

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 11 FEBRUARY 2018

**Readings for Sunday, February 11:** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45.

Jesus manifest the powerful, healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by Jewish legislation. He turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy. We are called to imitate the healing and compassionate Jesus.

**Readings for Sunday, February 18:** Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

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**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.**

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### MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
12 Feb.	MON. 9:00 AM	Emma T. Dempsey	Rev. Gregory J. Hickey
14 Feb.	WED. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
14 Feb.	WED. 7:00 PM	Michael & Anna Zomolsky	Bob Zomolsky & family
15 Feb.	THU. 9:00 AM	Angeline Testa	Rick Keeley
16 Feb.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
17 Feb.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
18 Feb.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Stephen LaRosa	Jim & Anna Baldasano



**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.



**SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** on Sunday, February 11 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and/or juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** on Monday, February 12 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

**SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING** on Tuesday, February 13 at 1:30 PM in the social hall. BUS TRIP on April 17 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see *Steel Magnolias*. Contact Shirley (610-326-1128) for more details.

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY** - 2018 Dues payable NOW. Contact Anna Baldasano (610-323-8198) or the parish office.

### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE - February 17/18:**

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski  
Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tammaro, Mara Tammaro, Shelly Stockmal, John Nester  
Altar Servers - Michael Holmes  
Greeters - Marie Hildebrand and Ginger Scheidt

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio  
Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, George Siver  
Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz  
Greeter - Jack and Lori Carr

### REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

I am holding a pocket watch in my hand as I write this article and I have had the privilege of having this watch for approximately 13 years. It belonged to my Mother's Dad, my Grandfather, whom I never had the pleasure of meeting. I have heard about him from Mom and my aunts and uncles, who have all pre-deceased my Mom who was the youngest. I was particularly close to my Mother's Mother growing up and spent many weekends with her in Darby, PA. She was a wonderful cook as well as a baker and she told me about my Grandfather also. She loved each of us and taught us many lessons about life and how to treat people. The watch was given to Mom when she was a young girl to always remember her Dad. It was one of Mom's prized possessions and that is why I feel so honored that she gave it to me.

When Mom was just ten years old, there was a fire in her home and my Grandfather died in the fire and she witnessed his death. The family had to jump from the second floor. My Grandfather actually went to save one of my uncles who was a milk man and he thought he was asleep on the couch but it turned out that Uncle Dick was not home yet. Gramps was consumed with the smoke and fire and passed away that evening. It was a terrible tragedy for Mom and her whole family and Gran gave her the pocket watch when she was a teenager as one of the keepsakes that was not destroyed in the fire.

As I am looking at the watch, I feel that Gramps had it with him in the building business, when he held his children for the first time, and when he held Gran's hand. He was just 66 when he died and the pocket watch is almost like a relic for me. It holds many memories and I wish that I had the opportunity to know him.

We have relics in the Church as well because people need a tangible link to the past and that link transforms the past into the present. When we come into contact with an object, our minds and hearts are flooded with memories, stories, and emotions. Consider how many people who are in love keep a photo of the person they love. The loved ones could be on the other side of the world, but that photo makes them feel close and reminds them of the person they love. Because the memory is kept alive, it affects how a person acts. People want to behave in a way that will continue to honor the relationship they have.

One might say that relics are just material objects that don't do anything; they have no magical abilities. However, what they represent profoundly affects us. It is like an autograph from a famous person. The autograph actually is just ink on paper. It serves as a reminder of the person who signed it, and for a brief moment you were in that individual's presence.

Relics call to mind the lives of the saints. They help us to remember the stories of the past and build upon those stories for the future. The relics of the saints remind us that we are always in the presence of a great cloud of witnesses who intercede for us, encourage us, and assist us. The relics do not bring the saints closer to us. Instead, they help us to grow closer to the saints. We feel connected to the men and women who have been witnesses to the faith. We aspire to be more like them and feel compelled to give our lives as a testimony to the faith we profess.

Every time I look at Gramps' pocket watch or have it in my pocket, I know that I aspire to make him proud of me. I know that I honor his memory by how I live my life each day. The pocket watch carries with it traditions and memories that live on through my life and help me to be the best man and priest that I can be. Someday I will hopefully meet him in heaven and will have a grand reunion and catch up on all the years I missed.

Grandparents and Parents, do not forget to hug your children and tell them how much you love them. They will never forget it.

This Wednesday is rather unique. It is Valentine's Day as well as Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Mass will be celebrated in Church at 9:00 a.m. as well as 7:00 p.m. Ashes will be imposed on your foreheads at both Masses.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

**MEN'S GROUP** - As part of our Strategic Plan, we are considering offering a new group for the men of the parish. It is open to all those who are 18 years of age or older. If you are interested in joining, please e-mail Fr. Hickey at [ghekey@sgsm62.org](mailto:ghekey@sgsm62.org). Please let me know your name and the best telephone number to get in touch with you. We have two men who would like to coordinate this new venture with Fr. Hickey. They are Thomas Reilly and Mark Flynn.

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2018.....	\$5,113
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,850
Parish Giving -	\$90
Parish Property & Maintenance -	\$1,173
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$113
Year to Date Budget.....	\$160,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$142,962
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,468
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$17,038)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$532)

### FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Deposit. ....	\$5,232
2016-2017 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$18,439)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,401

### MASS ATTENDANCE for February 3/4:

4:00 PM Mass - 224  
9:00 AM Mass - 143  
Total Attendance - 367  
Mass Attendance for February 4/5, 2017 - 369

**2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** - Requests for statements of 2017 contributions to St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish can be made by email to the parish office ([contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)) or by calling the parish office (610-326-5127). Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their parish envelopes.)

**"CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL!"** For further information, please call the parish office.

### "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**GUTTER DOCTOR**  
610-776-2000

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of:  
SHIRLEY GERALDINE HARDING from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;  
FLORENCE FONTANA from Jeannine Ferrante.

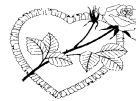


### Raffle Drawing

**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

January 29 - #552 - unsold  
January 30 - #666 - Joe Gierschick - \$50.00  
January 31 - #520 - Beverly Kretovich - \$50.00  
JANUARY FIGURES: 367 tickets sold - \$1,835.00.  
Payout to winners - \$550.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. January profit - \$1,185.00. Thank you for your support.  
February 1 - #935 - unsold  
February 2 - \$832 - Salvador Pires - \$50.00  
February 3 - #122 - Michael Burke - \$50.00  
February 4 - #145 - unsold



**VALENTINE BASKET RAFFLE** - Chances are \$5.00 each. Basket contains \$100 Gift card to Red Lobster, \$50.00 cash, Candle with Valentine floral topper, bottle of Merlot wine, wine glasses and box of Gertrude Hawk Candy. Chances available after Masses and at the parish office. Drawing will be held on Monday, February 12.

**THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these special Marian devotions.

**ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH SCHOOL** - Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is now open to new families. Visit the school website at [www.saintaloyssiusschool.com](http://www.saintaloyssiusschool.com) for more information. To schedule a tour contact the school office (610-326-6167).

**LENTEN DINNERS** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Stowe on Fridays during Lent from 5:00-8:00 PM. Various seafood offered (crab cakes every week). Cost is \$20.00. All are welcome!

**LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 14**

**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14** - ashes distributed during Masses at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** during Lent on Wednesday, February 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 28 at 1:30 PM. Also on Friday, February 23 at 5:00 PM.

**FAST & ABSTINENCE DURING LENT** - All persons who are 14 years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, February 14, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. All persons 18 years of age and older, up to and including their 59<sup>th</sup> birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

**MEATBALL & SPAGHETTI SAUCE SALE**

**February 24 and 25, 2018**

Sponsored by the Women's Society

Pick up orders on:

Saturday, February 24 after Mass until 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 25 after Mass until 10:00 AM

in the church social hall

**All orders must be pre-paid**

Make checks payable to St. Gabriel Women's Society

\_\_\_\_ qts. Spaghetti Sauce - \$6.00 per quart

\_\_\_\_ doz. Meatballs - \$12.00 per dozen

\_\_\_\_ ½ doz. Meatballs - \$6.00 per half dozen

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Please place order form along with payment in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office. Deadline for orders is February 18.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the history of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we have been blessed with many dedicated men who responded generously to the Lord's call to "Come, follow Me." These men, through their gift of priestly ordination, have generously ministered God's love in our parishes, hospitals, schools and various other ministries. Through the waters of Baptism, they have welcomed us into the family of God. Through the Eucharist, they have helped nourish us for the journey of life we have entered into. Their preaching of the Word has helped give shape to the person we have become. They have been present at our Marriages as well as our funerals; always reminding us of the God who loves us.

Years go by so quickly. As of this writing, we currently have 163 retired priests here in the Archdiocese. Villa Saint Joseph in Darby, Regina Coeli in Warminster as well as various other health care facilities, now provide a home and health care for our priests who are retired or in ill health and no longer able to serve you in active ministry. They now depend on you for your prayers and financial support.

Our annual 2018 Collection for the Care of Aging and Retired Priests of the Archdiocese will take place on the weekend of February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> throughout the Archdiocese. Your past generosity to this collection has been tremendous. We are grateful. We recognize your generosity as a symbol of your own love and gratitude to these priests who have served so well. Through your continued kindness we can be assured that they will be watched over and cared for in their retirement.

Your kindness is remembered daily in their Masses and prayers. We ask that you please continue to remember them in yours.

Gratefully and with continued prayers for you,  
Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**LENTEN PARISH MISSION** at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Bally on February 18-21. 7:00 PM Prayer Service each evening; Confessions 6:00-6:30 PM each evening; Mass at 8:00 AM each morning. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament all day February 20.

**A NIGHT OF HEALING** on Tuesday, February 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. **ONE DAY RETREAT** on Wednesday, February 28 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Held at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. To register for these events or more details call 610-582-3333 or visit [olme@olme.org](mailto:olme@olme.org).

**PURSE BINGO** presented by PJP Athletic Club on Friday, February 23 at 7:00 PM in PJP High School Cafeteria. Coach, Vera Bradley and Toriburch, just to name a few! Tickets are \$25 per person (includes all game cards except for 3 special games). Purchase tickets at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=bdce23>. Space is limited, so buy your tickets soon. Bring your friends for a night of fun. Bring your own beverage and food event!