

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## 12 MARCH 2023

**Readings for Sunday, March 12:** Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42.

Jesus satisfies our thirst for eternal life. Through his Spirit his grace has been poured into our hearts. God satisfies the thirst of the Israelites whose hearts had become hardened and rebellious.

**Readings for Sunday, March 19:** 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.



**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>
13 Mar.	MON. 9:00 AM	Timothy O'Brien	The Family
14 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
15 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	John T. & Irene Bernhard	Ron & Kathy
16 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Joseph Discher	Wife, Anna
18 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Stanley Salkowski	The Family
19 Mar.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



**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.

**TRIP TO PADRE PIO** on Tuesday, March 14 for the Rosary followed by Stations of the Cross. Sponsored by the Women's Society. We will leave the parking lot at 10:45 AM or meet us there for the 11:30 AM start. All parishioners invited to attend.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES** on March 20 and April 3 and 17 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

**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.

### *The Corner*

You may feel stagnant in your walk with Christ like you are constantly taking two steps toward God and one step back, but His view of things is different. St. Paul reminds us in **Philippians 1:6** that **"He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."** Even if you can't see it or feel it, God promises us that He will bring our transformation to completion. During Lent, let's take this promise to heart and give thanks and praise to God for all the mercies He has shown us, especially the gift of Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Take that step forward toward transformation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

# Collections ©PPC thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 5, 2023..... \$4,187**  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections..... \$156,665  
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections..... \$151,267

## **WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:**

FEBRUARY DRAWING - Dennis Rulli - \$296.00.

**2022 CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** - Requests can be made by email at [contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org) or by phone at 610-326-5127. Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their church envelopes).

## **MASS ATTENDANCE for March 4/5:**

4:00 PM Mass - 121  
 9:00 AM Mass - 124  
 Total Attendance - 245



**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 27 - #853 - unsold  
 February 28 - #779 - unsold  
 FEBRUARY FIGURES: 233 Tickets sold - \$1,165.00.  
 Payout to winners - \$300.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00.  
 Profit for February - \$765.00.  
 March 1 - #322 - unsold  
 March 2 - #351 - unsold  
 March 3 - #757 - M. P. Onifrek - \$50.00  
 March 4 - #780 - unsold  
 March 5 - #796 - unsold

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide the Catholic Church's full range of pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces.

The mission of the Archdiocese is to "serve those who serve" by providing the pastoral care and services to Catholics serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled in the U.S. Military Academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Centers in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. The Archdiocese and its endorsed priests and deacons are responsible for pastoral service to approximately 1.8 million Catholics. However, unlike a conventional diocese, the Archdiocese has no parishes or parish registries and no weekly collections. It relies solely on the generosity of private donations to support its programs and services.

Pope Francis has told military ordinaries from around the world that "The role of military chaplains is to accompany and support [those in need] on the journey, to be a comforting and brotherly presence for them all." (Pope Francis, Address to participants in the 8<sup>th</sup> Humanitarian Course, 26.X.15.) Your support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will bring the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to men and women who serve our Country and defend our freedoms, including parishioners and families from our own diocese.

The **Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services** will be conducted in your parish on the weekend of March 18 and March 19, 2023. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support of this collection.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,  
**+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.**  
 Archbishop of Philadelphia

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

**MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY & ASSOCIATES**  
 610-327-2600

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



## FAST & ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE

**FOR LENT:** The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light. **Most Rev. Nelson J. Pérez has granted a dispensation to all Roman Catholics in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from the obligation to abstain from meat on the Memorial of St. Patrick, Friday, March 17, 2023. Some other penance of choice is to be observed in honor of the passion and death of our Lord on the cross.**

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 as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Wednesdays, March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 at 1:00 PM. Fridays, March 17, 24 and 31 at 7:00 PM.

**CONFESSIONS:** Wednesdays, March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 12:30 PM to 1:00 PM. Saturdays, March 18 and 25 from 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Wednesdays, March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Benediction at 5:00 PM.

**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 church entrances.

**PENANCE SERVICE** AT St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Schwenksville on Wednesday, March 29 at 7:00 PM. Several priests will be available for Confessions including Fr. Wilson.

**CONFESSIONS** on Palm Sunday, April 2 at St. Columbkil Parish, Boyertown at 7:00 PM. Several priests will be available for confessions including Fr. Wilson.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 18/19

### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Mich

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Wade

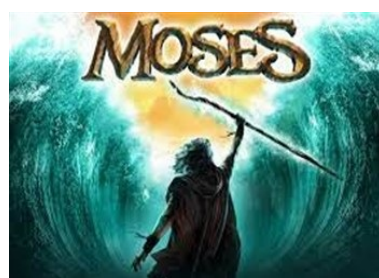
### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Server - Donnelly & Francis

Greeter - Carr



**PARISH BUS TRIP** to Sight & Sound to see **Moses** on Tuesday, May 23. Bus will leave from Church at 10:30 AM. Lunch prior to the show at Hometown Kitchen (family style meal). Show begins at

3:00 PM. Return to church at approximately 7:00 PM. Cost for trip is \$143.00 which includes transportation, family style lunch, tax and gratuity for lunch. Deadline for reservations is Tuesday, April 11. Contact the parish office to reserve your seat now before tickets are sold out!

## COLLEGE FAIR AT POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL on

Tuesday, March 28 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the Main Gym. This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. For a list of schools attending the fair, scan the QR Code. If you have any questions, contact Kristin Shoemaker at [kshoemaker@pjphs.org](mailto:kshoemaker@pjphs.org).



## ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY EASTER FOOD

**SALE:** Food items include Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb or raspberry cheese) \$15; Pierogi (potato, potato cheese or sauerkraut) \$10 per dozen; Kielbasa \$9 per pound. Deadline for orders is March 22. Pick up on March 31 and April 1 from 1:00-4:00 PM at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall, Conshohocken. Place orders by email ([foodsale@stmarypolish.org](mailto:foodsale@stmarypolish.org)) or Call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).

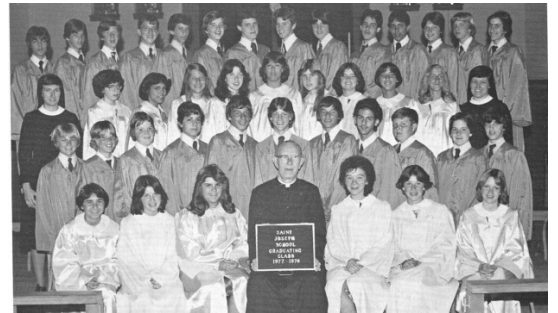




The altar bread that we use at Mass happens to be made at my home parish. In particular, it is made by the Contemplative Sisters of the Good Shepherd that now live in the convent there. For me, this is such a beautiful connection to my roots. As a youngster, it was the Sisters of Saint Joseph that lived in that building when they taught me and the other students in the parish school. I have been in that convent only a few times when I was tasked with dutifully dropping something off or picking something up for the sisters while still in my primary years. Of course, I used to walk past it all the time whether on my



way to the rectory that stood opposite it while on similar missions or on my way out to the field. Both buildings stood on the rim of the grand expanse of our grassy field. We would tear around on that field at recess and after school. Although the grass stains on our blue school uniforms and the scrapes on our knees often enough got us into trouble, they were at the same time marks of glory for children at play. They were wounds and scars that transformed us as children began to mature. They were the sacred wounds of our youth, one might say. In Eighth Grade, we were allowed to have our individual yearbook photos taken virtually anywhere on the parish grounds. A number of my classmates stood before the statue of the Blessed Mother in the small yard in front of the convent. Of course, I had to be different choosing instead to sit in the driver's seat of the parish school bus that was a part of my life everyday for eight years. As I recall, the parish bus driver and maintenance man, Mr. Horscher, was rather proud of that. The convent building at Saint Joseph is perhaps most famous for the explosion that took place there. A faulty boiler led to catastrophe. The back wall of the building blew out.



It was but through the Grace of God that no one was hurt or killed. Although the Sisters of Saint Joseph have long since moved on as have the community of Irish sisters that followed them in teaching at the school that is now too part of parish history, it is the Contemplative Sisters that now live there and support themselves by making and selling altar bread used at Mass. The Eucharist connects all of us to our pasts as well as our futures. It connects us in a very remarkable way to our present, which is exactly where we find God. The Most Blessed Sacrament connects us with one another in a Communion truly most Holy! We have the opportunity this Lent and beyond to revisit our youth and have vision of a hopeful future as we gather with family, friends, and God, Himself, in the present. This happens whenever we gather at Mass and receive Jesus in the consecrated altar bread, which in our parish, is made by a beautiful group of religious sisters living in the convent at the parish of my youth where all of us are invited to take a Lenten tear around the field and risk getting into some holy trouble!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson