

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4 FEBRUARY 2018

Readings for Sunday, February 4: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39.

Job's cry of hopelessness stands in marked contrast to the hope of those who put their trust in Jesus, who "heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds." Such are the blessings of the good news.

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

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>
5 Feb. MON. 9:00 AM	Angeline Testa	Mike & Renee Austrevich
7 Feb. WED. 9:00 AM	Peter Pinder, Jr. Family	Francis J. Czeiner Family
8 Feb. THU. 9:00 AM	John & Carole Della penna	Tony & Theresa
9 Feb. FRI. 9:00 AM	George & Helen Koren	Son & Daughter
10 Feb. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
11 Feb. SUN. 9:00 AM	Marie Dellaquila	Husband & family



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially FLORENCE FONTANA.

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.

SUPER BOWL SNACK & BAKE SALE after Masses on February 3 and 4. Sponsored by the Women's Society.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING on Thursday, February 8 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.



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.

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 10/11:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Tony Vitacco, Terry Donnelly
 Altar Servers - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jim Mich
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Jack Bucciaglia
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller
 Greeter - Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Several years ago, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin wrote a little book called *Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews*. In it he tells this story: A man takes some very fine material to a tailor and asks the tailor to make him a pair of pants. He goes back a week later, but the pants are not ready. Two weeks go by, and still the pants are not ready. Finally, after six weeks, the pants are finally ready. The man tries them, and they fit perfectly. As he pays for them, he says to the tailor, "It took God only six days to make the world. And it took you six weeks to make just one pair of pants." "Yes", said the tailor, "but look at the pair of pants (perfect!) and look at the world (it's a mess)." The tailor was hinting that perhaps God would have done a better job if he weren't in so much of a hurry.

I wonder if the tailor ever read his Bible. It tells us from the very beginning all that God made was good. God, moreover, put his human creatures in the Garden of Eden, a paradise that would be a source of every delight. But God's first human creatures rebelled against God and destroyed the harmony and joy God had blessed them with. Somehow we, the children of those first humans, continue to follow their example. So if the world is in a mess, the Bible is telling us, don't blame God. We humans have created that mess ourselves. Maybe God really didn't create the world in six days. After all the Bible is not trying to teach science. It's trying to tell us that God made all things, not how. You may have heard the story that after God made Adam, and Adam was in the Garden of Eden for a while, God asked Adam how things were going. Adam told God he was enjoying everything, but he felt something was missing. God said, how about if I create a companion for you, someone you can put your arms around, someone who will laugh at your jokes, listen to your stories, who will give you no hassle and will cater to your every whim. Adam thought that would be great. God said it will cost you an arm and a leg. Adam thought for a few moments, then asked God, what can I get for a rib?

We know there is a lot of symbolism in the two creation accounts of Genesis. For example, men are not going around with a rib missing. The six days of creation is also symbolic. Scholars tell us this account of creation was written by a priest who was trying to teach his people among other things, that they were to keep holy the Sabbath. Even God rested on the Sabbath. Actually God doesn't get tired and His work of creation is ongoing. Astronomy has discovered that new stars are forming all the time. New human beings are coming into the world all the time. Even Jesus told the Jewish leaders after one of his miracles: "My Father is at work until now, so I am at work" (Jn 5:7). We heard how God is at work, making the world better through his prophet Isaiah. God appeared to Isaiah and purified his lips so that he could proclaim God's message to God's people.

God was at work through Saint Paul in today's second reading proclaiming the Resurrection, and I would like to expand on this passage a little more. Paul's letter is one of the earliest writings in the New Testament, written about the year 56 or 57 A.D., (about 14 years before the first Gospel was written), thus it is a very important testimony to the faith of the early Church. The Corinthians were having a problem accepting the Resurrection of the body. They thought our body came back to life with the same problems, weaknesses, and flaws it had before we died. They thought their spirits would be freer without their bodies. That's not so, Paul said. He tells them: "what I handed on to you, as of first importance, I also received."

Because it is such an important doctrine, Paul dedicated the whole last part of his letter to the Resurrection. Notice the kind of language he uses to indicate this is the Tradition of the Church: "I handed on to you what I also received." That is, this is what the Church always believed about Jesus, that although he was put to death, his body now lives and he is seated at the right hand of God the Father. Paul goes on (beyond today's passage) to explain how we too shall rise to new life with him. It is a new world God is creating, in the risen Lord Jesus.

That is where our Gospel comes in: Peter and the Apostles, who were among the many who visibly saw Jesus after his Resurrection, would now be catching people in God's perfect kingdom, leading them through Baptism and the Eucharist to a new life, eternal life, where there would be no more pain or suffering or even death. When we look around and see the world is in terrible shape, let us not lose hope. God has not abandoned us, rather God continue to send people who will help us establish his eternal kingdom, people like Isaiah, people like Paul, people like Peter and the Apostles, people like you and me.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JANUARY 28, 2018.....	\$5,005
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,808
Parish Giving -	\$90
Utility Collection -	\$1,107
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$5
Year to Date Budget.....	\$155,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$137,849
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,447
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$17,151)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$553)
JANUARY 29, 2017	
Deposit.....	\$3,510
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$18,671)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,520

MASS ATTENDANCE for January 27/28:

4:00 PM Mass - 218
 9:00 AM Mass - 152
 Total Attendance - 370
 Mass Attendance for January 28/29, 2017 - 380

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.)

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend will be the Monthly 50/50 Gold Envelope Collection to support Religious Education.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of: **ROBERT NORRIS** from Mary Lenhardt, Ron & Kathy Bernhard, Pete & Lori LaRosa, Dominic & Janet Gentile; **MARTHA GORDON** from Ron & Carol Fry.

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL - Thank you to everyone who has made a gift in the past to the Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA). CCA is a time for our Parish to come together to extend our love, generosity, and concern to those who need it most. Your support will *Give Hope to All* we serve in our area through education, food, shelter, and medical assistance. For those who have not yet contributed to the Appeal, prayerfully consider showing your support to this great call for action. Taking care of those in need is one of the most important things we can do as Catholics, and it is important that together, we, as a community, reach the needed \$12.5 million goal.



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 22 - #753 - Kim Trego - \$50.00
- January 23 - #712 - unsold
- January 24 - #130 - Gabriel Leskusky - \$50.00
- January 25 - #386 - unsold
- January 26 - #936 - unsold
- January 27 - #018 - unsold
- January 28 - #571 - unsold

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

DC FUNDING

215-586-1575 or 267-251-0341



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.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on April 17 to see *Steel Magnolias*. Leave from front of church at 9:00 AM and return about 5:30 PM. Cost is \$83.00 (other places have advertised this trip for \$117.00). Price is all inclusive (bus transportation, luncheon served, show and all taxes and gratuity). Make sure you save the date! Any questions, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

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.

THANK YOU NOTE RECENTLY RECEIVED:

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so very much for all the great gifts you collected and donated to Birthright during the Christmas Season. We have been blessed by generous people like you, which in turn is a blessing for our moms and babies.

Thank you and my God bless you.

Sincerely,

Birthright of Pottstown

FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT - Monday, February 5 at 7:00 PM, hosted by the Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood. Presenter is John Flanagan, Executive Director of the Labouré Society. Any questions, call 610-667-4778. Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PhillyPriest.

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!

LENTEN RETREATS AND PROGRAMS at Daylesford Abbey, Paoli:

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection on February 14;

The Meaning of Lent on Monday evenings in Lent;

Lectio Divina on Wednesday evenings in Lent;

Easter Triduum Retreat on March 29-April 1.

For more details or to register call 610-647-2530 or email registration@daylesford.org.

MARDI GRAS AND VALENTINE'S POLKA DANCE PARTY at the TK Club, Conshohocken on Sunday, February 11 from Noon to 5:00 PM to support St. Mary Polish American Society. Event will feature live Polka music, delicious Polish food, a 50/50 drawing and other games of chance, a basket raffle, and baked goods for sale. Families are welcome, as there will be games for children with plenty of prizes. Admission is \$15. Admission for children is \$7 each and free for children under the age of 6. For tickets, please email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).

RETROUVAILLE - Is your marriage going down the right road...or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. There are 2 programs coming to the Family Life Center, Malvern - February 16-18 and April 13-15. For more information visit the web site www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

A NIGHT OF HEALING with Fr. Clifton Bishop and Kathleen McCarthy on Tuesday, February 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. Evening includes Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Anointing and Prayer over individuals and Benediction.

ONE DAY RETREAT with Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Father Terry and Brother Shawn on Wednesday, February 28 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. Retreat includes 2 conferences, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration and Mass.

To register for these events call 610-582-3333 or visit olme@olme.org.