

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

29 DECEMBER 2024

Readings for Sunday, December 29: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. 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 5: 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>
30 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Kayla Schwenk-Fox	Kathy Pennypacker
31 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Michael F. Labik, Jr.	John & Diane Sowell
31 Dec.	TUE. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
2 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Phyllis Villano	Patti & Bruce Pollock
4 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
5 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.



NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL on Mondays after the 9:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to join in this special Marian Devotion.

NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT OR BENEDICTION on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1.



THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed: Monday, December 30 from 12:00-3:00 PM, Tuesday, December 31, Wednesday, January 1.



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 welcome to

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

join in these Marian Devotions.

LOST WEEK

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 15, 2024. \$5,300
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. \$101,520
Figures from the December 22 Collection will be printed
in the January 5 bulletin.

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

ON THE THIRD DAY
610-705-0130

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 14/15:

4:00 PM Mass - 110
9:00 AM Mass - 126
Total Attendance - 236



APPAREL ALERT! Orders are being accepted for our parish apparel. Items available are: T-Shirt - \$10; Sweatshirt with hood - \$25; Men’s and Women’s Polo Shirts - \$25. Colors available are Kelly Green and Sunburst Yellow. 1/4 Zip -

\$35; Full Zip hoodies - \$30 - color is Forest Green. Logo on all apparel is in the upper left corner. Sizes: S to XL - larger sizes are available (just add \$2) and we have youth sizes too! **PROMOTE YOUR PARISH!!!** Complete the order form in the vestibule of Church and return to the parish office along with payment or contact Maria Boyer (mboyer@sgsm62.org).



CHURCH MAGNETS are available at the Parish Office. They can be placed on your car or refrigerator. Cost is \$5.00 each.



2025 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered in 2025 can be made at the Parish Office. There is a limit of one Mass on weekends per person requesting the Mass Intention. This is necessary due to the limited number of weekend Masses available.



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 fundraiser 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 9 - #355 - unsold
- December 10 - #717 - unsold
- December 11 - #903 - unsold
- December 12 - #141 - unsold
- December 13 - #867 - unsold
- December 14 - #686 - unsold
- December 15 - #875 - unsold



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

on January 6 and 20 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. The American Red Cross faces challenges during the winter holidays because donors are taking time away to enjoy the holiday. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.RedCross.org to donate blood.

The Corner

Here comes the Jubilee! If Pope Francis himself invited you to a celebration, would you attend? Of course! And Pope Francis’ announcement that 2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church is essentially a personal invitation for us to participate in a year-long celebration of reconciliation and renewal of our faith, which starts on December 24 and ends on January 6, 2026. Let’s accept the Pope’s invitation and ready ourselves for a festive and fruitful Jubilee Year! Happy New Year!

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

- DOMENICA MARIA GRAZIANI from Vivian Fitch;
- BOB KUNSCH from wife, Ann;
- BOB & ALICE CRESS from Ann Kunsch;
- MICHAEL CRESS from Ann Kunsch;
- JAKE & CLARA RUMPF from Ann Kunsch.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - JANUARY 4/5

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

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

Altar Server - Pomponio

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Boyer

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

Altar Servers - Griffin & Nagel

Greeter - Carr

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Women's Society Meeting on Thursday, January 2 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall. Hostess: Linda Neiman.

Santina Kitchen Gift Certificates are available at the Parish Office. Certificates are \$15 each.

Nativity Set - The Women's Society was happy to be able to purchase the beautiful new nativity and stable. When you come to church on Christmas, take some time to see the wonderful workmanship and detailed painting. This was a project in the making for several years and was completed with the help of everyone who supports the Women's Society. We can do great things with your continued support. Thank you for all your help.



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE will be in the vestibule of Church beginning Saturday, November 30 until Sunday, January 5. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are:

Diapers size 2 and 3; Wipes; Bottles; Neutral pants sizes 0-3 and 3-6 months; Winter clothes sizes 6-9, 12 months and 18 months; Footie PJs sizes newborn through 18 month; Diaper rash cream; Receiving blankets; Crib sheets; Bibs; Burp cloths; Small soft infant toys; Socks size 6-12 and 12-24; Maternity leggings all sizes; Nursing tops; Giant and Redner's Gift cards (denominations \$25 or less). Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you donate. Ornaments are in a box next to the tree.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY (NEW YEAR'S DAY) - Tuesday, December 31 at 4:00 PM; Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00 AM.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
JEFF CAVINS and SARAH CHRISTMYER

A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH SALVATION HISTORY

The Bible is at the heart of our faith and our relationship with God. But where do we start in reading it? This program will guide participants through Jeff Cavins' "The Bible Timeline" learning system. This study seeks to draw us into God's plan of salvation, and thus in a deeper relationship with Jesus.

MONDAYS 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. JANUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 24

Register at QR code or contact
Sophie Schneible
SSchneible@saintalloysius.net
610-326-5877 x 426

Cost: \$30 for workbook
St. Aloysius Parish
Lower Level of Gathering Center
223 Beech St. Pottstown

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CASEY SERVICE CLUB

Sunday Morning Breakfast - Beginning January 2025, our Sunday Morning Breakfast will be moving to the First Sunday of the month. Come and enjoy a breakfast of your choice on January 5. We serve pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, scrapple, eggs your way, a variety of omelets and different types of breakfast bowls. Breakfast is served from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Fund Raiser Dinner - The Youth of the Neocatechumenal Way of St. Aloysius is hosting a Fund Raiser dinner for their upcoming pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025 in June. Meal includes salad, baked ziti with meatballs, garlic bread and dessert. Cost is \$20.00. Held on January 11 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased online at www.caseyservice.net, after Mass on the weekend or at the door.

POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL PAWS PROGRAM - The PAWS (Panthers Achieving Worthwhile Success) Program supports the individual needs of students with learning differences through instruction and academic accommodations within our academic support hub, the Panthers' Learning Center. An Information Session about the program will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 6:00 PM in the Panthers' Learning Center at PJP to outline the program objectives and support structure, enrollment process, fee, and financial aid opportunities. To register contact Mr. Joseph Rogers, Director of Academic Support at jrogers@pjphs.org.



Many thought that it might be **The End**. Computers would fail. Planes would fall from the sky. There would be ensuing chaos and confusion accompanied by terror and violence. It seemed that it would likely be the time for the Lord to finally appear in all His Glory. All would gaze in awe and many would tremble in fear as a New



Jerusalem descended from the Heavens. I remember attending a midnight prayer service at the seminary. It was voluntary, but I thought that hey if it really is **The End**, then what better place to be. Well, twenty-five years later - here we are looking up at the sky not beholding our Universal King, but swarms of drones mysteriously flying about as a

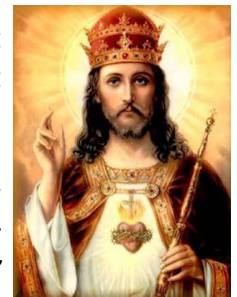


whole world seems to be revolving upon the axis of an upcoming inauguration. No one is talking about "The End" at the moment, but there is talk of "Jubilee." The New Year is traditionally a



time of celebration, hope, and promise. It is a traditional milestone and marker in the life of individuals and peoples. It is a time of resolution and renewed determination.

This New Year is, on the one hand, no different than any other. Yet on the other, because of the inherent fact that it *is* "new" – it is indeed different from all others that have been and those that will yet be. Hence, this New Year of Jubilee is unique. There will



never be another 2025. The uniqueness of this New Year is in a Jubilee celebrated by the Universal Church. It is the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord. The Holy Father has declared this a Jubilee Year with a central theme of Hope, so that this year might be for all *a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door"* (cf. *Jn 10:7.9*) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere



and to all as "our hope" (1 Tim 1:1) (from the Papal Bull of Indiction). In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this New Year means a more intense focus on Missionary Outreach and planning for our future as God's People in the Delaware Valley Area. The Archbishop will soon issue a Pastoral Letter inviting all of us to consider and re-consider our roles as Missionary Disciples preparing and praying for a future filled with hope and new opportunities to encounter Christ. I, too, celebrate a milestone of sorts in this New Year

with a Jubilee of my own. Well, not really my own, but one which I share with all of you. Priesthood is never a one-man journey and is not celebrated in isolation. Too many beautiful individuals living and quite a number already gone home to God give testimony to that. This Jubilee may find me with some friends celebrating atop a mountain in a lovely little chapel named after our own dear archdiocesan patron or it might even find me for a time on the Dark Continent



making some new friends. Wherever it takes me, I will be encountering Christ anew, because that's what a Jubilee is all about – whether that Jubilee is universal, local, or very personal. That's what Jubilee Year - yours and mine - is all about as together we, perhaps, bang some pots (*it's a Philly thing!*), make some noise, watch a ball drop in Times Square or a *Peep* in Bethlehem, give a loved one a little

smooch, and celebrate with Hope the New Year of 2025. May yours be blessed and may you this New Year especially, encounter Christ anew!



Peace,
Fr. Wilson