

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 JULY 2017

Readings for Sunday, July 2: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42.

If we have died with Christ, we believe we shall also live with him. He invites us to take up our cross and follow him, and to respond to those who are in need, as did the woman who extended hospitality to Elisha the prophet. Blessed is she who walked in the countenance of the Lord.

Readings for Sunday, July 9: Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30.

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>
3 July	MON. 9:00 AM	Mary & George Harbacs	Their Children
6 July	THU. 9:00 AM	Police, Firefighters and Public Servants	Francis J. Czeiner Family
7 July	FRI. 9:00 AM	Mary Dolhanczyk	Patty Young
8 July	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
9 July	SUN. 9:00 AM	Walter Lesik	Wife & family



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.

NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT on Monday, July 3. Adoration will resume on Monday, July 10.

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 devotions.

ALTAR SERVERS for July 8/9:

4:00 PM Mass - HOLMES

9:00 AM Mass - MILLER

SAVE THE DATE! Our 10th Annual Parish Golf Outing will be held on Friday, September 22 at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville with an 11:00 AM shotgun start. Mark your calendars - come out for a day of fun! More details in future parish bulletins.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for the Independence Day Holiday.



Due to renovations and re-surfacing of our church parking lot, the lot will be closed from Monday, July 10 to Sunday, July 23. Parking is available in the Lodge parking lot or on the streets around the church.

HANDMADE BABY BLANKETS - The Women's Society is selling hand-made baby blankets. The cost is \$10.00. The blankets make a very nice gift for a new baby or as an additional something when giving a gift card. To purchase the blankets, please see a member of the Women's Society or call the parish office.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

On Thursday of last week (June 29th) we celebrated the feasts of Saints Peter and Paul. It is a very ancient feast going back to around the year 250 A.D. The two are honored because they are the two Apostles about whom we know the most. They were the greatest influence on the Church at its beginning. Tradition has it they died together in Rome during the persecution of the Emperor Nero. Most historians suspect that Nero himself started the fire that burned most of Rome in order to clear out old houses and buildings to make room for his own ambitious building projects. Then he blamed the fire on the Christians in order to take suspicion off himself.

Peter was crucified upside down, again tradition has it that he did not consider himself worthy of dying in the same way his Master had died. Paul was beheaded. Although he was a Jew, he was also legally, by birth, a Roman citizen. Roman law decreed that Roman citizens could not be crucified because it was such a horrific way to die and being exempt from crucifixion was one of the perks of being a Roman citizen.

If you recall in 2010, the Holy Father put the spotlight on Saint Paul because the universal church was celebrating his 2,000th birthday, so in this article I would like to center on St. Paul on this combined feast day. We do not know if Paul ever saw Jesus in the flesh. He was born in Tarsus, a city in Asia Minor, which is now modern day Turkey. He spoke Greek and Aramaic and wrote all of his letters in Greek. He was a Pharisee and 1000th% dedicated to observance of Jewish Law and traditions. Sometime after the death and Resurrection of Jesus, he began persecuting the early followers of Christ.

Paul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first martyr. He viewed those who believed in Jesus as heretics. He was such a zealous devotee to the Jewish Law that he would go looking for believers in Jesus to arrest them and persecute them. It was on such a journey to Damascus that the Risen Christ spoke to Paul. He was enveloped in a bright light and fell to the ground. There is no mention of a horse, although people are used to saying he was thrown off his horse. The idea came from a painting of the event. I rather believe Paul was walking or riding a donkey, which was the usual means of transportation.

Paul heard someone call him, and when he asked who was calling him, Jesus answered: "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." Then Jesus said: "Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." Paul got up but he was a new man. He was ill and blind for a few days until he was healed by one of Jesus' followers and was baptized. In his encounter with Jesus, he discovered that Jesus was not a heretic and condemned criminal, but the glorified Lord who has risen from the dead and lives in His Church. He would learn that his mission would be to the Gentiles and that the good news Jesus proclaimed was to be preached to all the people. This is when Paul became an Apostle for the word Apostle means one who has been sent. He would come to understand how we are saved by Jesus' death and Resurrection, and by our incorporation into this saving event through three things: 1.) faith, 2.) the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist, and 3.) our love for one another.

Paul wrote more than any other New Testament author. One could keep on talking about him because he wrote so much. To put everything succinctly, Paul's life and mission can be summed up in the one sentence Jesus spoke to him on the way to Damascus: "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." We might recall the most famous lines Paul wrote: "Love is kind, love is patient, love is not jealous, it is not pompous, etc." ending with the sentence: "love never fails." This kind of love Paul talks about is a love rooted in Christ. We express that love as we gather here this weekend, giving God our time and worship and praying for one another. May we continue to express that same love for one another throughout this coming week.

Both St. Peter and St. Paul were the hinges of the early Church, and both were tested, and both died a martyr's death. Both were intimately connected by their love to Jesus Christ. Every year in Rome on this feast day of SS. Peter and Paul, Our Holy Father celebrates a Mass and confers a Pallium on all the Archbishops who have been appointed since last year. The Pallium is worn over the neck and shows the connection of unity between the Archbishops and the Vicar of Christ on earth, Pope Francis. The Pallium is made of Lamb's wool which was blessed on the Feast of St. Agnes (Agnus=lamb).

Have a good week and celebrate this birthday of our nation on Tuesday, July 4th!

If you are traveling, be safe.

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JUNE 25, 2017.....	\$3,688
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,613
Parish Giving -	\$75
WEEK DEFICIT.....	(\$1,312)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$260,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$227,617
Average per week Collections.....	\$4,377
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$32,383)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$623)

JUNE 26, 2016

Deposit.....	\$3,262
2015-2016 Deficit to Date.....	(\$34,021)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,638)

MASS ATTENDANCE for June 24/25:

- 7:30 PM Mass - 165
- 9:00 AM Mass - 162
- Total Attendance - 327
- Mass Attendance for June 25/26, 2016 - 328

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME
AND CREMATION CENTER, INC.**
610-323-4440

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

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:

JUNE DRAWING - M/M John Donnelly - \$334.00.

MEN AND YOUNG MEN: Only three weeks remain until our amazing Retreat Weekend at St. Joseph's in the Hills, Malvern on July 21, 22 and 23. Do not pass up this chance to join fellow parishioners in the quiet presence of God. He reaches out to us in many ways and a retreat gives us a special way to respond in thanksgiving for His love. Won't you join us? For more information see or call Tom Vagasky (484-949-4409).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
As last year drew to a close and most people focused on the coming Christmas holiday, Pope Francis addressed all those blessed with an abundance of this world's goods. He said, *"Our world today is marked by great unrest. Inequality between peoples continues to rise, and many communities are impacted...People want to make their voices heard and express their concerns and fears. They want to make their rightful contribution to their local communities and broader society, and to benefit from the resources and development too often reserved for the few."*

Our Holy Father is highlighting the fact that amid plenty, there still sadly exists poverty. Many of our own cities provide vivid examples of the contrast between those "on the inside" of economic growth and those "left out of the mix." The poor are sliding backwards, often feeling as though the hope for a better day is eluding them. It is hard for us to imagine the challenges that so many of the disadvantaged face right from the start. The cycle of poverty is fueled by poor education, inadequate health care, traumatic family situations, lack of good role models, and limited job opportunities that can provide a living wage.

Yet as the Pope reminds us, the poor don't want to stay in such dire situations; they want to be heard and to make their rightful contribution toward society. As Catholics, we are called to help promote opportunities for all people to live in conditions worthy of their inherent dignity. For nearly half a century, the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development** has been a concrete expression of the Church's solidarity with the poor right here in our country. By funding community organizations working amid pockets of poverty, CCHD has proved to be an effective instrument of human development. Composed primarily of low-income people, these community groups engage the poor to actively participate in organized efforts that address the root causes of poverty. Larger projects are funded with national-level grants, while smaller efforts receive more modest funding at the local level.

Each year the U.S. Catholic bishops sponsor a nationwide CCHD collection in support of the Church's efforts to reduce poverty through these grassroots efforts. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the annual collection will take place on the weekend of July 8th and 9th. Your contribution to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development will assist in breaking the cycle of poverty. I urge you to support this collection generously and ask God's blessing upon you for your generous response to this year's appeal.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,
Most Rev. Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.



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

- June 19 - #364 - Chris & Becky Pasik - \$50.00
- June 20 - #937 - unsold
- June 21 - #149 - unsold
- June 22 - #227 - Faith Miller - \$50.00
- June 23 - #167 - unsold
- June 24 - #835 - unsold
- June 25 - #503 - Ron Bernhard - \$100.00

OUR PARISH HAS ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT every Monday from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM in the Chapel. We are in need of parishioners to make a commitment to spend at least a half-hour each Monday with Our Lord. Please prayerfully consider coming for Adoration, then call the parish office to sign up for a specific time.



Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our Pope John Paul II High School students on the End of Year Report. MADISON MCNAMARA received First Honors.

NEEDED: - A friend of Fr. Hickey is making lap top tables using yard sticks for senior citizens. Any donations of yard sticks are greatly appreciated. Please give any donations to Tony Vitacco or drop off at the parish office.



HAVE A SAFE & ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY!

FATIMA DAY, JULY 13 - Fr. Harry McCreedy will lead the July 13 celebration at Our Lady’s Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. This event is from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praying the Rosary, an Act of Consecration of Our Nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Eucharistic Benediction, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To register or for more details about Fatima Day contact Our Lady’s Missionaries of the Eucharist at olme@olme.org, 610-582-3333 or www.olme.org.

CELEBRATE ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA on Saturday, July 15, Native American Day at the National Shrine of St. Katharine Drexel, Bensalem. 10:00 AM - Blessing of the 4 Directions; 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM - Various activities and presentations including Cherokee Nation Community Round Dance - Chief Buffy Red Feather; 1:15 PM - Prayer for Healing. Lunch available. For more information call 215-244-9900, ext. 380 or visit www.KatharineDrexel.org.

BENEDICTA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE & WOMEN OF GRACE - Malvern Retreat House will host the Benedicta Leadership Institute for Women® on July 6 and 7. This institute trains Catholic women to be active leaders and mentors in the home, the workplace, and the marketplace. The institute aims to infuse family life, communities, institutions, organizations and governmental agencies with Catholic moral and social teachings to promote a culture of life. Women of Grace founder Johnnette Benkovic will join Philosophy Professor Siobhan Nash Marshall in directing this leadership retreat. Following the Leadership Retreat, all women are also invited to come to Malvern Retreat House on July 7 to 9 for our annual Women of Grace Retreat led by Retreat Directors Johnnette Benkovic and Fr. Wade Menezes, CPM. This year they will focus on the theme: *Our Lady of Fatima and the Triumph - How the Battle Will Be Won*. For more information visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

FATIMA PRAYER SERVICE at Visitation BVM Church, Norristown on July 13 at 7:00 PM in the Upper Church. Come pray for world peace. This date is the 100th anniversary of the third apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. For more details, call Bob Hehn (484-557-1371).

POLKA FEST at the TK Club, Conshohocken on Sunday, July 9 from Noon to 6:00 PM to support St. Mary Polish American Society. Tickets are \$15; \$7 for children and free for children under the age of 6. Tickets include admission, food not included. For more details email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).