

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12 DECEMBER 2021

Readings for Sunday, December 12: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18.

Rejoice in the Lord always! Great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel, a mighty savior. It is he whom John foretold; it is he who will baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Readings for Sunday, December 19: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.



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>
13 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
14 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Msgr. James T. McDonough	Ann Marie & George Cuthbert Family
15 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Bernas Families	Ron Bernas
16 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Great Grandchildren, Madison & Tyler
18 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
19 Dec	SUN. 9:00 AM	Mary & George Harbacs	Jeanette & Bill Gatta



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.

ST. GABRIEL SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING on Tuesday, December 14 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.



Looking for volunteers to help decorate the Church for Christmas. Decorating next Sunday, December 19 after the 9:00 AM Mass.



A VISIT FROM ST. NICK.
Please join us TODAY, Sunday, December 12 after the 9:00 AM Mass for fellowship in the social hall. There will be refreshments, crafts, games, card making, and music. Please bring your camera for any pictures with St. Nicholas. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



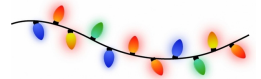
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It's a fundamental question of life I suppose. It speaks of us and who we are at a given moment in time. The answer is certainly subject to change. You know the type of question. Do you prefer dark meat or white? What about chocolate or vanilla? Are you boxers or briefs? As a good citizen of the Philadelphia region would you rather a cheese steak or hoagie? And of course, at this time of year one must decide between real and artificial. Throughout my childhood our Christmas tree was always the same each year. Well, it wasn't *exactly* the same. It *was* the same artificial tree year in and year out, but we changed over the years. That made all the difference. I have such fond memories of those times. A day and time would be designated by parents. It might be that first Friday or Saturday evening in December. A year's worth of living meant that the tree had to be rediscovered each Advent. Other boxes and things inevitably wound up on top of it, in front of it, and beside it. While other youngsters my age accompanied their parents perhaps to a tree farm or the deserted end of a supermarket parking lot where a man was selling pre-cut trees, I explored the dark cave that was the very front of our basement with my father in order to rediscover a tree. Together, we would trudge the box



up the basement steps and into the living room of our house. Dust and dirt would accompany us and my mother was already at hand with the vacuum. Some Christmas music playing along with hot chocolate and cookies welcomed the men as they returned from the dark and damp depths of the basement netherworld. The unboxing would then begin. The straightening and

fluffing of branches came first. A boy would jump back from and then hunt down a stray spider or two. My father would screw together the tree trunk and mount it carefully in the stand. The color coded branches were then inserted and a Christmas tree almost magically began to appear. The real "fun" then began with the tree lights. Every year it was a matter of trying to figure out which lights worked and those that didn't. Was it simply a matter of



one bulb being out or was the whole string bad? My father would be muttering some unmentionables under his breath and he or I would inevitably step on a string of lights in our stocking feet. Ouch! After the lights



were strung, garland was then wrapped around our already beautiful tree. We were a garland family and not tinsel...another fundamental question! Finally, the ornaments were placed carefully upon the tree and when finished we would all step back in admiration. Merry Christmas, indeed! And another round of cocoa for all! I don't know if my parents knew, but sometimes as a child I would just stare at that tree in awe. I would plug in the lights and sort of just lie underneath it "Christmas-dreaming" one might say. I still do my "Christmas dreaming." The Perry Como song of the same name (*Christmas Dream*) is one of my favorites this time of year. My dreaming doesn't take place lying beneath the old

Christmas tree of my youth now, but rather a tree of a different sort. This Tree is very much real, but sometimes we are the ones artificial before it. Take a little time this Advent to Christmas dream beneath the Tree that one finds in the Eucharist. There one will discover the Tree of the Cross most beautifully decorated and shining brilliantly. There one will discover one's loved ones and families. There one will discover oneself anew amidst the uncertainties of life and dreaming a whole new and hopeful Christmas dream. Just be careful not to step on any lights and watch out for those darn spiders!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson

Collections ©JPPC thank you

WEEKLY BUDGET..... \$5,000

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 5, 2021..... \$4,026

Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,921

Parish Giving - \$105

WEEKLY DEFICIT (\$974)

Year to Date Budget..... \$115,000

Year to Date Collections..... \$89,498

Average per week Collection..... \$3,891

Year to Date Deficit. (\$25,502)

Average per week Deficit..... (\$1,109)

DECEMBER 6, 2020

Deposit. \$4,972

2020-2021 Deficit to Date. (\$23,836)

Difference from previous year..... \$1,666

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 18 & 19 will be the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION CENTER**

610-323-4440

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

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 4/5:

4:00 PM Mass - 89

9:00 AM Mass - 105

Total Attendance - 194

RADA CUTLERY - The Women's Society has, for the time being, decided to forgo the RADA program. There are a few items left in inventory for purchase: 2 - vegetable peelers - \$8.00 each; 4 - server spoon/spatula - \$6.00 each. Please call the parish office to purchase these items.



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. **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 29 - #739 - unsold

November 30 - #311 - unsold

NOVEMBER FIGURES: 250 tickets sold - \$1,250.00.

Payout to winners - \$700.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for November - \$450.00.

December 1 - #144 - unsold

December 2 - #372 - unsold

December 3 - #382 - unsold

December 4 - #449 - unsold

December 5 - #149 - unsold

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

of: EDWIN G. PENNYPACKER from Betty Skokowski, Mary Haslett, Cliff & Barb Keller, Pete & Lori LaRosa, Rick & Diane Francis, Mark & Tracey Flynn, Terry, Gino, Nicole, Patrick & Ryan Finn;
CARMELETTA PETRILLO from Louise Roberts.

The Corner

"A voice proclaims in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! ...the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." ...Isaiah 40:3 and 5

Advent is a great liturgical season of waiting...but not waiting passively. We yearn, we search, and we reach out for the God who will come to us in human flesh. In short, we "prepare the way of the Lord" Jesus Christ. There is no better way to prepare our hearts for Jesus than to reach out for God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 18/19

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Mich

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Gambino

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

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

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

Greeter - Hildebrand

2022 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for 2022 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

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.



All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish.

Go to our website and click on the FORMED.org picture at the top of the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible studied.



"WAITING FOR JOY" - AN ADVENT EVENING FOR WOMEN on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM at St. Thomas More Church, Pottstown. Presenter is Sarah Christmyer. Register online at www.stthomasmorepottstown.org/calendar. For more information call 610-469-9304 or email office.stthomasmoreparish@gmail.com. Free event sponsored by St. Thomas More Parish.



Friday, December 24

Mass at 4:00 PM

Saturday, December 25

Mass at 9:00 AM

Sunday, December 26

Mass at 9:00 AM. No Vigil Mass on December 25.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1

Mass at 9:00 AM. No Vigil Mass on December 31.

Weekend of January 1 and 2

Mass at 4:00 PM on January 1

Mass at 9:00 AM on January 2

Confessions

December 18 and January 1 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

No Confessions on December 25.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS will be available at the parish office beginning Monday, November 29. There are 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested. Wafers are available on a first come-first serve basis.



OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of Church beginning Saturday, November 27 until

Sunday, January 2. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: Winter car seat covers, soft newborn toys (no stuffed animals), size 3 diapers, baby clothes sizes 6 mo - 18 mo, winter coats size 12 & 18 months, maternity jogger pants, elastic bottom newborn gowns. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box near the Giving Tree.