

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

29 APRIL 2018

Readings for Sunday, April 29: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8.

Saul witnesses the risen Jesus and boldly proclaims his Lordship. We proclaim our belief in Jesus by our love for one another. He is the vine and we the branches. Together let us praise his name in our assembly of worship.

Readings for Sunday, May 6: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17.

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.
Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
30 Apr.	MON. 9:00 AM	John O. Rizzardi	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
2 May	WED. 9:00 AM	Florence Fontana	Marie Bolonski
3 May	THU. 9:00 AM	Philip Maddaloni	Daughter & family
3 May	THU. 6:00 PM	Decd. Members of Women's Society	St. Gabriel Women's Society
4 May	FRI. 9:00 AM	Sandra Smith	Steve, Maria & Tyler Boyer
5 May	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
6 May	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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Monday, April 30 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY - Mass at 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 3 followed by a Combined Social in the social hall after the Mass.

MAY CROWNING on Sunday, May 6 during the 9:00 AM Mass.

BASKET RAFFLE - Chances for a "Spring Time Fun" Basket are on sale until May 13 after the weekend Masses and at the parish office. Chances are \$5.00 each. Basket includes a \$120 Gift Certificate for the Colebrookdale Railroad, \$100 in cash, \$50 in instant Lottery tickets and a spring/summer floral arrangement. Drawing will be held on Monday, May 14.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - May 5/6:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - John Bracaglia, Cindy Nore, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal, Vincent Tammaro, Mara Tammaro
 Altar Server - Tony Vitacco
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, George Siver, Jack Bucciaglia, Cristin Bucciaglia
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. TOM ZALEWSKI

Pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradenton, Florida

**Fr. Zalewski emailed permission to reprint his article on 2/22/18, through
his Administrative Assistant, Bridget Olson.**

Website: sjcfl.org

The question of human suffering, especially that of the just, was a big problem in biblical times. This was the problem Job was wrestling with. Job was a good man yet he suffered terrible tragedies. This resulted in his gloomy view of life.

Suffering is still a big problem. There are lots of people today who could identify with Job. Think of all who suffer from poverty, hunger, sickness, injustice, oppression, tragedy ...In Old Testament times, suffering was seen as a punishment from God for sin.

What was Jesus' answer to the problem of suffering? He did not accept the view that suffering was a punishment from God. God does not do evil. God does good. What we see in the Gospel is not so much an answer to the question 'why suffering?', as Jesus' response to actual suffering.

That response was a very practical one – as we see from today's Gospel. Here we see Jesus surrounded by throngs of physically and mentally sick people. And he gives himself to each of them, healing them one by one. He didn't insulate himself against human pain. He made himself totally vulnerable before the wounded and the sick.

Suffering is a lonely condition. Jesus wasn't sentimental about suffering. Nor did he preach resignation as we often do. He did not like to see people suffer. He had compassion on sufferers and made them well. He cast out the devils of guilt, fear, shame, despair ...that had people bound.

The problem of suffering became an opportunity for Jesus – an opportunity to show what God is like. By the way he gave himself to the sick, he reveals to us the compassion of God in the face of human suffering.

The suffering of others is an opportunity for us too. We may not be able to cure, but it is always within our power to care. And to care is a very healing thing. Just to be with the sufferer, is in itself a very worthwhile thing. But it's no easy thing, because it means that instead of relieving someone's pain, we have to be prepared to share it.

We come to sufferers with empty hands. What can we do for them? We can use those empty hands for comforting. All they ask is that we do not desert them. That we stand our ground at the foot of the cross as Mary did on Calvary. A person can be healed without being cured.

Suffering is an unavoidable element of the human condition. Nevertheless, the road of suffering can be narrow and dark. It's a great comfort to us to know that Jesus went down this road, and went down it to the end. It is not the same since he traveled it. A bright light illuminates it. He shows us that though it leads to Calvary, it doesn't end there. It ends at Easter. Thus for Christians, suffering becomes an opportunity to share in Christ's Passion in the hope of sharing in his Easter victory.

This article has a great number of implications for each of us.

Have a good week!

Fr. Gregg Hickey

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) AWARENESS WEEKEND, APRIL 28-29

Significant tax advantage for businesses and individuals. Significant tuition assistance for families. The EITC is a tax credit that many businesses and individuals are eligible to receive. The program offers the donor a PA tax credit of 75% for a 1 year commitment and a 90% tax credit for a 2 year commitment. Individuals with a tax liability can now join a Special Purpose Entity (SPE) to take full advantage of the PA EITC programs. PA businesses can contribute up to \$750,000 to the program. C-Corps, S-Corps, LLCs and Limited Partnerships are eligible to participate. This donation can be designated to a Catholic School to help offset tuition for students who would otherwise not be able to attend a Catholic School. Contact one of these approved scholarship organizations: Foundation for Catholic Education (610-793-8503 or jneeld@foundationforcatholiceducation.org) or BLOCS (484-704-2300 or info@blocs.org) for further information.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 22, 2018.....	\$4,143
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,733	
Parish Giving - \$90	
Easter Collection - \$320	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$857)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$215,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$194,208
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,516
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$20,792)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$484)
<i>APRIL 23, 2017</i>	
Deposit.....	\$3,876
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$23,191)
Difference from previous year.....	\$2,399

MASS ATTENDANCE for April 21/22:

7:30 PM Mass - 186
 9:00 AM Mass - 165
 Total Attendance - 351
 Mass Attendance for April 22/23, 2017 - 392



Raffle Drawing

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. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **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 CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

April 16 - #425 - Kathy Pennypacker - \$50.00
 April 17 - #158 - Ken Stoudt - \$50.00
 April 18 - #272 - unsold
 April 19 - #489 - unsold
 April 20 - #079 - unsold
 April 21 - #220 - unsold
 April 22 - #182 - unsold

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here in the United States there is a great need for evangelization and sharing the messages of Christ and the beauty of the Church. The Church at home needs to be strengthened and fortified. Soon, as a diocese, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA), which supports the neediest dioceses in the United States. This appeal makes the most basic programs possible and shares the gospel message with our brothers and sisters in dioceses where Church communities are scattered and struggling.

The Diocese of Pueblo's terrain, very mountainous and lonely, has shaped the attitude of pastors and parishioners alike – they tend to be highly independent. This has served them well, since only 44 priests and 45 deacons are available to serve the needs of over 64,000 Catholics. The diocese is primarily rural, covering the entire southern half of the state of Colorado, and the priest shortage is felt very strongly there. But with your support of CHMA, the Diocese of Pueblo offers lay ministry training programs. This training will provide ministers to serve the most isolated parishes and offer spiritual support for Catholics in the diocese.

Your support of this appeal makes a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters right here in the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the appeal this year. Thank you for strengthening the Church at home.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,
 Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
 Archbishop of Philadelphia

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal will take place next weekend, May 5 and 6.

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, April 29 from 8:00 AM till Noon at the West End Fire Company, Stowe. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk and coffee. Cost: \$7.00 Adults; \$6.00 Seniors; \$5.00 Children 4-12 and children under 4 years old eat for free.

GOLFERS AND NON-GOLFERS - The Valley Forge Chapter, Knights of Columbus is holding its 10th annual Pro-Life Golf Tournament on Friday, May 4 at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville. Event includes breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, golf and individual/team skill prizes. Cost per golfer is \$100. Dinner only tickets available for \$35.00 per person. Contact Gary Huster (610-972-0356 or thebighue@aol.com) or Mark Nunan (610-754-7185 or marknunan@dejazzd.com). All proceeds benefit local crisis pregnancy centers.