

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

30 MARCH 2025

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

Having arrived in the promised land, the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from affliction and distress in the Passover. Christ, our Passover, has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation: let us forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional and abundant love of God our Father.

Readings for Sunday, April 6: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11.



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>
31 Mar.	MON. 9:00 AM	Domenica Maria Graziani	Jim & Anna Baldasano
1 Apr.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Cornely Family	Patrick Cornely
2 Apr.	WED. 9:00 AM	Linda Tammaro	St. Gabriel PREP Students & Staff
3 Apr.	THU. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
5 Apr.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
6 Apr.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	



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.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING on Monday, March 31 at 6:30 PM in the PREP Building.

REMINDER! Those going on the bus trip to Sight & Sound to see "Noah" on Tuesday, April 1 - bus leaves from the front of Church at 10:30 AM.

LOST WEEK

Collections with love thank you

DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 23, 2025. \$4,432
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections. \$168,784

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, April 5 and 6, will be the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES

APPEAL - 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).



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 17 - #343 - unsold
 March 18 - #078 - unsold
 March 19 - #811 - unsold
 March 20 - #272 - Tim O'Malley - \$50.00
 March 21 - #083 - unsold
 March 22 - #238 - Dan Grim - \$50.00
 March 23 - #197 - Catherine Sands - \$100.00

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 22/23:

4:00 PM Mass - 158
 9:00 AM Mass - 140
 Total Attendance - 298

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

WARKER-TROUTMAN FUNERAL HOME

610-326-1510



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 for details. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit www.RedCross.org to donate blood.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - APRIL 5/6

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Nester

Greeter - Wade

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Servers - Nagel & Francis

Greeter - Neiman

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Women's Society Meeting on Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 PM in the Social Hall. Hostess: Diana Gulotta. We will have Chair Dancing at the Meeting. Join us for some fun!

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.

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 59th 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.

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@saintaloyusius.net

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@saintaloyusius.net 610-326-5877 ext. 426

scan to register!

The Corner



On Friday we observe the feast of St Isidore, a 6th century scholar, theologian and archbishop of Seville. His words tell of the promise of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Make time to go to confession before Easter.

"Confession heals, confession justifies, confession grants pardon of sin, all hope consists in confession; in confession there is a chance for mercy."

---St Isidore of Seville

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, 1st 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

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.

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.



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.



LENTEN DINNER at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe on Fridays during Lent. Fish and Fries, Shrimp and Fries, and a weekly Special Lenten Meal are offered. Contact Franco (484-433-9160) for more information.



It was late and this little guy was already in bed when his father awakened him. “What?” “Huh?” I had been fast asleep. “I want you to see this,” he said. He plopped me down on the bed in front of the little black and white TV in my parent’s bedroom. My mother was there, too, in her night robe. “Here, look at this,” my father



said. “This is history.” All I know is that I was tired, but my dad wouldn’t let me sleep. “This is history,” he repeated pointing at the TV. “Remember this.” On the screen was a grainy picture of a little space ship. Soon, a suited spaceman emerged and a voice scratchy, distant, and somewhat hard to understand was heard: “This is one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.” My father’s eyes were red as were mine, but his red eyes weren’t from being tired. My father was always fascinated with space and space travel. As a boy, he must have fallen asleep dreaming about it



influenced by the likes of *Flash Gordon*, *Buck Rogers*, Jules Verne, and H.G. Wells. My father was right. It **was** a historic moment and I **would** forever remember. We have now become somewhat more accustomed to space exploration, since that summer of 1969. There followed other Apollo missions, Skylab, the Space Shuttle era, the International Space



Station, and any number of various space probes. My father was always keenly interested. Although we have already seen images of the planet of Mars and its surface, each new mission brings with it new information and increases our experience. The goal is a manned mission to Mars, perhaps as soon as 2030. Astronauts are already beginning to train for a manned mission to Mars. A man named Musk has certainly expressed interest. The exhibit on prepping for manned Martian flights that I saw a



number of years ago at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral was quite interesting. The film, *The Martian*, with Matt Damon was well done and portrays much of the technology that will be needed to reach the Red Planet. Space exploration has been in the mind of man since time immemorial. It might be likened to our annual Lenten “exploration.” As space exploration has taken place incrementally with our first having had to imagine it with the help of *Flash* and *Buck*, so too perhaps, concerning the vast recesses of Lent. For many of us, it is as if we are still looking through our telescope with comic book in hand. Our goal needs to be great and grand. It might very well **seem** impossible and for those who say that it can’t be done – it **is** impossible! However, the word, “impossible” has no place in Christianity. How wonderful it will be witnessing a man or woman set foot on the Red Planet for the first time as we watch history unfold



in color on our HD, 4K, or Hologram TVs of the future. It will be far more wonderful still, when after having explored the vast recesses of Lent little by little over the years our epic journey arrives finally at a place called Resurrection! Let the countdown to liftoff begin...



Peace!

Fr. Wilson