

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## 30 NOVEMBER 2025

**Readings for Sunday, November 30:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44.

Let us rejoice in the Lord's peace; let us live honorably as we await his return.

**Readings for Sunday, December 7:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12.



**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>
1 Dec.	MON. 9:00 AM	Anna Washko	Bonnie Stankunas
2 Dec.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Elizabeth Skokowski	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
3 Dec.	WED. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Almond, Rulli & Gentile Families	Jack, Lori & families
4 Dec.	THU. 9:00 AM	Josephine Battista	Husband, Al
6 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
7 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.



**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 Devotions.



**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.

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed on Friday, December 5.

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

LOST WEEK

# Collections ©PPC *thank you*

**DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2025** . . . . . \$  
2025-2026 Year to Date Collections. . . . . \$  
Figures from the November 23 Collection will be printed  
in the December 7 bulletin.

### “ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

**POTTSTOWN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**  
610-326-7880

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



**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@sghsm62.org](mailto:mboyer@sghsm62.org)).



**CHURCH MAGNETS** are available at the Parish Office. They can be placed on your car or refrigerator. Cost is \$5.00 each.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION** received in memory of: **JOHN VARADY** requested by Tony Vitacco.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon, our parishes will participate in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. This important annual appeal benefits more than 20,500 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives in service to the Church.

These faithful servants have long been a source of inspiration and support in our communities. I am personally grateful for the religious who helped shape my own faith journey. Perhaps you, too, have known an elderly sister, brother, or religious order priest whose quiet dedication, prayerful presence, or selfless acts left a lasting impression on your life.

Today, the challenges many of these senior religious and their communities face in meeting their retirement needs are greater than ever. Most received little to no pay for their service, and their communities struggle to cover rising health care expenses and the increasing cost of day-to-day eldercare. The financial burdens continue to grow, and the need is urgent.

Gifts to the Retirement Fund for Religious make a real, tangible difference to these many women and men religious. Contributions directly support their ongoing care today and help ensure that their communities can plan wisely for their future.

The Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in parishes of the Archdiocese on the weekend of December 6 and 7, 2025. Please consider making a gift to this year’s collection and continue to pray for all of our elderly religious. They remember us daily in their prayers and continue to share their many gifts for the good of our Church.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia



**American Red Cross**

**AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** on December 1 and 15 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Consider donating blood for those in need. Call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org).

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE - DECEMBER 6/7**

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

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

Altar Server - Pomponio

Greeter - Wade

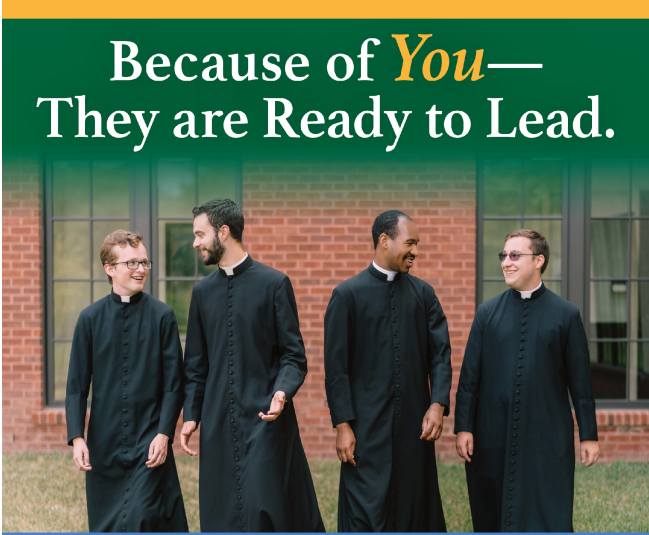
9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

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

Altar Servers - Miller & Francis


Greeter - Neiman



**Because of *You*—  
They are Ready to Lead.**


Support the formation of our future priests.

Your gift to the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Appeal prepares them to lead the Church with wisdom, compassion, and the heart of Christ.



Donate Today at [scs.edu/appeal](https://scs.edu/appeal) or Scan Here

*If you prefer to give by check, mail your gift to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary  
CL# 5315, P.O. BOX 95000-5315, Philadelphia, PA 19195-0001*





*Giving Hope  
TO ALL*



For more than 65 years, the Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA) of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has brought Christ's love to one in five people across our region.



Scan here to learn how you can Give Hope to All!

**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.**

*The Corner*



Advent is a time of preparation. Yes, we prepare many ways for the Christmas season, but even more, we prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ, our salvation born into a lowly manger. It is not just a time to "get through," but a time to get ready. Take some time each day to slow down, and breathe a prayer of thanks to God our Father. Prepare not just your homes and your gift list. In gratitude, remember The Church that Jesus established and prepare to open your heart to the His love and mercy.



**2026 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Mass Intentions to be offered in 2026 can be made at the Parish Office. There is a limit of one weekend Mass per person requesting the Mass Intention. This is necessary due to the limited number of weekend Masses available.

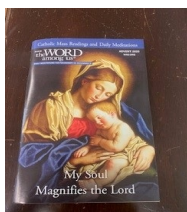


**2025 MAGNIFICAT ADVENT COMPANION BOOKS** are available at the Church entrances. There is no charge for the books. Please feel free to take a copy home with you for Advent Reflection.



**HANDMADE BABY BLANKETS -** The Women's Society is selling hand-made baby blankets. Cost is \$10.00. The blankets make a very nice gift for a new baby. To purchase a blanket, please stop at the Parish Office.

**WORD AMONG US BOOKS** for the Advent Season are available at the Church entrances. There is no charge for the books. Please feel free to take a copy home with you.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** Plan now to join our bus trip to Sight and Sound to see "Joshua" on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. We will leave from church at 10:30 AM and return back to church at approximately 7:00 PM. Cost is \$178.00 per person. Includes transportation, lunch, tip & gratuity for lunch, show and tip for the bus driver. More details in future bulletins.



**OUR ADVENT GIVING TREE** will be in the vestibule of Church beginning Saturday, November 29 until Sunday, January 4. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items needed are: size 3 diapers, hooded bath towels, crib sheets, onesies size 0-3 month and 3-6 month, and baby bottles. Decorate our Giving Tree

by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in the box next to the Giving Tree.



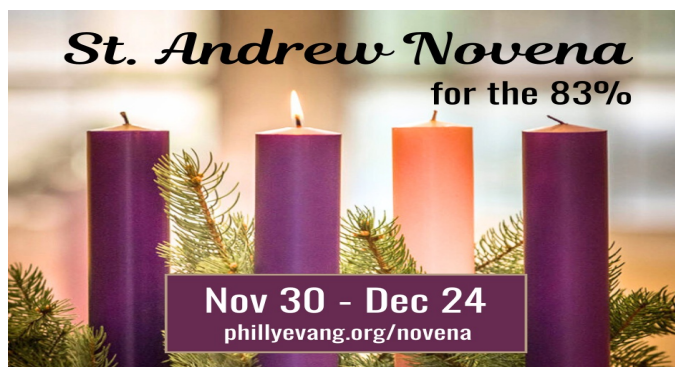
**SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST** on December 7 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe. Come and enjoy a breakfast of your choice: pancakes, French toast, sausage, bacon, scrapple, eggs

your way, a variety of omelets and different types of breakfast bowls. Breakfast is served from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.



**REDNER'S REGISTER TAPES:** Thank you to everyone for collecting the Redner's register tapes for our parish. Money we receive from this program are put towards our Parish Religious Education

(PREP). Just a reminder that the register tapes only count when you use a Save-a-Tape card and the information prints out at the bottom of your receipt. A container for the register tapes is in the vestibule of Church.



## NOVEMBER 30, 2025 - 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

The little season of Advent comes upon us like the poet Carl Sandburg's "Fog." That is, "on little cat's feet." For us as Americans, we have the echo in our ears of lively table talk at the family Thanksgiving dinner, followed by the clatter of clean dinnerware returning to cabinets. Suddenly it is time to prepare for Christmas!

On one level, I daresay the poplar one, which means a flurry of list-making, and shopping and decorating and baking. All that is to the good as far as it goes. But on the deeper level, I daresay the spiritual level, or the Church's level, Christmas prep involves a recall of all that God did for us in the time after the Fall from Eden to the infant's cry in the manger.

We had been a lost race. Alienated from God. Disconnected from each other to a large degree. Needing outside help. Yearning for leadership. Wishing for interior peace. In a world lit only by fire each night, we were definitely locked in "darkness," as St. Paul describes it. Needing light and a way out.

This First Sunday of Advent invites us to pause right here and think about the implications of being in darkness. Just recall the awful "time of crime" in recent months. Murder of children in a Catholic church. Slaying of a young woman on a train. Assassination of a young leader on a Utah campus. Then there is the personal sin that vexes our consciences until we make that good Confession. Advent wants us to remember such things so that we can appreciate the Divine relief that came with our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Slow down amid the cultural rushing. Take the time for private prayer. Listen to the chosen Scripture passages for the season. Learn to be "Watchful," as Jesus instructs. Then the meaning will be truer as you and your loved ones gather around the parish creche, or the one at home. And there are always stories, like this one:

Once upon a time, as the great day approached, a mother was telling her little ones the beautiful story of Christmas. They even tried their voices on some of the usual carols. After one song, four-year-old Tommy blurted out: "Mommy, wasn't it nice for the shepherds to get all cleaned up before they went to see the baby Jesus?" "What do you mean, Tommy?" she asked. "Well," he explained, "we just sang the song 'While shepherds washed their socks by night.'"

God love you and give you Advent peace.

#### **Reading I: Isaiah 2:1-5**

The prophet sees all nations converging as pilgrims on Jerusalem. At that time, the Lord administered His judgment, which will in turn lead to universal peace.

#### **Reading II: Romans 13:11-14**

The time has come for true conversion, as "darkness" (evil) will yield to daylight (goodness). All must then renew their baptismal commitments and put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **The Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44**

Seated on Mt. Olivet, Jesus begins His instructions with a reference to Noah and the Great Flood story. He emphasizes our need for preparedness. It determines who will be spared and who will be lost. He adds a command to "Watch, therefore, for Christ's coming." For us, here and now, He comes in the Holy Eucharist. For us and all the world, His second Coming will be on the Day of Judgment and the end of history.