

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

2 APRIL 2023

Readings for Sunday, April 2: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14–27:66.

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

Readings for April 9: Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9.



St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Wednesday. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 5:00 PM in the Church. Benediction at 5:00 PM.



<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
3 Apr.	MON.	9:00 AM	Carmen & Pauline Vitacco
4 Apr.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Steve & Pauline Staskiel
5 Apr.	WED.	9:00 AM	Mary Rudy
6 Apr.	THU.	7:00 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
7 Apr.	FRI.	3:00 PM	Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
8 Apr.	SAT.	8:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
9 Apr.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Parishioners 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.



THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP leads the recitation of the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join them.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES on April 3 and 17 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

The Corner

"And when He entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked 'who is this?'" —Matthew 21:10

In ancient Middle Eastern countries, leaders would ride in on horses if they were going to war, but on a donkey if they came in peace. Jesus is the best kind of royal figure: just, gentle, and humble. He comes not to conquer, but to save.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Thursday, April 6 and Friday, April 7.

Collections ©PPC thank you

DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 26, 2023. \$4,861
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$169,631
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. \$162,514

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, April 8 and 9, is the Easter Sunday Collection.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL:

When you give to the Appeal, your gift is transformed into hope, providing education, food, shelter,

and medical assistance to our brothers and sisters and neighbors in the Greater Philadelphia Area. To make your donation use the envelope mailed to your home or go to www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org.

2022 CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - Requests can be made by email at contact@sgsm62.org or by phone at 610-326-5127. Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their church envelopes).



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. **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 RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

March 20 - #699 - unsold
 March 21 - #603 - unsold
 March 22 - #296 - unsold
 March 23 - #364 - unsold
 March 24 - #476 - Robert Fitch - \$50.00
 March 25 - #410 - Cliff & Barb Keller - \$50.00
 March 26 - #761 - unsold



FAST & ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE

FOR LENT: The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Wednesday, April 5 at 1:00 PM.

CONFESSIONS: Wednesday, April 5 from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Wednesdays, April 5 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Benediction at 5:00 PM.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. Operation Rice Bowls are available at the church entrances.

CONFESSIONS on Palm Sunday, April 2 at St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown at 7:00 PM. Several priests will be available for confessions including Fr. Wilson.

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 25/26:

4:00 PM Mass - 109
 9:00 AM Mass - 103
 Total Attendance - 212

CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.
 Call the Parish Office for more details.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

POTTSTOWN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
 610-326-7880

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6:

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM; Church open for prayer after Mass; Night Prayer at 9:00 PM.



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7: Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM; Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM.



HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8: Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM; Blessing of Food at 2:30 PM; Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM.



EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9: Mass at 9:00 AM.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 8 & 9

8:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester & Boyer

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Durante & Durante; Choir, C. Bucciaglia

Altar Server - Vitacco & Wasylkowski

Greeter - Wade

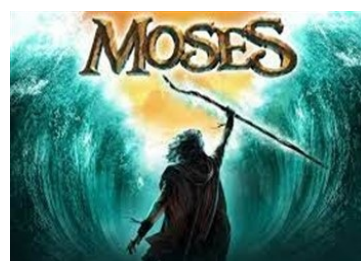
9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon;; Break, Bernhard & Templin

Altar Server - Francis

Greeter -Neiman



BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND TO SEE MOSES

on Tuesday, May 23. Join us for a fun-filled day as we travel to Sight & Sound in Lancaster to see *Moses* and have a great

family-style lunch prior to the show at Hometown Kitchen. Cost is \$143.00 per person - includes round trip via Perkiomen Tours, Lunch at Hometown Kitchen, taxes and gratuity for lunch and the show. Bus leaves from St. Gabriel Church at 10:30 AM. Lunch at 11:45 AM. Show at 3:00 PM. Return to St. Gabriel Church at 7:00 PM. Reservations must be made and paid in full by Tuesday, April 11. For reservations contact Kathy Bernhard (kbernhard@sgsm62.org or 610-326-5127).

April 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On *Good Friday*, April 7, 2023, we celebrate the mystery of the Lord's Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our long-standing tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land.

As directed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, funds generated by Good Friday collections support programs and services in the Holy Land. Support is needed to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs as well as outreach programs for the poor through established charitable institutions.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I ask your most generous and sacrificial support of the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land on April 7, 2023**. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

VOCATION PRAYER

God our Father,
in Your plan for our salvation
You provide shepherds for Your
people. Fill Your Church in the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia,
especially St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish,
with the Spirit of courage and love.
Raise up from our families future
priests: worthy ministers for Your
altars, generous and ardent
servants of the Gospel.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.



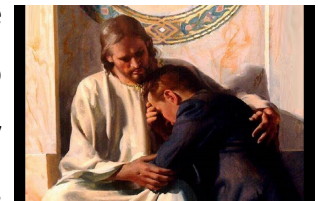
The question stung. The accusation implied stung. Was it merely in jest; sort of a *Hogan's Heroes* moment with a bespectacled Colonel Klink in mind? I'm not sure. It didn't seem so at the time. Feelings of anger were stirred. Yes, maternally, I am of German descent. It was my mother's father that immigrated to this country after fighting in and being wounded in the First World War. I have the Iron Cross awarded to him. The question that day had to do with the Second World War – and Nazis. Apparently, to be of German descent, especially during the World War II era, meant to be a Nazi, right? *Were your family members Nazis, Father?*



Nice. The "fine Catholic" gentleman asking the question didn't know. He couldn't know. He didn't know that my grandfather was under watch from the FBI, because of a not so neighborly neighbor suspicious of a recent immigrant with a heavy German (i.e. Nazi) accent. He didn't know of a relative put to death by that horrid regime simply because they were special needs and would serve no purpose save sullyng a superior race. It is times like this that I embrace more the Protestant blood pulsing through my veins that I inherited from my father. I wanted to protest - loudly! Sometimes today, I still do. There just seems to be so many Catholics confused or confusing; accused or accusing, and either unable or refusing to genuinely embrace and truly live out the Gift of our Faith. On this Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion with its long Gospel, we hear of how Jesus was questioned mockingly and accused wrongly.



Ultimately, it was an accusation that led to His being put to death. However, *His* reaction to the accusation and questioning was quite different. It was not one of anger, put pity. He didn't protest. He forgave. *Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.* I needed to forgive. We all do. That "fine Catholic" gentleman didn't know. And he is indeed, a *very* fine Catholic gentleman, but now he knows – and we are friends. You and I are called to forgive as Jesus forgave. You and I are called to make known as Jesus did; to end confusion and encourage everyone to genuinely embrace and truly live out the Gift of our Faith as friends. It is then, and only then, that there will be no more questions and all anger and accusations will cease as a whole New Life begins!



Peace!
Fr. Wilson