

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 25 FEBRUARY 2024

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

Abraham offers the ultimate sacrifice of thanksgiving, the gift of his very son. This sacrifice prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus who died for us all. In his transfiguration, Jesus discloses a suffering messiahship.

**Readings for Sunday, March 3:** Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25.



**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>
26 Feb.	MON. 9:00 AM	Barbara Guadagno	Jim & Anna Baldasano and Donna
27 Feb.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Robert Fitch	Steve, Helen & Emily Lake
28 Feb.	WED. 9:00 AM	Josephine Battista	Walter & Anne McAndrew
29 Feb.	THU. 9:00 AM	Anthony Detri	Christman Family
2 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
3 Mar.	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.



We welcome MARIE CLEVENGER and STEVEN, ISABELLA & PHILOMENA SHARP who recently joined our Parish.



**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.



**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 m o t o r c o a c h

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. Reservations and payment due by April 1. Call the parish office to reserve your seat!

**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.

# Collections ©PPC thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2024.** . . . . . \$4,129  
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$146,392  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$146,823

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, March 3 and 4 will be the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for February 17/18:**

4:00 PM Mass - 111  
 9:00 AM Mass - 124  
 Total Attendance - 235



**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 12 - #417 - Steve Yarmush - \$50.00  
 February 13 - #551 - unsold  
 February 14 - #260 - unsold  
 February 15 - #843 - unsold  
 February 16 - #920 - unsold  
 February 17 - #111 - unsold  
 February 18 - #440 - Theresa Vitacco - \$100.00



**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"**

**CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CENTER**

610-323-4440

**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](mailto: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.

**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS** - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their MARCH issue at the Parish Office.

## **The Corner**

We say the St. Michael prayer after every Mass. **But did you know...**

Pope Leo XIII wrote it in 1886, in response to liberalism in America and other countries, and as a protection for the Church against attacks from Hell.



## **THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

**APPEAL** is a time for our parish to come together to extend our love, generosity, and concern to those who need it most. When you give to the

Appeal, your gift is transformed into hope, providing education, food, shelter and medical assistance to our brothers and sisters right here in the Greater Philadelphia Area. You can give to the Appeal by using the envelope mailed to your home.

### **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.

### **LENTEN PARISH OUTREACH**

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14 through Palm Sunday, Mar. 24**

Parish-Wide outreach program to help

#### **Birthright of Pottstown**

Right now, they need donations of the following:

Diapers sizes Newborn, 2 and 3

Baby Wipes

Baby Clothes new or gently used sizes 0-18 months

Hooded Towels and Wash Cloths

Winter Coats/snowsuits sizes 0-18 months

Infant footed pajamas sizes 0-3 months

Maternity leggings

Sanitary pads

Pregnancy Books

Bottles

A collection box is in the vestibule of the Church for donations. We will deliver the donations weekly.

**PREP CHALLENGE** - Students are collecting coins weekly and the winning class will receive a prize!

**Let's come together as a parish and make a big difference in our community through this important work of mercy this Lent.**



**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 59<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES**

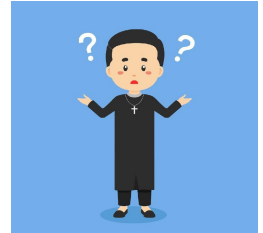
**Wednesday, March 6** - 7:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Limerick.

**Sunday, March 24** - 7:00 PM at St. Columbkille Parish, Boyertown.

Fr. Wilson will be at both Penance Services with several other priests from the area. All are welcome to attend and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



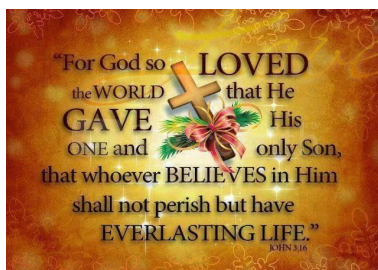
They are one of the most studied groups of individuals. Psychologist, psychiatrists, and sociologists have conducted countless studies and written many papers concerning them. Questions abound concerning their development and social interactions. They often relate well with adults while still in childhood...being somewhat mature while lacking maturity. They can be jokingly serious while making serious jokes. Even their frequent quiet demeanor often comes across loudly. They usually enjoy community while having need to spend time alone. Because they are the oldest, youngest, and dearest all rolled into one, they are a bit of an enigma and hence, only children have been studied quite often by those involved in the Social Sciences. Their disquisition is second only to that of priests – that other “enigmatic” group. As a priest/only-child, I suppose I have had to endure a double-whammy of scrutiny. Oh, joy! Actually, it *is* a joy being both a priest and an “only.”



I had loving parents and good friends growing up. I find it interesting that I have been asked certain questions oh so many times. *What was it like being an only child? Did you miss not having siblings? Did you ever feel lonely?* Gosh, I grew-up in a neighborhood in Philly teeming with tikes not in some isolated place in rural fly-over country. As an only, yes, I had the luxury of a bedroom to myself and no, I did not dress in hand-me-down clothes. Of course, Christmas was great too. All those toys that Santa dropped off in the middle of the night were for yours truly thank you very much. With plenty of other kids in the neighborhood, I made good use of those toys and yet, I never had any problem playing on my own. An active imagination and several city blocks to explore led to adventures ever new. Those adventures would only increase over time as my



world expanded beyond a few city blocks, but most especially after lying down on the cold marble floor of the cathedral for a bit later in life. Jesus, too, was an only child – **the** Only Child. Come to think of it, He was a priest as well – **the** High Priest. And He too, has been well scrutinized to say the least. I suppose the attributes highlighted by the study of social scientists apply to Him as well, but in an even greater way. That Only Child of Bethlehem found in the Temple as a kid talking with



the teachers there invites us once again this Lent into His very Life. His quiet demeanor will so soon scream at us from Calvary as He makes a very serious joke of Death itself. Emerging from the tomb on a Sunday morning, He will call to us to come out and play exploring a whole new neighborhood with endless adventure. Such is the Joy of the Resurrection for which we now prepare. We need ask Him now those same questions that every only child is asked, listening as He gives His most remarkable answer to them: *Come and see!* Enigmatically, all of us together

are, in fact, an “only child” in Our Lord. This Lent discover yours!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson



**THE CATHOLIC PREACHING INSTITUTE** at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary is conducting a Survey of Parishioners throughout the Archdiocese.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK...

...about the homilies you hear. Really! Honestly! The new Catholic Preaching Institute (CPI) at St. Charles Seminary invites you to participate in what could be the largest-ever study of its kind in the nation. It only takes 10 minutes to do! Simply go to [www.catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching](http://www.catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching) and complete the online survey or use the QR code to take you to it. Then invite each of your family members to do the same and share this with all your Catholic friends! With everyone's input, CPI will design programs to make preaching in the archdiocese more compelling ... so that your experience of the Word of God becomes even more inspiring. Don't wait - the survey closes March 22!



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

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY** on Saturday, March 2 from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Gym, Schwenksville. \$45 per person includes live music, full Irish buffet, beer, wine, Bagpipers, Irish dancers, raffles and fun! For more details or tickets, contact Tom (610-585-6553 or [aohsecretary36mo06@gmail.com](mailto:aohsecretary36mo06@gmail.com)). Limited tickets available at door - doors open at 6:45 PM.



**MAN-UP PHILLY**, Archdiocese of Philadelphia Men's Spirituality Conference on Saturday, March 2 at Cardinal O'Hara High School. Speakers include Mike Schmidt, Danny Bader, Mark Hartfiel and Deacon Nathan Gunn. Irish Tenor Mark Forrest will lead our Eucharistic Adoration. Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available and the Conference will conclude with Mass celebrated by our Archbishop Most Reverend Nelson Perez. For more information or to register go to [www.manupphilly.com](http://www.manupphilly.com).

**ST. ALOYSIUS & HOLY TRINITY CEMETERIES** will begin the Spring/Lenten Clean up on Monday, March 4. If there are items currently on your loved one's gravesite that you would like to save, please remove the items by Sunday, March 3.

**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. The Bible Studies combine personal study with small group discussion, linking our everyday challenges to the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. If you desire to grow in your faith, in a supportive community of Catholic women, Walking with Purpose is for you. Contact Sophie Schneible ([Sschneible@saintalloysius.net](mailto: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. Watch and discuss Word on Fire's "Stations of the Cross" video and go deeper in praying and understanding this beautiful Lenten devotion. Contact Sophie Schneible ([Sschneible@saintalloysius.net](mailto:Sschneible@saintalloysius.net) or 610-326-5877, ext. 426) for more information.

**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. Join us as we gather for Eucharistic Adoration, a Lenten Reflection with Fr. John Frink, and Benediction. Opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. For more information visit [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org) or call 610-845-3000.

**WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT** - Psalm 51/ Forgiveness. Saturday, March 9 from 9:00 AM to Noon at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church & Ministry Center, Schwenksville. Guest speaker is Sister J. Shelia Galligan, IHM, S.T.L., S.T.D. We will begin with 9:00 AM Mass in the Church, followed by the retreat in the Ministry Center. A light continental breakfast will be provided. Retreat seating is limited. Reservations required by March 4 by contacting [stcwings.retreat@gmail.com](mailto:stcwings.retreat@gmail.com). Please include your name, phone number, and parish. Cash donations will be accepted for the Missionary Sisters of Charity. Retreat hosted by *WINGS (Women in God's Spirit)*.

**ORDINATION OF NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS** - A Special Holy Hour of Intercession for the bishops-elect will be offered on March 6 at 7:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul and is open to the public. All are invited to attend. The Ordination Mass on March 7 is by invitation only given space limitations. Mass will be available via livestream at [www.archphila.org/ordination](http://www.archphila.org/ordination).