

THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

24 JUNE 2018

Readings for Sunday, June 24: Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts of the Apostles 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80.

Called from birth by the Lord, John matured in the Spirit and heralded the advent of the Messiah.

Readings for Sunday, July 1: Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mark 5:21-43.

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>
25 June	MON. 9:00 AM	Helen Bloodsworth	Jack & Lori Carr
27 June	WED. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
28 June	THU. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
29 June	FRI. 9:00 AM	Philip Andreola	Nicoletta Gambino & family
30 June	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 July	SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	



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

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 celebration of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of JEANETTE & BILL GATTA.

PARISH OFFICE - NEW SUMMER HOURS - June 15 to September 14. Monday thru Thursday - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM; 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. **Fridays - 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM - the office will be closed Friday afternoons.**

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat may pick up their JULY issue at the parish office.

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 - June 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester

Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Bracaglia, Shelly Stockmal, Terry Donnelly, Helen George

Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly

Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio

Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, George Siver, Gary Huster, Debbie Huster

Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller

Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

I always look forward to this time of year. We are now in the season of summer. We have experienced the power of the Resurrection and are filled with Easter joy. Nature has come alive and the weather is superb. Many of us are enjoying time with family and friends as we attend marriages, celebrate First Communions, wedding anniversaries, and celebrate with students as they attain the culmination of their educational goals in grade, high schools, and colleges and universities. This time of year awakens in each of us the joy of the Paschal Mystery.

Many of our students and teachers have completed another academic year and on June 30th we will complete another fiscal year but all of us look forward to the more relaxing days of the summer season. It is during this time of year that we recreate our entire being. Quality time is spent with loved ones and special friends. Many will go to the shore or the mountains, play golf or other sports, and engage in many outdoor activities. It is the time of year when we rest more and enjoy the sun and its warmth.

As we spend time refreshing our bodies, we need to spend time in refreshing our spirit. I invite you to think about your prayer life over the summer months to reconnect with the Lord. In the silence of the summer breeze, in the comfort of the falling rain, in the morning sunrise or the moon hovering over the trees, the silence of prayer will bring you into the mind and heart of Jesus.

May was a special month for me. I celebrated the 39th anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood as did many of our local priests. It was also the month that so many of the ordinations occurred within our own Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Many seeds of vocations have been sown here in the Stowe and Pottstown area. Many of you are praying for vocations and I thank you.

May was the month of Our Lady. There is a saying that behind every man there is a good woman. As a priest, I am happy that Mary walks beside me and guides me as she does to all her children. Her presence is very much a part of our parish community. She is loved by us and her rosary is said with such deep reverence on a daily basis. Mary and Joseph watch over each of us every day. No person who has ever lived is closer to Jesus than Mary is and she constantly intercedes for each of us.

In the words of our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, he stated: After Jesus had been laid in the tomb, Mary "alone remains to keep alive the flame of faith, preparing to receive the joyful and astonishing announcement of the Resurrection" (Address at the General Audience, 3 April 1996; *L'Osservatore Romano* English Edition, 10 April 1996, p.7). The expectation felt on Holy Saturday is one of the loftiest moments of faith for the Mother of the Lord; in the darkness that envelops the world, she entrusts herself fully to the God of life, and thinking back to the words of her Son, she hopes in the fulfillment of the divine promises.

Thank you for joining with me as we honored Our Blessed Lady in her special month. We had a special Mass and the Crowning of our Blessed Lady. Stay close to her and she will bring you closer to her Divine Son. In this Post-Easter season, the Christian community addresses the Mother of the Lord and invites her to rejoice. We recall Mary's joy at Jesus' Resurrection, prolonging in time the 'rejoice' that the Angel addressed to her at the Annunciation, so that she might become a cause of great joy for each of us.

As you receive *this bulletin* we will only have a few days left in the month of June. June is the month when we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This devotion represents divine love for humanity. It also stresses the central Christian concept of loving and adoring Jesus. Many of you have told me that your homes have been enthroned with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The practice of this enthronement is based upon Pope Pius XII's declaration that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the foundation on which to build the kingdom of God in the hearts of individuals, families and friends.

It just seems like yesterday when we rang in the year of 2018 and now in a few days, we will start the 2nd half of 2018. Time really does fly by. Let us make the best of the 2nd half of the year by being more prayerful, more generous, and more loving to all those we meet on a daily basis.

Next Sunday is July 1, 2018. I will celebrate my 5th anniversary here at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother as your Pastor. It has been a marvelous five years and we have accomplished much together. Every day in my personal prayer I remember each of you and your intentions. As I celebrate Mass each morning, no matter what the intention is for, your intentions are right there on my paten.

Someone recently asked me if I had a favorite assignment as a Priest. I responded that I have enjoyed all of my

assignments. Some were more challenging than others but they were all unique in their own way. I have been blessed with many opportunities in education, retreat ministry and pastoral work but I must say the Lord has saved the best for last here in Stowe as I begin my 6th year as your Pastor at Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother.

All of us need to connect mind, heart and spirit. Jesus is extending an invitation to "Come and see." He is waiting for you to say, "Yes."

Have a great week! The 4th of July is just around the corner in 10 days!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JUNE 17, 2018.....	\$3,173
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,083
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,827)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$255,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$227,579
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,462
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$27,421)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$538)

June 18, 2017

Deposit.....	\$3,439
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$31,071)
Difference from previous year.....	\$3,650

MASS ATTENDANCE for June 16/17:

4:00 PM Mass - 171
 9:00 AM Mass - 143
 Total Attendance - 314
 Mass Attendance for June 17/18, 2017 - 342

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**ON THE THIRD DAY
 THE MASTER'S MERCANTILE
 610-705-0130**

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



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

- June 11 - #987 - unsold
- June 12 - #579 - Helen Chaykowsky - \$50.00
- June 13 - #834 - unsold
- June 14 - #451 - unsold
- June 15 - #801 - unsold
- June 16 - #819 - Ann Worrall - \$100.00
- June 17 - #776 - unsold

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION received in memory of: GRACE PAVLIK from Barbara & Jerry Lubinsky.

OFFERTORY GIFTS - All parishioners are encouraged to be Offertory Gift Bearers for Masses on Saturdays, Sundays and Holydays. Please call the parish office to volunteer.

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH SCHOOL: Parents looking to enroll their child(ren) in a high-quality Pre-K program or Grades K through 8 for the 2018-2019 school year, we invite you to see the value of a Catholic education by touring St. Aloysius Parish School. Contact Cathy Remick (610-326-6167, ext. 427) to schedule a tour today.