

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19 DECEMBER 2021

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

From Bethlehem shall come one who will rule Israel. Born of Mary, the servant of the Lord, he will protect and save us, offering himself once and for all in doing the Father's will.

Readings for Sunday, December 26: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.



**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>
20 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Cay & John Francis	Jane Perkins
21 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey & family	Frances Czeiner Family
22 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Pillar Family	Ron Bernas
23 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Msgr. James T. McDonough	Donna DeLorenzo, Christine D'Amico & family
24 Dec.	FRI. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
25 Dec.	SAT. 9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
26 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 PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Tuesday, December 21 and Friday, December 24. A MERRY CHRISTMAS to all!

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

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. There are a limited number of weekend Masses remaining for 2022. Please call the parish office as soon as possible if you would like a weekend Mass intention for 2022.



I would rather have been over the border in Germany, but I had no choice. That country and its traditions were assigned to another class. I was stuck in France. I should have proudly been in my *Lederhosen*, instead I was wearing these goofy knickers. That year in grade school we celebrated *Christmas Around the World*. The entire school participated in the event and the sixth grade wound up with French traditions. We spent time in class learning and reviewing what some of these traditions were. Our classroom would be transformed into a little chateau in the French Alps. There would be some treats available for the visiting parents, grandparents, friends, and fellow school mates. There would also be some song. *Ughhhh!* I was in the chorus...in the back...way in the back. My other role would be simply reading a little script about French Christmas traditions, but this would be done in English. Thank God! My mother helped with the traditional French attire. I sported tan knickers with suspenders over top of a striped shirt. There were uncomfortable blue knee socks worn with my suede school shoes. Then, there was the most important part of the attire. On my head sat a beret. Nothing says *viva la France* like a beret! My father wanted to draw



two fine black lines with a marker on my upper lip. Gee, thanks, Dad! I'm supposed to be a French kid, not Chief Inspector Clouseau. *Don't worry, he said! It's not a permanent marker.* The big evening of the main event arrived. The school would be filled with guests. In our classroom there were a lot of *Joyeux Noels* heard. Saint Nicholas was hovering outside of our door. The croissants, macaroons, and all the treats were great. When called, I stood before the crowd and dutifully read my script. There were a few little skits that took place involving other students. Finally, we all joined together in song. *Il est né le divin enfant, Jouez*

hautbois, résonnez musettes! Il est né le divin enfant. Chantons tous son avènement! (He is born, the divine child. Play, oboes, resound bag-pipes! He is born, the divine child. Let us sing of his coming!) Though I couldn't really pronounce the French words worth a darn and had no idea what I was saying and singing, except for the *enfant* part, that French Christmas carol is now forever stuck in my head! With it I recall that Advent evening so long ago along with my outfit, my classmates, my teacher (Miss Maddaloni), and, of course, my parents present and proud of their son. Even my cousin and his girlfriend attended. Wow! It was quite the evening! Who ever thought that France and French could be so much fun? Today my French is just as awful as it was back then, but I have actually visited a bit of the country (Lyon/Villefranche/Ars-sur-Formans). That was a wonderful journey as a priest – and a story for another time perhaps. Our journey through Advent towards Christmas and our Faith journey through life, itself, might be something like that *Christmas Around the World* evening so long ago. Sometimes it is as uncomfortable as those tight knee socks. We may very well rather be somewhere else with customs comfortable and better known. At times we may not even understand what we are saying, but God's grace helps us to translate and to know. At evening's end, all the guests were happy, treats had were delicious, Miss Maddaloni beamed, and the Chief Inspector remembered a song – never to forget. Take the time to learn a new song in this last week of Advent. Believe me, it will be a tune that you never forget – even should the words be in a language as foreign as French is to me!



Paix!

Fr. Wilson

Collections

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thank you

Figures from the December 12 Collection will be printed in the December 26 bulletin.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church Summary of Operating Income and Expenses July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Total Operating Income.....	\$340,690
Total Operating Expense.....	\$338,155
Total Operating Surplus.....	\$2,535

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

DRY TECH WATERPROOFING SOLUTIONS

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

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.



PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

Raffle Drawing 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. January tickets are now on sale.**



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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 18/19

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Mich

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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 24/25

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Villano

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Durante & Durante; Choir, C. Bucciaglia

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Server - Donnelly

Greeter - Carr

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 26

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Boyer

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tammaro & Tammaro

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

Greeter - Wade



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 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 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.



The Corner

Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem, for Wise Men, for shepherds, and for us. May we let ourselves be drawn by the Light of God made man.

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.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC

on Friday, January 21, 2022. The March for Life is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-lifers converge on the National Mall and march on Capitol Hill on the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which legalized abortion in all 50 states. It's the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. Mark your calendars!

EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM view the heartwarming film entitled *The Fourth Wise Man* - held at National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto in the Spirituality Center. Bring a comfy pillow for the pew and a snack to enjoy if you so desire! For more information contact angela@padrepio.org.

RESTORE: A WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT on January 21-23 at St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson. Retreat talks and experiences will reconnect us with the Truth of our inherent dignity, beauty, and wholeness. Retreat also includes: small groups, individual healing prayer, Mass and Adoration. Retreat leaders are Fr. Stephen DeLacy and De Yarrison. Find the full schedule and register at www.youaremadenew.com/restore-womens-retreat or email de@youaremadenew.com.