

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18 FEBRUARY 2018

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

Mindful of his covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by floodwaters. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ. After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins his public ministry.

Readings for Sunday, February 25: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Romans 8:31b-34; Mark 9:2-10.

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>
19 Feb.	MON. 9:00 AM	McHugh-Mundy Families	Jack & Margie Buccigliaglia and family
21 Feb.	WED. 9:00 AM	Dominic & Marcella Vitacco	Tony & Theresa
22 Feb.	THU. 9:00 AM	Joan Reitz	Cathy & Tom Reilly
23 Feb.	FRI. 9:00 AM	John J. Czeiner, Sr. Family	Francis J. Czeiner Family
24 Feb.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
25 Feb.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Albert E. Miller	Wife, Kitty



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.

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

SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on April 27 to see *Steel Magnolias*. Leave from church at 9:00 AM and return about 5:30 PM. Cost is \$83.00 - all inclusive (bus transportation, luncheon served, show and all taxes and gratuity). Any questions, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

VALENTINE BASKET RAFFLE WINNER: #3117526 - Sue Commale.

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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - February 24/25:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Tony Vitacco

Extraordinary Ministers - Terry Donnelly, Cindy Nore, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal

Altar Servers - Maeve Donnelly

Greeters - Phil Bracaglia and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Buccigliaglia

Extraordinary Ministers - Lori Carr, Kathy Bernhard, Cristin Buccigliaglia

Altar Server - Tommy Miller, Madelyn Miller

Greeter - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

First Sunday of Lent

This past Wednesday, we began the Season of Lent once again and celebrated Ash Wednesday. Ashes were imposed on our foreheads as an outward sign of something that hopefully will cause an inner conversion. I would like to offer the following quote from Matthew's Gospel for reflection as we begin this Season, which will culminate in the Alleluia's of Easter.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up their cross and follow me." (Matt 16:24)

If you put out into the deep, you will find the cross. If you let Jesus wash your feet, the cross will be present. If you fall in love with Jesus, the cross will be part of that relationship. The cross is the classroom of sanctity. It is the professor of perfection. It is the arena of heroic virtue.

When I reflect on the above, I wonder what dominates our lives. What are the waves and winds that you find in the deep waters of meditation that tend to cause us to sink? We all have them. When we spend time in the deep, we tend to focus on the Cross of Jesus Christ and that is what should dominate our lives, but does it? I used that word dominate on purpose because it comes from the Latin word for Lord so we could realistically ask ourselves what lords over you in your life? Is it Jesus or is it the winds and the waves that tend to make us sink?

It is easy to read the Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday and say, I wish I were Simon of Cyrene and if I had been there I would have helped Jesus carry His cross. Well, we are here in 2018 and we do not have to seek out the cross of Jesus Christ because it finds us readily and are we willing to help Jesus carry His cross on a daily basis or is it simply lip service?

If we wish to grow in intimacy with Our Lord, we must be willing not only to live for Him but also die with Him. The Cross will always be a part of our life and we should not be surprised when it comes. The Cross comes to us in a variety of ways.

I often hear people say that other people have a heavier cross than I but all crosses are heavy for an individual. Some of the crosses I have seen are sickness, sudden heart attacks, accidents, diagnoses of cancer, broken bones, addiction and so many people dying from overdoses, the death of a child, a person in recovery, children not going to Church, not having a deeper prayer life, the bullying of students, grieving the loss of a parent or a family member, depression, the high rate of suicide among our youth, and the list goes on and on. When we keep our eyes focused on the Cross and we trust and give up our personal control, it is then that we are able to embrace the cross and begin to understand what Jesus said: "Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, pick up their cross and follow me."

Other crosses come into play when we suffer because of our loyalty to Christ, His Church and the Gospel. Jesus says plainly in the Gospel: "Say yes, when you mean yes, and no, when you mean no." In other words, there can be no wavering, no accommodation, and no instability in our encounter with the Cross. In this period of our lives and the new evangelization, we are each called to the loyalty of the Gospel and to work initially for ourselves but ultimately for all in the Church to bring clarity to His teaching.

When we give up control and learn to trust Jesus, it is then and only then, when we will embrace our crosses. The key statement here is "Never, ever, block the cross."

As we begin this journey through Lent, may we grow into an Adult Spirituality and when we reach Easter, may we continue doing what we started on Ash Wednesday. It will help us deepen our Spirituality.

Have a good week and a spiritual Lent. Also, continue to pray for the many who have been sick this winter with the flu and upper respiratory infections. May spring come quickly!

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 gickey@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 11, 2018.....	\$3,459
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,329
Parish Giving -	\$130
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$1,541)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$165,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$146,421
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,437
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$18,579)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$563)

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Deposit.	\$3,419
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$20,020)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,441



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

- February 5 - #083 - unsold
- February 6 - #003 - unsold
- February 7 - #094 - unsold
- February 8 - #844 - unsold
- February 9 - #282 - unsold
- February 10 - #154 - Dennis Bolonski - \$50.00
- February 11 - #575 - Bonnie Bryan - \$100.00

MASS ATTENDANCE for February 10/11:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 187
- 9:00 AM Mass - 131
- Total Attendance - 318
- Mass Attendance for February 11/12, 2017 - 409

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) 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”

MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY & ASSOCIATES
610-327-2600

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of: DR. JACOB E. DAILEY from Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family;
ROBERT NORRIS from Jack & Margie Bucciaglia and family.

LENT

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, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. All persons 18 years of age and older, up to and including their 59th 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.

ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT - All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

OPERATION RICE BOWL - All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. Rice Bowls are available at the entrances of church. Collection boxes are also at the entrances to Church.

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.

ST. PHILIP NERI FAMILY LIFE CENTER EVENTS:

Religion and Science/St. Francis de Sales on Tuesday, February 27 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Family Life Center, East Greenville. Presenter: Brother Daniel Wisniewski, O.S.F.C., Ph.D., Professor, DeSales University. Bus Trip to Museum of the Bible, Washington, DC on Saturday, April 14. Cost: \$57 includes ticket and transportation. Call 215-679-2237 for details and registration.

OUR LADY'S MISSIONARIES OF THE EUCHARIST EVENTS:

A Night of Healing with Fr. Clifton Bishop and Kathleen McCarthy on Tuesday, February 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Includes Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Anointing and Prayer over individuals and Eucharistic Benediction.

One Day Retreat with Franciscan Friars of the Renewal: Fr. Terry and Brother Shawn on Wednesday, February 28 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

To register contact olme@olme.org or call 610-582-3333.

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in Western Montgomery County. Upcoming event: Tuesday, February 20 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Co., Colledgeville - doors open at 7:00 PM, talk starts at 7:30 PM. Speaker - Megan Mastroianni. Questions - contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com.

ANTHEM LIVE sponsored by Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for young adults ages 18-35 on Saturday, February 24 at St. John the Baptist Church, Philadelphia from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Join us for a night of worship and adoration led by Sean Forrest and John Niven.

ARCHBISHOP'S LECTURE SERIES - "Christians and Muslims: Love Creates a Dialogue Between Friends" presented by Bishop William Michael Mulvey on February 26 at 7:00 PM at St. Charles Seminary St. John Vianney Auditorium. Visit www.scs.edu/Lectures for details.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP to assist Catholics in central Montgomery County with the spiritual and temporal aspects of end of life planning. Held at Visitation BVM Church, Norristown in the Larkin Center on Tuesday, February 27 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited. To reserve a spot call Tim Seiders (215-699-6993).

EXPOSITION OF SACRED RELICS on Wednesday, February 21 at Holy Martyrs Church, Oreland from 8:30 AM (Mass) until 6:30 PM. For more information call 215-884-8575 or email holyrelics@outlook.com.

PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT on Friday, March 2 at 6:30 PM in the social hall. Pack up the kids, blankets and chairs and join us for pizza and movie night. Pizza will be \$1.00/slice and soda only 50 cents. Popcorn will be FREE. Be sure to look for sign up sheets after Masses to let us know how many people we can expect. Join us for a fun night!

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 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.

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. Bring your own beverage and food event!

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.