

# ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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## Our Giving Tree is Virtual this year!

Please see the attached flyer and our parish website for more details. Thank you for doing what you can to help those in our community in need!

## Thank you to all who donated to PACS!

We are so grateful for your support of those who are facing food insecurity during these challenging times.



## Weekly Offering:

Due to the early bulletin submission deadline for the holiday week, we did not have the weekly collection numbers in time for publication. We will report them next week!



## From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Parishioners & Friends:

The season of Advent begins today. As you know, Advent is a season of preparation and of waiting. No one likes to wait. This year it's particularly unpleasant because so many of us are already waiting – waiting for the pandemic to be over, waiting to be reunited in person with our family and friends, waiting for a renewal of good health, employment, and normalcy.

It is especially important, therefore, to remember that the seasons of waiting in the Church are different than those of the world. In the secular world we often wait with anxiety, fear, and frustration. In the Church we wait for something miraculous, awe-inspiring, and salvation bringing – the birth of our Lord, the resurrection of our Savior, and His eventual return someday. As a result, our waiting is filled with hope, anticipation, and excitement. We wait actively for the arrival of Christ by preparing ourselves through almsgiving, prayer, repentance, and spiritual development.

My wish for you this Advent is that you experience joy, anticipation, and excitement as you wait for His arrival, for truly, the very best is yet to come. May God bless you and keep you safe.

*Fr. Gary*

## Mass Schedule:

All Masses are open to the public. Daily Masses and the Sunday 8:30 am Mass are also live-streamed on the parish Facebook page.

Saturday:	4:00 pm Confessions 5:00 pm
Sunday:	8:30 am 11:00 am
Daily (M-F):	8:45 am
Holy Days:	8:45 am

## Parish Programs:

**Spiritual Book Club** - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:30 am via Zoom.

**Parents of Special Needs Children** - Meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

**Adult Faith Opportunities - RCIA** - For those thinking about becoming a Catholic.

These programs are available for parishioners who are 18 years old or older. Please contact Jim King at [dre@stbasils.org](mailto:dre@stbasils.org) and 610-935-1261 for information and to register.

## Please pray for:

A complete list of everyone on our parish prayer list is on our website.

**Rest in Peace:** Ann Coccia, Mary Lou Shoop (mother of Amber Bailey), Patricia Bakay, and all of our faithful departed.

**To Add People to Our Parish Prayer List:** If you have a loved one in need of special prayers for any reason, please contact the Parish Office to have them added to our Prayer List and to remove them once they are no longer in need of such prayers. Thank you in advance for your help with this and for praying for those in our parish who need special prayers.

## Mass Intentions:

Fr. Gary continues to honor all current Mass intentions, even if the Mass is not a public one due to the COVID-19 situation.

### Sunday, November 29, 2020

Vigil – Doris Hennessy (Family & Friends)  
8:30 am – Marlyn Meoli (Tony & Chris Odorisio)  
11:00 am – For the People of St. Basil the Great

### Monday, November 30, 2020

8:45 am – Mary Marlyn Meoli (Carole & Jerry Trecroce)

### Tuesday, December 1, 2020

8:45 am – John Hennessy (The Cates Family)

### Wednesday, December 2, 2020

8:45 am – Pamela Fleming (M/M Robert Shemonsky)

### Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:45 am – Merrill Francis, 2nd. Anniv. (The Francis Family)

### Friday, December 4, 2020

8:45 am – Catherine A. McFarland (Tony & Ann Storti)

### Saturday, December 5, 2020

5:00 pm – Emil Sabol, 35th Anniv. (Susan Puleo)

### Next Sunday, December 6, 2020

8:30 am – Andrew Tomcho Family (Carol Cooper)  
11:00 am – For the People of St. Basil the Great



# 1st Sunday of Advent

## About Advent Wreaths:

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. (From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – USCCB)

You may wish to follow the attached 2020 USCCB Advent Calendar.



# St. Basil the Great Parish Virtual Giving Tree

**This holiday season, we can still help those in our community in need**

## Through our Virtual Giving Tree!

The Giving Tree is a time honored tradition at St. Basil the Great. Each year our parishioners generously donate items needed by non-profits in our area who are serving others. These groups especially need our help this year. To keep everyone safe, we are asking our parishioners to make donations directly to the following organizations, each of whom we have supported via our Giving Tree in the past:

- ▶ **The Clinic**
- ▶ **Mom's House**
- ▶ **Phoenixville Area Early Learning Center**
- ▶ **St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families**

On our parish website we have posted links to the websites of each of the locations and/or to the Amazon Wish List pages of the organizations. On those Amazon Wish List pages, the organizations have listed items (and

the amounts of each) they need. Orders made through those pages will be sent directly to the organization, keeping everyone safe. If you aren't comfortable making donations online, we will also include each organization's address so you can mail monetary donations, which are always welcome.

To get things rolling, the parish and a few of Santa's helpers donated the items requested by the **Assisi House**, which is the retirement home for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. We thank everyone whose generosity to the parish made this donation possible this year!

When: **Now through December 4, 2020** – to allow for distribution of items prior to the holidays

Time: Anytime – it's virtual!!

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide with this effort. We will be praying for you all and wish you a very blessed Advent and Christmas!!



# ADVENT CALENDAR 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>November 29</b></p> <p><b>The First Sunday of Advent</b> Begin your Advent journey by <b>blessing</b> your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Make a resolution at the start of this liturgical year that will bring you closer to Christ.</p>	<p><b>December 1</b></p> <p>Today is Giving Tuesday! Many of our parishes have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consider making a recurring gift to your parish.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Use this Advent season to ready your heart for Jesus. In what ways can you improve your relationship with him?</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Memorial of St. Francis Xavier, Priest In honor of St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, try the practice of the <b>Daily Examen</b>.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>"Social friendship and universal fraternity necessarily call for an acknowledgement of the <i>worth of every human person, always and everywhere.</i>" (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 106)</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation of the birth of Christ. It can be easy to lose sight of this, focusing more on gift giving and receiving. Set aside time to pray with your family, even virtually, to refocus on the greatest gift.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>The Second Sunday of Advent</b> Today, churches hold a special collection for <b>retired religious</b>. Pray for these dedicated servants of Christ as you light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Today is the Memorial of St. Ambrose, one of the Doctors of the Church. He baptized St. Augustine and is the patron saint of catechumens. Today, pray for those seeking to join the Church.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>On this <b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception</b>, attend Mass and pray the Hail Mary before meals. As Mary is also the patroness of the U.S., take time to pray for our country today.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>This year has been challenging for many. Bring joy to someone today. Text or call a friend, help a stranger in need, or share today's <b>Gospel</b> with your loved ones.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Walking with Moms in Need</b> encourages us to "walk in the shoes" of local pregnant and parenting women in need and to learn how we can help. Take the <b>pledge</b> today!</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>"In some areas of our cities, there is still a lively sense of neighborhood. . . . Where people experience a closeness marked by gratitude, solidarity and reciprocity." (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 152)</p> <p>Seek out volunteer opportunities in your neighborhood this week.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>On her feast day, pray to <b>Our Lady of Guadalupe</b>, that she may "help us never to see others as burdens," especially migrants to our country and communities.</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>The Third Sunday of Advent</b> Today is Gaudete Sunday when we shift our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice as you light the pink candle on your Advent wreath.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church There are 10 days left in Advent. In honor of a saint known for his deep spirituality and compassion, reflect honestly on your own spiritual journey so far this season.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>"As couples or friends, we find that our hearts expand as we step out of ourselves and embrace others." (Pope Francis, <i>Fratelli Tutti</i>, no. 89)</p> <p>How can you embrace others today?</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Las Posadas</b>, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. <b>Pray for migrants</b> seeking shelter around the world.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Today marks the beginning of the "<b>O Antiphons</b>." This tradition, which comes from Evening Prayer, has been around since at least the eighth century.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>In today's <b>Gospel</b> we are reminded of St. Joseph's courage. Reflect on how God is calling you to demonstrate courage in serving him.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>What's your favorite Christmas movie? Gather your friends or family (in-person or virtually) and watch a <b>Christmas classic</b>.</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" (Lk 1:38)</p> <p>Mary had complete trust in God, saying "yes" to his will. How would you describe your trust in God?</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi made the Christmas crèche, or manger, for Christmas Eve of 1223. Gather your loved ones, and <b>bless your family's crèche</b>.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt . . . with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage." (USCCB, <i>Strangers No Longer</i>, no. 26)</p> <p>How can you welcome the stranger today?</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and remains in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. Share this <b>blessing</b> with your family and friends.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free." (Lk 1:68)</p>		

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