

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 DECEMBER 2018

Readings for Sunday, December 2: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

Be vigilant, for the Son of Man is coming soon. Let us greet him with songs of joy!

Readings for Sunday, December 9: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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>
3 Dec. MON. 9:00 AM	Silvino & Marie Almond-Rulli	Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family
5 Dec. WED. 9:00 AM	John & Cay Francis	Jane Perkins
6 Dec. THU. 9:00 AM	Noreen Muthersbaugh	Jack & Lori Carr
7 Dec. FRI. 9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy	Ron & Kathy
8 Dec. SAT. 9:00 AM	Mary E. Diamond	Cliff & Barbara Keller
8 Dec. SAT. 4:00 PM	Caroline Maddaloni	Daughter & family
9 Dec. SUN. 9:00 AM	People 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.



We welcome EUGENE & SANDY CRAWFORD who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 PM in the social hall. We will be making candy. If making pizzelles, please package a dozen per bag and bring to the meeting or to church on December 8 and 9. Reminder: Bring reservations for Christmas Party to the meeting.

PARISH OFFICE closed all day Wednesday, December 5 and from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Friday, December 7.

THANK YOU to everyone who stayed after Mass last Sunday to help switch out the Missalettes. It went very smoothly and quickly and we are grateful for all the help!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 8/9:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Nester, Shelly Stockmal
 Altar Server - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Nikki Gambino and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Tony Vitacco
 Extraordinary Ministers - Kathy Bernhard, Cristin Bucciaglia, Chris Gerasimowicz
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

1st Sunday of Advent

Happy New Year! We begin a new liturgical year in the Church today and we will begin a new cycle of readings for Cycle "C". Although our society has begun its preparations for the birth of Christ, even as they are hesitant to mention His birth, the Church begins its preparations today. Our Liturgy, however, wants us to know that we are not only preparing for a special celebration four weeks from now, but our readings put before us the bigger picture. It's not just the celebration of Jesus' birth that we are to prepare for but also we must prepare for the day when He comes again to bring us His kingdom. Advent tells us that Christ is coming, but it also asks us, are we ready to meet Him? If we're not, His coming 2,000 years ago will have little or no value to us.

For some people His second coming will be a frightening time. "People will die in fright in anticipation of what is coming into the world..." But if we are prepared, not just for Christmas, but for Christ, the Lord tells us "stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." His coming will be for those who have followed him faithfully every day. Each day brings forth victory and joy.

Doesn't it sound as if Our Lord is speaking to us today when He tells us: "Be on guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence and drunkenness and worldly cares." We have to struggle against this happening to all of us during this time of year. I'm going to add a thought of my own to this list of things Jesus tells us to guard against. Make sure to get enough rest. When we are tired, it's hard to stay organized, focused, and to keep our priorities straight, and to pray. If we don't pray and keep our priorities straight, Christmas will leave us feeling empty and relieved that it's all over.

The Gospel's suggestion for us today as we begin Advent is: "Be vigilant at all times and make time to pray..." Is there a better formula we can apply to this season to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth or the coming of Christ at the end of our lives or at the end of time? I'm not going around like Scrooge saying "Bah, humbug!" to Christmas. I like decorations, lights, parties, cards, and gifts, but to prepare ourselves for what this season of the year is all about, nothing will do the job better than prayer and good works.

You might pray the rosary or meditate on the Scriptures daily. We have Mass every day except Tuesday and Saturday at 9:00 a.m. preceded by the rosary. On Mondays, we have Eucharistic Adoration after Mass until 4:00 p.m. There is no end of other good works anyone can find to do if they are interested. This year we have exactly four weeks from the First Sunday of Advent until Christmas, so I hope we all make the most of it.

Now is the time to do it. No doubt you have heard this poem before, but it won't hurt to repeat it. It is entitled "Today." I shall do much in the years to come, but what have I done today? I shall give out gold in princely sum, but what did I give today? I shall lift the heart and dry the tear; I shall plant a hope in the place of fear; I shall speak with words of love and cheer, but what have I done today? I shall be so kind in the after while, but what have I been today? I shall bring to each lonely life a smile, but what have I brought today? I shall give to truth a grander birth, and to steadfast faith a deeper worth, I shall feed the hungering souls of earth, but whom have I fed today? Happy Advent!

I had my second skin graft last week and I am scheduled for two more. My goal is to celebrate Christmas Masses but I'm waiting for the doctors to ok it. Thanks again for all the prayers. Have a good week and do not take your health for granted.

Fr. Hickey

2018 DAY OF SANCTIFICATION FOR PRIESTS - The priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia assemble each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the Sacred Priesthood. This year our priests will gather with Archbishop Chaput at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, December 3, for the 2018 Day of Sanctification for Priests. Please pray for all priests of the Archdiocese, especially this weekend and Monday, with the following prayer from the *Roman Missal*:

*Lord our God, who in governing your people make use of the ministry of Priests,
grant to these men a persevering obedience to your will,
so that by their ministry and life they may gain glory for you in Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for every and ever. Amen.*

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2018.	\$4,581
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,452	
Parish Giving - \$80	
Parish Property Maintenance - \$1,049	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$419)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$105,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$83,292
Average per week Collection.....	\$3,966
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$21,708)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,034)

NOVEMBER 19, 2017

Deposit.	\$4,327
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.	(\$21,011)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$697)

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2018.	\$4,562
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,255	
Parish Giving - \$80	
Christmas Flower Collection - \$1,227	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$438)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$110,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$87,854
Average per week Collection.....	\$3,993
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$22,146)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,007)

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Deposit.	\$4,907
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.	(\$21,104)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,042)

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

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE to support Religious Education:

NOVEMBER DRAWING - M/M Joseph Buccigaglia - \$315.00.

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 17/18:

4:00 PM Mass - 167

9:00 AM Mass - 156

Total Attendance - 323

Mass Attendance for November 18/19, 2017 - 332

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 24/25:

4:00 PM Mass - 182

9:00 AM Mass - 135

Total Attendance - 317

Mass Attendance for November 25/26, 2017 - 349



Raffle Drawing

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.

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

November 12 - #698 - unsold

November 13 - #589 - unsold

November 14 - #020 - unsold

November 15 - #533 - unsold

November 16 - #430 - Jim & Denise Buccigaglia - \$50.00

November 17 - #909 - Bob Zomolsky - \$50.00

November 18 - #632 - Gene Hunter - \$100.00

November 19 - #465 - Jim Long - \$50.00

November 20 - #480 - unsold

November 21 - #415 - Gene Harding - \$50.00

November 22 - #424 - Suzanne Morgan - \$100.00

November 23 - #083 - unsold

November 24 - #131 - Rev. Gregory J. Hickey - \$50.00

November 25 - #406 - unsold

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.



WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday, December 16

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Shorty's Sunflower Café, Pottstown

Includes Soup, Salad, Entree and Dessert

Entree Choices:

_____ SEARED SALMON FILLET - Maple Mustard Sauce with Sautéed Winter Greens and Warm German Style German Potato Salad

_____ SAUTÉED CHICKEN BREAST - With Pickled Cranberry, Plum and Cider Bourbon Glaze with Potato Gratin and Sautéed Winter Greens

_____ SUNFLOWER CAFÉ'S VERY SPECIAL BEEF STEW - Slow Cooked Beef and Winter Vegetables with Polenta Dumpling

_____ VEGETARIAN OPTION - Wide Pasta tossed with Winter Greens and Walnut Pesto, Grilled Butternut Squash and White Beans

Member Price - \$25.00; Non-Member Price - \$30.00.

Holy Trinity Women's Club Members invited for \$25.00.

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Choice of entree and payment due by Sunday, December 9. Place in collection basket or drop off at the parish office.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:

STELLA LESE from M/M William Sikorski;

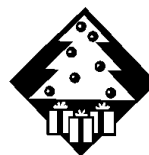
JAMES E. JACOB from Tony & Theresa Vitacco.



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!** *If your child is not in our PREP Program, please call, text, or email (610-506-2455 or mboyer@sgsm62.org) to let us know how many children you will be bringing so St. Nicholas has enough treats for everyone.*

CANDY & PIZZELLE SALE sponsored by the Women's Society on December 8 and 9 after the Masses. Candy: Raisin or peanut clusters in milk or dark chocolate - \$6.00 per ½ pound box; Pizzelles: \$4.00 per dozen.



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.

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.