

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

31 DECEMBER 2023

Readings for Sunday, December 31: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40.

Family life is rooted in the unconditional love of God as witnessed by the Holy Family. Mindful of his covenant, God blesses the faith of Abraham and Sarah in their son, Isaac. The child Jesus and his parents are blessed by Simeon.

Readings for Sunday, January 7: 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>
1 Jan.	MON.	9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
2 Jan.	TUE.	9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving Joe Harbach
3 Jan.	WED.	9:00 AM	C. Ronald Yost, Jr. Wife, Theresa
4 Jan.	THU.	9:00 AM	Simon Nagel Nagel Family
6 Jan.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
7 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.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, JANUARY 1:

No Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31. Mass on Monday, January 1 at 9:00 AM.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD

DRIVES on January 2 and 15 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

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 in these special Marian Devotions.



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.

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.

Collections ©IPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 17, 2023. \$3,544
2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. \$101,024
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$100,918
Figures from the December 24 collection will be in the January 7 bulletin.



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 11 - #658 - unsold
December 12 - #661 - unsold
December 13 - #421 - unsold
December 14 - #526 - Marie Hildebrand - \$50.00
December 15 - #539 - Vicki Hansell - \$50.00
December 16 - #611 - Cathy Salkowski - \$50.00
December 17 - #961 - unsold



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 - \$10; Sweatshirt with hood - \$25; Men's & Women's Polo Shirts - \$25. Current colors offered are: Kelly Green or Sunburst Yellow. 1/4 zip - \$35; Full zip hoodies - \$30 (Color is forest green for 1/4 zip and full zip). 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).

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 16/17:

4:00 PM Mass - 118

9:00 AM Mass - 129

Total Attendance - 247

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 6/7

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

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

Altar Servers - Miller & Griffin

Greeter - Neiman

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Marie Hildebrand and Anna Baldasano.

JEWELRY SHOPPING - St. Gabriel Women's Society is hosting an afternoon of jewelry shopping on Sunday, January 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM in the social hall. Some brand new items, some pre-loved items but all very reasonably priced. Women of all ages welcome. Come out for a pleasant afternoon with your gal pals and find something new. Light refreshments will be served.



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.



2023 ST. GABRIEL PARISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS are on sale after Masses on the weekends or at the Parish Office on weekdays. Cost is \$10.00 each. A limited number of 2022 ornaments also available.



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Times Square has its famous *Waterford* Crystal Ball. Harrisburg has its Strawberry. Hershey raises a Kiss, while Pottsville raises a *Yuengling* (Sounds great to me!). In East Oak Lane, we simply raised our pots and pans. Towns and cities have



their own various traditions for welcoming in the New Year. Well, we had our own little tradition in the neighborhood where I grew up. Throughout history, people have welcomed in the “new year” or the “new season” or the “new” whatever it was whereby the passage of time was marked (new monarchs or rulers, new empires or reigns, new priests or patriarchs, new palaces or temples, etc.). It was always a moment to pause and reflect on what had been and to look forward in hope towards what will be. People need hope.

People long for it. This is what celebrating the New Year is all about. Christians, especially, should celebrate, because Christians are a people of hope. A Christian without hope is a contradiction.

What’s interesting is that we celebrate the New Year, but God doesn’t. For Him, Who is Eternal, it’s not “new.” What



God does celebrate eternally is that “moment” when Eternity pierced through time and space (Incarnation) and drew it up into Itself (Resurrection). Wow! It boggles the mind! And thus, the reason for pots and pans, they’re not so mind boggling! Now, don’t ask me how it got started. I suppose it was just, as they say, a “simpler time.” The celebration of the New Year at the stroke of midnight would begin, of course, with the watching of good old



Dick Clark and his *New Year’s Rockin’ Eve*. Neighbors would freely come in and out of each other’s houses. All would be glancing at the TV while holding their drinks and *hors d’oeuvres* waiting for the final countdown when the ball in *Times Square* dropped. Then, it happened...three, two

one...*Happy New Year!* I would quickly kiss my parents then run out onto the front porch in my *Scooby-Doo* PJ’s. *Put your coat on! It’s cold*, barked my Dad. The neighbors next door would also be out. Our row houses had an adjoining porch and their son, my buddy, Joey, proudly sported his *Hong Kong Phooey* night robe.



Together we would all raise our pots and pans and with metal or wooden spoons start banging and clanging and screaming as loud as we could in the cold night air, *Happy New Year!* Sure, it was silly, but what great fun! It was a hope and a



prayer and a wish and a reality all at the same time. You see, it was **already** a Happy New Year, because we were with neighbors and family and friends – and we were celebrating not that which will be, but that which already was. The memory, for me, is as clear today as the day it happened. Indeed, that is what the “New Year” is like for God. So, grab a pot or a pan (or maybe, even a *Yuengling*). Bang away and celebrate – not that which will be, but that, which already is! Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson