

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### 19 MARCH 2023

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

Samuel does not see as God sees in the choice of David, who is anointed with oil. As Jesus cures the blind man, so too are we brought from darkness into light through the grace of baptism.

**Readings for Sunday, March 26:** Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.



**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>
20 Mar.	MON. 9:00 AM	Ruth Ramsey	Dennis Bolonski
21 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Communion Service	
22 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	Communion Service	
23 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Josephine Appolonia	Daughter, Anna Marie Discher
25 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	John R. Nester, Sr.	Wife & son
26 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.



#### **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.

**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS:** Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their APRIL issue at the parish office.

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

On Monday we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. How amazing is it that this preeminent saint is not recorded as saying a single word!

*"To give life to someone is the greatest of all gifts. To save a life is the next. Who gave life to Jesus? It was Mary. Who saved His life? ...Let St. Joseph speak, for ...he alone is the savior of the Savior." —Blessed William Joseph Chaminade*

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

# Collections

©IPPC  
thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 12, 2023.** . . . . . \$4,708  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$161,373  
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$154,558

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND,** March 25 and 26, will be the Easter Flower Donation Collection.

**WINNER OF THE GOLD 50/50 ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:**  
 MARCH DRAWING - M/M James Long - \$288.00.

**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 11/12:

4:00 PM Mass - 117  
 9:00 AM Mass - 102  
 Total Attendance - 219



**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 6 - #897 - Bob Zomolsky - \$50.00  
 March 7 - #014 - unsold  
 March 8 - #802 - unsold  
 March 9 - #436 - unsold  
 March 10 - #119 - Kathy Pennypacker - \$50.00  
 March 11 - #954 - unsold  
 March 12 - #281 - Kay Stoudt - \$100.00



## 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.

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 22, 29 and April 5 at 1:00 PM. Fridays, March 24 and 31 at 7:00 PM.

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

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Wednesdays, March 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.

## "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 25/26

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Warzeski

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tammaro & Vitacco; Choir, Tammaro

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - Bell

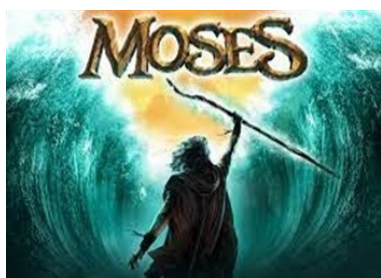
#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Griffin

Greeter -Hildebrand



**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 and show. 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).

**MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR POSITION** - St. Aloysius Parish, Pottstown is in search of a Maintenance Director. If you are interested in applying for the position, please email your resume and letter of interest to [Remick@saintalloysius.net](mailto:Remick@saintalloysius.net). \*Clearances are required. If the position is offered, the candidate will be required to complete the "Protecting God's Children" training through the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



Deepen Your Discipleship - Grow in Mission. Join Archbishop Pérez in his mission to create a culture of missionary disciples in

the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Subscribe to receive a weekly text from the Archbishop with one action step you can take that week to deepen your friendship with Jesus or grow in your mission to bring Jesus to others. It will be a year of journeying with the Archbishop into deeper missionary discipleship from **February 2023 to February 2024**. To subscribe visit [www.phillydisciples.org/goforth](http://www.phillydisciples.org/goforth).

**RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC MEN** on April 28-30 at Malvern Retreat House. Retreat Director is Fr. Boniface Hicks. Spend some time in quiet contemplation at our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Walk the Stations of the Cross. Attend daily Mass. Sit in silence. Pray and reconnect with our Lord. Register by going to [www.MalvernRetreat.com](http://www.MalvernRetreat.com) and select "Register Now." Scroll down the calendar to the St. Joseph the Worker Men's Retreat, April 28-30, 2023. To register by phone call Malvern at 610-644-0400.

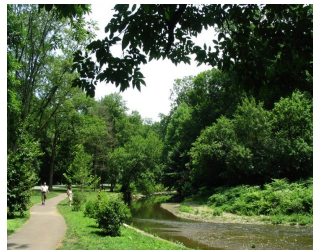
**VISITATION BVM (Trooper) SPRING CRAFT FAIR** - VENDORS NEEDED. April 15 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Cost is \$75 per one six foot table. Held in Visitation BVM School Gym. Make check payable to HASA Visitation BVM. Mail check to Attn: Angela Zampogna, Spring Craft Fair, Visitation BVM School, 190 N. Trooper Rd., Norristown, PA 19403.

**LENTEN RETREAT FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN** on April 1 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Snughill Farms, West Chester. Full day retreat with Guest Speaker Anne DeSantis. Come relax, reflect and get revitalized in our faith in preparation for the Glory of Easter. Cost is \$68. Begins with Mass and includes lunch. To register or for more details, visit [www.annedesantis.com/speakingevents](http://www.annedesantis.com/speakingevents).

**LIFE ADVOCATE RESOURCE CONFERENCE** on Saturday, April 1 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Matthew Church Hall, Conshohocken. Free event - registration required. Register at [pcorbett@prolifeunion.org](http://pcorbett@prolifeunion.org) or call 215-885-8150.

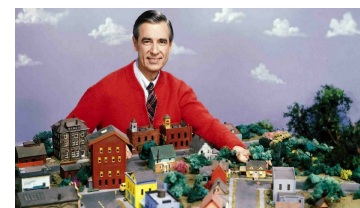


The house in which I lived in my younger days was one of three that my parents had considered buying after deciding to move from the little brick row home of my infancy in North Philly. One home was just outside the city. Another was in the Far Northeast section of town. The house bought was in the East Oak Lane neighborhood and for me, as a child, that neighborhood was as quaint as the name implies. I probably really did have some neighbor named Mister Rogers. The selection of that home by my parents involved several factors. All three would have been within budget, so finance wasn't in question. You know the saying. In the end, it all came down to *location, location, location*. Well that, and the fact that my mother didn't drive. The home in the Far Northeast was exactly that. Far! My mother thought that it was much too far away



from where her father and sisters lived. Visiting them would involve an all day excursion on public transportation with a young child. She exercised her divinely given veto power over my father. The suburban home didn't even stand a chance. Although situated close to a lovely little creek much like the Manatawny, the Tookany didn't capture my mother's charm at all simply because there was no public transportation nearby. No transit! No way, José! East Oak Lane it would be! Sometimes I wonder what might have been if one of the other homes were chosen instead. Call it a - *It's a*

*Wonderful Life* moment. What would happen if certain things were erased from one's life? One's life would be quite different for sure. I would have gone to different schools. I would have had a different circle of friends. Maybe some of those friends would have not been the best and I would have wound up living very, very far away from anything even close to the neighborhood of Mister Rogers. The foundation of one's life is made up of many different facets and stones. Some of those stones are quite precious indeed. In fact, they are not just stones, but gems. God has a plan for each one of us. Oftentimes jarring as it unfolds, it is quite beautiful and astounding as one looks back with aged eyes. Unbeknownst to me as a child, a foundation was being laid through parents, family, and friends. Through all of them a Faith and a Vocation were being nurtured. Living Stones of happiness and, at times, sadness were being set one upon another and so, here I am today. Once a foundation is laid and a house is built it has to be maintained. Over the years, our house received new windows, siding, paint, and porch



besides. There were carpets replaced and ceilings repaired due to absent minded sons with golf club in hand. But after all of this, it is still the same house on the same foundation in the same neighborhood. Lent is indeed a most beautiful day in the Neighborhood. It is a time to be most grateful for the Foundation of God's Plan in our lives and a time for the on-going maintenance of the House built upon that Foundation. What is your maintenance project this

Lent on that House of Faith built upon Living Stones in the Neighborhood where you live – and would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't **you** be **my** neighbor?

Peace!

Fr. Wilson

