

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1 JANUARY 2023

Readings for Sunday, January 1: Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.

We seek God's blessings as did Mary. Because of her Son, we can confidently call God, "Abba!"

Readings for Sunday, January 8: 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>
2 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Simon Nagel II	Nagel Family
3 Jan.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Grandparents of Paula & Dennis Bolonski	
4 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Bishop Robert Maginnis	Bucciaglia & Boyer Families
5 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Matthew Janus	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
7 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
8 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt	Wife, Mary



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially ELEANOR VASKO.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Tuesday, January 3 at 6:30 PM in the PREP Building.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, January 2 and Friday, January 6.



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 us!



WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, January 5 at 6:30 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Nikki Gambino and Mariann Horan. We will be collecting Dues in January.

WINNER OF THE CHRISTMAS BASKET - Tony Vitacco. Winning ticket pulled by Father. Next themed basket will be Valentine's Day and tickets will be available the end of January.

2023 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day in 2023 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass. There is a limit of 2 weekend Masses per person requesting the intentions.



Collections ©PPG thank you

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 18, 2022. \$4,289
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$100,918
2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. \$97,485

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, January 7 and 8, will be the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.

WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:
DECEMBER DRAWING - Joseph Harbach - \$266.00.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 17/18:
4:00 PM Mass - 105
9:00 AM Mass - 102
Total Attendance - 207



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
on January 9 and 16 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.



All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish. Go to our parish website and click on the FORMED.org picture on the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible Studies for all age groups.

The Corner

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart!

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
JAMES HARTER from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
JACOB ARMS, SR. from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
CATHERINE MILLER from Mary Lenhardt.



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 12 - #262 - Sandy & Pete Richards - \$50.00
December 13 - #266 - unsold
December 14 - #405 - unsold
December 15 - #935 - unsold
December 16 - #575 - unsold
December 17 - #240 - unsold
December 18 - #893 - Terry Donnelly - \$100.00

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 7/8

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Durante & Bracaglia; Choir, Durante
Altar Server - Wasylkowski & Francis

Greeter - Wade

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Server - Iannozzi

Greeter - Carr



OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of church until Sunday, January 8. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed include: Girls' winter outfits in all sizes from Newborn to 18 month;

Boy's winter outfits in sizes Newborn and 0-3 month; Boys shirts size 18 month; Sleep Swaddlers; Diapers size 3; socks in size 0-3 month; Maternity leggings; Walmart or Target gift cards that we can use for formula. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the tree. All donations are greatly appreciated.



It's finally out! There have been many folks waiting and wondering when new episodes would finally be available. I just watched the second episode of season three of *The Chosen*, the online show about the Life of Christ. The series is very well done. Any story of the Life of Christ, of course, involves interpretation and some artistic license on how events may have unfolded. In the latest episode that I watched, there was a very interesting and beautiful scene included in that license. It had me thinking about our New Year and what we bring into it. The

scene is one of a dialogue between Jesus and one of the disciples now named "apostles." Jesus has just spoken to the Twelve and is preparing to send them out on mission in pairs. They are all astounded and somewhat confused as Jesus tells them that they will have power to heal and cast out demons. They are to take nothing with them save a walking stick. It is James – "Little James" – that meekly approaches Jesus alone with a concern that he has. Interestingly, Little James is portrayed as being special needs. His handicap is that he has a malformed leg or foot. Also, he is diminutive in stature. He can only walk very slowly and with a crutch. How can someone with such special needs like himself heal others? If Jesus truly wants him to be successful in this mission, why hasn't Jesus first healed him? Jesus tenderly reassures him that it is his own special needs that will work even greater miracles than if he were suddenly tall and able to sprint. I remember working in a school for special needs children while in the seminary. Mercy School for Special Learning is in Allentown. Looking back, I think that the children there taught me far more than I taught them. The children didn't see themselves as "special needs." They were simply children. The Lord wanted Little James to understand that despite a special need, he was now "simply" an



apostle tending to the many "special needs" of others. All of us now begin a New Year with "special needs." All of us are in some way handicapped. We make resolutions and hope for change and healing in our lives and our world. Perhaps one of the keys to having a happy and fruitful New Year is realizing exactly this. All of us are being sent by the Lord on mission into the New Year despite our own "special needs" and "handicaps." Through our "diminutive stature" and many weaknesses, the Lord Himself will work even greater miracles in the year ahead. Little James leaves Our Lord humbled and satisfied. Before leaving, Jesus says to him, that He can't wait to hear the many amazing stories upon his return. Nor can I, but that will have to await a future episode, one that will involve your story and mine as well!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson