

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

2 JANUARY 2022

Readings for Sunday, January 2: Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12.

All nations are invited to sing the Lord's praises for they have been called to hear the good news and worship the long awaited Messiah and King with the gift of their lives.

Readings for Sunday, January 9: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22.



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>
3 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Marie Spain	Ann Discher
4 Jan.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Dominic & Marcella Vitacco	Tony & Theresa
5 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Michael Vitacco	Tony & Theresa
6 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Special Intentions	Jane Perkins
8 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
9 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.
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.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, January 6 at 6:30 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Marie Hildebrand and Ginger Scheidt.

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 them.

2022 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for 2022 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention. There are a limited number of weekend Masses remaining for 2022. Please call the parish office if you are interested in scheduling a Mass on a weekend.

A Message From The Pastor



It was twenty-two years ago now. For those old enough to remember, on the one hand, it was a time of great hope and excitement. On the other hand, there was just a bit of anxiety to say the least. The calendar back then would be flipping not just into a new year, but into a whole new century. Humankind would be entering in the 21st Century. It would be a once in a lifetime remembrance save for those rare few who might live well over a hundred. The century that the year 2000 would usher in was looked upon as futuristic and fantastic. It would involve space odysseys and technological marvels. There was a sense that the Twentieth Century and its wars and weapons of mass destruction were indeed behind us. Hope abounded. The Twin Towers still stood as testimony to human accomplishment and ingenuity. Viral pandemics and government mandates were still the stuff of 1984 science fiction. The anxiety at the time arose largely because of dire reports of imminent computer failures. IT folks were worried. The fledgling internet would fail. Our binary system of technological wonder would not properly respond to 1999 ending and 2000 beginning.



The whole behemoth would implode much like WOPR in the movie, *War Games*. Planes might fall from the sky. Defense systems would fail. Nuclear war might begin. And don't even think about programming your VCR. In addition to these ever so slightly frightening scenarios, some men and women of the cloth of various faiths were prophesying the end...that's right...**the** End. The apocalypse was (once again) at hand. The Almighty One would appear in His most glorious Second Coming wielding a great Sword of Wrath upon all unbelievers. Nice. With all this in mind, what was one to do? Well, to be honest most partied like it was 1999. Kinda makes sense doesn't it? Go out with a bang one way or the other. What's a transitional deacon to do? It was my last year in the seminary and priestly ordination loomed on the horizon if there would still be a horizon come the next morning. The seminary that year offered a prayer service together with Mass for those interested. It was completely voluntary and optional. Most sems would be with family and friends and the '99 crowd. I figured that I'd hedge my bet. If everything did "blow up" and the Mighty One appeared in the sky as planes fell, I figured that it couldn't hurt being in our chapel at Mass. At the very least, I might score some brownie points. And if the sun did, in fact, rise the next morning on that first day of 2000, what better place for a soon to be priest to start things off than at Mass? At any rate, I "packed a light bag" just in case I might be ascending that stairway to heaven come dawn. Twenty-two years later I'm still at the foot of the stairs — as are you. Phew! I'm ever grateful for God's patience with all of us and His priestly gift to me. Gratitude isn't something just for Thanksgiving Day. Perhaps it is the quality most needed on New Year's Day. As we now enter the twenty-second year of this crazy century, there are more than just a few concerns that can get us just a wee bit upset and cause us a great deal of anxiety. The antidote to this is the same as it was at the beginning of the century: an overwhelming gratitude for what has been and an abounding hope for what will yet be. The Risen Lord may not yet appear in the sky, but He is ever and always present and He gives a power that the world cannot. It is a power that overcomes all things, conquers kingdoms, vanquishes viral pandemics, proclaims peace not war, and opens minds and hearts to a Faith in a whole New and Eternal life. And it all begins with the flip of a calendar. See you in church at the foot of the stairs!



Peace!
Fr. Wilson

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 19, 2021. \$3,342
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. . . . \$97,485
 2020-2021 Year to Date Collections. . . . \$97,814
 Figures from the December 26 Collection will be printed in the January 9 bulletin.

MASS ATTENDANCE for December 18/19:

4:00 PM Mass - 108
 9:00 AM Mass - 106
 Total Attendance - 214



All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish.

Go to our website and click on the FORMED.org picture at the top of the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible studied.

RADA CUTLERY The Women’s Society has, for the time being, decided to forgo the RADA program. There are a few items left in inventory for purchase: 2 - vegetable peelers - \$8.00 each; 4 - server spoon/spatula - \$6.00 each. Please call the parish office to purchase these items.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 8/9:

4:00 PM Mass
 Lector - Warzeski
 Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tamaro & Tamaro; Choir, Bracaglia
 Altar Server - Holmes
 Greeter - Wade
9:00 AM Mass
 Lector - Vitacco
 Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Donnelly & Bernhard
 Altar Server - Donnelly
 Greeter - Carr



PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Raffle Drawing 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 13 - #476 - unsold
- December 14 - #678 - unsold
- December 15 - #262 - Sandy & Pete Richards - \$50
- December 16 - #824 - unsold
- December 17 - #973 - unsold
- December 18 - #582 - unsold
- December 19 - #087 - unsold

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

MEMORIES ‘N’ MORE
 610-326-1911



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

on Monday, January 3 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Prospective donors can sign up directly at <https://rb.gy/sduxr>. You can also call 800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

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

- DONALD AUGUSTINE from John & Donna Roncase;
- EDWIN G. PENNYPACKER from Schwenk Family, John & Donna Roncase;
- LAWRENCE C. VITACCO from Tony & Theresa.