

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

16 DECEMBER 2018

Readings for Sunday, December 16: 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 23: Micah 5:1-4a; Hebrews 10:5:10; Luke 1:39-45.

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 Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
17 Dec. MON. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
19 Dec. WED. 9:00 AM	John J. Zissa Sr. Family	Francis J. Czeiner Family
20 Dec. THU. 9:00 AM	Damian Petaccio	Ron & Carol Fry
21 Dec. FRI. 9:00 AM	Sandra Smith	Denise, Jim & family
22 Dec. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
23 Dec. SUN. 9:00 AM	Marie Dellaquila	Husband & 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 every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are invited to join in these special Marian Devotions.

2019 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2019 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend of \$10.00 for weekday Masses and \$15.00 for weekend Masses must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Tuesday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 19.

CANDY SALE sponsored by the Women's Society after the Masses. Raisin or peanut clusters in milk or dark chocolate - \$6.00 per ½ pound box; Chocolate covered marshmallows - \$5.00 per box.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 22/23:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Bracaglia, Terry Donnelly
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia
 Extraordinary Ministers - Chris Gerasimowicz, Tony Vitacco, Helen George
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

3rd Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday

Many of us remember when we had Mass in Latin; this day was known as Gaudete Sunday. That means “rejoice” or “be joyful.” The liturgy continues to communicate that theme of joy with rose colored vestments and readings that tell us to rejoice.

Laughter fades away, but there is something that lasts and sustains us all the more and that is joy. It goes deeper than just being funny. We heard the prophet in today’s first reading telling God’s people, during an especially difficult time in their history, to “sing for joy.” They should sing for joy not because things were wonderful, but because God was in their midst. We heard Paul in prison tell the Philippians to rejoice always. The scriptures give us different ideas about joy than our culture does. Our society seems to tell us joy stems from what we have. The scriptures tell us our joy comes from what we have (for the Lord is in your midst as Zephaniah tells us) but it also comes from what we have in some future time, something we can trust in because God is faithful to His promises.

Some of the things that keep us from having joy are: feeling sorry for ourselves, constantly putting other people down to make ourselves look better, putting ourselves down and not capitalizing on our assets. Since we are all human and we make mistakes we have to learn the healthy ways of dealing with guilt or shame. Constantly beating ourselves up is not one of them. When we hold on to anger and resentment, it eats us up inside and does not produce joy. We have to forgive. Thinking that having more things is going to make us happy is only a momentary high. It leads to fear and worry and St. Paul tells us to have no anxiety at all. That might sound impossible but there are so many things that cause anxiety, which we can do nothing about, and we have to leave them in God’s hands.

If self-pity, guilt, unforgiveness, anger, resentment, fear, and worry work against us having joy, then what will lead us to joy? St. Paul tells the Philippians “rejoice” as if it is something for them to choose to do rather than it being something that just happens to them. I think it was Abraham Lincoln who said most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be. Dr. Hans Selye, the scientist who developed and researched the concept of stress, would agree. He said: “It’s generally not the things outside of us that create stress for us, but it’s the way we respond to these things.”

We need to not only be good but we are called upon to do good things. Otherwise, we will not feel good about ourselves. The people in today’s Gospel ask the Baptist, “What should we do?” John gave them a few specific ideas. All we have to do is read the Gospels or the 10 Commandments and we will get the idea that there is more to a good life than just to say, “I believe.”

Finally, I think gratitude is the final key to unlock the way to joy. Being grateful is an intentional thing; it is an attitude that all of us are called to develop. St. Paul said: “In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” A heart that is ungrateful is not happy. This is not all that can be said about joy but it’s probably enough for us to think about this week.

My closing words for today are do not make yourselves so anxious this season that you lose the joy that can be found in knowing Jesus’ love. The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

Have a good week!

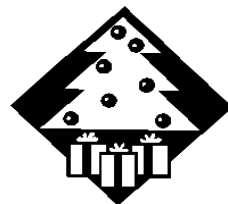
Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 9, 2018.....	\$4,946
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,762
Parish Giving -	\$120
Christmas Flower Collection -	\$231
Immaculate Conception Collection -	\$833
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$54)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$120,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$96,206
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,009
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$23,794)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$991)
 <i>DECEMBER 10, 2017</i>	
Deposit.....	\$3,943
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$22,324)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,470)



A VISIT FROM ST. NICK - Please join us Sunday, December 16 after the 9:00 AM Mass for fellowship in the social hall. We will celebrate 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!



OUR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GIVING

TREE will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 6. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: size 0 to 3 diapers (especially size 3); Wipes...we never have enough of these; Hand sanitizer for diaper bags; Shampoo, baby wash, diaper cream...no powder please; Size Newborn through 18 months infant cloths for boys and girls (especially 0 to 3 months and 18 months); Receiving blankets and changing pads; Bibs; Bottles; Hooded bath towels and crib sheets; small infant toys for ages newborn to 3 months; Maternity clothing, especially extra large sizes; Maternity leggings. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in the box next to the Giving Tree.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 8/9:

4:00 PM Mass - 192
 9:00 AM Mass - 142
 Total Attendance - 334
 Mass Attendance for December 9/10, 2017 - 277

“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.” For further information, please call the parish office.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

O'DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI, P.C.
 610-323-2800



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.

HELP NEEDED! We will be decorating the church for Christmas right after Mass on Sunday, December 23. Volunteers always welcome!

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
Geraldine Hawk from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
Bob Tucker from Tony Vitacco;
Patricia Demko from Lorraine Hine.

OFFERTORY GIFT BEARERS - All parishioners are encouraged to be Offertory Gift Bearers for the Masses on Saturdays, Sundays and Holydays. Please call Kathy at the parish office to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confessions

Saturday, December 15 at 3:30 PM

Saturday, December 22 at 3:30 PM

No confessions on December 29



Christmas Mas Schedule

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25 at 9:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

Monday, December 31 at 4:00 PM

Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM



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. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **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.

JANUARY LOTTERY TICKETS ON SALE NOW! THEY MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT OR STOCKING STUFFER!

HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION AND PETITION - All

Catholics of the greater Philadelphia area are invited to spend time each month before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to ask for His mercy upon His Church. Next Holy Hour is on Sunday, December 16 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. Confessions will be available beginning at 5:30 PM. Each Holy Hour is followed by 6:30 PM Mass.

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic Young Adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area.

Upcoming event: Tuesday, December 18 - Christmas Party at Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville. Doors open at 7:00 PM; Talk starts at 7:30 PM. Contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com for more information.

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

December 3 - #528 - Matt Cappelletti - \$50.00

December 4 - #167 - unsold

December 5 - #224 - unsold

December 6 - #452 - unsold

December 7 - #944 - unsold

December 8 - #659 - unsold

December 9 - #090 - Miranda Limongi - \$100.00

FINDING GOD IN ORDINARY TIME is a new book by Christine Eberle, Director of Campus Ministry at Gwynedd Mercy University. It contains four weeks of daily meditations based on true stories, guiding readers across four "terrains" where the presence of God may be spotted in everyday life. Book retails for \$19.95. To learn more visit christine-marie-eberle.com or any online bookseller.