

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 FEBRUARY 2024

Readings for Sunday, February 18: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by flood waters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

Readings for Sunday, February 25: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10.



**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>
19 Feb.	MON. 9:00 AM	Loreen Cappelletti	John & Loretta Gauger
20 Feb.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Hector Rivas, Jr.	Millie & Deacon Ray Then
21 Feb.	WED. 9:00 AM	Robert Fitch	Jerry & Phillip Lake
22 Feb.	THU. 9:00 AM	Rev. James Gormley	
24 Feb.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
25 Feb.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Kayla Schwenk-Fox	Aunt Kathy & family



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.

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.



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



BUS TRIP on Tuesday, May 14 to see "Daniel" at Sight & Sound in Lancaster. Depart from church at 10:30 AM. Return to church at approximately 7:00 PM. Cost is \$169.00 - includes motorcoach transportation, lunch at Hometown Kitchen, tax and gratuity for lunch and ticket to the show. Make plans now to join us and ask your friends to join you. Call the parish office to reserve your seat!

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, February 19 for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2024. \$5,100
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. \$142,263
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$143,026

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, February 24 and 25 will be the St. Gabriel Feast Day Collection.

MASS ATTENDANCE for February 10/11:

4:00 PM Mass - 110

9:00 AM Mass - 114

Total Attendance - 224



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

February 5 - #958 - unsold
 February 6 - #395 - unsold
 February 7 - #336 - unsold
 February 8 - #554 - unsold
 February 9 - #694 - unsold
 February 10 - #111 - unsold
 February 11 - #595 - unsold



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

on February 19 and March 4 and 18 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. The Red Cross blood supply has fallen to critically low levels in recent weeks across the country. Blood and platelet donations are needed now to

help alleviate the shortage. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

WARKER-TROUTMAN FUNERAL HOME

610-326-1510

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



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).

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - February 24/25

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Servers - Francis & Nagel

Greeter - Neiman

The Corner

On Thursday we celebrate the Feast of The Chair of St. Peter. Let's pray for the Church today.

Lord, open our minds and hearts that the fresh air of faith blows open the doors of stubbornness and doubt and brings new life into souls. Amen.

2024 COLLEGE FAIR at Pope John Paul II High School, Royersford in the Main Gym on Tuesday, March 5 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Contact Doreen Bell (dbell@pjphs.org) with questions.

MEATBALL AND SAUCE SALE

Sponsored by the Women's Society
Saturday, March 2

Note pick up times!

#1 Saturday, March 2 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#2 Saturday, March 2 after 4:00 PM Mass

Please circle pick up time

1 dozen Meatballs - \$13.00

How many _____ \$Total _____

½ dozen Meatballs - \$7.00

How many _____ \$Total _____

1 quart of Sauce - \$7.00

How many _____ \$Total _____

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Orders and payment due by February 25.

Checks payable to St. Gabriel Women's Society.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY at St. Aloysius Church on Wednesdays for 6 weeks beginning February 28. Choose 9:30 AM or 7:00 PM. Contact Sophie Schneible (Sschneible@saintalloysius.net or 610-326-5877, ext. 426) for more information.

UNDERSTANDING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS at St. Aloysius Church on Mondays at 7:00 PM. February 26 - Stations 1-7; March 4 - Stations 8-14. Contact Sophie Schneible (Sschneible@saintalloysius.net or 610-326-5877, ext. 426) for more information.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES MEN'S RETREAT with facilitator Deacon Tom Phillips of St. Teresa of Calcutta Church on March 1-3 at Sacred Heart Spirituality Center, Newton, NJ. Deadline for reservations is February 23. For more information contact Jim Siegmann (540-273-5054).

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY on Saturday, March 2 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Gym, Schwenksville. For more details or tickets, contact Tom (610-585-6553 or aohsecretary36mo06@gmail.com).

MAN-UP PHILLY, Archdiocese of Philadelphia Men's Spirituality Conference on Saturday, March 2 at Cardinal O'Hara High School. For more information or to register go to www.manupphilly.com.



FAST & ABSTINENCE DURING LENT - The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are 14 years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons 18 years of age and older, up to and including their 59th birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT - All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

OPERATION RICE BOWL - All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. Operation Rice Bowls are available at the entrances to church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.

Fridays at 5:00 PM.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Wednesdays at 12:30 PM.

Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM.

MAGNIFICAT LENTEN COMPANION BOOKS are available at the church entrances. There is no charge for the books. Feel free to take a copy home with you for Lenten Reflection.

LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES at National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto. Wednesdays, February 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. For more information visit www.padrepio.org or call 610-845-3000.

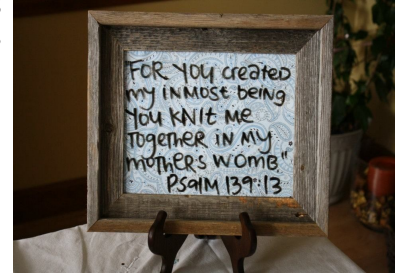
OPEN HOUSE at Saint Francis Classical Catholic Academy, Bally on Sunday, February 25 from 11:15 AM to 1:30 PM. For more information visit www.saintfrancisclassical.com.



The Funeral Mass was for a woman who lived to the age of 105. The blessing of many years lived is a blessing indeed. Most people don't make it to 100...let alone, 105. When an individual does reach the age of 100 –



or there about – there are questions that always arise. *What was it like back in...? What was it like when there were no...?* Then, of course, there is this question: *What is the secret of longevity?* In answer to this last question, there has always been a variety of responses. Healthy diet and exercise surprisingly, are generally not among



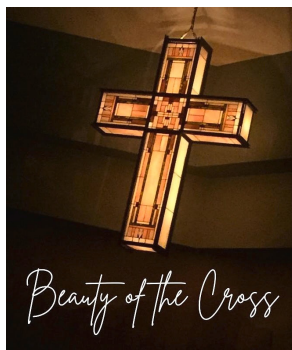
them. Things like a regular shot of whiskey, glass of wine, smoking a good cigar, or maybe even eating pork rinds are. *Hmmmm*. God and Faith occasionally make the list, too. I remember reading about the oldest World War II veteran who passed at the age of 112. His quip concerning longevity was *God, guns, whiskey, and cigars!* I suppose genes have much to do with it as well. In other words,



the way in which God, in His Divine Providence, “knit me together in my mother’s womb” makes all the difference. The woman that I buried added something to the varied responses that I consider unique. Her son told me that she was a woman of simplicity and that she simply requested a rather simple Funeral Mass. Simplicity as a key to longevity...well, perhaps. Simplicity as a key to living a full life and life to the



full – most definitely! I always think of God as being utterly and absolutely simple. God is. He is Life. He is Love. It *is* that simple. His command is simple too: *Love!* Unfortunately, God in His simplicity is complex for us humans. This is due to Original Sin. The Original Sin is the Original Complication. Sin complicates things and further sin compounds complication. There is evidence of this all around us. It is like that piece of furniture, outdoor grill, or appliance that you bought “assembly required” with the instructions that were printed in China. Even Confucius would be confused. Complication quickly



leads to frustration – with life, with work, with relationships, with oneself, and with one’s Faith. The Beauty of Our Lord is the Beauty of Simplicity. The Cross of Christ, although utterly tragic, was utterly simple, such that most people of the day didn’t notice it. Some still don’t. The Most Holy Cross cut through complication. It made life simple because it simply made Life again. We



would do well to capture or re-capture in our lives a sense of Divine Simplicity. In doing so, we may not live to be 105, but we will certainly experience the Fullness of Life in all its most Beautiful Simplicity – and maybe, just maybe, that’s what the Season of Lent is simply all about.

Peace!

Fr. Wilson