

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8 DECEMBER 2024

Readings for Sunday, December 8: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

The Lord has done great things, leading his people out of slavery to the glorious splendor of Jerusalem. Let us make ready the way of the Lord by abounding in love and in works of justice.

Readings for Sunday, December 15: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18.



**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>
9 Dec. MON. 9:00 AM	Dean Gulotta	Wife, Diana
10 Dec. TUE. 9:00 AM	Margaret Buccigliata	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
11 Dec. WED. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
12 Dec. THU. 9:00 AM	Joyce Mahon	Husband, Charles
14 Dec. SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
15 Dec. SUN. 9:00 AM	Robert & Mary Cornely	Cornely Family



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially DOMINICA "MARIA" GRAZIANI.

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.



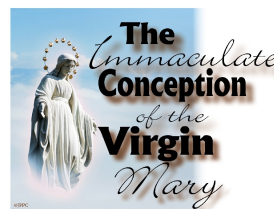
NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL on Mondays after the 9:00 AM Mass. All are welcome to join in this special Marian Devotion.



THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, December 13.



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 join in these Marian Devotions.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Because the Holyday falls on a Sunday, the Feast has been transferred to Monday, December 9. Mass will be at 9:00 AM on Monday.

LOST WEEK

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2024 \$5,169
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. \$88,364

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 1, 2024 \$4,058
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. \$92,422

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, December 14 and 15 will be the Gold 50/50 Envelope to support Religious Education.

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

DR. DIANE FRIES
610-323-0450



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.

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass - 120
9:00 AM Mass - 130
Total Attendance - 250

MASS ATTENDANCE for November 30/December 1:

4:00 PM Mass - 120
9:00 AM Mass - 120
Total Attendance - 240



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 18 - #734 - St. Gabriel Church - \$50.00
- November 19 - #459 - unsold
- November 20 - #459 - unsold
- November 21 - #145 - unsold
- November 22 - #713 - Tom Reilly - \$50.00
- November 23 - #116 - Jared Valentine - \$50.00
- November 24 - #945 - unsold
- November 25 - #198 - unsold
- November 26 - #359 - Rosemary Baird - \$40.00
- November 27 - #650 - unsold
- November 28 - #299 - unsold
- November 29 - #946 - unsold
- November 30 - #564 - Dick Linderman - \$50.00

NOVEMBER FIGURES: 240 tickets sold - \$1200.00.
Payout to winners - \$450.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00.
Profit for November - \$650.00.

December 1 - #361 - unsold

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 14/15

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

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

Altar Servers - Francis & Tran

Greeter - Hildebrand



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.



American Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD

DRIVES on December 16 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.



VOLUNTEERS needed to help decorate the Church on Sunday, December 22 after the 9:00 AM Mass.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS are available at the Parish Office . Five wafers per pack. A donation of \$3.00 per pack or \$5.00 for 2 packs is requested.



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.



The Corner

In this second week of Advent, we observe 3 days to especially pray for Mary's intercession. We have the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** on Monday, the **Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto** on Tuesday, and the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe** on Thursday. In preparation for our Mother Mary's Gift to us on Christmas, let's thank her by praying a rosary on each of these days.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confessions:

Saturday, December 14 from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Saturday, December 21 from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Saturday, December 28 from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, December 24 - Mass at 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25 - Mass at 9:00 AM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule:

Tuesday, December 31 - Mass at 4:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1 - Mass at 9:00 AM

Local Advent Penance Services and Confessions:

Advent Penance Service at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM.

Advent Confessions at St. Columbkil Parish on Sunday, December 22 at 7:00 PM

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS



Bake Sale on December 14 and 15 after Masses. Anyone contributing baked goods, please label and price all items.

Santina Kitchen Gift Certificates will be available the entire month of December. Certificates at \$15 and aside with helping with dinner, will make great Christmas or exchange gifts and last minute stocking stuffers. They are also available in the Parish Office daily.

These fund raisers help us to do great things for our church. Thank you always for your support.

SAINT ELEANOR CATHOLIC CHURCH
Live Nativity
bringing to life the nativity scene with children and live animals
Sunday, December 8, 2024
6:00 - 7:30 PM
SAINT ELEANOR PARISH GROUNDS
647 LOCUST STREET, COLLEGEVILLE, PA
Admission is free and tickets are not required. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Saint Eleanor Catholic Church
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Christmas around the world
December 14, 7:00pm



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

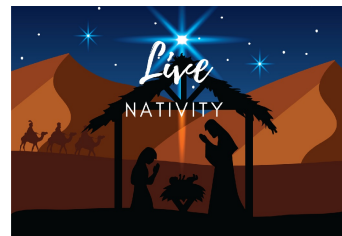
Register at QR code or contact
Sophie Schneible
SSchneible@saintalloysius.net
610-326-5877 x 426



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

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CASEY SERVICE CLUB

Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 22 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Sausage breakfast with Santa. Please call and register your child with Franco so we can award them with a proper present. Reserve your spot by calling Franco (484-433-9160).



LIVE NATIVITY at

Cedarville UMC, Pottstown on Sunday, December 8 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Interactive Story with walk-through scenes. Live animals and refreshments. Handicapped accessible.

Canned Food Drive. Free - our gift to your family. For more information visit www.cedarvilleumc.org or call 610-326-4173.

ST. PIUS X CLASS OF 1975 50TH REUNION is being planned for June 2025 and we need your current information. Please contact Pam (Segnere) Linderman on facebook, email-pplpam@comcast.net or Cell/Text 610-310-5246.



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For better or worse, I've never been one to rush. I guess it's not in my nature. I'm not sure why. Generally, as most know, I'm almost never early for anything. I prefer at least "to try" to be on time. My own father used to say, "You'll be *late* for your own funeral." I'm rather certain that I will be. Sorry, Dad! I remember going to a party. My father, Teddy (my "adopted" mom), and I would attend. I was the one "dragging my feet" and running late.

SURPRISE!

My father, however, was apparently in no hurry either. My father grew increasingly antsy to the point that he was "beside himself." I got the blame. We left the house late for the surprise party. My father muttered the whole time. We would ruin the birthday surprise for my cousin.

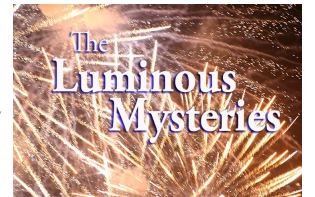
He stammered as he insisted that I walk through the door of the legion hall first, since I was the reason that we were late. "Dragging my feet" once again and futzing, he finally went in first with a huff. The shock was a bit overwhelming for him. Family and friends, including my cousin, were all already there. They were all looking at my father as they screamed, "Surprise!" He was confused momentarily; then moved to joyful tears. The party was for him on his retirement. He was indeed surprised. The rush was over. Actually, there was no reason to rush at all. He later apologized to us for what he had said and how he had acted. It was truly a surprise slowly had.



It is already the Second Sunday of Advent. Christmas will soon be here and there is a rush to complete all the "necessary" tasks of shopping, wrapping, baking, caroling, decorating, etc. There simply doesn't seem to be enough time to finish everything before that O Most Holy Night. It can all be so overwhelming. Ours is a world always in a rush. Route 422 gives evidence of that. Jesus, Himself, it would seem was never in a rush. He was never hurried. If anything, there was comment made because He was late. *Lord, if only You would have been here, my brother would not have died.* For One Who is Lord of all time, there is never any need to rush. In fact, for such a One, there is no such thing. Despite



death, Lazarus would be gifted with Life. This is the Christmas gift that Jesus is preparing for each one of us, but such a gift, it would seem, takes a bit of good old earthly time. It began nine months ago with a Child conceived in a womb. It continues as a woman will give birth on a rather Silent Night. Next will follow three years of teaching and preaching – an "illumination" one might say. Finally, it will culminate after three days of unbearable agony. It is then that all supposed "rushing"



will be over. In the end, it is you and I that will walk through the door as the Lord, Himself, shouts, "Surprise!" In the meantime, slow down and enjoy this Advent moment!

Easter Triduum



Peace,
Fr. Wilson