

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9 MARCH 2025

Readings for Sunday, March 9: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Moses recounts great events of salvation history which find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We confess him to be Lord, for God raised him from the dead. He is ever faithful, resisting temptation to forsake his Father's mission, trusting in God's love.

Readings for Sunday, March 16: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36.



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> |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 10 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM | Thomas Koren | Niece, Sharon |
| 11 Mar. TUE. 9:00 AM | Regina Tucker | The Family |
| 12 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM | Angelina DeMario | Diana Gulotta |
| 13 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM | Sara Nyce | Ron & Carol Fry |
| 15 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM | Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish | |
| 16 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM | Mary & John Voychik | Michael Hipszer |



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



2025 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered in 2025 can be made at the Parish Office. There is a limit of one Mass on weekends per person requesting the Mass Intention. This is necessary due to the limited number of weekend Masses available.

join in these Marian Devotions.

LOST WEEK

Collections at PPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 2, 2025..... \$4,942
2024-2025 Year to Date Collections..... \$155,292

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



THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

Consider a donation to help those most in need in the Philadelphia Area. The Catholic Charities Appeal's 2025 overall goal of \$10 million is vital to

the efforts of the human service programs in the five-county Philadelphia area. The appeal funds hundreds of beneficiary organizations that serve thousands. Contributing to our parish's individual goal of \$20,000 allows you to be an active part of the success of this year's appeal. Thank you to those who have given and to those who have not yet, prayerfully consider how you can help by supporting the 2025 Catholic Charities Appeal. Know that your gift is transformed into hope, giving food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, and shining a light in the darkness for millions of lives. 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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years, Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have practiced their faith in the shadows for fear of persecution. Despite these obstacles, Catholics continue to grow in faith and in numbers. God's perfect love has sustained and strengthened the people and the Church, creating a new generation of believers while sustaining those who have persisted and persevered though the darkest of times.

Your participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will assist in the building of churches; the development and implementation of faith formation programs for people of all ages; sustaining Catholic orphanages caring and advocating for children with no home; providing scholarships for Catholic students; and enabling ministries to give dignified and life affirming care to seniors with minimal assets.

I am grateful, on behalf of our brothers and sisters in Central and Eastern Europe, for your generous sacrifice. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families. May your Lenten journey be fruitful and may God bless you abundantly.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson Pérez, D.D.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

This collection will be conducted in our Parish next weekend, March 15 and 16.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

POTTSTOWN ORAL MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

610-326-7800

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 1-2:

4:00 PM Mass - 171

9:00 AM Mass - 129

Total Attendance - 300

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:

CHRISTINE JONES from Lew & Beth Chillot;

DOMINIC GENTILE from Christina, Gene & Domenic Gerasimowicz and Lucy D'Emilio;

DOMENICA MARIA GRAZIANI from Christina, Gene & Domenic Gerasimowicz and Lucy D'Emilio.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - MARCH 15/16

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Boyer

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

Altar Servers - Nagel & Miller

Greeter - Hildebrand

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

Santina Kitchen 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: Certificates are only good at Santina's Kitchen. They are no longer valid at Douglassville Café.**



American Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

on March 12 & 17 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.



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**

beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5. 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 will be available in Church. Please continue to pray for this intention and for the growth and protection of our parish.



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.



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

- February 24 - #858 - unsold
 - February 25 - #371 - unsold
 - February 26 - #487 - Edna Hersperger - \$50.00
 - February 27 - #744 - unsold
 - February 28 - #377 - Nicoletta Gambino - \$50.00
- FEBRUARY FIGURES: 240 tickets sold - \$1200.00. Payout to winners - \$550.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for February - \$550.00.

LENTEN PARISH OUTREACH

Ash Wednesday March 5, through Palm Sunday April 13

Parsh-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.

The Corner



Since we are fasting for Lent, this gives us something else to do with our mouth besides eating!

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.”

---Psalm 51:17

An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

Learn more about a new way forward together for the Catholic Church of Philadelphia

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 Pérez' Pastoral Letter. To read the letter visit 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



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 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, 1st Responders; \$6 - Children age 4-11; Free - Children under age 4. Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Juice, Milk and Coffee.

ST. ALOYSIUS
LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

THE RETURN OF THE
PRODIGAL SON

A STORY OF HOMECOMING



HENRI J.M. NOUWEN

Participants will need to purchase the book on their own

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen



When: Mondays 11:30 a.m. March 10, 17, & 24

Where: St. Aloysius Parish Lower Level of Gathering Center

For more information or to register contact Sophie Schneible: 610-326-5877 ext. 426 Sschneible@saintaloyusius.net

SING WITH US!

Saint Eleanor Concert Choir is open to all parishioners in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.



SAINT ELEANOR
CONCERT CHOIR

Taizé Prayer

Rehearsals: March 6, 13, 20, 27 7:00 pm

Lenten Holy Hour March 30, 7:00 pm

Spring Concert Choir presentation

More information and registration forms available at Steleonor.com Contact Elizabeth at ECalabro@steleonor.com with questions.

SAINT ALOYSIUS PARISH TRIVIA NIGHT

ALL DECKED OUT!

TRIVIA THROUGH THE
DECADES

SATURDAY MARCH 22 2025

Trivia begins at 7:00 PM Saint Aloysius parish school gym 844 N. Keim Street, Pottstown

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

\$25/PERSON

TEAMS OF 4-10 PEOPLE MUST BE 21 AND OVER TO PLAY

WIN PRIZES!

MORE INFO WWW.SAINTALOYSIUS.NET EMAIL - REMICK@SAINTALOYSIUS.NET

Pick a decade 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's

50/50

Dress your best!

Raffle Baskets

Trivia Registration Form available at www.saintaloyusius.net

Accepted forms of payment: Checks payable to Saint Aloysius, cash or VENMO @SaintAloysius-SchoolPottstown

You may bring your own food and drinks. Alcohol is permitted.

EVENTS AT NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PADRE PIO, BARTO

Padre Pio Prayer Group on Saturday, March 15. Confessions 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM. Mass with Exposition of Blessed Sacrament at 10:30 AM. Spiritual Talk following Mass. Rosary with Benediction following spiritual talk. Veneration of the Relic Glove of Padre Pio following Benediction. Concludes at approximately 12:00 PM. Spiritual Director is Fr. John Frink. Contact angela@padrepio.org if you live in the area and would like to join the Prayer Group.

Another Patrick: Lenten Day of Recollection on Monday, March 17 from 9:30 AM to 3:15 PM. Celebrate another Patrick as we learn of the remarkable true-life story of Venerable Patrick Peyton. There is no cost to attend however it is a ticketed event. Register at www.padrepio.org by clicking the event calendar for March 17. Bring your own lunch or pre-order and pre-pay \$20.00 for a boxed lunch when registering for our ticket on-line. Deadline to order lunch is March 10.

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 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.

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday of Lent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Climate change is a nagging issue of our time that resists dismissal. Of course it has little impact on most of our daily lives. It is an objective idea, outside us, and we don't usually give it much thought. It remains, however, as something requiring a personal assessment from us. We cannot remain neutral.

On the other hand, temptation to sin by disobeying God and His plan for us is one issue we cannot ignore. It is internal; quite personal and very important. How we handle it is linked to our ultimate destination.

Why is this so? The bible is clear with the answer. Our human race is damaged. Damaged by the deliberate decision of our first parents to disobey a rather simple command of the God who made them. Having already provided them with clear intellects and delightful surroundings, God only gave them one little rule: do not eat the fruit of one certain tree among all the others in the garden.

Satan, self-chosen enemy of God, decides to fight God by luring Adam and Eve to disobey God by weaving a web of lies about the fruit of that tree. Sadly, he succeeds. Instantly our race became one of sinners. But God, in His loving goodness, offers hope to the pair. He will send them a Person who will repair the damage.

You and I are the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, redeemed for ultimate union with God, adopted children of God via our baptism. Yet we must pass a test of our own. Call it our "temptations." Sometimes they are small, no bigger than a candy bar lifted sneakily from the shelf at a Wawa convenience store. At other times they are very large, like casually ignoring a divine command and a Catholic Church precept to participate in Mass on the Lord's Day.

However clever we can be at rationalizing what we know deep down are wrong choices, in the end our consciences will not leave us alone. We are, after all, made for God, and as St. Augustine famously wrote: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, O Lord."

Fortunately, we have our hero, Jesus Christ. Like us in all things but sin, He faced the same three most powerful temptations of power, wealth and fame that we do. Satan still wants us to be on his side. Jesus, on the other hand only asks that we try and live like He did. He knows our struggles. If we do our best, He promised to give us His best. That will include an eternity where the climate is perfect.

God love you and let Lent improve you.