

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

18 DECEMBER 2022

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

Jesus is Emmanuel, "God with us," risen from the dead. He is the king of glory.

Readings for Sunday, December 25: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.



**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>
19 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Monica Bauer	Louise Turza Davanzo & family
20 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Lawrence Vitacco	Tony & Theresa
21 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Pearl Dori	Son, John & family
22 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Bruce & Patti Pollock
24 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
25 Dec.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



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 weekend Masses per person requesting the intentions.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Friday, December 23.



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

NEXT WEEKEND, December 24 and 25: First Collection is the regular Sunday Collection; Second Collection is the Christmas Collection.

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

SAH, INC.
610-372-8872



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.

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.



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.**

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!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 24/25

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Villano

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Bell

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Donnelly & Griffin

Greeter - Neiman



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.



CONFESSIONS

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



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.

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.



There is an ancient custom of taking bits of straw from the church manger scene, leaving a small donation and holding the straw close in your pockets or hand bags. This is believed to help never be

without riches in the coming year. REMEMBER, THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF RICHES IN LIFE!

BLESSING OF THE HOME ON EPIPHANY - The blessing of

homes on Epiphany is a centuries-old custom in the Church. Chalk is used to mark the doors of the house while praying for protection and blessing for all who live there –drawing forth imagery from the book of Exodus and the first Passover. The chalk on the door is a visible reminder to all of their Christian life and a challenge to live virtuously both in and out of the home.

The door is marked with the initials of the names traditionally given to the Magi: Casper, Melchior, Balthazar, surrounded by the numerals of the current year. The initials CMB can also stand for the prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House."

20 + C+M+B + 22

Prayer

Lord, holy Father Almighty, everlasting God, we beseech thee to hear us: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven, to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all that dwell in this house. I call upon thy Saints, Caspar, Melchoir, and Balthazar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place this mark over my door to remain as a constant reminder to us and all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord. O God, make the door of my house the gateway to thine Eternal Kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.



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CJ is a former parishioner of mine. He's now a young man. When he was younger, if I recall correctly, CJ was very interested in sports. I believe that he had thoughts of maybe becoming a sports announcer or a stats guy behind the scenes. Baseball was his sport. Recently, I received word that, having graduated from college, he's now living in Texas and involved with the Catholic Workers' Movement. *Casa Juan Diego was founded in 1980, following the Catholic Worker model of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, to serve immigrants and refugees and the poor*, according to their website. CJ is helping with the vast influx of individuals recently arrived in this country. He's aiding them, assisting them, and learning some Spanish besides in order to better communicate. I take pride in having known him as a young man. He recently wrote of his experiences describing them as *poco a poco* in a beautiful Advent reflection that can perhaps help all of us reflect as well as we continue our Advent journey and "little by little" approach Christmas. What follows are some edited excerpts (from *Houston Catholic Worker*).



Casa Juan Diego

This is one of my favorite times of the year. One of my favorite things to do is to look around and see the little kids wiggling around in their seats, just longing for (the Christmas Eve Vigil) Mass to be over so they can go to bed and Santa can come. (After graduation from college), I was eager to start living a faith that does justice. Life is busy here. There has been a big surge of immigrants, mostly from Venezuela, in search of a place to rediscover their identity and a source of community. To say I was overwhelmed would be an understatement. My time here so far has been extremely transformational, reshaping my grasp of what the world is and tearing down my understanding of what giving and receiving actually is. It is a privilege to encounter the journeys of immigrants. When these men, women, and children embark on a journey in hopes of a better life, they know it will be a long and extremely dangerous trek. Many come face to face with many life-threatening things, like the jungle in Panama or the Cartel. But when asked about their journey, the phrase "poco a poco" ("little by little"), is often used. Their journeys were certainly long and strenuous, and at a glance would seem impossible. Yet against the evils prohibiting them, they approached it one step at a time. We are all on our individual journeys in some way, whether it be our relationship with God, our career, or just life in general. One of many gifts I have received is a new understanding of how to approach my individual journey. I have often been blinded by the thought of the future. I think we can all learn how to be better at taking things "poco a poco." Our society in the United States is very much geared towards the future and what is coming next. My mind has always been in the future, failing to recognize the perfection and beauty of the present that is right in front of me. This Christmas season, maybe if we slow down a little bit, take on the world "poco a poco," and embrace the perfect present of the very moment that is right in front of us, we will see Him, in His least recognizable form. I can assure you that if you live with a passion to see the Gospel in every aspect of your life, by approaching every day "poco a poco," you will see Him, and the little kid in you will be overwhelmed with excitement.

CJ, I couldn't agree more!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson