

Just as we witness the changing of seasons, we also witness our liturgical seasons change. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.

Advent brings about a new year within our Church: different readings will be shared at Mass and our petitions will reflect the need to “be open” to God’s invitation to help others come to see that God is with us always.

Advent is a season of anticipation, of hope, and of God made flesh. It’s a season of lights, joy, and the sparkling eyes of children. It’s the season of preparing to sing our favorite Christmas carols and enjoying friends and family.

“Ephphatha...Be Open!” Although we are still in the shadows of a pandemic, we strive to regain what is most important in our lives: coming to the Altar of God to receive Jesus’ Body and Blood in the

Eucharist; gathering as a faithful community to support each other in prayer and devotion; and encouraging those who haven’t returned to Mass to do so with their children, teaching them again the importance of community prayer.



God loves us with immutable love (never changing love). Jesus came into the world: to be a light in the darkness; to reveal God’s plan of salvation for us; to suffer and die for our sins; to bring about the promise of the resurrection for those who believe in him. We wait in joyful hope for Jesus’ Second Coming.

This Advent, let’s spend more time preparing for the coming of our Savior. Let’s share our story of faith with our family and loved ones. Let’s reclaim our innocence of years gone by and truly believe in the miracle of Christmas. Arise and shine...for our light has come!

- Father Tim Bickel

Advent & Christmas Mass Times

Sunday Masses throughout Advent follow our normal Mass schedule: Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 8:00 am and 10:30 am.



- 12-1 Reconciliation at 7:00 pm
- 12-8 Immaculate Conception – 8:30 am and 7:00 pm
- 12-24 Christmas Eve – 4:30 pm * and 10:00 pm
** The 4:30 pm Mass will be live-streamed.*
- 12-25 Christmas Day – 8:00 am and 10:30 am **
*** Since Christmas Day is on a Saturday, there will be no 4:30 pm Mass of Anticipation for the Sunday Mass on Christmas Day.*
- 12-26 Sunday Masses 8:00* am & 10:30 am
** The 8:00 am Mass will be live-streamed.*
- 12-31 New Year’s Eve – 4:00 pm *
** This Mass will be live-streamed.*
- 1-1-22 New Year’s Day – 4:30 pm ***
**** Since it falls on a Saturday, there will not be an extra New Year’s Day Mass therefore the 4:30 pm Mass on New Year’s Day is the Mass of Anticipation for Sunday (Epiphany).*
- 1-2-22 Epiphany - 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Registration NOT required for Christmas Masses

St. Gabriel Parish will not require online registration to attend our Christmas Masses. The parish hall will be set up for overflow and social distancing. The 4:30pm Christmas Eve Mass is our busiest Mass and we anticipate the need to branch into the parish hall to provide a level of comfort for all attending. We do not anticipate concerns for the 10:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass or the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Christmas Day Masses. Historically these Masses are not

as heavily attended and the seating in the gathering space should be sufficient to meet everyone’s needs.

Masks will not be required, but are always welcome. If you are concerned about social distancing, we recommend a Mass other than the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Mass.

As always, we ask that if you are not feeling well, to please refrain from attending Mass.

Worship & Music Ministry

Roy Spieckerman & Matt Byczynski

Advent for me is a time for getting ready for Christmas. This year I am going to pay special attention to the Advent Wreath and follow week to week what is happening as we light the candles and what they mean. Weird. I know.

The first thing we notice about the Advent Wreath is that it is round there is no beginning or end. This symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us. The next thing we notice is that there are 4 candles. Each candle represents 1,000 years or a total of 4,000 years. This symbolizes the time between Adam and Eve to when our Savior, Jesus was born.

The first Sunday of Advent, the Advent Wreath is blessed and the first purple candle is lit. The first candle, the "Prophet's Candle" symbolizes Hope. Reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The second Sunday of Advent we light the first candle along with the second purple candle. The second candle symbolizes faith, the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third Sunday of Advent we light the first two purple candles

and then light the third candle which is pink. The pink candle or "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the joy the world experiences at the coming birth of Jesus.

The fourth Sunday of Advent we light the previous 3 candles and now light the fourth purple candle. This fourth candle symbolizes peace with the "Angel's" Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men."



The color purple is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The color purple is also the color of royalty, Christ is our king. The color rose (pink) represents rejoicing. We have arrived midway through Advent and are closer to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the Advent Candles each week symbolize the expectation and hope surrounding Jesus' first birth and anticipate his second coming.

– Roy Spieckerman

Greetings and Happy Advent!

Our Adult Choir rehearsals are well underway, and we currently have approximately 20 people in the group! We are hard at work preparing to sing at Mass during Advent as well as two of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. I am extremely pleased with the number of people who have joined this group, and I look forward to sharing this music with the congregation in the coming weeks.

I am excited to share that we will be re-starting the Children's Choir in January! Mary Beth Ludin is one of our 10:30AM cantors, and we will both be collaborating to lead this group. Like any choir, we need many singers to be successful. If your son or daughter is interested in joining, please e-mail me at mbyczynski@stgabrielhubertus.org to express interest. Mary Beth and I are still finalizing our plan for rehearsals and which Masses the Children's Choir will sing at in 2022, however we would like to start compiling a list of singers right away. It's so great to have the youth of our parish involved at Mass, and we look forward to re-starting this group early next year.



Finally, I would like to thank all of our cantors and instrumentalists for their time. They add so much to Mass and their time and talents are truly appreciated.

Blessings on a safe and spirit-filled Advent.

- Matt Byczynski



Prior to the 4:30PM Mass on Christmas Eve, we will be having a 30-minute concert of Christmas music. If you are planning to attend that Mass, please plan to arrive early to enjoy the sounds of the season. Additional prelude music will be shared prior to the other three Christmas

Eve/Christmas Day Masses as well in case you are unable to attend 4:30PM.



Christian Formation

Gerry Wolf

Advent... "We Wait in Joyful Hope"

At every Mass, immediately following the Lord's Prayer and just before the Sign of Peace, there is a prayer. The current translation is "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ." A less literal, more informal English translation used prior to 2011 reads: "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ."

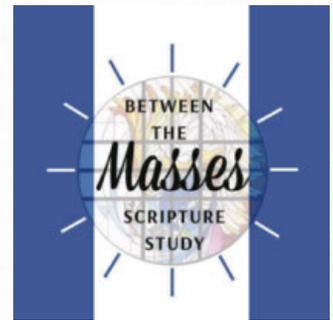
At this juncture of your life, what are you waiting for... , expecting... , hoping for... , yearning for... , from God? What situations or aspects of your life are in the midst of the growing stages and require your patience and care and tending before coming to fruition at some point in the future?

In our parish family of St. Gabriel, we currently have four RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) candidates, Brenda Borges, Hailey Creegan, Valerie Bergmann, and Amber Gwinn, who are in the process of preparing to be received into the Catholic faith. We also have three RCIA catechumens, Brooke Marcellis, and her two daughters, Julianna and Evelyn, who are preparing for their Baptism into the faith. During this season of Advent, let's be sure to keep all of them in our prayers, asking God to bless them in spe-

cial ways as they continue their journey of drawing closer to the Lord and as they wait in joyful hope to celebrate their living relationship with Christ at Easter.

At the wedding feast in Cana, Mary, in her consistent way, directs the attention to Jesus: "Do whatever he tells you..." She understands that those who would hear God must be attuned to the prompting and direction of the Spirit. Mary could just as well be saying to each of us, "Do whatever he tells you." A key awareness to ponder is: Am I paying attention? Am I listening? Am I expecting the Spirit's direction? Am I ready and waiting to do whatever he tells me?

On Sunday, December 5th, the 2nd Sunday of Advent, join me in the Parish Hall, from 9:15-10:15 am, in between the Masses, to reflect on those questions. We will ponder, discuss and pray together the fuller meaning of Advent as we consider how Christ has come in history through the Nativity, how He is coming to us now in the Church, and how He will come again at the Parousia...in a presentation titled: "Maranatha---Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"



Thank you to Sharon Loomis for providing these pictures from the recent pilgrimage to National Marian Apparition Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help



Kimberly Lestina

Preparing hearts and minds for lives of leadership, service, and excellence.

One of the many blessings of a Catholic education is that teachers and students are allowed to celebrate the Christmas season together. We are blessed to be given the opportunity to prepare for the coming of Christ and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. During the Advent season, the teachers and staff at St. Gabriel Parish School will help the students understand that the real reason for our anticipation and joy leading up to Christmas is not the hope of the presents under the tree, but rather the hope and gift of Jesus Christ.

During the Advent season our students will be participating in a variety of activities. We will begin each week with a Living Wreath Prayer Service. After the all-school prayer service, students will return to their classrooms to light the candle on their classroom Advent wreaths. Participating in this Advent prayer service is meant to set the proper attitude and demeanor for Advent; to help us all remember the true meaning of Christmas.

The virtues that our spirit groups are focusing on during Advent are stewardship and generosity. They are learning that virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him. They are like habits. They need to be practiced; they can be lost if they are neglected. We are encouraging our students to practice these virtues by organizing a collection of non-perishable food items for the St. Gabriel/St. Boniface Food Pantry. In addition, we will be collecting donations to purchase scrip gift cards that will be donated to our sister school in Milwaukee, Congregation of the Great Spirit. A representative from Congregation of the Great Spirit will be visiting our school and speaking to our spirit groups about the importance of stewardship and generosity. There is no better way to celebrate the season than by giving to others.



On behalf of the teachers, students, and staff at St. Gabriel Parish School, we wish you all a very Blessed Holiday Season!

Over 125 Years of Academic Excellence

Join Us for a Pancake Breakfast & Campus Tours*
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
**Touring families receive a complimentary breakfast!*

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If you can't make it on January 30, tours are always available, please visit www.sgabriel.org. Financial Aid is available.

We'd love to meet you and your family!

Children & Youth Formation

Bonnie Schoofs, Jill Sheehan, and Lea Rosenberg

The change in liturgical season is an exciting time in the atrium for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The children in Level 1 & Level 2 will begin Advent with a celebration highlighting the transition from ordinary or growing time into the season of Advent, a time of preparation. They will notice some things will look different at Mass and they will begin to ponder Advent as a time to prepare for the birth of Christ through prayer and wonder. Just as Mary & Joseph and the people of God were awaiting the One foretold by the Prophets, we too are people in waiting. The children will hear the prophecies as well as the infancy narratives including the Annunciation and the Visitation.



In addition, all formation classes CGS Level 1, Level 2, and 2nd grade will be touring the Church in preparation for Advent. Our 2nd grade students are also preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep them all in your prayers.

The students are preparing their hearts to celebrate the Feast of Christmas with their families at Mass. We hope all our families will join them by preparing their own hearts this Advent and rejoice in the celebration of Holy Mass this Christmas. God bless you all.

- Bonnie Schoofs & Jill Sheehan



So many exciting things have been happening in Youth Ministry this year!

The middle schoolers attended a day retreat at the Catholic Ecology Center which included praying in nature, walking in the river, and a scavenger hunt. We have been learning about the Sacraments and how those impact our lives.

The high schoolers are studying Catholic social teaching this year and learning how we are called to live out our faith in society.

Both classes attended an XLT (exalt) night, a beautiful evening of prayer, music and faith sharing. We had over 100 people in attendance. A big THANK YOU to our speakers that evening for sharing their faith! Keep an eye on the calendar as we look forward to planning one in spring. All are invited to attend!

Confirmation is preparing for the Sacrament through small group discussions, and by the time you read this will have attended the annual retreat. Keep praying for all these young men and women

as they continue this journey for Confirmation.



We began offering Pizza with a Purpose this year. This is an opportunity to do service projects, build community and of course pizza. Through this event we collected items for Support the Troops. Thank you to everyone that donated and helped pack the boxes.

So what do we have to look forward to in the coming months?

- Family Reconciliation Night – December 15th
- High School Retreat in February focusing on poverty
- Pizza with a Purpose – a monthly gathering of service opportunities
- XLT night TBD

- Lea Rosenberg

Financial Corner

Celia Meyers

Presented are our first quarter (ended September 30, 2021) financials statements for the 2022 fiscal year. Contributions and offertory are tracking slightly above budget as of September 30 and continued to hold to budget through present date. Contributions and offertory are St. Gabriel Parish's largest source of income and represent almost 56% of our annual budgeted revenue.

Thank you for supporting our parish, our parish ministries and our Catholic faith. Your commitment to St. Gabriel Parish is a commitment to celebrating the sacraments; forming our children, youth, young adults, and adults; influencing our current and future Catholic leaders; helping our sick, dying, and bereaved; and building a faith filled community all can call home.

School and formation revenue are behind budget, but this is a matter of timing. We have 129 students enrolled in our Catholic School for the 2021-2022 school year, which is consistent with last year and an increase of 12 students from the prior years. We are targeting a student body of 150—180 students. We believe this is an achievable goal and we are moving in the right direction. St. Gabriel Parish School offers a quality faith-based education where our students perform at the top of their classes in their chosen high schools. If you've thought about Catholic education, it is never too late to enroll your child/ren in our day school! In fact, we invite you to join us at our Open House on January 30th. For more details, see page 4. Come, SEE and FEEL the difference of a Catholic Education. *Financial assistance is available.*

Christian Formation is behind revenue budget at September 30, but this program typically catches up in November when middle and high school students finish enrollment. Our formation department has "re-vamped" our programs over the past few years, tailoring the programs to a more inclusive, enriching, hands on learning format. We are fully integrated in our youth ministry program for our middle and high school students and have this year fully transitioned to "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" ("CGS") for our child ministry program. We have even begun teaching CGS in our parish school primary grades as an enhancement to their religion curriculum. Our typical enrollment attending our formation program is approximately 260 students. It is never too late to enroll your children in Catholic Formation! All our children are the future of our faith and important members of this parish community.

St. Gabriel Parish has many adult opportunities for formation as well. These programs are included in the expense portion of our parish budget. Please check out our formation page for additional opportunities and information about St. Gabriel Parish's child, youth, and adult formation offerings.

Fun facts: St. Gabriel Parish baptizes an average of 25 babies/children; celebrates First Holy Communion with 35 second grad-

Operating Fund ~ Quarter Ended September 30

	Actual 2022	Budget 2022
Revenues ~		
Contributions & Offertory	\$223,600	\$218,800
School & Formation Revenue	14,200	25,000
Fundraising	24,500	50,500
Ministry Donations & Grants	4,300	4,000
Other Income	(8,600)	0
	<u>\$258,000</u>	<u>\$298,300</u>
Ministry Expenses ~		
School & Formation	\$248,900	\$249,700
Prayer & Worship	18,500	18,400
Administration	80,100	81,300
Buildings & Grounds	37,900	38,300
	<u>\$385,400</u>	<u>\$387,700</u>
(Deficit) before Loan Forgiveness	(\$127,400)	(\$89,400)
PPP Loan Forgiveness	203,700	203,700
	<u>\$76,300</u>	<u>\$114,300</u>

ers; confirms 30 High School Students; marries 20 young couples and celebrates the eternal life of 20 loved and departed parishioners each year. This year we have seven (7) people entering our Catholic Faith through the RCIA process.

Fundraising is behind budget at September 30. The 2021 Flea Market was conducted on a modified scale this year due to COVID precautions. We brought in a second food vendor for crowd social distancing, sold a limited menu, and had fewer vendors. With these modifications, **our Flea Market still netted almost \$20,000.** Great job and congratulations to our Flea Market Committee and volunteers! We did not conduct a raffle this year, but are considering it as a future event. Our parish raffle typically raised \$10,000. **Of concern is our Parish Auction ... we are in great need of a leaders!** Please prayerfully consider helping us with our Parish Auction! This event contributes approximately \$100,000 of revenue to our budget. Grab a buddy and volunteer! It is a great event and a wonderful way to meet your community. Call the parish or school office for more information. All are welcome!

Expenses are tracking on budget and our second PPP Loan was forgiven in August, 2021. We have made \$750,000 of additional payments (over and above our monthly payments) on our building mortgage since March 2021. The balance of the building mortgage is approximately \$2.37 million. Watch for details for our next debt retirement capital campaign.

We thank you for your commitment to St. Gabriel Parish and our parish ministries! May you continue to prayerfully consider St. Gabriel Parish in your sharing of prayer, service and gifts .. And may God repay your generosity abundantly in His blessings!



Christmas Flower Memorials

If you wish to donate Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, envelopes will be located in the November 27/28 bulletin or in the parish gathering space. Please complete the information requested on the outside of the envelope. Checks can be made payable to “St. Gabriel Parish”. Please write *Christmas Flowers* in the memo line. Please place in the collection basket by Dec. 11/12.



We will have red and green envelopes available for Pick N Save and WalMart gift cards that benefit the *Congregation of the Great Spirit (Green Envelope)* and *Karl's Place (Red Envelope)*.

Parish members may place gift cards, cash, or checks payable to “St. Gabriel” in the envelopes. The deadline for this collection is December 12. Thank you very much for your continued generosity to those in need.

Volunteers are needed to help co-chair the next Parish and School Auction. **YOU would not be alone!!!** The auction has a dedicated and experienced team to support you. ✨

Last year we added auction staff, Dawn Jorgensen, to handle much of the administration work. Dawn has experience chairing the auction and she is a great support to guide and assist you through the entire process!

We need your fresh ideas, enthusiasm, leadership, and your time. This is a great community event with awesome people to meet and work with! Team up with a friend and join us! Please prayerfully consider leading this important fundraising event! Contact, Dawn, if you would like to get involved—djorgensen@stgabrielhubertus.org.

Moms Retreat:
Spirituality of self-care

Gather with fellow mothers to reflect on the unique spirituality of self-care for moms. We will learn practices to help us pray and find God in the busyness of motherhood.

When: January 22, 2022
9:00am-5:00pm

Where: Holy Hill - Monastery Inn

Cost: \$50

To sign up scan the QR code. Any questions, please reach out to Lea Rosenberg at lrosenberg@stgabrielhubertus.org



Two special guests, Mother Teresa and Saint Francis of Assisi, visited at Wednesday morning Mass to share a little about themselves in celebration of All Saints day. Together with Father Tim they gave real insight into their lives and missions. A special thank



you was given to our Saint actors Mary Kokalj and Larry Bannister.

St. Gabriel is pleased to introduce the “OWLS” Group ~ Older, Wiser Loving Saints Group.



The OWLS are an “over 50” group looking to share fun and

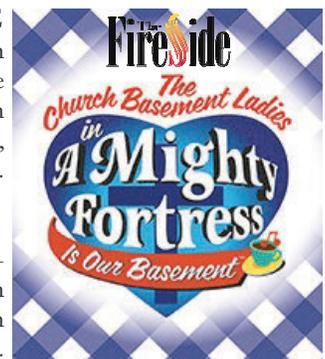
fellowship. If you have ideas for this group and are interested in helping us get this group going, please call the parish office and ask

for LaDonna... we'd love to hear from you!

SAVE THE DATE

Watch for an upcoming trip to the Fireside Theater on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

Additional trip and sign up information will be published in future bulletins and on the parish website.



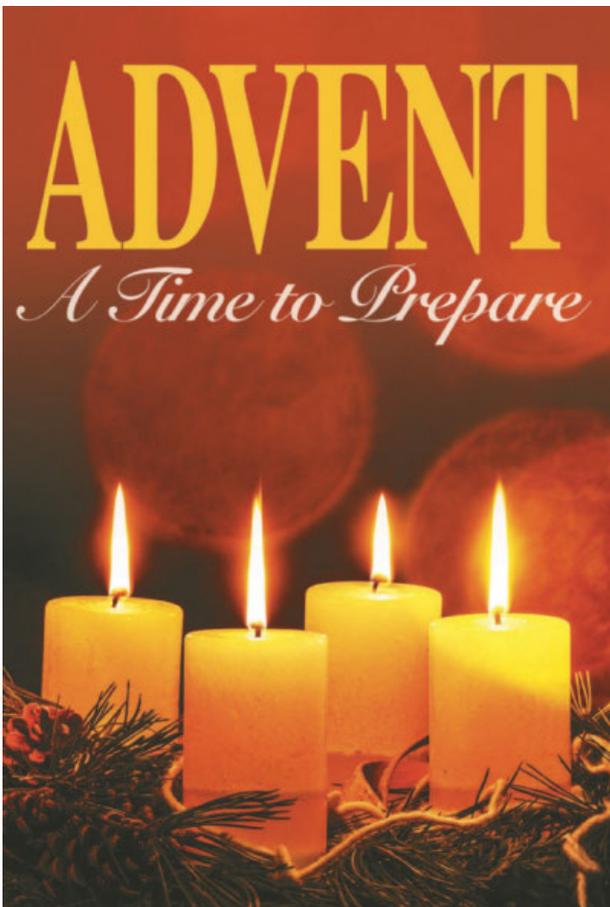


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Please consider joining us for our worship opportunities:

Daily Mass | Tuesday-Friday beginning at 8:30 am

Tuesday: Rosary | December 7, 14, 21, 28 beginning at 8:00 am.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions after Mass.

First Friday Devotions | December 3 beginning at 7:30 am

Eucharistic Adoration | 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12/8 & 12/22
from 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Christians have devoted themselves to the veneration of Jesus' Sacred Heart for centuries! While many saints have claimed to have had private revelations about Jesus' Sacred Heart, the modern Catholic devotion is based primarily on the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century. (As with all private revelations, Catholics are not obliged to believe them.)

Below are the 12 promises privately revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque by Jesus for those who practice the Sacred Heart of Jesus devotion:

- 1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- 2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- 3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- 4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- 5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- 6) Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- 7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- 8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- 9) I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
- 10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- 11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
- 12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my dis-grace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment. **Join us for First Friday Devotions**