

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 11 DECEMBER 2022

**Readings for Sunday, December 11:** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

In the person of Jesus, God has come to heal and save us. Patiently, yet joyfully, we await the fulfillment of his advent.

**Readings for Sunday, December 18:** Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24.



**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>
12 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
13 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Professor K. Gupteswar	Connie Holland
14 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Monica Bauer	Jack & Lori Carr
15 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Anthony & Nancy Barbalace	Bruce & Patti Pollock
17 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
18 Dec.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Edwin G. Pennypacker	Pacanowski Family



**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 us!



**2023 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day in 2023 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass. There is a limit of 2

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed Wednesday, December 14 and Friday, December 16.

weekend Masses per person requesting the intentions.



**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS** - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their JANUARY issue at the parish office.



**DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 4, 2022.. . . . . \$3,626**  
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$91,735  
2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$89,498

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, December 17 and 18 will be the Gold 50/50 Envelope to support Religious Education.

**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

**MASS ATTENDANCE for December 3/4:**

4:00 PM Mass - 104  
9:00 AM Mass - 108  
Total Attendance - 212



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

on December 19 and January 9 and 16 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.



All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish. Go to our parish website and click on the FORMED.org picture on the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible Studies for all age groups.

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM. Fr. Wilson will be assisting with Confessions.



**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 28 - #236 - unsold  
November 29 - #473 - unsold  
November 30 - #195 - unsold

NOVEMBER FIGURES: 240 tickets sold - \$1200.00.  
Payout to winners - \$350.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00.  
Profit for November - \$750.00. THANK YOU to everyone who supported this fund raiser.

December 1 - #342 - unsold  
December 2 - #111 - unsold  
December 3 - #136 - unsold  
December 4 - #139 - unsold

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

CATHERINE MILLER from The Bancroft Family, The Donnelly Family, Cheri & Ed Schemenski, Bev & Rick Brezski, Christine & Bruce Caldwell, Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer, Yvonne & William Stamm;  
EDWIN G. PENNYPACKER from wife, Kathy;  
FRANK BREGOVI from Pete & Lori LaRosa.

***The Corner***

"What a joy and relief to know that God loves and forgives us as we cleanse our hearts in preparation for the gift of His Son. How blessed we are to have this time of Advent preparation, to contemplate both God's mercy and His justice! What can you do this week to turn back to Our Lord and to share with family and friends your own experience of Advent?"

### **WOMEN'S SOCIETY EVENTS**



**The Women's Society next themed basket will be for Christmas.** We will be selling chances after Masses until December 18 when the winner will be pulled. Chances will be sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The Christmas Basket is valued at approximately \$150. Stop by the church lobby to see it and take a chance. The Women's Society thanks you for your continued support!

**WINNER OF THE THANKSGIVING BASKET** was Vivie Fitch. Ticket was pulled by Father Wilson.



**Women's Society Christmas Party -** Sunday, December 18 at 1:00 PM at the Sunflower Café, North Charlotte St., Pottstown. \$30 per member; \$35 non-member. Entree choices:

Slow cooked beef short ribs with red wine over egg noodles, served with roasted vegetables OR Sautéed chicken breast with raisins, capers, pine nuts, white wine and lemon served with creamy cheesy polenta and roasted vegetables. ALSO INCLUDED soup, dessert, and cold and hot beverages. BYOB. Reservations with entree choice and payment by December 10 to Lori at 610-326-6030. Checks payable to Women's Society or cash. Women of all ages invited to attend.

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 17/18**

#### **4:00 PM Mass**

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Vitacco

Greeter - DiMarco

#### **9:00 AM Mass**

Lector - LaRosa

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Vitacco & Boyer

Altar Server - Donnelly, Griffin & Francis

Greeter -Hildebrand



### **OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 8. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed include: Girls' winter outfits in all sizes from Newborn to 18 month; Boy's winter outfits in sizes Newborn and 0-3 month; Boys shirts size 18 month; Sleep Swaddlers; Diapers size 3; socks in size 0-3 month; Maternity leggings; Walmart or Target gift cards that we can use for formula. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the tree. All donations are greatly appreciated.



### **CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, December 17 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

No Confessions on Saturday, December 24

Saturday, December 31 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 25 at 9:00 AM

### **SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 31 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, January 1 at 9:00 AM

### **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.

**CHRISTMAS WAFERS** are available at the parish office. There are 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested. Wafers available on a first come-first serve basis.



I have been watching an organized crime drama on TV. The tale takes place in modern day Rome and there are some nice shots of the Eternal City. Of course, there are a lot of other shots as well. It is a fictional show in which life is rather utilitarian – its only value really. The drama revolves around money, power, and fear – as one would expect. But there is something more.

There is a desire for love, acceptance, and belonging. This comes through, though difficult to see at first, even in a very gritty crime drama. Our world is something like this – ever since the Fall. As a kid, I often played cops and robbers with my friends in the neighborhood. It was our own make-believe gritty crime drama. We were always the good guys going after the bad. Sometimes we changed things up and played “spy.” We were secret agents of the good. The entertainment of the day included the humorous Maxwell Smart and Agent 99 as well as the very serious, handsome, and debonair, James Bond. By the way, personally, I vote for Sean Connery as the best Bond ever! Sometimes today, I think back to our “missions” around the neighborhood. Sometimes today, I feel like a spy or secret agent in so many ways, because even though I am a citizen of our United States, every day I kneel before a King. It is to this King that I have sworn an oath of



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loyalty and fidelity. Each day I await His Command as I prepare anew for my mission. This King’s aim is not to subvert this country or any other and it has nothing to do with money, earthly power, or fear. His aim ultimately is to subject all things to Himself in Love. This Advent, He is seeking new recruits for His transformative Mission. He is seeking “secret agents” as it were, in the world, but not of it in order to transform it. The King is coming. He will so soon be here! Join His Mission and work for the Good! That day when we hear the words “Mission accomplished” will soon be here too. It is then that we will most truly rejoice and we’ll be ready to sip a drink shaken not stirred with good old Mr. Bond as the end credits begin to roll!



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Peace!

Fr. Wilson