

# THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 13 DECEMBER 2020

**Readings for Sunday, December 13:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

John witnesses to one who is to come, one far mightier than he, one who will proclaim freedom and deliverance from sin and death. As we await his coming again in glory, let us join with Mary in singing the praises of God.

**Readings for Sunday, December 20:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

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**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.**

**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Church.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
14 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	C. Ronald Yost, Jr.	Dick & Ginny Linderman
16 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Janelle E. Collins-Adams	Ron & Carol Fry
17 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Great-Grandchildren, Madison & Tyler Pollock
18 Dec.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
19 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Mary & George Harbacs	Jeanette & Bill Gatta
20 Dec.	SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	

**Mass on weekdays will be in the Church. Remember to practice the social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask or covering for the safety of all.**



**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 PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN!** However, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, for the safety of our parishioners and staff, all parish business will be conducted by phone (610-326-5127), regular mail or email ([contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)).

**THE ROSARY** is prayed on weekdays before the 9:00 AM Mass. We also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. We welcome all to join us for these special Marian Devotions.



Flowers on the Main Altar are in memory of DEAN GULOTTA requested by his wife, Diana and family.

Flowers on the Blessed Mother Altar are in honor of ST. LUCY requested by Cynthia Nore.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Last Sunday, our PREP students had their annual St. Nicholas party, which worked out very well since they got to have it on the actual Feast Day of St. Nicholas. I spent most of the morning with them, which was a great time and a lot of fun...even though I lost the game of "Pin the Star on the Manger Scene" by a fraction of an inch. A big thank-you to Mrs. Boyer and our catechists and helpers for putting it all together.

In addition to playing games and assembling a craft project, one of their activities was to create Christmas cards for some of our homebound parishioners. From looking at a few of them, I have to say some of our students are quite creative and talented! I'm sure the recipients will be happy to receive their cards. It's a nice reminder that, even though they aren't necessarily able to connect with the parish in person, they are still thought about and cared for.

This year has been a year of increased isolation for many. We're being told not to travel, to avoid leaving our homes, to avoid visiting family and friends. For many, that isolation and loneliness is challenging, but we have the hope that it's only temporary. However, there are many people for whom loneliness and isolation are a regular part of ordinary life, as they find themselves far from family and unable to do much.

Perhaps we can turn the experience of this year into an opportunity. I've noticed a trend over the years that Christmas cards and greetings have become less personal. I generally find it heartwarming when someone writes a personal note, or even just adds a sentence or two in a Christmas greeting card. It adds a personal connection; it says the sender is actually thinking about the recipient in a meaningful way. You don't quite get that with a mass-produced photo array card with a pre-printed signature line. Maybe, this year would be a good opportunity to reverse that trend. Perhaps this is the year we make an effort to forge a more personal connection with people – especially the people we know who are especially isolated or lonely – at Christmas. A hand-written note or a phone call can go a long way to make one's spirits bright. Among the corporal works of mercy is to visit the sick and the confined. Even if that's not physically possible because of restrictions, we can still reach out. Just a thought I had while wandering the social hall watching our children do a good deed while having fun that I thought I should share...for what it's worth.

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan





**PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET**

based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Raffle Drawing 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. DECEMBER LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS.**

**LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

- December 1 - #141 - Vincent Leskusky - \$50.00
- December 2 - #185 - unsold
- December 3 - #330 - Sue Hyland - \$50.00
- December 4 - #212 - Mike Ondo - \$50.00
- December 5 - #006 - unsold
- December 6 - #197 - Catherine Sands - \$100.00

*Parish Support*

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020.....	\$4,972
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,767
Parish Giving -	\$205
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$28)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$115,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$91,164
Average per week Collection	\$3,964
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$23,836)
Average per week Deficit	(\$1,036)

*DECEMBER 8, 2019*

Deposit.....	\$4,702
2019-2020 Deficit to Date.....	(\$21,885)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,951)

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, December 19 and 20, is the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.

**"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**DRY TECH WATERPROOFING SOLUTIONS**

1-888-5DRY-TECH

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

**MASS ATTENDANCE for December 5/6:**

- 4:00 PM Mass - 84
- 9:00 AM Mass - 82
- Total Attendance - 166

**2021 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for January to June 2021 are now being accepted. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention. Please call the parish office to schedule Masses.

**ADVENT ACTIVITY - "THANK YOU, FATHER"** - Serra would like to introduce the program called "THANK YOU, FATHER" to show our appreciation, affection, and support for our wonderful priests. Parishioners please send a letter or email of gratitude for the remarkable priest in your life by December 31, 2020. Tell us how he made an impact by God's grace. Include your name, contact information, and Parish. All letters will be sent to corresponding priest. The Vocation Office, on social media, may post select letters. Please send you letter to: Attn: Thank You, Father, Serra Missions, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood, PA 19096 or email to [Cynthia Brown at cynthiaarlenebrown@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiaarlenebrown@gmail.com).

**FOLLOW THE STAR - DRIVE THRU LIVE NATIVITY** at Visitation BVM Church, Norristown on Friday, December 18 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Free family event - cash or check notations will be graciously accepted. For more details call 610-539-5572. To sign up for a time slot please visit [www.https://signup.com/go/VZmZbfb](https://signup.com/go/VZmZbfb).

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

### First Reading - Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God. I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord God make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

### Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

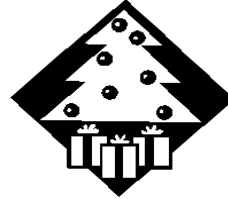
### Second Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

### Gospel - John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'* as Isaiah the prophet said." Some

Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



### OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 3. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: Preemie baby girl clothing,

diapers sizes Newborn to 3, baby clothing sizes 12 month and 18 month, Maternity clothes sizes XL and XXL, Maternity leggings all sizes, Maternity tops size S. They can also use any other baby items. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree.

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. Please call the parish office before coming for your wafers. Wafers available on a first come-first serve basis.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Confessions

Friday, December 18 - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 19 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Sunday, December 20 - 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24 - 4:00 PM

Friday, December 25 - 9:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

Friday, January 1 - 9:00 AM