

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### 17 DECEMBER 2023

**Readings for Sunday, December 17:** 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 24:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.



**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>
18 Dec.	MON.	9:00 AM	Richard Aversa
19 Dec.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Joseph Appolonia
20 Dec.	WED.	9:00 AM	Amy Webb
21 Dec.	THU.	9:00 AM	Pearl Dori
23 Dec.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
24 Dec.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Monica Bauer
24 Dec.	SUN.	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish (Christmas Vigil)



**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.



**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.



**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.

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

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of:  
**RONALD BERNHARD** from Dave & Janet Slaby, Mariann Horan & John Willemsen, Angie & Pete Iannozzi, Simon, Leigh & Simon Nagel;  
**REV. GREGORY J. HICKEY** from Simon, Leigh & Simon Nagel.

LOST WEEK

# Collections ©PPC *thank you*

**DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 3, 2023..** . . . . . \$4,624  
2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$91,324  
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$91,735

**DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 10, 2023.** . . . . . \$6,156  
2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$97,480  
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$96,629

## "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY**

mishockpt.com

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



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES** on December 18 and January 2 and 15 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.



**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](mailto:mboyer@sgsm62.org)).

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for December 9 and 10:**

4:00 PM Mass - 105

9:00 AM Mass - 139

Total Attendance - 244



## **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**

December 4 - #266 - unsold

December 5 - #199 - unsold

December 6 - #043 - unsold

December 7 - #538 - unsold

December 8 - #085 - unsold

December 9 - #357 - unsold

December 10 - #923 - Cecilia Lapkiewicz - \$100.00



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on two separate days this year. Friday, December 22 at 9:00 AM to set up the trees.

Saturday, December 23 at 9:00 AM to set up all the other decorations. We need volunteers for both days. If you are able to help, just come to church on either day.



**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.



### Confessions

Saturday, December 23 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Saturday, December 30 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

### Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 AM (does not fulfill Christmas Obligation)

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 PM (does not fulfill Sunday Obligation)

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 AM

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

No Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31

Monday, January 1 at 9:00 AM

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 23/24

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tamaro & Bracaglia; Choir, Tamaro

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - Scheidt

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Servers - Donnelly & Miller

Greeter - Carr

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE** on **December 17** at 7:00 PM at St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown. Father Wilson will be hearing confessions at the Penance Service.

**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.

### 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.

### The Corner

Today is Gaudete Sunday. In the middle of our Advent preparations, we are called to rejoice in hope!



**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.



*Maranatha!* As we prepare to soon say *Merry Christmas*, we would do well to have another phrase upon our lips and



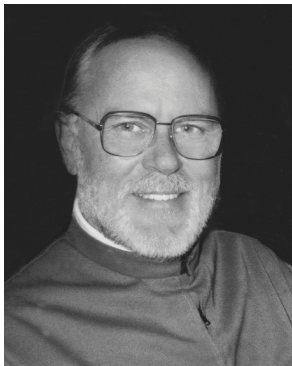
even more so in our hearts. *Maranatha* is a transliteration of the Greek expression which is in turn a transliteration of the Aramaic expression.



This transliteration occurs only once in the New

Testament at the end of Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:22). It also appears in the *Didache*, which is an anonymous early Christian writing of great import. It expresses a longing for the coming of Our Lord. We might express it in English as *Come, Lord Jesus, come!* *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* translates it as simply *Come, Lord!*

It appears that it was a prayer and a greeting in the early Church. What a wonderful tradition it would be to recover! Although the expression spoken in English is fine consider how much better to have words upon our lips in the language that Jesus Himself spoke. A part of our



Christian tradition is to have short prayers at the ready hurling them towards God like javelins so to speak. Some might call them "prayer darts." Most of us are familiar with these. There are numerous examples. *My Jesus, mercy! Praised by Jesus Christ! O come, O come Emmanuel! O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!* Of course, then there is the profound prayer of simply saying the Holy Name itself. It was the spiritual writer, Fr. John Main, OSB, that recommended (based on the work of Saint John Cassian) the phrase,



*Maranatha*, as the ideal "prayer dart" that has a

harmonic quality which soothes, calms, and brings the mind to silence. During this Season of Advent, I sometimes offer this phrase to penitents as their penance to be recited simply and slowly several times: *Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!* I believe that it can set a tone and prepare the heart for Christ's coming at Christmas. It need not be just a penance given! All of us are now preparing for Christ's coming during



Advent, this Christmas, and beyond. As we do so, hopefully we can have an ancient Christian prayer upon our lips in the language that Jesus Himself spoke. *Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, come!*

Peace!

Fr. Wilson