

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1 DECEMBER 2024

Readings for Sunday, December 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

We must be on guard for the Day which is to come when all will be fulfilled. As we await the coming of Christ, let us love one another, observing his covenant and decrees.

Readings for Sunday, December 8: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.



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>
2 Dec.	MON.	9:00 AM	Perkins & Francis Families	Jane Perkins
3 Dec.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
4 Dec.	WED.	9:00 AM	Ronald Bernhard	Elaine & John Norman
5 Dec.	THU.	9:00 AM	Margaret Bucciaglia	Ken & Helen George
7 Dec.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
8 Dec.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy	Daughter, Kathy



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.



NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL on Mondays after the 9:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to join in this special Marian Devotion.



We welcome TIMOTHY & ROSEMARY O'MALLEY who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish.



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



WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY on Thursday, December 5 at

6:00 PM at the WQ Restaurant, King Street and Route 100. Meal and payment is on your own, so you are free to choose your own meal for whatever price you would like to pay. Please contact Lori (610-326-6030) by December 1 for headcount only.

LOST WEEK

Collections ©PPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2024. \$
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. \$
Figures from the November 24 collection will be printed
in the December 8 bulletin.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, December 7 and 8 will be the Collection for Retired Religious, Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME

610-323-4440



THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, December 6.



APPAREL ALERT! Orders are being accepted for our parish apparel. Items available are: T-Shirt - \$10; Sweatshirt with hood - \$25; Men's and Women's Polo Shirts - \$25. Colors available are Kelly Green and Sunburst Yellow. 1/4 Zip - \$35; Full Zip hoodies - \$30 - color is Forest Green. Logo on all apparel is in the upper left corner. Sizes: S to XL - larger sizes are available (just add \$2) and we have youth sizes too! **PROMOTE YOUR PARISH!!!** Complete the order form in the vestibule of Church and return to the parish office along with payment or contact Maria Boyer (mboyer@sgsm62.org).



CHURCH MAGNETS are available at the Parish Office. They can be placed on your car or refrigerator. Cost is \$5.00 each.

FOR TODAY.
FOR TOMORROW.
FOR ALL OF US.



2024 ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL:

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this year's St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Appeal. Your gift supports a shared spiritual mission that impacts each of us. If you have not yet donated, please consider making a gift today using the envelope mailed to your home or one of the envelopes found at the Church entrances.



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.



SAVE THE DATE!

We are planning a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 to see "Noah." Cost: \$170.00 which includes motor coach transportation, lunch,

tax & gratuity for lunch, show and tip for the bus driver. Leave from Church at 10:30 AM; Family-style lunch at Hometown Kitchen at 11:45 AM; Show at 3:00 PM; Return to Church at approximately 7:00 PM. Reservations and payment due by February 17, 2025. For more details or reservations, contact Kathy at 610-326-5127 or contact@sgsm62.org. Make plans now to attend!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 7/8

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tammaro & Tammaro; Choir, Bracaglia

Altar Server - Pomponio

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Donnelly & Gerasimowicz

Altar Servers - Miller & Holmes

Greeter - Carr



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE will be in the vestibule of Church beginning Saturday, November 30 until Sunday, January 5. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are:

Diapers size 2 and 3; Wipes; Bottles; Neutral pants sizes 0-3 and 3-6 months; Winter clothes sizes 6-9, 12 months and 18 months; Footie PJs sizes newborn through 18 month; Diaper rash cream; Receiving blankets; Crib sheets; Bibs; Burp cloths; Small soft infant toys; Socks size 6-12 and 12-24; Maternity leggings all sizes; Nursing tops; Giant and Redner's Gift cards (denominations \$25 or less). Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you donate. Ornaments are in a box next to the tree.

GIFT CERTIFICATES: The Women's Society will be selling \$15 gift certificates to Santina Restaurant, Vine & Center Sts., Stowe. The gift certificates can be used to purchase anything from their menu like pasta, pizza, hoagies, etc. Don't want turkey leftovers or need something quick if you are shopping all day, stop by our table and pick up a \$15 certificate for eat in or take out. Certificates will be offered once monthly or can be picked up at the parish office any time. Remember Christmas is coming and these would make a great stocking stuffer. Thanks always for you support.



2025 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered in 2025 can be made at the Parish Office. There is a limit of one Mass on weekends per person requesting the Mass Intention. This is necessary due to the limited number of weekend Masses available.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES on December 2 and 16 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. The American Red Cross faces challenges during the winter holidays because donors are taking time away to enjoy the holiday.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.RedCross.org to donate blood.



VOLUNTEERS needed to help decorate the Church on Sunday, December 22 after the 9:00 AM Mass.



Please join us on Sunday, December 8 after the 9:00 AM Mass for our annual visit 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 our PREP program, please call, text, or email (610-506-2455 or mboyer@sgsm62.org) to let us know how many children you will be bringing, so St. Nicholas has enough treats for everyone.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS will be available at the Parish Office beginning Tuesday, December 5. Five wafers per pack. A donation of \$3.00 per pack or \$5.00 for 2 packs is requested.

The Corner

Today is the first day of Advent! Let's reflect: "Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us. Namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the Star of Hope." —Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CASEY SERVICE CLUB

Sunday Morning Breakfast on Sunday, November 24 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Casey Service Club, Stowe. Bacon, Sausage, Ham, Eggs to order, omelets, pancakes and waffles. Cost is based on your selections.

Project Manger Cribs for Life Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, December 7 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Baked Ziti and meatball dinner with salad and dessert. Cost is \$20.00. To reserve a spot call Franco (484-433-9160). All money collected goes to local families in need. Project Manger is an organization that helps new mothers that are in need of a crib for their new born child.



LIVE NATIVITY at Cedarville UMC, Pottstown on Sunday, December 8 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Interactive Story with walk-through scenes. Live animals and refreshments. Handicapped accessible. Canned Food Drive. Free - our gift to your family. For more information visit www.cedarvilleumc.org or call 610-326-4173.



ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY RAFFLE - The raffle will feature \$10,000 in prizes paid out to seven winning tickets as follows: 1st prize - \$5,000; 2nd prize - \$2,000; 3rd prize - \$1,000; and four \$500 prizes. Tickets are \$50.00 each. A total of 500 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 15 at St. Mary Hall, Conshohocken. To purchase tickets, please contact Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861) or email raffle@stmarypolish.org. Proceeds support promoting Polish heritage in Montgomery County and restoration of St. Mary Catholic Church.

ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY CHRISTMAS FOOD SALE - Items include Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb or Raspberry cheese) for \$17.00; Frozen Pierogi (potato, potato cheese or sauerkraut) for \$10.00 per dozen; Kielbasa for \$9.00 per pound. Deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 4. Order pick-up on Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall, Conshohocken. To place a food order email foodsale@stmarypolish.org or call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).

A Message From The Pastor

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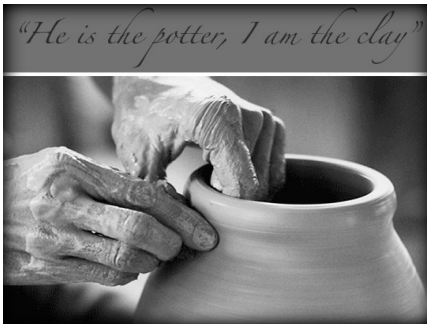
There were several ashtrays made, even though no one smoked. I suppose that's because they were relatively easy for a little artiste to fashion. When I was a youngster in early grade school, a ceramic shop opened for business just around



the corner. My buddy Joey and I had great fun working on our pottery skills. Our mothers first took us into the store in order to encourage their sons' creativity with a new hobby. Besides, crafting some pottery would hopefully help to keep said sons out of trouble following the broken window incident. Gosh, it was just an accident! We were given a few lessons in how the pottery itself was made. Generally, molds were used to shape clay into various objects such as the aforementioned ashtrays. However, we also witnessed the marvel of a potter's wheel. Soft, moist clay would be hand fashioned into round objects and various implements could be used to enhance the final design. If a mistake was made, the moist clay could just be refashioned



and one could start over. Unfortunately, pottery wheels and young boys don't mix very well. To this day, I don't know how the clay got into my hair and ears. Of course, the clay projectiles Joey



and I hurled at each other didn't help. Our pottery wheel days were short lived. Instead, we opted for objects already fashioned from molds. These were plates or figurines that first needed to be carefully smoothed of rough edges. This was also the time to make etchings into the object, such as a name or date or *Happy Mother's Day, Mom!* Then, it would be time for the initial low temperature firing of the clay known as candling. This



would be followed by a higher temperature firing known as bisque firing. Several days later, we would retrieve our work from the shop carefully trekking it home

where the painting would begin. Glaze firing was the final step in the process and thereafter one could enjoy some hot chocolate in a brand new homemade mug. Those were fun times. My favorite piece was the little snowman which I still have. Working with clay is as old as humanity itself mere "earthen

vessels" that we are. Although my experience with the potter's wheel was short lived, its affect was not. Seeing and feeling that clay in my hands helped me to understand how God's "hands" form and re-form us. As we begin Advent and a new Liturgical Year, we have the opportunity to allow the Potter to re-shape us or simply smooth out some rough edges. If we make effort to truly enter into this most holy season, then surely, we will even begin to *feel*



those Sacred Hands forming and shaping us anew as we await a Savior's birth while beginning celebration of a year-long Jubilee. Have a most blessed Advent Season, but beware! You might just wind-up getting a bit of clay in your hair and in your ears!



Peace,
Fr. Wilson