daily Mass in the chapel for the Season of Advent. We have Mass on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Daily Mass is approximately 25-30 minutes and is a wonderful way to start the day. On Mondays, we have Eucharistic Adoration after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and Our Lord is exposed in the Monstrance till 4:00 p.m. Feel free to stop in for a few minutes on Monday and place yourself in the Lord's presence and speak to Him and let Him speak to you. You could visit neighbors who are in the hospital or stop and spend some time with those in nursing homes who do not receive many visitors. There are any number of things you could do to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and you would be helping others as well as yourself.

Now is the time to do it. No doubt you have heard this poem before, but it won't hurt to repeat it. It is entitled "Today." I shall do much in the years to come, but what have I done today? I shall give out gold in princely sum, but what did I give today? I shall lift the heart and dry the tear; I shall plant a hope in the place of fear; I shall speak with words of love and cheer, but what have I done today? I shall be so kind in the after while, but what have I been today? I shall bring to each lonely life a smile, but what have I brought today? I shall give to truth a grander birth, and to steadfast faith a deeper worth, I shall feed the hungry souls of earth, but whom have I fed today? Happy Advent!

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

PIZZELLE AND CHRISTMAS CANDY SALE - Beginning Saturday, December 9, the Women's Society will sell raisin or peanut clusters in milk or dark chocolate for \$6.00 per ½ pound box. The Pizzelles will be \$4.00 per dozen. Sales will continue after all Masses on the weekends until sold out. Candy and pizzelles are all homemade by the Women's Society members.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Friday, December 8 is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses for the holyday are at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM on December 8. **The Mass on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 PM is not a Vigil Mass for the Holyday.**

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2017.	\$4,327
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,186	
Parish Giving - \$85	
Parish Property & Maintenance - \$1,056	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$673)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$105,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$83,989
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,999
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$21,011)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,001)

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Deposit.	\$4,747
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.	(\$23,034)
Difference from previous year.....	\$2,023

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2017.	\$4,907
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,532	
Parish Giving - \$85	
Christmas Flower Collection - \$1,290	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$93)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$110,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$88,896
Average per week Collections.....	\$4,041
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$21,104)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$959)

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Deposit.	\$4,827
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.	(\$23,207)
Difference from previous year.....	\$2,103

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 18/19:

4:00 PM Mass - 181
 9:00 AM Mass - 151
 Total Attendance - 332
 Mass Attendance for November 19/20, 2016 - 339

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 25/26:

4:00 PM Mass - 198
 9:00 AM Mass - 151
 Total Attendance - 349
 Mass Attendance for November 26/27, 2016 - 392



Raffle Drawing

PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- November 13 - #866 - unsold
- November 14 - #016 - unsold
- November 15 - #091 - unsold
- November 16 - #593 - Rosemary Williams - \$50.00
- November 17 - #571 - unsold
- November 18 - #966 - unsold
- November 19 - #771 - Kathy Valentine - \$100.00
- November 20 - #906 - unsold
- November 21 - #350 - Brigid Donnelly - \$50.00
- November 22 - #692 - unsold
- November 23 - #371 - unsold
- November 24 - #037 - unsold
- November 25 - #414 - unsold
- November 26 - #576 - Bucciaglia Grandchildren - \$100

“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL!” For further information, please call the parish office.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

O’DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI,, P.C.
 610-323-2800

THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. The also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these special Marian devotions.

2018 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2018 can be made at the parish office during regular business hours. The Mass stipend of \$10.00 must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION received in memory of: **JENNIE (DICINDIO) KRAUS** from Ron & Carol Fry; in honor of 80th Birthday of **JACK BUCCIAGLIA** from Tom & Louise Roberts.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available at the parish office. 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for two packets is requested.



OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE is in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 7. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown for the babies and mothers in need in our area. Items most needed are: 3 month girls outfits, diapers up to size 3, baby wipes, socks up to size 18 month, receiving blankets, baby wash cloths, bibs, bottles, onesies size newborn and 0-3 month, maternity tops size L and XL and Leggings size XL for expectant mothers. Help us decorate our tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL IN PHILADELPHIA - December 10 at 3:00 PM. Bring the whole family for a holiday celebration of carols and the traditional music of Christmas.

OPEN HOUSE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on Sunday, December 10. Tours begin at 1:00PM and Christmas Concert takes place in the St. Martin of Tours Chapel at 4:00 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM at Holy Martyrs Church, Oreland with the Students of Martin Saints Classical High School. Visit www.martinsaintsclassical.org for more details.

2017 DAY OF SANCTIFICATION FOR PRIESTS

The priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia assemble each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the Sacred Priesthood. This year our priests will gather with Archbishop Chaput at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, December 4 for the *2017 Day of Sanctification for Priests*. Please pray for all priests of the Archdiocese, especially this weekend and Monday, with the following prayer from the *Roman Missal*:

*Lord our God, who in governing your people
make use of the ministry of Priests,
grant to these men
a persevering obedience to your will,
so that by their ministry and life
they may give glory for you in Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

FLAME OF LOVE GATHERING on Thursday, December 7 at SS. Simon and Jude Church, West Chester. Begins at 6:30 PM with Rosary in the Chapel and Mass at 7:00 PM in the Main Church. Sharing from Maryland State Leader, Diane Salem, Prayer for Receiving the Flame, and Benediction. Any questions, call Mary 302-388-3752.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION on Wednesday, December 6 at Malvern Retreat House. Directed by Fr. Matt Guckin. To register or for more information, visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

SPIRIT POWER DAY OF REFLECTION on December 8 at Malvern Retreat House. Theme is "Here Comes Jesus." Directed by Grammy-Nominated Singer/Songwriter Mary Rotella, Fr. Stephen DeLacy, Anna Iatesta and Anne McGlone. For more information visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

FLAME OF LOVE RETREAT at Malvern Retreat House for men and women with gifted retreat director Fr. James Blount. December 15-17 - focus on the theme "Why Shop Until You Drop When You Can Purchase the Pearl of Great Price?" For more information call 610-644-0400 or visit www.malvernretreat.com.

PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION featuring The Faithful Traveler at Holy Martyrs Catholic Church, Oreland on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 PM in the Fr. Szal Conference Room.