

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14 JANUARY 2018

Readings for Sunday, January 14: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42.

Through baptism we have been joined to the Lord who calls us to be his disciples. How well do we listen to his voice? How willing are we to do his will?

Readings for Sunday, January 21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

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>
15 Jan.	MON. 9:00 AM	Angeline Testa	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
17 Jan.	WED. 9:00 AM	Sandy Bohn	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
18 Jan.	THU. 9:00 AM	Pat Nattle	Ron & Carol Fry
19 Jan.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Intentions of all the unemployed	Francis J. Czeiner Family
20 Jan.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
21 Jan.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Helen G. Hickey	Rev. Gregory J. Hickey



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.



Flowers on the Altar are in memory of RONALD NORE requested by his wife, Cindy and daughter, Rita and family.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, January 14 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and juice along with some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.



We welcome GERRY SKOKOWSKI who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish !

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - January 20/21:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tammara, Mara Tammara, John Bracaglia, Terry Donnelly
 Altar Servers - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Phil Bracaglia and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia
 Extraordinary Ministers - Lori Carr, Cristin Bucciaglia, Rita Templin
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeter - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Baptism of Our Lord

The Baptism of John the Baptist was a baptism of repentance. Jesus was God's Son, human like us in every way, except He was without sin. Why would He present Himself for Baptism by John? If you are confused about the baptism of Jesus, you are in good company. The early Church was confused and somewhat uncomfortable about it. St. Matthew reports John saying to Jesus: "I ought to be baptized by you, yet you come to me." St. Luke hardly mentions the baptism itself. St. John in his gospel makes only an indirect reference to it. Yet all the gospels as well as the Acts of the Apostles knew that it happened, but they struggled to understand it.

Jesus did not have sin to repent of, so John's baptism had no relevance in this regard. One approach to understanding this event is to see it as a clarification of who Jesus is. He is God's Son, his beloved, with whom the Father is well pleased. There would be no question about Jesus' identity. Jesus' identity had already been revealed to us in Luke's gospel when the angel told Mary at the Annunciation that she would conceive a child through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He would be holy, and would be called Son of God. Jesus' identity was also revealed when Jesus was lost in the temple for three days and when He was found He said to his parents: "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I must be in my Father's house?" However, His identity was hidden from everyone around them. It was only when Jesus was baptized and God announced to the world, "This is my beloved Son" and the Spirit came down upon Him that the world was to know who He was.

Our baptism gives us our identity too. It tells us: we are God's child, sharing God's life, beloved by the Father, and called to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to our heavenly Father. The advertising media is constantly telling us we don't measure up, we're not worthwhile. We're not as beautiful, as shapely, as energetic, as stylish, as popular, as successful, as wonderful, and as happy as we should be. The ads tell us the product they happen to be promoting will make everything better. It will solve our problems and make us over into someone worthwhile.

God has already made us someone worthwhile. He first made us in His image and likeness. More than that, He has given us His life. He has made us His beloved son or daughter. Archbishop Tutu, the Anglican bishop from South Africa, says he always preaches one message to his people there. His message is simple and he repeats it over and over again. It is that "God loves you." "I tell them that", he says, "because the entire culture tells them that they are unlovable, and I have to give them the message of who they really are, because God loves them."

Through baptism we have been defined forever as God's children and the only one who can deface or destroy that dignity that has been give to us is we, ourselves.

Jesus' baptism not only clarified for the entire world who Jesus was, but it also gave Jesus His mission. He was to be a covenant of the people and a light for the nations. He was especially called to establish justice on the earth. Justice here means "righteousness," fidelity to God, goodness, living up to what we know God wants of us. Who we are should define how we live. If a person is a policeman, he or she is to work to uphold the law. If a person is a doctor, he or she has a concern about people's health. If a person is a teacher, he or she is oriented toward helping people grow in wisdom and knowledge. If we are God's child, we are called to live up to that dignity. And in trying to live up to that dignity, who better could we imitate than the perfect Son of God, with whom the Father was well pleased.

As we celebrate Jesus' baptism, may we at the same time celebrate our own. May we rejoice in God's gift of love and life given to us, and may we live up to the high dignity that the Lord gives us on the day we are baptized. The next time you attend a Baptism, think and reflect on the great gift you have been given.

On Monday, the day after the Epiphany, January 8th, 2018, we celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and concluded the Season of Christmas. We are now in Ordinary Time as we await the Season of Lent on February 14th, 2018, which is Ash Wednesday and also Valentine's Day.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JANUARY 7, 2018.....	\$5,292
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,179
Parish Giving -	\$125
Christmas -	\$420
Solemnity of Mary -	\$568
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$292
Year to Date Budget.....	\$140,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$125,985
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,499
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$14,015)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$501)

JANUARY 8, 2017

Deposit.....	\$4,343
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$15,683)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,668

MASS ATTENDANCE for January 6/7:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 192
- 9:00 AM Mass - 148
- Total Attendance - 340
- Mass Attendance for January 7/8, 2017 - 346

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

AMITY SELF-STORAGE
610-385-1222

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
ANGELINE TESTA from Phyllis & Kevin Villano;
SANDRA J. WENTZEL from Theresa & Tony Vitacco.

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.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Fulfilling the Church’s mission of mercy and the Gospel call to love others as we love God, The Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Collection funds six Catholic agencies that work for the benefit of our brothers and sisters around the world. In providing humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims of atrocities such as human trafficking, the organizations supported by the CRS Collection act from their belief that every individual is an equal heir of Christ’s love and care.

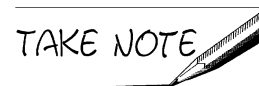
The annual Catholic Relief Services Collection challenges American Catholics to put their faith into action and to see “Jesus in disguise” in the faces of the poor, and to support ongoing efforts to respond to their needs. The funds collected support vital Catholic programs that share in the Catholic mission of promoting the sacredness of human life. A small amount from the collection is retained by the Archdiocese to help cover local efforts to promote the collection.

The collection will be taken up in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the weekend of January 20 and 21, 2018. The American Catholic community, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in particular, have always responded very generously to this annual collection.

I am grateful to you for your compassionate response. May you be blessed for your faithfulness to living the Gospel and recognizing Jesus in those in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia



Dear Men of the Parish:
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 email Fr. Hickey at gheickey@sgsm62.org. Please let me know your name and 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.

2018 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2018 can be made at the parish office during regular business hours. The Mass stipend of \$10.00 must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.



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.**

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.) Statements will be available by January 31, 2018.

GRIEF TO GRACE - HEALING THE WOUNDS OF ABUSE - Our upcoming Philadelphia area program retreat will be held February 18-23. This is a fully integrated spiritual and psychological program for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual, or spiritual abuse. Offered in the privacy of a Christian retreat setting, the 5-day program offers a very unique process for helping survivors of abuse to grieve the past and discover healing and transformation. For more information for yourself or a loved one, contact Jeanne (610-203-2002 or info@griefftograce.org).

MARCH FOR LIFE on Friday, January 19 in Washington, DC. Mass for the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who are attending the March for Life will be celebrated by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. at 10:00 AM in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. Holy Father, Pope Francis, has made available a Plenary Indulgence to those who participate in the events surrounding the March for Life. This Plenary Indulgence may be obtained by participating in the events of the 2018 March for Life and by fulfilling the usual three conditions: sacramental Confession, the reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. For bus transportation to the March for Life, contact St. Aloysius Church (610-326-5877) or St. Columbkil Church (610-367-2371).

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Upcoming events: Tuesday, January 16 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville - Doors open at 7:00 PM, Talk starts at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, January 23 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales. Contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com.

FLAME OF LOVE EVENT on Candlemas Day, Friday, February 2 at St. Charles Seminary. Begins at 6:00 PM; Mass at 8:30 PM. Celebrant and homilist - Fr. James Blount, SOLT. Questions, call Annie Myers (610-332-1940).

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- January 1 - #389 - unsold
- January 2 - #253 - Pete Stroop - \$50.00
- January 3 - #313 - Robert Mackey - \$50.00
- January 4 - #481 - unsold
- January 5 - #750 - unsold
- January 6 - #116 - Jared Valentine - \$50.00
- January 7 - #630 - unsold

Our Profit for the 2017 Lottery was \$12,700.00. Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this major fund raiser for our parish!

HALUSKY SALE

Saturday, January 20

Pick-up after 4:00 PM Mass in Social Hall

PRE-ORDERS ONLY

Payment due at time of pick-up

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

_____ Halusky (quart) - \$8.00

Deadline for orders is Sunday, January 14. Please place orders in collection basket or call Kathy at the parish office (610-326-5127).

Sponsored by the Women's Society.