

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

26 DECEMBER 2021

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

Hannah and Elkanah offer their son, Samuel, to God in the Lord's temple. Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple. He returns to Nazareth, obedient to them.

Readings for Sunday, January 2: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.



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>
27 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	All Members of St. Gabriel Parish	Frances Czeiner Family
28 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Shelba Detri	Christman & Seyler Families
29 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Regina Tucker	The Family
30 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Tomkawiak Family	Ron Bernas
1 Jan.	SAT. 9:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
2 Jan	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 Friday, December 31. A HAPPY, BLESSED NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

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.

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.

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

A Message From The Pastor



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Tradition tells us that Joseph was already an “old” man at the time of Jesus’ birth. While Mary was a young maiden probably in her late teens, Joseph was in all likelihood pushing the boundary of antiquity in his twenties. We do know that no mention is made of this silent saint of Scripture beyond the time of the Holy Family at Nazareth. The presumption is that Joseph, who speaks ne’er a word recorded, died quietly during this time. Thus, it has always been understood that Joseph preceded Mary in death. Well, now I’m not so sure. Maybe, in fact, it was Mary that encountered death before Joseph. Okay. I’ll explain. Celebrating Christmas always has me recalling the time in grade school that I was asked by Sister Margaret to play the part of Saint Joseph in the annual Christmas Pageant. It was quite the honor to be the eighth grade boy that was chosen especially when Saint Joseph was the very namesake and patron of our little school. I was especially delighted that Saint Joseph had no lines and did no public speaking. I didn’t like public speaking then and, believe it or not, deep down, I still don’t like it. Considering that I now speak publicly every day, all that I can say is “Behold the Grace of Ordination!” Of course, I know that some people wish that I had a little less “grace” at times, particularly when the tummy’s growling. Anyway, the Christmas Pageant that year was beautiful. My parents were so proud. I can remember turning red and getting very warm when Joseph’s role required him to take and hold Mary’s hand. Mary was beautiful; stunning, in fact. With hands that were now profusely sweating, Joseph was getting light-headed and about ready to pass out. See what old age can do! Sister Margaret had to keep telling me to stop wiping my hands on my tunic! What’s wrong with you? Sorry, Sister, but it’s Mary! She keeps making me sweat! The Blessed Mother giggled. Mary was played by Marybeth. Marybeth was such a nice girl! She was always so nice to me despite my quiet demeanor and I have to say that she was always nice with everyone. Her looks matched her personality and her academic abilities. She was always one of the smartest kids in our class and this remained the case through high school. I’ll always relish having played the part of Joseph with her. Just at the end of our high school days, there was some very sad news received concerning my pageant partner that had made me so sweat. I was sweating again, but for a different reason. There was a tragic car accident in Upper Bucks. It was fatal. Mary did indeed encounter death before Joseph. We say that the Blessed Mother was assumed into heaven simply “falling asleep” at the end of her earthly life, but long before that and long before Joseph, she did encounter death. Mary had long before died to self in favor of living for God and her fiat before the angel, Gabriel, and that which we now celebrate make that superabundantly clear. *Be it done unto me according to Thy will!* The reality is that these are, in fact, words that we can now attribute to Joseph as well. So, yes! Mary did encounter death before her husband. It was her “dying” that allowed her to bear Life, that would then allow her husband to bear It, and allow all of us to bear It this Christmas and beyond. All we need do is echo those words of her that we find echoed in Joseph. It is then that we just begin to play a part in the true Christmas Pageant that takes place not annually but eternally. A Pageant of unspeakable beauty and awe where Joseph’s hands will for sure sweat once again.



Peace!

Fr. Wilson

LOST WEEK

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 12, 2021. \$4,645
2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. . . . \$94,143
2020-2021 Year to Date Collections. . . . \$95,363
Figures from the December 19 Collection will be printed in the January 2 bulletin.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 11/12:

4:00 PM Mass - 93
9:00 AM Mass - 111
Total Attendance - 204



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.

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.



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

January 1 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM



PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Raffle Drawing 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 6 - #546 - unsold
- December 7 - #394 - unsold
- December 8 - #583 - unsold
- December 9 - #763 - Phyllis Villano - \$50.00
- December 10 - #466 - unsold
- December 11 - #537 - unsold
- December 12 - #432 - unsold



OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of Church until next 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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 1-2:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Villano

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

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

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

Greeter - Neiman