

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5 NOVEMBER 2023

Readings for Sunday, November 5: Malachi 1:14b–2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12.

The prophet denounces those priests who in their pride have turned away from the Law, causing others to go astray. Jesus, too, is critical of those religious leaders who fail to practice what they preach. All, rather, are called to greatness through humility and service, by sharing their lives with others.

Readings for Sunday, November 12: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.



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>
6 Nov.	MON.	9:00 AM	Special Intention
7 Nov.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Nicholas Lenhardt
8 Nov.	WED.	9:00 AM	Lawrence Vitacco
9 Nov.	THU.	9:00 AM	Ed & Ron Gumbarge
11 Nov.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
12 Nov.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Edwin G. Pennypacker Wife, Kathy



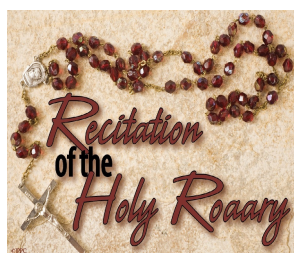
ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.
REMEMBER OUR TROOPS: Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.



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.

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 in these special Marian Devotions.



NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS. A MEMORIAL MASS will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM to remember parishioners and parishioner's loved ones who have died, especially those who have passed away this year. All are invited to gather for Mass to pray for our departed loved ones.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES on November 6 and 20 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

Collections ©PPC thank you

DEPOSIT FOR OCTOBER 29, 2023..... \$4,219
 2023-2024 Year to Date Collections..... \$70,309
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections..... \$69,377

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, November 11 and 12 will be the Gold 50/50 Envelope to support Religious Education.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL - This weekend marks the kick-off of the 2023-2024 Seminary Appeal. A donation to the Appeal supports our seminarians, candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, and lay church leaders in their formation. Most importantly, your gift provides for the future of our faith. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Appeal to provide for the future generations of the Church.

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CENTER
 610-323-4440

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
THOMAS PALLADINO from Jim & Anna Baldasano, Pete & Lori LaRosa, Mary Minnick, Ed Whetstone, Dave & Janet Slaby;
BART MAGLIOCCHETTI from Pete & Lori LaRosa, Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family, Bill & Rose Anne Soltes, Dave & Janet Slaby, Philomena & John Bracaglia;
AUGUSTINO BARBALACE from Pete & Lori LaRosa, Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family;
CORNELIUS MC HUGH from Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family.

MASS ATTENDANCE for October 28/29:
 4:00 PM Mass - 95
 9:00 AM Mass - 120
 Total Attendance - 215



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.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

October 23 - #699 - unsold
 October 24 - #951 - Cheryl & Eric Arendt - \$50.00
 October 25 - #650 - unsold
 October 26 - #979 - unsold
 October 27 - #464 - unsold
 October 28 - #970 - unsold
 October 29 - #637 - Kiersten Donnelly - \$100.00



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



APPAREL ALERT! We are now accepting orders for our parish apparel: T-shirt (small logo on upper left) - \$10; Hoodies - (small logo on upper left) - \$25; 1/4 Zip (small logo on upper left) - \$35; Men's & Women's Polo Shirts (small logo on upper left) - \$25. Current colors

offered are: Kelly Green or Sunburst Yellow (logo is black and gray just like the photo). 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).

The Corner

"Peace is that deep, interior stillness that tells you that no matter what kind of catastrophe might be happening in your life or in the world, everything is going to be ok."
 —Dr. Gregory Bottaro "The Mindful Catholic"



I'm not really one for visiting cemeteries. There's a reason for that. For me, it is when I am celebrating Mass that I am closest with my loved ones that have died and gone before me in Faith. This is especially true concerning my parents.



I can feel their presence. I mean, I can *really* feel their presence. It's hard for me to explain, but it's true. They are there with me – beside me at the altar and I see them in the Host that I hold aloft. In a sense, it doesn't get any better except for when I see them again (God willing) in Heaven. Cemeteries, however, exist for a reason. They are more than simply places to inter a loved one's physical remains. Many people find comfort and

consolation there. Standing and praying at the grave of a parent, spouse, friend, or family member can help suture the wound that is the pain of loss. Knowing that their physical remains are buried there can help us to feel close to them in a way similar that a saint's relic helps us to feel closer to that canonized individual. I had need and desire to visit a cemetery not too long ago. Although, I've prayed for Michael at Mass and certainly know that he too, is present whenever I celebrate the Sacred Liturgy, I was not able to attend Michael's funeral. My young friend died suddenly at thirty-five in Southern Germany where he lived. I remember the moment his brother contacted me. It was hard for me to hold back the tears at the Wawa where I was gassing up my car. When I traveled in September, I knew I would not only have to visit Mike's brother, parents, and his wife, Bettina, but I would also have to visit Michael himself. I made this fact known to them and it was Michael's father who immediately said, *I'll take you*. I had need for closure that sometimes only a cemetery



visit can bring. It was a most beautiful day and the cemetery was a rather short drive. The walled burial grounds lay immediately behind a rather quaint little Bavarian church. It was this church from which my friend was buried. His father parked the car and led me onto the grounds opening the wrought iron gate. We walked passed rows of headstones to the very back. There in the corner, right next to a lovely little tree was Michael. A wooden cross marked the spot, since the final headstone (a slab actually) was not yet ready. I motioned with my hand blessing the grave and saying a little prayer. I looked up and beyond the cemetery wall to see a vast field ringed by trees in the distance. I breathed in the smell of summer, nature, and life. I could feel a suturing taking place within. Then I heard the silent weeping of the man standing next to me. His suturing would take a good deal longer. I dabbed my eyes too, as I placed my hand on his shoulder. After a long pause, we silently made our way back to the car.



A sense of healing and hope had taken root, but would need time to grow. Part of that growth will take place – I'm rather certain – with the birth of Mike's second child which should take place any moment now as I write this. The joy of a newborn! I can't wait till I get word. In the meantime, I'm praying. I'm praying for Bettina and her newborn. I'm praying for grandma, but I'm especially praying for grandpa that a newborn child might bring him peace, much like that newborn Child of Peace born so many centuries ago in Bethlehem.

November is the Month of Holy Souls. On the evening of the 14th, we will have a special Memorial Mass remembering all our deceased loved ones, but especially those that have died during this past year. Mike will be there with me. I'll be praying for him, his wife, his firstborn, his newborn, brother, mother, and especially for his father. I hope that you'll join me bringing your own prayers for loved ones, for healing, and for peace. And may all the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in Peace! Amen!



Peace!

Fr. Wilson

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - November 11/12

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Nester

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

Altar Server - Wasylkowski

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Willemsen

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

Altar Servers - Francis & Miller

Greeter - Neiman

WOMEN'S SOCIETY NEWS

JEWELRY SHOPPING - The Women's Society is once again planning a Sunday afternoon of jewelry shopping. Gather any jewelry that you are tired of or never wear and drop off to the parish office for our sale. Don't worry, we'll also have plenty of new to choose. Drop off to office by January 10 then plan for a ladies afternoon of fun on January 21. Details to follow.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday, December 17 at 1:00 PM at Shorty's Sunflower Café. 3 course dinner includes Roasted Corn Chowder, Choice of Slow Cooked Beef with potato and veg, Chicken breast with apples, mushrooms in brandy cream with veg or Butternut squash lasagna. Dessert and all cold and hot beverages. BYOB. \$30 for members; \$35 for non-members. All invited. Payment and dinner choice to Lori by December 10.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED to stop the leak. The liners inside the large vases have some small holes that may be fixed by soldering. Anyone who is able to help with this, please call Lori (610-326-6030).

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LADIES AUXILIARY is always accepting new members. To join, you need to be 18 years old and Catholic. Meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Lodge on Constitution Avenue in Stowe. If interested contact Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030) or Marie Hildebrand (610-326-3763).

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK, a week set aside to pray for an increase in vocations, will be held November 5-11. We are blessed to have 72 seminarians studying for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Please pray fervently for vocations.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUND RAISER sponsored by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, November 5 from 8:00 AM till Noon at Goodwill Steam Fire Co., Pottstown. All you can eat breakfast (pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk, coffee). Cost: \$9 for adults; \$8 for Seniors, 1st Responders, Veterans; \$6 Children 4-11 years; Children under 4 years old eat for free.

THE PAWS PROGRAM at Pope John Paul II High School supports the individual needs of students with learning differences through instruction and academic accommodations. We will be hosting two information sessions about the program on Thursday, November 9: one at 5:00 PM and the second at 6:00 PM in the Panthers' Learning Center at PJP to outline the program objectives, enrollment process, fees, and financial aid opportunities. To register, contact Mr. Joseph Rogers, Director of Academic Support at jrogers@pjphs.org.

DIVINE MERCY RETREAT at the National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto on Saturday, November 11 (9:30 AM to 3:00 PM) and Sunday, November 12 (9:30 AM to 10:30 AM). Retreat Director is Fr. Chris Alar, MIC. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear and understand more deeply the power and message of Jesus who is Mercy! For more information visit www.padrepio.org or call 610-845-3000.

MEMORIAL MASS FOR PARENTS OF DECEASED CHILDREN on Wednesday, November 15 at 7:00 PM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Limerick. Light reception in the Parish Ministry Center Hall after Mass. All loved ones who have lost a child(ren) are invited to be part of this Memorial Mass. Anyone who plans to attend is asked to respond to Shawn Marie Brown no later than Monday, November 13 at dps@stteresacalcutta.com or (610-287-2525, ext. 100). RSVP is required along with the name of the deceased child (if named), date of birth and death, and the number of family members attending the Mass and reception. All are welcome!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR on December 2 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at St. Francis of Assisi School, Norristown. Vendors needed. Cost: \$50 for 8 ft. space with table; \$40 for 6 ft. space without table. 2 chairs included per space. Reserve your spot by November 10. Contact Jane Caruso (jcaruso6@verizon.net or 610-539-1691).

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND on November 10-12 at Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. For more information visit www.wwme-philly.org or contact Al & Mary Liz (610-449-1859).