

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 DECEMBER 2023

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

As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

Readings for Sunday, December 17: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.



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>
11 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
12 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
13 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Rev. William Finnigan	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
14 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Patti & Bruce
16 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Raymond Roncase	John Roncase Family
17 Dec.	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, especially CATHERINE KECK.

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 JOHN & LINDSEY RIZZUTO & FAMILY, CHARLES & CAROL DAVIES, JOHNIE MC GONAGLE, BRANDON & THUONG TRAN & FAMILY, PATRICK CORNELLY, and USENIO & NOAME LOGAIVAU & FAMILY who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish!



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 in these special Marian Devotions.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES on December 4 and 18 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

Collections ©PPC thank you

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 3, 2023..... \$
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections..... \$
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections..... \$
 Figures from the December 3 collection will be in the December 17 bulletin.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend, December 16 and 17, will be the Gold 50/50 Envelope to support Religious Education.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's only Son, let us remember to provide for those who have answered His call by entering into priestly formation. Contributing to the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Appeal is a wonderful way to support our seminarians. Your generosity is a sign of gratitude and commitment to the future of our Church. Please consider making a gift to this year's Appeal by donating today.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

MEMORIES 'N' MORE
 610-326-1911

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



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



APPAREL ALERT! We are now accepting orders for our parish apparel: T-shirt (small logo on upper left) - \$10; Hoodies - (small logo on upper left) - \$25; 1/4 Zip (small logo on upper left) - \$35; Men's & Women's Polo Shirts (small logo on upper left) - \$25.

Current colors offered are: Kelly Green or Sunburst Yellow (logo is black and gray just like the photo). 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).

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 2 & 3:

4:00 PM Mass - 112

9:00 AM Mass - 117

Total Attendance - 229



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

November 27 - #145 - unsold

November 28 - #959 - unsold

November 29 - #725 - Anna Baldasano - \$50.00

November 30 - #497 - unsold

NOVEMBER FIGURES: 235 tickets sold \$1175.00. Payout to winners - \$400.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for November - \$675.00.

December 1 - #044 - Theresa Vitacco - \$50.00

December 2 - #502 - unsold

December 3 - #401 - unsold

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:

RONALD BERNHARD from Bruce & Patti Pollock, Sylvia Marcheskie, Helen Chieffo, Vivie Fitch, Mark & Terry Zubert, Loretta & John Gauger, Jack & Lori Carr, Jack & Margie Buccaglia, Kathy Pennypacker, Cliff & Barb Keller, Diane Gulotta, Pete & Lori LaRosa, Jeanette & Bill Gatta, Ken & Helen George, Ginny & Dick Linderman;
BART MAGLIOCHETTI from Ginger Scheidt



2024 MASS BOOK - The 2024 Mass Book is open. Requests for Masses can be made at the Parish Office. There will be a limit of one Mass on the weekends per person and five Masses per person on weekdays.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 16/17

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Durante & Nester; Choir, George

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

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

Altar Servers - Griffin & Nagel

Greeter - Hildebrand



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

December 13 at 7:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Schwenksville.

December 17 at 7:00 PM at St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown.

Father Wilson will be hearing confessions at both Penance Services.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

JEWELRY SHOPPING - The Women's Society is once again planning a Sunday afternoon of jewelry shopping. Gather any jewelry that you are tired of or never wear and drop off to the parish office for our sale. Don't worry, we'll also have plenty of new to choose. Drop off to office by January 10 then plan for a ladies afternoon of fun on January 21. Details to follow.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 PM at Shorty's Sunflower Café. 3 course dinner includes Roasted Corn Chowder, Choice of Slow Cooked Beef with potato and veg, Chicken breast with apples, mushrooms in brandy cream with veg or Butternut squash lasagna. Dessert and all cold and hot beverages. BYOB. \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. All invited. Payment and dinner choice to Lori by December 10.

EAGLES BASKET - We are selling chances for a large EAGLES basket. Some items include an autographed ball with authentication from Jake Elliott, \$50 gift card to Frank Smith, sweatshirts, lawn flag, tailgating food and supplies and more. Approximate value is \$450.00. Chances are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or best value 15 for \$10. Winner will be pulled on December 17.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available at the Parish Office. 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested.



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 7. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed include: Swaddlers, winter coats sizes 0-6 month, outfits sizes Newborn to 18 month, Newborn diapers, Size 3 Diapers, Crib sheets, Baby wipes, Baby wash,

Baby shampoo, Baby lotion, onesies sizes 0-3 month and 3-6 month, wash cloths and towels, Girls night gowns with elastic bottom. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for every gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree.



2023 ST. GABRIEL PARISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS are now on sale after Masses on the weekends or at the Parish Office on weekdays. Cost is \$10.00 each. A limited number of 2022 ornaments are also available.

The Corner

During this 2nd week of Advent we celebrate the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. The next time you see an image of her, pay close attention to the stars on her cloak. Astronomers discovered that the 46 stars arrayed around her cloak are configured in the exact arrangement of the constellations that appeared in the night sky when Mary visited St. Juan Diego for the 4th and final time on the Hill of Tepeyac outside of Mexico City on December 12, 1531.

ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION - Theme - The O Antiphons. Saturday, December 16 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM in Drexel Hall at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, Philadelphia. All are welcome. Parking available. Free Will Donation. RSVP: sr.gbraccio@archphila.org or call 215-587-3795.



©JPPC

It's called the Wojtyla Wilderness Club and it was a student named Katie that was inspired with the idea. The new club would embody the spirit of the school's namesake who was an avid outdoorsman and skier besides. Saint Pope John



Paul II loved nature and being outdoors. He would take long walks in the Vatican Garden as pope and long before occupying the Chair of Saint Peter, he could be found camping or hiking with the college students that he taught. Those moments would give the future pope the opportunity to teach, pray, reflect, and even have some fun with his charges. I was thinking of all that as



I made time recently to do a little hiking with some students and lay ministers on the day of the club's debut. On that chilly day, we explored the harrowing outback directly behind the school. One might think that there's not a lot of "wilderness" in Royersford, but one would be rather



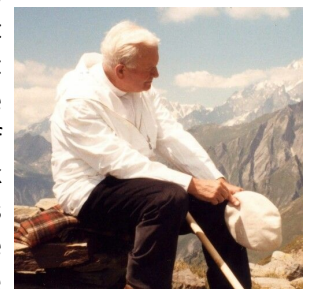
wrong. It was surprising what we encountered and what we discovered – an epiphany of sorts, although we were just getting ready to begin Advent. We began our journey by gathering in the cafeteria and bundling up. I wore hat and gloves as we exited the building. Beyond the fields and into woods we went. There was a little creek requiring a "leap of faith." Father proudly led the way. There were hills to be climbed, a chasm impassable, and a slight accident as one student lost his footing and slid down a hill. Ho worries! He was unscathed save for perhaps his pride. Then there were the sticker bushes – thorn bushes



really. They would grab onto you and tear at your skin and clothing. It was later that evening, I noticed the little cuts around my ankles. I carefully pulled at a strand of one bush and pointed out how a certain Savior had such a thing wrapped around and then pushed into His Head. The thought was unsettling. As we continued our hike, there were times when we had to reach out a hand to help another continue or simply wait for someone who fell behind because they were caught in a thicket. The time then came to turn back even though there was more to explore and more to discover. That would have to wait for another hike. But our



curiosity of what lay ahead and what exactly was on the other side of that hill, was already piqued. Our Advent Journey is quite like this. There are "streams" to cross and at times, "chasms" seemingly impassable. The Joy of the Season is truly a wonder to behold as is nature itself even if it is merely in the "backyard." Certainly, there is teamwork involved and many a helping hand. Finally, one's curiosity is piqued and what the future Christmas will bring. Take time



this Advent to explore the "Wilderness of Faith." It is a stunningly beautiful vista that can be arrived at with a mere opening of the mind and heart. I'm rather certain that Pope Saint John Paul II, whose given name was Karl Wojtyla, would readily agree and would simply love to join with you on your Advent Journey of Faith!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson