



Church of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin

5200 Greenridge Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

“We are a Roman Catholic community of involved individuals and families who, through the spirit of tithing, dedicate ourselves to growing in faith and sharing Christ with others.”

Today is Sunday, December 16, 2018

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Please join us for our second annual Open House at the St. Gabriel Rectory on Tuesday, December 18th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Stop in anytime during those hours for light refreshments and a chance to see Fr. Mike's famous Christmas tree!

The schedule for Christmas Masses and Confessions is included in this week's bulletin inserts. It has also been mailed to all the members of all four parishes in our grouping.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Sunday: **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Monday: **CCD**, 6:30 pm, School; **St. Monica Prayer Group**, 7 pm, Church; **St. Vincent de Paul**, 7 pm, Parish Hall

Tuesday: **Senior Citizens Mass**, 12:30 pm, Social follows

Wednesday: **Legion of Mary Evangelization Group**, 5:30 pm, Meeting House; **Children's Choir**, 6 pm & **Adult Choir**, 7 pm, Church

Thursday: **Legion of Mary**, 9:45 am, Meeting House; **No Bingo**

Saturday: **Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena Devotions**, 9:15 am, **Mass** at 10 am

Congratulations to **Mackenzie O'Toole** who was named to the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2018-19 school year.

Oplatki is available at the Rectory.

Please remember to use St. Gabriel Food Club Cards when you shop or dine at the following businesses: **Bruegger's (\$10)**, **Eat 'N Park (\$25, \$10)**, **Giant Eagle (\$100, \$50, \$25, \$10)**, **Kohl's (\$100, \$50, \$25, \$10)**, **Macy's (\$50, \$25) and Shop 'N Save (\$50)**.

Be sure to visit our Grouping website, www.shcpgh.org for the Daily Advent Meditation from Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire ministry.

Fr. John W. Skirtich,
Administrator

Fr. Michael S. Susлович,
Parochial Vicar

Fr. John E. Hissrich,
Chaplain

Fr. John R. Haney,
In Residence

Fr. Richard J. Tusky
In Residence (St. Valentine)

Rectory: 412-881-8115
Fax: 412-440-0160

stgabeschurch@yahoo.com

Online - stgabespgh.org

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sundays
of the month.

Confessions:

Saturday 11 am to 12 Noon

Deborah O'Brien

Business Manager

Rectory 412-881-8116

Donald R. Miltzer, Jr., M.Ed.

Principal

School 412-882-3353 (O)

Suzan Slezak, M.Ed.

Preschool Director

412-881-8358 (H)

412-502-6196 (R)

stgpreschool@outlook.com

Carol Vater,

Director of Faith Formation

412-551-8984 (C)

tvater5@verizon.net

Carol Froehlich,

Music Director

412-650-7390

RESPECT LIFE NEWS...

As Christmas draws closer, the Church's liturgy today emphasizes the theme of joy, which is not simply happiness based on good circumstances, but a profound exultation of spirit based on the salvation that comes from God Himself. Every human spirit longs for joy, but often does not know how to find it. Instead, we are all too aware of the things that rob us of joy and peace, and the evils, both in our own lives and in the world, from which we need to be saved. The total salvation Christ brings, which is unfolding each day, is physical as well as spiritual. The whole universe will be transformed. All physical violence, such as abortion, will be overcome. Therefore, we rejoice now, as we embrace the Christ who has already come, and as we wait in joyful hope for Him to come again.

In charity, please remember all members, relatives, friends and benefactors of our parish and community, with special consideration for the sick, homebound and distressed members.

Pray also for **Barbara Ling**, Wife of Richard Ling; **Andrew Paul**, Father of Suzanne, Kathleen and Michele; **Pat Rietz**, Sister of Gerry Butler; and **James Kubiak**, Brother of Betty Costa, Catherine Mader, Joseph and Martin Kubiak, who died this past week. Pray also for **George Kohler**, whose funeral liturgy will be celebrated here Wednesday morning at 10:00.

ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE!

Rejoice in the Lord Always ... The Third Sunday of Advent is a bit different than the others. While violet has been the color we are used to the past few weeks, this week the candle and the vestments are a rose color. These changes signify an increased joy in our hearts on this Sunday, which we call *Gaudete*, which means "rejoice!" Our joy is increased because we know that our Savior is near, Emmanuel, God is with us. And yet, a bit of anxiety may also creep in. We may be asking ourselves, "Are we ready? What must we still do?" This is what those in today's Gospel were asking John the Baptist. His response? Be generous. Be honest. Don't cheat others. As Christmas draws ever nearer, there may be lots of things that distract us from what the Lord truly desires of us this time of year. God wants us to rejoice today, and all days, in freedom of heart so that we may share our gifts and proclaim the Good News of God dwelling among us and in us. These lessons can also serve us well as we journey *On Mission for The Church Alive!* and recognize God at work in the hearts of sisters and brothers in faith. Rejoice! The Lord is near! Let the peace of God guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C.F.M – ENJOY BOOK SALE

The Enjoy Books for 2019 are \$30 per book. The books will be on sale through the end of the year at the Rectory or by calling 412-427-3577 for assistance or delivery. Make all checks payable to St. Gabriel C.F.M.

Catholicscomehome.org

(check it out!)

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

For the week of:

December 9, 2018

\$20,014.18

PLEASE NOTE

You can put your St. Gabriel Church envelope in the collection basket of whatever Church you attend on Saturday, Sunday and Holy Days. It will be returned to St. Gabriel for deposit and proper recording. Thank you for your continued support.

MARCH FOR LIFE

This year the March for Life in Washington DC will be held on **Friday, January 19, 2019**. As in the past, the 8th grade students from St. Gabriel School will be attending. **We welcome and encourage everyone to join us** on a first-come-first-serve basis from all four parishes in our Grouping.

The March for Life is a very peaceful demonstration to support overturning the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in our country. This somber anniversary every year since 1973 is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, abortion.

The bus will depart immediately after the 6:00 am Mass at St. Gabriel and return about 11:00 pm. All are invited to join us for Mass. In addition to the Rally and March, the trip will also include a visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC.

If interested, please contact St. Gabriel Rectory at 412-881-8115. Suggested donation is \$35. Also, any parishioner who is not able to attend but would like to help defray the cost of students attending the March, please put cash or check (made payable to St. Gabriel Pro Life Group) in envelope marked "March for Life" and drop it off at the Rectory or place it in the collection basket at Mass.

Additional information can be found at www.MarchforLife.org. If you have any questions, please call Sue O'Keefe at 412-638-3928.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

A gift certificate to attend a retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center makes a wonderful gift. Gift certificates are available in all denominations - \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100 or more. The women of St. Gabriel and St. Germaine will be attending a weekend retreat at St. Paul of the Cross April 5 to 7, 2019. All are welcome to attend! Call the Retreat Office 412-381-7676, or Judy Byers 412-276-8438 for more information.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS NEWS

Thanks so much to Heather Schorr, Ria Fruscello and Kim Covelli for a wonderful "Happy Birthday Jesus" luncheon. Their families and "Santa's helpers" made it a fun afternoon!! Thanks also to the Rectory and Maintenance Staffs. *...Merry Christmas! Cindy Phillifent, CCM President*

Diocesan Victim Assistance Hotline Number:

1-888-808-1235

BINGO

The next **St. Gabriel All-Paper Bingo** will be held **Thursday, January 3, 2019** in the Parish Hall. Bulls-eye game begins at 7:00 pm. For information, visit www.stgabespgh.org/bingo.

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the following donations:

To St. Gabriel Awareness Fund:

\$125 in loving memory of Barbara Ling from Family

\$ 50 in loving memory of Raymond and Catherine Perrucci from Daughter, Pat Ruvolo

\$ 15 in memory of John Escajeda from Joan Lantz and Family

To St. Gabriel Christmas Flower Fund:

\$ 50 in loving memory of Bob and Gerry Thompson from Family

To St. Gabriel Parish Share:

\$100 in honor of Fr. Haney from John Wagler

\$ 25 in memory of Jane Wick given Anonymously

\$ 20 in memory of Jane Wick from Mrs. Joan Regel

To St. Vincent de Paul Society (Gift of Love):

\$100 in the Name of our Family from Ray and Lori Buckman

\$100 in honor of our Priests given Anonymously

\$ 50 in the Name of our Family from Norbert and Charlotte Pilewski

\$ 30 in memory of the Juston and Powischill Families from Robert and Barbara Powischill

\$ 25 in the Name of my Family from Marlene Yannone

\$ 20 in the Name of my Family given Anonymously

\$ 20 in memory of Joann from Mary Ann

\$ 10 in the Name of The Bunner Family from The Koenig Family

...Thanks to all of our parishioners who donated so generously to our Food Pantry at last weekend's Masses. Your kind contributions of \$97 to our Sunday Food Collection and \$355 to our Gift of Love Program were welcome additions to our Treasury!

The Red Door, who assists the homeless in our area, has a dire need for men and women's clean, gently worn, or new winter socks and gloves. Please leave any items at the Rectory, Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, to be picked up and delivered. Your consideration is much appreciated!

HELP WANTED: INFANT CAREGIVER...The Franciscan Child Day Care Center is seeking a caregiver for infants (age 6 weeks-12 mos.). Strong leadership skills & nurturing disposition required. Duties will include coordinating feedings, diaper changes, naps, age appropriate activities and parent engagement. Experience in childcare is required, infant experience preferred. An Associate or Bachelor's Degree is also preferred. The position is full time and includes healthcare benefits and paid time off. Email a resumé and inquiries to smerlo@osfprov.org.

(South Hills Catholics Parish Grouping 218 at www.shcpqh.org)

MASS INTENTIONS

December 17 to December 23, 2018

MONDAY – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 am Jim and Sis Bichler (Birthday) (req. Family)

TUESDAY – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

11:30 am Jack McMackin (Anniversary) (req. The Barry Family)

WEDNESDAY – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 am Intentions of Rex and Kathy Gleeson (Anniversary) (req. Christian Family Movement)

THURSDAY – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

9:00 am Mary Palma (req. Daughter, Adeline Zurawsky and Grandchildren)

FRIDAY – FEAST OF ST. PETER CANISUS

7:30 am David Gelston (req. Ed and Fran Schneider)

SATURDAY – LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

9:15 am *Divine Mercy Chaplet*

9:30 am *Rosary & Miraculous Medal Novena Devotions*

10:00 am Deceased Members of the Ralph Bucci Family (req. Jennie Bucci)

5:00 pm Charles Henry (req. Wife and Family)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2018 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am Gene Zurawsky (req. Wife, Adeline, Gene, Gary & Lisa)

11:00 am Mary Elizabeth Bucci (req. Dom and Cel Pasquarelli)

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE – December 17 to December 23, 2018

Monday, Dec. 17	7:30 am	Joe and Lizzy Santelli
Tuesday, Dec. 18	11:30 am	Ella Scurry and Gianna Rhad
Wednesday, Dec. 19	7:30 am	Kalilah Stein and Addison Scurry
Thursday, Dec. 20	9:00 am	- school -
Friday, Dec. 21	7:30 am	Shane Bigley and Savanna Brunick
Saturday, Dec. 22	10:00 am	Ian Cross and Mary Hampton
	5:00 pm	Abigail Truzzi, Thomas and Jenna Meyers
Sunday, Dec. 23	9:00 am	Louisa Tiriobo, Emmy and Elena Zandier
	11:00 am	Dennis Shapiro and Ella Reiche

Nativity Parish Spiritual Center will offer the following program:

CANDLE LIGHT STATIONS OF ADVENT by David Haas – Tuesday, December 18th at 7 pm.

This prayer experience follows the people and events that were so much a part of the Birth of Jesus. A coffee/dessert social will follow. Call Mary Ann at 412-215-7743 for reservations.

CANDLELIGHT MASS

Join your friends and neighbors for the monthly Candlelight Mass at St. Stanislaus Church in the Strip District. The next Mass will be **Friday, January 4, 2019 at 8:00 pm**. Confessions and music start at 7:00 pm and fellowship follows the Mass. Young families are invited to gather at Bella Notte Pizza on Penn Avenue near the Church at 6:00 pm for dinner and discussion. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ beholdpittsburgh.

SETON-LaSALLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Didn't get tickets to the **HAMILTON BROADWAY SHOW** in Pittsburgh? Here's **YOUR** chance to win two tickets for the **January 9, 2019** performance at The Benedum Center, 7:30 pm, Orchestra Seats Left Center T29/T31. For online raffle ticket purchases, go to www.slshs.org or call the School Office at 412-561-3583 to pick up tickets. Drawing will take place at Seton-LaSalle Catholic High School on **Wednesday, December 29th**. Visit the school website www.slshs.org to watch the drawing. Winner will be contacted. Your paper raffle stub will be sent to you via US Mail and an email sent with your ticket number. Questions? Contact Nancy Gillespie – gillespien@slshs.org.

RETROUVILLE OF PITTSBURGH ... Helping Marriages ... Saving Families

Are you married to a stranger? Do you feel alone? Do you argue – or have you just stopped talking to each other? Do you dread the drive home? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels, from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the program, beginning with a weekend on **February 1, 2019**, please email 3041@retrouville.org or call Retrouville at 412-277-3434. More information is available at www.retrouvilleofpittsburghinc.org.

Due to the change in the Mass schedule, the Diocese has granted permission to occasionally schedule two Mass intentions for one Mass if they cannot be scheduled for a separate date. This will occur several times until 2019.

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A variety of volunteer opportunities are available at Jefferson Hospital. Whether you would enjoy working directly with patients in the surgery center, volunteering in the Gift Shop, behind the scenes in an office or a caring presence for patients who may be alone, it's a wonderful way to give to others. To learn more, contact Janet O'Brien at 412-469-5885.



South Hills Catholics Parish Grouping 218

Four parishes joined in faith, hope & love.

Advent & Christmas Season

Confessions

Confession & Masses

Wednesday, Dec. 19	6 – 6:45 pm	Nativity
Thursday, Dec. 20	6 – 6:45 pm	St. Germaine
Saturday, Dec. 22	11 am – 12 Noon	St. Valentine
Saturday, Dec. 22	11 am – 1 pm	St. Gabriel

Christmas Eve Masses, Monday, Dec. 24

4 pm	Nativity, St. Gabriel, St. Germaine & St. Valentine
7 pm	St. Valentine
10 pm	St. Gabriel

Christmas Day Masses, Tuesday, Dec. 25

8 am	St. Germaine
9 am	Nativity
10 am	St. Valentine
11 am	St. Gabriel

New Year's Masses

Vigil, Dec. 31	4 pm	Nativity
	4 pm	St. Gabriel

Jan. 1	9 am	St. Germaine
	11 am	St. Valentine

*May God bless us,
Everyone!*

Lifeline...
“Happy Birthday Baby Jesus”
(Christian’s Christmas)

In celebration of this blessed holiday season, we are sponsoring our 23rd annual collection of baby items for **Lifeline of Southwest Pennsylvania** through St. Gabriel Preschool Program. **Lifeline** is a crisis intervention, pro-life service, which offers many types of assistance to mothers and babies in need. As a former volunteer with this organization, I have a special allegiance and respect for the work being done.

I initiated this project the first Christmas following the loss of my infant son, Christian Joseph. In his memory and honor it continues...

We have had tremendous response to this community service in the past with our preschool families, as well as the entire parish. During the season of Advent, large gift boxes will be located near the Baptismal Font in the front of the church if you would like to participate! There is no need to gift-wrap individual items. ***Sleepers, blanket sleepers, crib sheets, receiving blankets, onesies, bottles, socks, booties, baby wash, infant bath towels, baby wipes and infant formula*** are especially needed at this time. We believe that helping mothers and babies in crisis is a truly meaningful way to commemorate the birth of JESUS! If you have any questions, please call 412-502-6196 or email us at stgpreschool@outlook.com.

Suzan Stark Slezak M.Ed.
Preschool Program Director
Christmas 2018

