

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29 NOVEMBER 2020

Readings for Sunday, November 29: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Come and save us from our sins. Let us turn again to you and so be found blameless when you return in glory.

Readings for Sunday, December 6: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Church.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
30 Nov.	MON. 9:00 AM	C. Ronald Yost, Jr.	Betty Grace
2 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Marjorie Christman	Dennis & Paula Bolonski
3 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Special Intention for Jamie Schroeder	Ron & Carol Fry
4 Dec.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Joseph Tomarelli	Jack & Lori Carr
5 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
6 Dec.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	

Mass on weekdays will be in the Church. Remember to practice the social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask or covering for the safety of all.



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.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN! However, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, for the safety of our parishioners and staff, all parish business will be conducted by phone (610-326-5127), regular mail or email (contact@sgsm62.org).

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, December 3.

THE ROSARY is prayed on weekdays before the 9:00 AM Mass. We also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. We welcome all to join us for these special Marian Devotions.

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their DECEMBER issue at the parish office. Please call before coming for your book.

2021 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for 2021 can be made at the parish office beginning Monday, November 30. No requests will be accepted before that date. Mass stipend is \$10.00 and must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Happy New (Liturgical) Year! Since it's a new liturgical year, it seems appropriate to use this space to talk about some new initiatives in the parish.

You might have noticed that our website (<http://stgabrielstowepa.org>) has a new look. Besides giving the site a fresher look, the update also gives us some more options behind-the-scenes. One major benefit to the new look is that it will adapt the display to better fit the screen size. The old site didn't work well on smaller screens like a phone or tablet. There are some more changes and additions to be made in the coming weeks to the site, so keep an eye out.

I'm also happy to announce that we're introducing a new e-mail and text communications system to the parish. We're signed up with Flocknote, a company that specializes in church communications. With Flocknote, we can send e-mail and text messages to the whole parish or to various parish groups quickly and easily. Don't worry, there are no plans to bombard you with a ton of messages. But Flocknote will allow us to do things like send out an electronic copy of the bulletin to everyone, broadcast any urgent announcements, notify parishioners of funerals, and remind everyone of special events. We also can set up subgroups for different organizations to the parish to communicate with their members. There's a lot of potential here, and it will allow us to communicate better with all of you.

But, we need your help to make this work. While we can (and will) go through our various lists of e-mail addresses to add people manually, Flocknote allows you to sign yourself up via text message. All you have to do is text STGABRIELSTOWE to 84576. You'll get a response with further instructions. Please note that message and data rates may apply if you do this. You can also sign up by going to stgabrielstowe.flocknote.com and adding your e-mail address and cell phone number. (If you're not one for text messaging on a cell phone, you don't have to give a phone number.) The more people in the parish we get connected, the easier it will be for us to stay in touch. We're still learning about this system, so it's a bit of a work in progress right now. But I'm hopeful it will help us communicate more efficiently.

I hope you all had a happy celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday in whatever form that took this year. As our eyes turn to Christmas, please try to keep this a holy season. Perhaps some good may come from this pandemic in that we won't be running around and as busy as we are in some other years, which can help put a spiritual focus on things. But do allow me to make one commercial plug: tickets for our parish lottery fundraiser would make great stocking stuffers!

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan



Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$0,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2020.....	\$0,000
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$0,000
Parish Giving -	\$000
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$000)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$000,000
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 24, 2019

Deposit.....	\$0,000
2019-2020 Deficit to Date.....	(\$00,000)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$000)

Due to an early print schedule, figures from the November 22 collection will be printed in the December 6 bulletin.

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

AMITY SELF STORAGE
610-385-1222

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL: Thank you for supporting the 2020-2021 St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Appeal. Your gift supports a shared spiritual mission that impacts each of us. Your generosity does more than just support our seminarians, candidates for the Permanent Diaconate and lay church leaders in their formation today. Your gift provides for the future of our faith. If you haven't made your gift yet, please prayerfully consider a donation by using the envelope mailed to your home or you can also visit www.stcharlesseminaryappeal.org/donate to make your gift.



Raffle Drawing

PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET

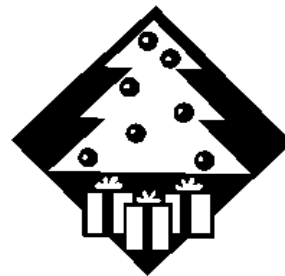
based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. **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. DECEMBER LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS. WE ARE NOT SELLING TICKETS AFTER MASSES AT THIS TIME.**

LOTTERY WINNERS from November 16 to November 22 will be printed in the December 6 bulletin.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS will be available at the parish office beginning Monday, November 30. There are 5 wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for 2 packets is requested. Please call the parish office before coming for your wafers. Wafers available on a first come-first serve basis.

OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of church beginning Saturday, November 28 until Sunday, January 3. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown.



Items most needed are:

Preemie baby girl clothing, diapers sizes Newborn to 3, baby clothing sizes 12 month and 18 month, Maternity clothes sizes XL and XXL, Maternity leggings all sizes, Maternity tops size S. They can also use any other baby items. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

You, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who await for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

Responsorial Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and Sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch'"

December 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon our parishes will be conducting the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This annual appeal benefits 30,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests – women and men who have consecrated their lives to serving God and the Church. We are blessed to have 70 religious congregations present and serving within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These 70 religious congregations represent approximately 2500 men and women religious. Of this number, over 900 are retired.

Many religious communities struggle to provide for their aging members. Vocations to religious life have diminished but lifespans have increased. The result is that far fewer younger members are available to support the retirement and eldercare needs of senior 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.

Recognizing that this is but one of many worthy causes in need of assistance, I ask simply that you give what you can. Your monetary support and prayers are a means of thanking the many women and men religious for their faithful service to Catholic education, healthcare, and many other services offered by religious women and men.

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held December 5-6, 2020 in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). In addition to sponsoring the annual appeal, the NRRO offers assessment tools, educational programming, services, and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.

Please pray for our consecrated religious and please also encourage support for this national collection scheduled for December 5-6, 2020 in our local parishes.

Thank you.

In the peace of Christ,

+ Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.

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Archbishop of Philadelphia