

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

17 MARCH 2024

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

The grain of wheat must die to produce fruit. Such dying must be cultivated by obedience and by our covenant with God, rooted in love and forgiveness.

Readings for Sunday, March 24: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1–15-47.



**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>
18 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM	Joyce Mahon	Husband, Charles
19 Mar. TUE. 9:00 AM	Josephine Appolonia	Ann Discher
20 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM	Rev. Gregory J. Hickey	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
21 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	Thomas Palladino	Jeanette & Bill Gatta
23 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
24 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	Marilyn Hull	Fr. Wilson, Staff & Parishioners



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.



CONGRATULATIONS to Dylan, Domiano, Landon, Sebastian, Max and Morgan on receiving their First Penance!

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.

LOST WEEK

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 10, 2024. \$4,058
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections. \$160,073
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$161,373

WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE TO SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

MARCH DRAWING - Shirley Kovach - \$267.00.

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 9/10:

4:00 PM Mass - 141

9:00 AM Mass - 99

Total Attendance - 240



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

- March 4 - #136 - unsold
- March 5 - #074 - unsold
- March 6 - #050 - unsold
- March 7 - #282 - unsold
- March 8 - #901 - Bob Morgan - \$50.00
- March 9 - #519 - unsold
- March 10 - #461 - unsold

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

MEMORIES 'N' MORE
 610-326-1911

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

March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** was founded on the basic principles of Saint John Paul II's call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the Bishops of the United States.

Nations throughout Africa continually face the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. Despite these harsh challenges, Catholicism is flourishing throughout Africa.

Your support of the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care including religious education, seminary formation, and youth ministry. It also supports important projects that provide temporal and pastoral care for the sick.

The collection for the **Church in Africa** will be conducted in our parish on the weekend of March 23 and 24, 2024. On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continued generosity.

Please pray for me and be assured of my prayers that your Lenten journey will be a fruitful one on the road to Missionary Discipleship for Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

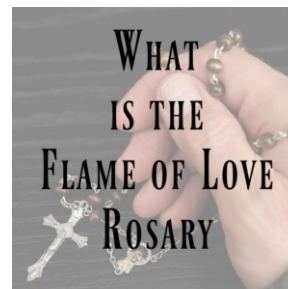
Archbishop of Philadelphia



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES

APPEAL is a time for our parish to come together to extend our love, generosity, and concern to those who need it most. When you give to the

Appeal, your gift is transformed into hope, providing education, food, shelter, and medical assistance to our brothers and sisters and neighbors right here in the Greater Philadelphia area. For those who have not yet contributed to the Appeal, prayerfully consider showing your support to this great call for action. To make your gift, go to www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org.



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

On Tuesday we celebrate The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“Let us allow ourselves to be filled with St. Joseph’s silence! In a world that is often too noisy, that encourages neither recollection nor listening to God’s voice, we are in such deep need of it.” —Pope Benedict XVI

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 59th 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.



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24:

Mass Schedule: Saturday, March 23 - Mass at 4:00 PM; Sunday, March 24 - Mass at 9:00 AM. Palm will be distributed at both Masses.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 23/24

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Readings, Warzeski & Voice for Passion, Nester
Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break,
Tamaro & Tamaro; Choir, Bracaglia

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - Gambino

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Readings, Boyer & Voice for Passion, LaRosa
Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, C.
Bucciaglia & Carr

Altar Servers - Griffin

Greeter - Neiman



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



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).

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.

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

10TH NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC

CONGRESS - July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN. This summer, join thousands of on-fire Catholics for the experience of the decade.

Come be refreshed, healed, and filled with so much grace that it will overflow into our community when you return home! To learn more about the event or to register visit 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

... or scan the QR code:



Survey produced by the Catholic Preaching Institute at St. Charles Seminary, Phila.
SCS.edu/preaching

Count your blessings! These words have been the sensible and sage advice of wisdom figures throughout the ages beginning perhaps, for most of us, with our parents when we were children. Noticing that *one* thing on my list missing from under the Christmas tree and upset that Santa apparently had forgotten, it was my parents that simply pointed to the many presents that the man in red *did* bring. *Count your blessings*, they said. Of course, they were right. I was very blessed indeed. My blessings were oh so much more than the nine or ten presents I counted at the time not even including my hung stocking that was stuffed or the socks and underwear that I never asked for anyway. This begs the question. Just how exactly does one count



and number all of one's blessings? Well, for those of us in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, that count might be twelve or – strictly speaking – a baker's dozen of thirteen. I suppose that it's a bit of trivia as well and maybe even something for the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Recently, three new bishops were ordained for Philadelphia. I was discussing this together with a group of brother priests the other day. A question was raised. With the three new bishops just ordained, exactly how many bishops do we now have? The answer to this question had all of us rather amazed and points to a blessing mutually shared. Three new bishops ordained at the



same ceremony and all for the same diocese is quite amazing and very much a blessing in and of itself. And in my rather humble opinion, these are indeed three good men and I believe that they will be well loved for sure in their new

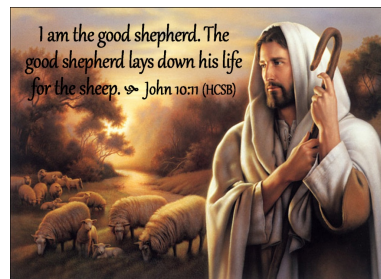
episcopal ministry. However, the fact that we now have twelve bishops living in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is *truly* amazing! Most dioceses in the world have but one bishop. We are blessed to have an astounding twelve – or thirteen, if one counts the Ukrainian Rite Metropolitan Archbishop as well. Although three of our bishops are brand new to their ministry, some others are retired having many years of experience under their mitres. Most remain active in ministry assisting in many different ways and all remain active in their prayers for us. Archbishop Nelson J. Perez (1), of course, is our archbishop. He succeeded Charles J. Chaput (2), our Archbishop Emeritus that still resides here. Our



Auxiliary Bishops are John J. McIntyre (3), joined now by Efren V. Esmillia (4), Keith J. Chylinski (5), and Christopher R. Cooke (6). Bishops Michael J. Fitzgerald (7) and Edward M. Deliman (8) are our retired auxiliary bishops. Bishop Joseph F. Martino (9) was ordained a Philadelphia priest and has returned home as the retired bishop of the Diocese of Scranton. Archbishops Edward J. Adams (10) and James P. Green (11) are both native Philadelphians and have returned to us following their faithful service as Apostolic Nuncios representing the Vatican in various countries throughout the world during their tenures. Bishop Joseph L. Coffey (12) was ordained to the priesthood from Saint Charles Seminary at the end of my second year there. I remember him being very kind and welcoming to me during our two overlapping years at Overbrook. He is currently



residing here in his home diocese while serving as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Military Services. Rounding out this baker's dozen of bishops and blessing is Borys Gudziak (13), the Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. We're not now in the Season of Advent preparing for Christmas, but rather the Season of Lent preparing for Easter. Just as the number of presents placed under a tree doesn't reflect the many true blessings had, nor does the number of chocolate bunnies or decorated eggs in a



basket. The fact of the matter is that one Good Shepherd in a given diocese is more than enough blessing for all, but let's face it, having an amazing baker's dozen of bishops is pretty special indeed. Quite the blessing I would say! Together as we draw closer to Easter, don't forget to count yours!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson