

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## 10 MARCH 2024

**Readings for Sunday, March 10:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16; 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21.

God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to deliver the world from exile.

**Readings for Sunday, March 17:** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33.



**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>
11 Mar.	MON. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
12 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Michael Nickle	Mariann Horan
13 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	John & Carole Della Penna, Sr. and John Della Penna, Jr.	Theresa & Tony Vitacco
14 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Josephine Battista	Husband, Al
16 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
17 Mar.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Mary & John Voychik	Michael Hipszer



**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.

**ST. GABRIEL WOMEN'S SOCIETY** is going to the **National Centre for Padre Pio**, Barto on Tuesday, March 12 for Stations of the Cross and the Rosary. Leave from church parking lot at 10:30 AM or meet at the Centre at 11:00 AM.

### **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.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES** on March 18 and April 1, 15 and 29 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.

# Collections ©PPC thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 3, 2024..... \$5,614**  
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. .... \$156,015  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. .... \$156,665

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, March 16 and 17, will be the Easter Flower Collection.

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for March 2/3:**

4:00 PM Mass - 127  
 9:00 AM Mass - 131  
 Total Attendance - 258



**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 26 - #053 - unsold  
 February 27 - #725 - Anna Baldasano - \$100.00  
 February 28 - #197 - Catherine Sands - \$50.00  
 February 29 - #519 - unsold  
 FEBRUARY FIGURES: 235 Tickets sold - \$1175.00.  
 Payout to winners - \$300.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00.  
 February Profit - \$775.00.  
 March 1 - #957 - unsold  
 March 2 - #996 - unsold  
 March 3 - #298 - unsold

## **"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**DR. DIANE FRIES, OPTOMETRIST**

610-323-0450

**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.

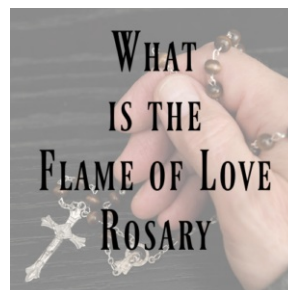
## **MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 16/17**

### **4:00 PM Mass**

Lector - Warzeski  
 Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Durante & Durante; Choir, George  
 Altar Server - Holmes  
 Greeter - DiMarco

### **9:00 AM Mass**

Lector - LaRosa  
 Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Bernhard & Gerasimowicz  
 Altar Servers - Francis & Miller  
 Greeter - Carr



## **FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY**

If you are interested in learning more about and/or participating in the Flame of Love Rosary, please contact Patrick Cornely (215-479-0155).

### *The Corner*

**"I will show loving-kindness to them and forgive their sins. I will remember their sins no more."** —Hebrews 8:12

"Everyone say to himself: 'When was the last time I went to confession?' And if it has been a long time, don't lose another day! Go, the priest will be good. And Jesus will be there, and Jesus is better than the priests — Jesus receives you. He will receive you with so much love! Be courageous, and go to confession." —Pope Francis

### **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.**



### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE EASTER VIGIL**

from the Office for Divine Worship:

#### **Time of the Easter Vigil 2024 -**

The Easter Vigil is the first Mass of Easter Sunday and not

in any way to be considered an Anticipated Mass for Easter Sunday. This is why the discipline of the Church insists that it should not begin before nightfall in any circumstance. It may be helpful to know that sunset, according to a variety of models, occurs approximately at 7:23 PM on March 30, 2024. In general, given the variable date for Easter, it seems best to schedule the Easter Vigil each year for 8:00 PM or later.



**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. 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.

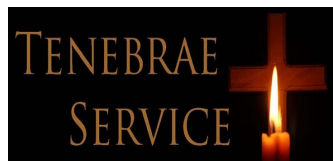
### **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

**Sunday, March 24 - 7:00 PM** at St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown. Fr. Wilson will be at the Penance Service with several other priests from the area. All are welcome to attend and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY** sponsored by the Casey Service Club of Knights of Columbus. Dinner served from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM. Held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe. Fish Fry with French Fries and salad - \$10.00. Fried Shrimp with French Fries and salad - \$10.00. Weekly Special with salad and dessert - \$15.00. Weekly special is a non-meat dinner. Call ahead (Franco at 484-433-9160) or follow us on our Facebook page to see the current special.

**POSITION AVAILABLE** - Morning Facility Personnel position is available at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Limerick. Please see website ([www.stteresacalcutta.com](http://www.stteresacalcutta.com)) for details or call the St. Teresa Parish Office (610-287-2525).

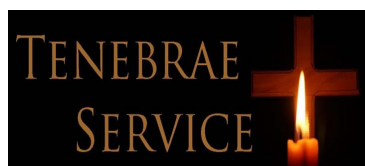
**PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT** on Saturday, March 16 at 7:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Schwenksville. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, Inspiring words from Father Cregan, Benediction, St. Teresa's Music Ministry performing popular contemporary music by Kari Jobe, Lauren Daigle, Matt Maher, Elevation Worship and more.



**SERVICE OF TENEBRAE** on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 PM at St. Thomas More Parish, Pottstown. For more information visit

[www.StThomasMorePottstown.org](http://www.StThomasMorePottstown.org).

**LENTEN FISH FRY** at St. Thomas More Parish, Pottstown on Friday, March 22 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Open to public. Pre-order form can be found on their parish website: [www.StThomasMorePottstown.org](http://www.StThomasMorePottstown.org). Walk-ins welcome. Cost: Pre-order - \$17.00; Walk-ins - \$20.00 (includes Fresh Fish, French Fries and Cole Slaw). Eat-in or take-out. Sponsored by St Thomas More Knights of Columbus. Benefits Local Homeless Needs. Deadline for pre-orders is March 18. Living Stations of the Cross to follow at 7:00 PM.



**Tenebrae** is a candle light service symbolizing how light is shone in darkness as we journey into Holy Week. Held at St. Aloysius Parish,

Pottstown on March 22 at 7:00 PM. Small sections of Scripture will be read by St. Aloysius students and St. Aloysius Choir will perform beautiful music after each reflection. Join us for this memorable service! Light refreshments following service.

**ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY EASTER FOOD SALE** on Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23 from 1:00-4:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall, Conshohocken. Food items include: Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb or raspberry cheese) \$16.00, Pierogi (potato, potato cheese or sauerkraut) \$10 per dozen and kielbasa \$9.00 per pound. Deadline to order is March 13. To place an order call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861) or email [foodsale@stmarypolish.org](mailto:foodsale@stmarypolish.org).

**LENTEN "FAST FOOD" AND A FILM** on Friday, March 22 from 12:00 PM to 2:30 PM at the National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto in the Museum Tree Room. Enjoy the company of others over a meatless meal as we view the inspirational and uplifting film *Lilies of the Field*. Pre-register and pre-pay for your lunch at [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org) by clicking on the event calendar for March 22. Cost for lunch is \$22.00. Deadline to register is March 15. Seating is limited.

**CATHOLIC CINEMA SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN** at the National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto. Sunday, March 24 from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM - *Brother Francis: The Bread of Life*. You are invited for some family fun to view Catholic films for children presented on the "big screen" in the Spirituality Center. There is no cost to attend and no registration is necessary. Children must be accompanied by an adult to participate. For further information contact [angela@padrepio.org](mailto:angela@padrepio.org).

**WOMEN OF HOPE RETREAT** (formerly known as Dominican Women) on March 15-17 at Malvern Retreat House. Take time to deepen your faith in the company of other women who seek more from their faith lives. For information contact Sunny Dougherty (484-744-3920). To register call 610-644-0400 or visit [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Congress**

**10<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS** - July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN. Join with thousands of passionate Catholics for a transformation experience on a

scale this generation has never seen. To learn more about the event or to register visit [www.EucharisticCongress.org](http://www.EucharisticCongress.org).



**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Tell us about the homilies you hear at Mass. To take the survey, go online:

[catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching](http://catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching)

... or scan the QR code:



Survey produced by the Catholic Preaching Institute at St. Charles Seminary, Phila.  
[SCS.edu/preaching](http://SCS.edu/preaching)





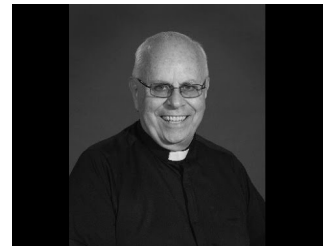
## Anesthesia

*Knocking people out since 1856*

I lost a bit of wisdom that day...and a good deal of blood besides. Nevertheless, I gained quite a lot of insight, thanks to a certain Monsignor. Anesthesia is a very interesting thing. Truly, it is a marvel of modern times. No longer is there need to "bite the bullet." That wouldn't really have been an option for me anyway, since I had an oral surgeon's implements in my mouth along with the hand that was holding them. Although the teeth are known as "wisdom," they certainly don't seem to bear much of that virtue. Maybe that's why the dentist suggested that they be removed, before any "wisdom" turns into the folly of infection. My upper "wisdoms" were exposed. They were easy to remove. It was a different story concerning my lower third molars. They were impacted into my jaw and looked to be sideways as per the x-ray. Although both were scheduled to be removed the same day, that would not be possible. I had lost so much blood with the first extraction that the second would have to wait. The doctor said that he did not want me to "bleed out." Thanks, Doc! I usually try to keep as much of my blood as possible. The day finally arrived for the second and final extraction of that tiny bit of "wisdom" left that I had buried in my jaw. The role anesthesia plays in any kind of surgery cannot be understated. It knocks one out...in



more ways than one. Anyone being anesthetized needs assistance after surgery. It is mandated that patients make arrangements to be transported. It was on that day of "final wisdom" that a wiser pastor much my senior offered to assist. He would not only take me back to the rectory in his car, but he first would come into the office and sit with me through the "post-op" instructions. Going under anesthesia is easy. I was told to count backwards from one hundred. I think that I made it to ninety-eight. Coming out of anesthesia is much different. It's kind of dreamy and cool. You seem to simply love everyone and everything especially the nurse that's trying so hard to get your attention. I don't know



why she was laughing, but she had such a beautiful smile. I have a vague and foggy memory of sitting in a chair and a kind doctor speaking. His lips were moving, but I had no idea what he was saying. The nurse was holding my hand and still smiling. She had such a beautiful smile. Did I mention that already? Suddenly, I noticed Monsignor sitting there too! Where did he come from? I bet he came to see the nurse's smile. The next thing I know is that everyone was helping me get up. They were all so nice. Monsignor had his arm locked around mine as I shuffled



through the office now like a man very much *his* senior. He got me into his car and asked me if I was okay. He was so nice and now he had a nice smile too. God only knows what I said on that ride back to the rectory – well, God and Monsignor. I hope that I thanked him that day in the midst of my fog. I think I did like a hundred times, but one can't say thank you enough. Though I lost a bit of wisdom that day, it was his kindness as priest, pastor, and friend that gave me a whole new insight. Helping one another,

assisting one another, and putting up with one another when one of us is in a bit of a fog is what the life of a Christian is all about. That day of walking arm-in-arm through the doctor's office was simply a metaphor for our walk through life and our walk through Lent. Monsignor has been a good friend, priest, and pastor since that day I first walked through the door of his parish...and his smile *is truly* just as nice as ever. This is the insight and wisdom that I gained on a day that I thought that I had actually lost a bit along with a good deal of blood besides. I hope that this Lent you gain this True Wisdom as well – no anesthesia needed!



Peace!

Fr. Wilson