

# THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

## 7 JANUARY 2024

**Readings for Sunday, January 7:** 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 14:** 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42.



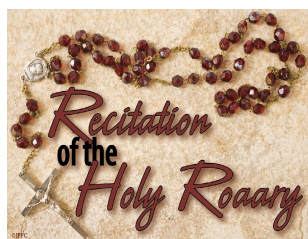
**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Wednesday. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 5:00 PM in the Church. Benediction at 5:00 PM.**



<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
8 Jan.	MON.	9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt
9 Jan.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Wife, Mary
10 Jan.	WED.	9:00 AM	Sharon McCarthy
11 Jan.	THU.	9:00 AM	M/M Joseph Viola, Sr.
13 Jan.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Daughter, Sharon
14 Jan.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
			Sister, Marie & 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.



**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 in these special Marian Devotions.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES** on January 15 and February 5 and 19 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.



**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.



**2024 MASS BOOK** - The 2024 Mass Book is open. Requests for Masses can be made at the Parish Office. There will be a limit of one Mass on the weekends per person and five Masses per person on weekdays.

# Collections ©IPPC thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR DECEMBER 24, 2023.** . . . . . \$4,612  
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$105,636  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$112,321  
 Figures from the December 31 collection will be in the January 14 bulletin.

**WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:**  
 DECEMBER DRAWING - M/M Joseph Bucciaglia - \$264.00.

## "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**O'DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI, P.C.**  
 610-323-2800

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



**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 18 - #783 - unsold  
 December 19 - #041 - unsold  
 December 20 - #354 - unsold  
 December 21 - #323 - unsold  
 December 22 - #149 - unsold  
 December 23 - #843 - unsold  
 December 24 - #108 - Mary Lenhardt - \$100.00

January 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fulfilling the Church's mission of mercy and the Gospel's call to be instruments of God's pure love, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection funds Catholic agencies working to assist our brothers and sisters around the world who suffer from extreme hardships.

In providing humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims of atrocities like human trafficking, the organizations supported by the CRS collection serve based on the core belief that every individual is an equal heir of Christ's love and care.

The annual Catholic Relief Services collection challenges American Catholics to put their faith into action and to see "Jesus in disguise" in the faces of the poor, the marginalized, and the stranger by supporting ongoing efforts to respond to their needs. The funds collected are essential to the sustainability of vital Catholic charitable ministries that save lives and promote their sacred dignity.

The collection will be taken up in the parishes throughout our local Church during the weekend of January 13-14, 2024. We have always responded very generously to this annual collection, and I ask you to do so again this year.

I am grateful to you for recognizing the face of Christ in those who cannot help themselves and for your compassion. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely in Christ,

**+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.**

Archbishop of Philadelphia

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for December 23/24:**

4:00 PM Mass - 140

9:00 AM Mass - 104

Total Attendance - 244

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for December 24/25:**

4:00 PM Mass - 229

9:00 AM Mass - 118

Total Attendance - 347



**2023 ST. GABRIEL PARISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** are on sale after Masses on the weekends or at the Parish Office on weekdays. Cost is \$10.00 each. A limited number of 2022 ornaments are also available.



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



**APPAREL ALERT!** We are now accepting orders for our parish apparel: T-shirt - \$10; Sweatshirt with hood - \$25; Men's & Women's Polo Shirts - \$25. Current colors offered are: Kelly Green or Sunburst Yellow. 1/4 zip - \$35; Full zip hoodies - \$30 (Color is forest green for 1/4 zip and full zip). 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)).

#### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 13/14**

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - DiMarco

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannoizzi

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

Altar Servers - Francis & Nagel

Greeter - Carr

#### **WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS**

**JEWELRY SHOPPING** - St. Gabriel Women's Society is hosting an afternoon of jewelry shopping on Sunday, January 21 from 1:00-3:00 PM in the social hall. Some brand new items, some pre-loved items but all very reasonably priced. Women of all ages welcome. Come out for a pleasant afternoon with your gal pals and find something new. Light refreshments will be served.



**THANK YOU** for the many cards and gifts given to me over the Christmas Holiday. Your kindness is greatly appreciated! - Fr. Wilson

#### ***The Corner***

This time of year is a great opportunity to reach out to others and practice hospitality. In the words of St. Paul: *"Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels unawares."* -Hebrews 13:1-2

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

RONALD BERNHARD from Anna & John Nester, John & Donna Roncase, Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer;

HELYNNE MICH from John & Donna Roncase;

REV. GREGORY J. HICKEY from John & Donna Roncase;

AUGUSTINO BARBALACE from Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer;

CATHERINE KECK from Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer.

#### **BLESSING OF THE HOME ON EPIPHANY** - The blessing of

homes on Epiphany is a centuries-old custom in the Church. Chalk is used to mark the doors of the house while praying for protection and blessing for all who live there - drawing forth imagery from the book of Exodus and the first Passover. The chalk on the door is a visible reminder to all of their Christian life and a challenge to live virtuously both in and out of the home.

The door is marked with the initials of the names traditionally given to the Magi: **C**aspar, **M**elchior, **B**althazar, surrounded by the numerals of the current year. The initials CMB can also stand for the prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*, Latin for "May Christ Bless this House."

**20 + C+M+B + 24**

#### **Prayer**

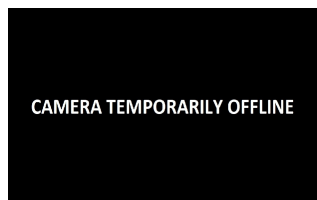
O Lord, Holy Father Almighty, everlasting God, we beseech thee to hear us: and vouchsafe to send thy holy Angel from heaven, to guard and cherish, protect and visit, and evermore defend all that dwell in this house. I call upon thy Saints, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, to protect my family and my home from every harm and danger, and I place this mark over my door to remain as a constant reminder to us and all who enter here that my house is truly a house of the Lord. O God, make the door of my house the gateway to thine Eternal Kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

**PAWS PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION** at Pope John Paul II High School on Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 PM in the Panthers' Learning Center. PAWS Program supports the individual needs of students with learning differences. To register contact Mr. Joseph Rogers, Director of Academic Support ([jrogers@pjphs.org](mailto:jrogers@pjphs.org)).





As a pastor, it's frustrating – especially when it's the biggest Mass of the year in terms of attendance. The video camera

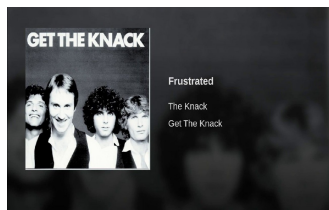


in church allowing for online viewing of the Christmas Eve Mass was working, but off-angle. In view was the very, very top of the Crucifix – and that's it. *Father, the camera in church is not working right. Wait. What?* I had about fifteen minutes to figure it out. It was then that I regretted missing all those videography classes in the seminary. I skipped the ones on HVAC, plumbing, and audio systems as well. Oh, well. I tried my



best, but the computer screen used to adjust the camera just stared back at me and laughed in a most devious Grinch-like way. The Grinch had his way and the camera would have to wait. The Christ Child had arrived and it was time for Mass to begin. After a beautiful Christmas Eve Liturgy, made more

beautiful by the presence of so many people, I went back to the task. After a bit more frustration...*voila!* The camera was fixed and the Grinch was vanquished...or so I thought.



Christmas Day Mass was also very beautiful. Again, I heard the refrain (like 5x)...*Father, the camera is not working. Fixed it already*, I beamed! It wasn't until after Mass on the day after Christmas that I realized the Grinch had been back at work. The camera was angled correctly alright, but now it was offline.

OMG! *Frustrated* was a song by *The Knack* back in my high school days. I began singing it to myself. Eventually, even the Grinch must have pitied me as his heart grew three sizes. The camera was online once again and properly focused. *Whew!* All of this had me pondering the



Wise Men and Epiphany. They had no camera with them and they forgot their cell phones. Without GPS, they had no choice but to follow a Star. Arriving in Bethlehem with cells forgotten, the Magi were unable to take any selfies with *Little J*, *Big J*, and the "original" *Madonna*. What would a picture have shown anyway?

The image would have been that of a poor family and a poor child born in the midst of poverty and poo. A dusty, dirty stable filled with animals, hay, and dung served as a delivery room. What a sight...but the birth of a King? Surely not! Yet a King was born in such squalor and suddenly such squalor was transformed for all time and we honor it each and every year in churches throughout the world including our own. Even Vatican Square has its magnificent Nativity scene at this time of year. To this day too, parents and grandparents are delighted when young children take part in live presentations of



it. Maybe **this** is the most unbelievable story that Wise Men tell *sans* cell phone selfies or digital documentation. This **is** the most unbelievable story that Wise Men most certainly must tell today. It is one of squalor transformed and poverty diamondized as a King from on High descends looking kindly upon us in our lowliness. This is what Wise and Wealthy Kings proclaimed as they realized their own poverty before Him. What is your squalor? What is your poverty? Where is the musty hay or smelly dung that clings? What is it that a King needs to transform and transcend for you my

Magi friend? Be touched by a King now and throughout this New Year. Then proclaim that which is most unbelievable...no camera or cell phone needed!



Peace!

Fr. Wilson