

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3 DECEMBER 2023

Readings for Sunday, December 3: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Come and save us from our sins. Let us turn again to you and so be found blameless when you return in glory.

Readings for Sunday, December 10: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.



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>
4 Dec.	MON.	9:00 AM	Rev. William Faunce
5 Dec.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Gerald Wright
6 Dec.	WED.	9:00 AM	Caroline Maddaloni
7 Dec.	THU.	9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy
7 Dec.	THU.	7:00 PM	Dean Gulotta
8 Dec.	FRI.	9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
9 Dec.	SAT.	4:00 PM	John R. Nester, Sr.
10 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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY is a Holyday of Obligation. Mass Schedule: Thursday, December 7 - Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM; Friday, December 8 - Mass at 9:00 AM.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES on December 4 and 18 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.



Please join us on Sunday, December 10 after the 9:00 AM Mass for our annual **VISIT 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.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, December 4.

Collections ©PPC thank you

DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2023.	\$4,936
2023-2024 Year to Date Collections.	\$83,589
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections.	\$83,203
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2023.	\$3,111
2023-2024 Year to Date Collections.	\$86,700
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections.	\$88,109

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend, December 9 and 10, will be the collection for Christmas Flowers.

WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:
NOVEMBER DRAWING - Jeffrey Lesik - \$280.00.

The Corner

AWAKE!! Advent is here, and it is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time, and the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. He is our best, and yet most humble Christmas present. So as St. Paul says,
"It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."
—Romans 13:11



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



APPAREL ALERT! We are now accepting orders for our parish apparel: T-shirt (small logo on upper left) - \$10; Hoodies - (small logo on upper left) - \$25; 1/4 Zip (small logo on upper left) - \$35; Men's & Women's Polo Shirts (small logo on upper left) - \$25.

Current colors offered are: Kelly Green or Sunburst Yellow (logo is black and gray just like the photo). 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).



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

November 13 - #351 - Ginny Linderman - \$50.00
November 14 - #520 - unsold
November 15 - #058 - unsold
November 16 - #206 - unsold
November 17 - #041 - unsold
November 18 - #801 - unsold
November 19 - #851 - unsold
November 20 - #541 - unsold
November 21 - #946 - unsold
November 22 - #489 - unsold
November 23 - #726 - unsold
November 24 - #781 - unsold
November 25 - #866 - unsold
November 26 - #443 - unsold

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 18 & 19:

4:00 PM Mass - 126
9:00 AM Mass - 130
Total Attendance - 256

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 25/26:

4:00 PM Mass - 100
9:00 AM Mass - 111
Total Attendance - 211



2024 MASS BOOK - The 2024 Mass Book is open. Requests for Masses can be made at the Parish Office. There will be a limit of one Mass on the weekends per person and five Masses per person on weekdays.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 9/10

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Warzeski

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Gambino

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

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

Altar Servers - Donnelly & Miller

Greeter - Carr



OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 7. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed include: Swaddlers, winter coats sizes 0-6 month, outfits sizes Newborn to 18 month, Newborn diapers, Size 3 Diapers, Crib sheets, Baby wipes, Baby wash,

Baby shampoo, Baby lotion, onesies sizes 0-3 month and 3-6 month, wash cloths and towels, Girls night gowns with elastic bottom. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for every gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree.



WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

JEWELRY SHOPPING - The Women's Society is once again planning a Sunday afternoon of jewelry shopping. Gather any jewelry that you are tired of or never wear and drop off to the parish office for our sale. Don't worry, we'll also have plenty of new to choose. Drop off to office by January 10 then plan for a ladies afternoon of fun on January 21. Details to follow.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 PM at Shorty's Sunflower Café. 3 course dinner includes Roasted Corn Chowder, Choice of Slow Cooked Beef with potato and veg, Chicken breast with apples, mushrooms in brandy cream with veg or Butternut squash lasagna. Dessert and all cold and hot beverages. BYOB. \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. All invited. Payment and dinner choice to Lori by December 10.

EAGLES BASKET - We are selling chances for a large EAGLES basket. Some items include an autographed ball with authentication from Jake Elliott, \$50 gift card to Frank Smith, sweatshirts, lawn flag, tailgating food and supplies and more. Approximate value is \$450.00. Chances are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or best value 15 for \$10. Winner will be pulled on December 17.

BAKE SALE PLUS on weekend of December 9 and 10. Everything \$5.00. Pizzelles, cookies, candy, brownies, anything and everything. Anyone wishing to donate items you wish to make, please label and drop off before Masses. Remember EVERYTHING \$5.

2023 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 the Archbishop at Mother of Divine Providence Parish, King of Prussia on Monday, December 4 for the 2023 Day of Sanctification of 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,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOOD SALE - Babkas, Pierogi, Kielbasa. Order deadline December 6. Pick up December 15 & 16 from 1:00-4:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church, Conshohocken. Order by calling 610-630-0861.

TOUCHED BY MERCY, MOVED BY LOVE - Living Scripture Healing Meditation on December 5 from 7:00-9:00 PM at Sacred Heart Church, Bridgeport. For more information call 610-275-1750.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available at the Parish Office. 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested.



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A couple of weeks ago, I drove by a home that had some holiday inflatables on the front lawn. There for the whole world



to see stood a giant, inflatable Santa Claus. Next to Saint Nick was a huge Tom Turkey and next to the gobbler was a giant, friendly looking ghost whose name was probably Casper. That's rather economical I thought. I mean, why waste time? Talk about holiday savings! We do seem to more and more roll our "holiday seasons" all into one – serving turkey under the Christmas tree as our last piece of Halloween candy is being unwrapped. The only thing missing from that lawn display was a figure of Father Time or a Mummer fully decked out in ostrich plumes that would have made the display complete. I was trying to think of a way that I could combine *Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's* into one unique word. *Christoweenauldlangsynesgiving* would be quite a mouthful, so I found another much simpler word that's all encompassing:



Mass. In the Eucharist that we celebrate, all of our holidays are truly One. Every Mass is a Thanksgiving in which all the Hallowed Saints join us as Christ comes unto us and all is made New. Wow! Imagine that! *Mass* is not an obligatory chore to be completed, but a holiday



to be celebrated! The holiday spirit changes everything doesn't it? Folks are friendlier and happier. There is something to which to look forward – time spent with family and friends along with some delicious holiday epicurean delights and a little "cheer" to wash things down. At the holiday that is the Mass we gather, eat, drink, and celebrate. Every Sunday especially is something to celebrate and this Sunday is no different. Today is our New



Year celebration. The First Sunday of Advent begins a new Liturgical Year for the Church. Our calendar New Year's Day is traditionally a time for making resolution. We look at our



lives and make note of what we might want to change or improve. Fitness clubs suddenly become more popular and exercise equipment goes on sale. I have a suggestion for a resolution that we can already make on this *our* New Year's Day. Folks generally like the Hope and Happiness that Holiday Seasons offer. Decorations on lawns reflect this as do holiday light displays. With the upcoming new calendar year to bring with it all sorts of on-going problems and concerns not to mention a sure-to-be-raucous presidential election besides, perhaps we can resolve now to be people of Hope and Happiness. Perhaps we can resolve now not just to say that we're Christian, but to truly *be* Christian. It isn't a matter of keeping our lawn and light displays up all year



outside our homes, but it is a matter of keeping them within ourselves in a constant celebration that culminates each and every Sunday. It's now the Holiday Season! Let the celebrations begin as we make a resolution anew to be what we're called to be – a People of Hope and Happiness – a People truly Christian! Enjoy this...*our* New Year's Day...and Happy Christoweenauldlangsynesgiving!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson