

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6 DECEMBER 2020

**Readings for Sunday, December 6:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

As we await new heavens and a new earth, let us make clear the way of the Lord by being servants of justice, truth, and peace.

**Readings for Sunday, December 13:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.**

**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Church.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
7 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy	Ron & Kathy
8 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
8 Dec.	TUE. 7:00 PM	Deceased of Gich Family	Anthony & Amy Piazza
9 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	C. Ronald Yost, Jr.	Panfile Family
10 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Agnes Slaby	Daughter, Sharon
11 Dec.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
12 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
13 Dec.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Dean Gulotta	Wife, Diana & family

**Mass on weekdays will be in the Church. Remember to practice the social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask or covering for the safety of all.**



**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 IS OPEN!** However, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, for the safety of our parishioners and staff, all parish business will be conducted by phone (610-326-5127), regular mail or email ([contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)).

The Parish Office will be closed from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Friday, December 11.

**THE ROSARY** is prayed on weekdays before the 9:00 AM Mass. We also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. We welcome all to join us for these special Marian Devotions.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,** December 8, is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM - No Vigil Mass on December 7.

**2021 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for January to June 2021 are now being accepted. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention. Please call the parish office to schedule Masses.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

I may be old-fashioned, but I like to wait until after Thanksgiving to start decorating for Christmas. I usually decorate my home the second week of December, and keep the decorations up throughout the Christmas Season – i.e. at least until Epiphany and possibly beyond. In our liturgical life, the celebration of Christmas starts on December 25 and concludes at the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord – which this year is Sunday, January 10. However you choose to decorate your house, I encourage you to keep your home decorated at least until the beginning of the new year as a witness to the rest of the world that Christmas doesn't end on December 25; it only has just begun!

Speaking of decorating, plans were for our outdoor Nativity to be set up this weekend. As I write this, the weather forecast might dampen those plans and force a slight change to the schedule. So, when you read this, it might be up, or it might not yet be but will be soon. I am grateful to the volunteers who are helping set that up. As with everything, many hands make light work, and we could always use people to offer to help with projects like this, or anything else that may be going on. Decorating for Christmas will happen in a few weeks; if you'd like to lend a hand, please call the office and let us know.

The Giving Tree is up in the vestibule of the church. Each year, we collect items for Birthright of Pottstown. Birthright is an international organization whose mission is to provide love and support for mothers and babies. As part of that support, the volunteers who run Birthright are sometimes asked if they can help with providing clothing and diapers for mothers and babies. Our giving tree helps them in that mission. If you can help support this effort, they especially could use maternity clothing (XL and XXL), all sizes of maternity leggings, and small maternity tops. Of course, baby clothing (especially sizes 12 and 18 months) and diapers (Sizes Newborn - 3) are always helpful.

If you read the Christmas stories in scripture, you notice that Mary and Joseph were frequently on the move: they had to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census and give birth in a stable. Then they had to go to Jerusalem to present Him in the temple 40 days later. At some point, they had to flee to Egypt, and then after a while return home. With all that movement and all those difficult circumstances, I would imagine the Holy Family had some anxious moments about how they were going to meet their basic material needs for food, clothing, and shelter. The mothers supported by Birthright can easily face similar moments of anxiety, and supporting them in this time of year seems particularly fitting.

If December is anything like November, it'll be over in the blink of an eye! Let's hope it goes slow enough that we can take time to savor the beauty of this time of year. Have a great week!

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan



## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2020. ....	\$3,577
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,422
Parish Giving -	\$155
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$1,423)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$105,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$82,466
Average per week Collection	\$3,927
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$22,534)
Average per week Deficit	(\$1,073)

### NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Deposit. ....	\$5,320
2019-2020 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$20,571)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,963)

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 29, 2020. ....	\$3,726
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,535
Parish Giving -	\$125
Christmas Flower Collection -	\$1,066
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$1,274)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$110,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$86,192
Average per week Collection	\$3,918
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$23,808)
Average per week Deficit	(\$1,082)

### DECEMBER 1, 2019

Deposit. ....	\$3,984
2019-2020 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$21,587)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$2,221)

#### "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME &  
CREMATION CENTER, INC.**  
610-323-4440

#### **MASS ATTENDANCE for November 21/22:**

4:00 PM Mass - 78  
9:00 AM Mass - 96  
Total Attendance - 174

#### **MASS ATTENDANCE for November 28/29:**

4:00 PM Mass - 74  
9:00 AM Mass - 89  
Total Attendance - 163



#### **Raffle Drawing**

**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. DECEMBER LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS.**

#### **LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

November 16 - #471 - unsold  
November 17 - #295 - unsold  
November 18 - #742 - unsold  
November 19 - #067 - unsold  
November 20 - #268 - unsold  
November 21 - #655 - unsold  
November 22 - #657 - Cliff & Barb Keller - \$100.00  
November 23 - #532 - Fr. Thomas A. Nasta - \$50.00  
November 24 - #674 - unsold  
November 25 - #728 - Denise Bucciaglia - \$50.00  
November 26 - #248 - Barbara Rambo - \$100.00  
November 27 - #067 - unsold  
November 28 - #245 - unsold  
November 29 - #235 - unsold  
November 30 - #450 - unsold  
FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER: 217 tickets sold - \$1,085.00.  
Payout to winners - \$600.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00.  
Profit for November - \$385.00

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

ALICE MC GLOCKLIN from Olivia & Tony Testa, Paula & Dennis Bolonski;  
STEPHEN SHOEMAKER, SR. from Ron & Carol Fry.

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

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

### First Reading - Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes will care.

### Responsorial Psalm

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

### Second Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-14

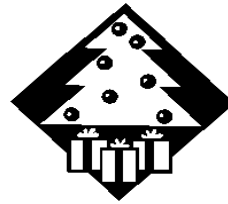
Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

### Gospel - Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare*

*your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



## OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING

TREE will be in the vestibule of church beginning Saturday, November 28 until Sunday, January 3. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: Preemie baby

girl clothing, diapers sizes Newborn to 3, baby clothing sizes 12 month and 18 month, Maternity clothes sizes XL and XXL, Maternity leggings all sizes, Maternity tops size S. They can also use any other baby items. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available at the parish office. There are 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested. Please call the parish office before coming for your wafers. Wafers available on a first come-first serve basis.

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### Confessions

Saturday, December 12 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Friday, December 18 - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 19 - 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Sunday, December 20 - 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM

### Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24 - 4:00 PM

Friday, December 25 - 9:00 AM

### Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

Friday, January 1 - 9:00 AM