

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 28 NOVEMBER 2021

**Readings for Sunday, November 28:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

We must be on guard for the Day which is to come when all will be fulfilled. As we await the coming of Christ, let us love one another, observing his covenant and decrees.

**Readings for Sunday, December 5:** Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.



**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>    |
|-------------|--------------|--|------------------------|
| 29 Nov.     | MON. 9:00 AM | Neighbors & Public Servants  | Frances Czeiner Family |
| 30 Nov.     | TUE. 9:00 AM | Frank & Mary Pillar  | Ron Bernas             |
| 1 Dec.      | WED. 9:00 AM | Msgr. James T. McDonough   | Ann Discher & family   |
| 2 Dec.      | THU. 9:00 AM | Anthony & Nancy Barbalace  | Bruce & Patti Pollock  |
| 4 Dec.      | SAT. 4:00 PM | Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish                 |                        |
| 5 Dec       | 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.

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING** on Thursday, December 2 at **6:00 PM**. We will be making candy. Hostess: Maria DiMarco.

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY CANDY SALE** beginning Saturday, December 4 after weekend Masses.

Milk or dark chocolate covered peanuts - \$8.00 - ½ pound box.

Milk or dark chocolate covered raisins - \$8.00 - ½ pound box.

Milk or dark chocolate covered marshmallows - \$6.00 per box.

**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.

**2022 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for 2022 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.



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This is the time of year when deadlines change. With the holiday season now upon us, the publication deadlines for the parish bulletin have been pushed forward over the next couple of weeks. This means that submissions for the bulletin each week are due sooner. Sometimes they are due over a week sooner - like the words that I'm writing now. Missed deadlines mean missed opportunities of reaching out to folks with parish and archdiocesan information, various happenings, as well as simply some points to ponder. The bulletin is important because heck, who knows, someone out there might be inspired to pray a little more or come back to Mass if they've been away. But truth be told, I've always disliked deadlines and due dates. This goes way back to my school days. I was never one to "get things done yesterday." I was the little philosopher and as such, I would most hurriedly pause and ponder. My parents were not necessarily appreciative, especially when the deadline arrived for me to do things such as take out the trash or go to bed. I was aware of various sayings and proverbs. For instance, *he who hesitates is lost* and yet, *good things come to those who wait*. Well, which is it? *Don't put off until tomorrow what can be done today* and yet, I would think, *why do today what can comfortably be put off until tomorrow?* Relax baby! I suppose my favorite was this Pennsylvania Dutch saying: *the hurrier I go, the behinder I get*. That was on a little wooden plaque that hung on our kitchen wall for many years. It eventually made its way to my bedroom. I guess I was in no hurry to put it there. Ahem. I suppose a healthy balance and knowing oneself is what's most important. The knife of anxiety can cut both ways. In all of my schooling deadlines and due dates served to motivate and inspire me. Due dates near got my creative juices flowing. I actually have, believe it or not, on the rarest of occasions written a report or paper weeks in advance. For me, that work was often mediocre at best. Having fire under my kiester with an impending due date, usually worked better for me. I certainly don't recommend writing a thesis paper or reading a five hundred page book then writing a report on it over a long, three day weekend, but it can be done. Trust me. A spoonful of instant coffee in a can of Coke is a most amazing thing. The beginning of our Advent Season can perhaps serve as a sort of impending deadline for all of us. The Archdiocese is beginning an initiative



called *Nothing Compares to Being There*. The idea is to encourage those that have been away to return to attending Mass and to invite those who have been attending to a deeper participation. Advent is a wonderful time to make a return and to make a new start. Whether returning to Mass, itself or returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation after quite a while, allow the Season of Advent to motivate you. I hate to admit it, but some of my best school work was done under the pressure of deadlines. Christmas will soon enough be here. What better a gift to give to ourselves this year than a renewed relationship with our most awesome and loving God, Who chose to dwell among us and desires ultimately to dwell within us? What better a gift to give to a family member or good friend than a sincere and heartfelt invitation to join together with all of us at Mass? What better a way to start this holiday season than with the soothing and the healing that occurs in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? A most holy deadline is now upon us. Make haste to pause and ponder, because indeed, *Nothing Compares to Being There!*

Peace!

Fr. Wilson



Visit [www.archphila.org/nothingcompares](http://www.archphila.org/nothingcompares).

# Collections

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thank you

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| WEEKLY BUDGET.. . . . .               | \$5,000    |
| DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2021.. . . . | \$0,000    |
| Regular Sunday Collection -           | \$0,000    |
| Parish Giving -                       | \$000      |
| WEEKLY DEFICIT . . . . .              | (\$000)    |
| Year to Date Budget. . . . .          | \$105,000  |
| Year to Date Collections.. . . . .    | \$00,000   |
| Average per week Collection.. . . . . | \$0,000    |
| Year to Date Deficit. . . . .         | (\$00,000) |
| Average per week Deficit.. . . . .    | (\$0,000)  |

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Deposit. . . . .   | \$0,000    |
| 2020-2021 Deficit to Date. . . . .   | (\$00,000) |
| Difference from previous year.. . . . .  | (\$0,000)  |
| Due to an early printing schedule, figures from the November 21 collection will be printed in the December 5 bulletin. |            |



## PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Raffle Drawing 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. DECEMBER LOTTERY TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE.**

**Lottery Winners** from November 15 to November 21 will be printed in the December 5 bulletin.

### "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**ST. GABRIEL LODGE**  
610-326-4137

December 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in our parishes the weekend of December 4-5, 2021. This appeal benefits approximately 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests - women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." (Pope Francis, *Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly*, July 25, 2021)

The prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. In 2018, 70 percent of the religious communities providing data to the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) had a median age of 70 or higher and it continues to grow.

I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

I ask prayers for our consecrated religious and encourage support for this national collection scheduled for December 4-5, 2021 in our local parishes.

Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,

+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - November 27/28

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - Bell

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Boyer

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

Altar Server - Donnelly

Greeter - Hildebrand

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 4/5

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Server - Holmes

Greeter - DiMarco

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

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

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

Greeter - Neiman



All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish.

Go to our website and click on the FORMED.org picture at the top of the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible studied.



**CHRISTMAS WAFERS** will be available at the parish office beginning Monday, November 29. There are 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested. Wafers are available on a first come-first serve basis.



### OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS

**GIVING TREE** will be in the vestibule of Church beginning Saturday, November 27 until

Sunday, January 2. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: Winter car seat covers, soft newborn toys (no stuffed animals), size 3 diapers, baby clothes sizes 6 mo - 18 mo, winter coats size 12 & 18 months, maternity jogger pants, elastic bottom newborn gowns. Decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box near the Giving Tree.

### 2021 DAY OF SANCTIFICATION FOR PRIESTS

The priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia assemble each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the Sacred Priesthood. This year our priests will gather with the Archbishop at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary on Monday, November 29, for the *2021 Day of Sanctification for Priests*. Please pray for all priests of the Archdiocese, especially this weekend and Monday, with the following prayer from the *Roman Missal*:

*Lord our God, who in governing your people  
make use of the ministry of Priests,  
grant to these men  
a persevering obedience to your will,  
so that by their ministry and life  
they may gain glory for you in Christ.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### The Corner

Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing that you forgot to prepare! Imagine you had no gifts, no food purchased, and no plans made. Of course you wouldn't allow that to happen. But....spiritually speaking, what are we doing to prepare for Jesus' birth within our hearts this Christmas? Advent starts today. Begin preparing your hearts now.

***"O Come, Emmanuel! Come into our hearts!"***