

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## 23 MARCH 2025

**Readings for Sunday, March 23:** Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.

From the burning bush, Moses is called by God to lead his people out of slavery into freedom. The parable of the fig tree speaks on the one hand of God's patience, but of the urgency of the call to conversion on the other. Like the Hebrews of old, we too have failed to heed God's call, thinking ourselves to be self-righteous.

**Readings for Sunday, March 30:** Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.



**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>
24 Mar.	MON. 9:00 AM	Steven M. Slaby	Slaby Family
25 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
26 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	Linda Tammaro	Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer
27 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Matthew Cappelletti	Loretta & John Gauger
29 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Dale & Dolores Neiman	Dee Ann Laverty
30 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.



**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.



**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** - We have low gluten hosts for those who need gluten free. Please see Father before Mass to let him know you require the low gluten host.



**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.



**2025 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered in 2025 can be made at the Parish Office. Only weekday Masses are still available.

LOST WEEK

# Collections at St. Gabriel thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 16, 2025. . . . . \$4,127**  
**2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$164,352**

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, March 29 and 30, will be the Collection for Easter Flowers.



### **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. Taking care of those in need is one of the most important things we can do as Catholics, and it is important that together, we, as a community, reach the needed \$10 million goal. Envelopes for the Appeal are at the entrances to Church or you can use the envelope mailed to your homes.



**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.



### **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 fundraiser 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 10 - #184 - unsold
- March 11 - #010 - unsold
- March 12 - #801 - unsold
- March 13 - #600 - unsold
- March 14 - #615 - unsold
- March 15 - #504 - unsold
- March 16 - #712 - unsold

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for March 15/16:**

- 4:00 PM Mass - 157
- 9:00 AM Mass - 140
- Total Attendance - 297

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

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

**STOWE OIL COMPANY**

610-327-3744



**American Red Cross**

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD**

**DRIVE** on April 7 and 21 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Save lives and empower your health! In March, the Red Cross will perform A1C testing on successful donations. Give March

1-31 and get a \$10 Amazon.com gift card by email. See [rcblood.org/March](http://rcblood.org/March) for details. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org) to donate blood.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE - MARCH 29/30

### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Warzeski

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

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - DiMarco

### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - LaRosa

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Bernhard & C. Bucciaglia

Altar Servers - Miller & Nagel

Greeter - Carr

## WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

**Santina Kitchen and Douglassville Café Gift Certificates** continue to be sold. Pick them up at the Parish Office for \$15.00 each. You can also call Lori (610-326-6030) to order them. Leave a message stating which Mass you will be at - pick up after that Mass. Please have correct amount of \$15.00.

**ATTENTION:** For all Women's Society members who have not paid their 2025 Dues, please submit \$3.00 if interested in remaining a member. Please place your dues in an envelope and drop it in Collection Basket.

## LENTEN PARISH OUTREACH

Ash Wednesday March 5, through Palm Sunday April 13

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 Washcloths
- 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 to donate to a family in need 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.**



## 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, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. 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 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 Scripture, 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. Operation 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.



St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish is on a journey to know, love, and serve Christ better and thrive! **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM OUR PARISHIONERS! Complete the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey.**

The survey assesses our unique strengths and opportunities. Share your perspective now to help strengthen St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish and better prepare us for the future! For the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey link visit <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/d/x8akyx>. For those who cannot access the link, paper surveys are available in Church. Paper forms are to be returned to Maria Boyer, DRE. Deadline to submit on-line or paper forms is April 10. Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.

**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS** - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their APRIL issue at the Parish Office.

## The Corner



On Tuesday we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of The Lord.**

The Annunciation is the beginning of Jesus in His human nature. Through His mother He is a member of the human race. Mary's consent was essential to the redemption of mankind, and her consent was foreseen from all eternity, always a part of God's Plan for us.



**MISSIONARY HUB PLANNING PROCESS:** The Archdiocesan Strategy Office and Catholic Leadership Institute released videos to answer questions about the Missionary Hub Planning Process, which was announced earlier this year through Archbishop Perez' Pastoral Letter. To read the letter visit [www.trustandhope.org](http://www.trustandhope.org). Topics of the videos are:

- What is a Missionary Hub?
- What is a Parish Life Director?
- What goes into a Parish?
- Parish Planning Approaches.
- Aren't a Parish and the Church the same?

To access the video go to [vimeo.com/luxlabproduc](https://vimeo.com/luxlabproduc)

**HOMEMADE HALUSKY AND FROZEN POTATO/CHEESE PIEROGI SALE**  
Sponsored by the Women' Society

**Saturday, April 5**

**Note Pick-up Times!**

#1 - Saturday, April 5 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
#2 - Saturday, April 5 after 4:00 PM Mass

**Please circle pick-up time.**  
Pick-up in Church Social Hall

1 Quart of Halusky - \$8.00  
How many \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Total \_\_\_\_\_


1 Dozen Frozen Pierogi - \$10.00  
How many \_\_\_\_\_ \$Total \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$Amount of Order \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders and payment due by March 28.**  
**Check payable to St. Gabriel Women's Society.**



The Jubilee Year 2025 offers pilgrims in their own local area opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and prayerful opportunities to receive the sacraments, strengthen their relationship with Jesus, and enrich their lifelong faith journey. One way to observe the Jubilee Year is by pilgrimages. Several Shrines within the Archdiocese are places to obtain the Jubilee indulgences. Visit [www.archphila.org/holyyear](http://www.archphila.org/holyyear) for more information.

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST** sponsored by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, March 30 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the Goodwill Fire Co., Pottstown. \$10 - Adults; \$8 - Seniors, Veterans, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders; \$6 - Children age 4-11; Free - Children under age 4. Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Juice, Milk and Coffee.

**EVENTS AT NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PADRE PIO, BARTO**

**Respect Life Day of Prayer with Sister Diedre Byrne, P.O.S.C.** on Saturday, March 29. Join us for a day of prayer and reflection as we view Sister Diedre's documentary film on Euthanasia. No cost to attend however it is a ticketed event. Register at [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org) by clicking on the event calendar for March 29. Bring your own lunch or pre-order and pre-pay for a boxed lunch when registering on-line. Deadline to order lunch is March 22.

**First Friday Mass** on April 4. Mass at 10:30 AM in Our Lady of Grace Chapel. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Novena to the Sacred Heart follow Mass. Eucharistic Adoration concludes with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction at 3:00 PM. For more information visit [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org).

**First Saturday Devotions** on April 5. Confessions at 9:30 AM. Mass with Devotions and Benediction at 10:30 AM. For more information visit [www.padrepio.org](http://www.padrepio.org).



**SUNDAY MORNING**

**BREAKFAST** on April 6 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe. Pancakes, French Toast, Sausage, Bacon, Scrapple, Eggs your way, a variety of Omelets and

different types of Breakfast Bowls. Breakfast served from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD HEALING RETREAT** on April 4-6 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. If you or someone you love has been suffering from the emotional and spiritual pains of an abortion, a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat weekend can help. For more information or to register call Evelyn (215-317-5752).

**LIFE ADVOCATE RESOURCE CONFERENCE** on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Matthew Church Hall, Conshohocken. The Conference is free, and a free lunch will be provided, but registration is required. To register, please send your name, address and phone number to [lifecconference@prolifeunion.org](mailto:lifecconference@prolifeunion.org). For more details, go to [www.prolifeunion.org](http://www.prolifeunion.org) or call 215-885-8150.

walking with purpose

**Women's Bible Study**  
Begins April 23. Just 6 weeks!

**ROOTED AND RADIANT:  
A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS**

Rooted and Radiant was written for any woman who wants to live her life grounded in Jesus Christ. In this Bible study, we learn the book of Colossians verse by verse. We will seek to understand the challenges that faced the Colossians, recognizing that they are remarkably similar to our own challenges today.

**Two Sessions:**  
Wednesdays 9:30-11 a.m.  
OR  
Wednesdays 7:00-8:30p.m

Cost: \$27  
For more info or to register: scan or contact  
Sophie Schneible,  
SSchneible@saintaloyisius.net  
610-326-5877 ext. 426

scan to register!

Adult Faith Formation Presents

**Triduum:**  
**What is it all about?**

HOLY THURSDAY    GOOD FRIDAY    HOLY SATURDAY

EASTER SUNDAY

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage is a beautiful, 30 minute contemplative documentary. This film cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, re-presenting the most important days of human history.

Join us to view this beautiful video and learn how to help everyone in your family prayerfully enter into the most important liturgical days, both at home and in church.

**Thursday, April 10**  
**7:00-8:30p.m.**  
**Lower Level of Gathering Center**

Saint Aloysius Parish, 223 Beech St., Pottstown>Contact Sophie Schneible for more Information: SSchneible@saintaloyisius.net

**RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT** on March 28-30 at IHM Spirituality Center, Malvern. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats provide a space for healing and God's forgiveness to those who feel burdened by the trauma and darkness of abortion. To register contact Susan (610-716-4795) for Georgeann (484-955-4278).

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** on March 28-30 at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is an enrichment program for married couples. For more information contact Al & Mary Liz (610-449-1859).



I really enjoyed First Grade – for exactly one day. Then, I decided: *Enough of that!* Though my stomach ailment was actually a ruse, my mother bought it for one day (*Good!*). On day two, she became suspicious (*Uh, oh!*). On day three,



my father went into work late (*Oh, no!*) Backed into a corner and covering behind a large chair, he stood over me and barked **"YOU ARE GOING TO SCHOOL!"** Clearly I had no choice. The battle was lost, but far from it the war. In defeat, I cried out, "I surrender, I surrender!" And I really did surrender – and have ever since. The First Grade dungeon door swung open and there stood Sr. Rita Bernard in the full, black, SSJ regalia of the time. She seemed to me a cross between the Wicked Witch and Dracula. With her steely, reptilian eyes in her

*Surrender*

"nunish" voice and with the most rigid face this side of a *Szondi Test*, she said, "Good Morning, Eugene!" (*Oooo, I just got a chill.*) Then, she glared at my father and said without moving her lips,

"I'll take him from here." Her claws latched into my shoulder blade and tore me away from my father's grip. Years later my father told me that he felt so sorry for me (*Gee whiz, thanks Dad!*)



Into the lair I went and though a little boy was defeated that day, his spirit was not. I somehow knew already in First Grade that it was all about conformity. Learn the rules. Learn reading. Learn writing. Learn arithmetic. Be a productive member of society. Grow-up, find a job, find a suitable partner, reproduce, and finally, after wrapping it up on the back nine, turn out the



lights and call it a day. I wanted none of it! I wanted to be free – to play all day; explore ant hills; play with my Hot Wheels and Tonka Trucks, and tear up and down the block on my Big Wheel! I wanted that freedom then, and I still do! Though not a basketball player, I became good at hoops – and jumping through them. And I *was* good – a good boy; a good student, and a "good egg" one might say. It was all a rebel ruse, because within lay an insurrectionist awaiting his moment. Little did I know at the time, that my First Grade teacher, Sr. Dracula, was schooling me not in the conformity of simply learning the rules, but in the rebellion that foments when one begins to question why we have rules to begin with! What I

didn't know at the time was that Sister was a rebel, herself – and I was her star pupil! She was schooling me in the Art of Rebellion, which begins with knowing the rules and the reasons for the rules and then, turning them all upside down! I mean what else would lead a young woman to give up family and friends and having her own children in order to wear a full black regalia on a



warm day in September in a stuffy basement classroom full of 42 or so, six year old urchins? Sr. Rita was a rebel. She was nurturing the rebel in me and I didn't even know it at the time. How cool is that? In my school of non-conformity, I learned about Jesus. I learned about His turning everything on its head. I learned about His being accused of insurrection and rebellion. I learned about His rejecting the world and its rules for a Rule far greater. I learned that Jesus was a rebel – and I couldn't resist



**His** rebel yell. If you listen closely and perceptively, maybe you'll hear it too. Many years later, as I prepared for my own revolutionary moment of entering the seminary, I received a most beautiful letter in the mail. It was from Sr. Rita Bernard – the Rebel. She was so pleased and happy! She assured me of her prayers as the fight for **the** Rebel Cause would continue. Yes, I am a rebel at heart – as was Sr. Rita, because Jesus, Himself, is. What about you? Join the Good Fight! Rebel!

*In Memoriam – Sister Mary Catherine Walton, SSJ (aka Sister Rita Bernard)*

*May 11, 1937-March 10, 2025*

Peace!

Fr. Wilson