

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

25 DECEMBER 2022

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

God has spoken to us through his Son, the Word made flesh. Thus has salvation been revealed to all the nations.

Readings for Sunday, January 1: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.



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>
26 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Monica Bauer	Kathy & Ron Bernhard
27 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Joseph D. Hughes	Ron & Carol Fry
28 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Harold Curry	Jim & Helynn Mich
29 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Rick Fontana	Dennis & Paula Bolonski
31 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	



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!



We welcome GAIL & MICHAEL MURRAY who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish!

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, December 26; Wednesday, December 28; Thursday, December 29; Friday December 30.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
JEANNINE FERRANTE from Myra Cole;
PETER FLISOCK from Barbara & Michael Hipszer.



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.

Collections ©PPG thank you

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 11, 2022. \$4,894
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$96,629
2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. \$94,143

NEXT WEEKEND, December 31 and January 1: First Collection is the regular Sunday Collection: Second Collection is the Solemnity of Mary Collection.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 10/11:

4:00 PM Mass - 116
9:00 AM Mass - 110
Total Attendance - 226



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

on 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

The Christmas story drips with joy at every turn — from John's jubilant leap at Mary's visit with Elizabeth to the Wisemen's journey to the manger. In fact, **there is so much joy surrounding Christmas that even some who don't believe in Jesus celebrate the season!**



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!



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 5 - #751 - unsold
December 6 - #161 - unsold
December 7 - #427 - Ron & Kathy Bernhard - \$50.00
December 8 - #873 - unsold
December 9 - #667 - unsold
December 10 - #349 - Jane Perkins - \$50.00
December 11 - #596 - unsold

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 31/January 1

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Mich

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

Altar Server - Holmes & Francis

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, C. Buccigaglia & Boyer

Altar Server - Wasylkowski & Vitacco

Greeter -Hildebrand



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.



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Christmas is not my least favorite holiday, although one would think that is should be. It was early on a Christmas morning some twenty-six years ago now, that my father left me for his eternal home. That Christmas is seared into my mind like some post-op surgical scar. Unwrapped presents sat for days beneath a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. His last words were "say a prayer for me," as I went off to serve a Midnight Mass. We kissed – in a loving way that only a father sick and son sullen might do. I didn't realize that is was a kiss of farewell. I had known since Thanksgiving that death was imminent and for a much longer time that death was near. God kindly favored me by placing this on my heart that I might thus be somewhat prepared. But ultimately, any mere human preparation falls short. This is where Faith comes in and this is the very message that we celebrate now in this season of presents and the giving of gifts. It begins with praying, then comes the waiting, the longing and the hoping. A gift is then given – and, as with all gifts, it must be unwrapped. A number of days passed. It seemed Christmas Joy was not meant to be that year. Then something happened. Under the Christmas tree still so beautiful, there sat all of the unwrapped presents bowed and colorful. My "adopted" mother and I suddenly knew that it was time. It's the only time I've cried unwrapping Christmas presents - of all things. In that moment, we realized that there one last present under the tree for each one of us. It was my father that had already unwrapped his - but he wasn't crying as we were. Quite the opposite! His were tears of an Eternal Christmas Joy! Cherish all your holiday memories this Christmas! Cherish family, loved ones, and wide-eyed children! Recall happy Christmases past - or even sad ones - but know of that Great Gift that awaits each one of us! A Child is born unto us. He offers us a New Birth and Life without end. He offers to us an Eternal Christmas that never ends. It all begins *this* Christmas Day with presents under a tree just waiting to be unwrapped! Merry Christmas, Dad! And a most joyful, Merry Christmas to one and all!



Peace!

Fr. Wilson



FATHER WILSON AND THE STAFF OF ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH WISH A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!