

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## 6 MAY 2018

**Readings for Sunday, May 6:** Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17.

Let us love one another as Christ has loved us by offering himself for our sins. His love is to be revealed to all the world, as Peter himself taught.

**Readings for Sunday, May 13:** Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 John 4:11-16; John 17:11b-19.

**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>
7 May	MON. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
9 May	WED. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Pottstown Police Dept.	Tony Vitacco
10 May	THU. 9:00 AM	Josephine & Carl Sciscio	Daughter, Anna
10 May	THU. 7:00 PM	Cay Francis	Jane Perkins
11 May	FRI. 9:00 AM	Florence Fontana	Dennis & Paula Bolonski
12 May	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
13 May	SUN. 9:00 AM	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe



**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.

#### PREP NEWS

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** - Our second graders have begun preparing to receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist on May 13. Please pray for our communicants - James, Morgan, McKenna and Lorelei and plan on attending Mass at 9:00 AM to celebrate with them, as we are all a part of the church family.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** We are celebrating our substitute catechist, **Gabriella Tammaro**, as she graduates from college on Saturday, May 12.

**Final PREP class for this year will be Sunday, May 20** - Feast of Pentecost. **THANK YOU** to our wonderful catechists and aides, students and parents who helped make this year in our new building such a wonderful experience. Registration for 2018-2019 will begin in August.

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - May 12/13:

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Tony Vitacco, John Nester, Helen George, Terry Donnelly  
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly  
 Greeters - Maria DiMarco and Nikki Gambino

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jim Mich  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Chris Gerasimowicz, Rita Templin, Lori Carr  
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz  
 Greeters - Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

In Robert Bolt's play, *A Man for All Seasons*, he portrays Thomas More as a man of principle, envied by such rivals as Thomas Cromwell and loved by the common people and his family. I would like to suggest that St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish could be a more vibrant parish for all seasons where all those who travel from the many neighborhoods which comprise our parish, drive into a place that God has reserved to give each of us a time away from the world to deepen the spirituality principles of our very selves to connect us to the Lord and renew us in mind, body, and spirit. There are several things which make us unique. There is no one else like you. We have our own personalities. Each of us has our unique fingerprints. Each of us has our unique DNA and I would like to suggest that we have our own spiritual DNA. Our DNA cannot be changed but our spiritual DNA is not cut in stone. As we deepen our relationship with the Lord, our spiritual DNA can be enhanced.

There is an old expression that the "eye is the mirror of the soul." At St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Community, one of the marvels that the eye sees is the majestic property, the place of worship, the statues, the beauty of the grounds, and the statuesque trees that mirror each of the seasons.

The trees have seen each of us in all of the seasons. In the winter, the trees are barren, at times ugly and twisted. They are in a sleeping mode awaiting new life. They are no longer dressed but open to being vulnerable. In the spring, they come back to life. New buds appear and then almost overnight are dressed again in their beautiful new colors of green. Their buds are full of promise. In the summer, the foliage and trees are laden with blossoms that smell sweet and they once again are beautiful and give us shade and security. In the autumn, the trees are like a canvas of beautiful and rich colors of the rainbow. The Lord is the artist that puts rich and vibrant colors on every tree. One only has to drive and look at the beautiful colors of autumn. It is like a meditation to observe the beauty of transformation.

We are now experiencing the beauty of the Easter Season. We begin again the possibility of conversion and transformation in our personal lives and in our parish community. The trees that surround our homes and parishes are there throughout the entire year. Just as we cannot judge a tree in one season, we cannot judge a person by only one season. The essence of who you are in the spiritual life is composed of all four seasons and the Lord is there for each of our four cycles. He brings us from the various modes of the desert to a full oasis in our spiritual lives.

Don't let the pain or dryness of one season destroy the joy of all the rest. Don't judge life by one difficult season. Through the parish experience, the Lord asks us to persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come. Always "Aspire to inspire." Happiness keeps you mellow. Trials keep you growing. Sorrows keep you in balance. Failures keep you humble. Successes keep you growing. God keeps you going so the message is always to have trust in Him.

The cycle of the trees tells us much about ourselves and where we are in our individual season. We are now in the season of spring and we are in the Liturgical Season of Easter as we sing alleluia! We celebrate Jesus Christ who has penetrated into our time and space and has become one like us. It is a time of unconditional love. Jesus comes to live among us as a member in a family.

May each of you be blessed with health, happiness, and the peace of Christ. I deeply appreciate your faithfulness and your support as we make this journey together.

Have a good week!

Fr. Gregory J. Hickey

**We are collecting cards for Sister Carolyn as she will celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee on June 30.** You can place cards for her in the collection baskets or drop them off at the parish office. **THANK YOU!**

**SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING** on Tuesday, May 8 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 29, 2018.....	\$3,285
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,195
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$1,715)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$220,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$197,493
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,488
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$22,507)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$512)
<i>APRIL 30, 2017</i>	
Deposit. ....	\$3,791
2016-2017 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$24,400)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,893

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for April 28/29:**

7:30 PM Mass - 189  
 9:00 AM Mass - 176  
 Total Attendance - 365  
 Mass Attendance for April 29/30, 2017 - 375



**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**

April 23 - #347 - Patricia Norwood - \$50.00  
 April 24 - #360 - unsold  
 April 25 - #167 - unsold  
 April 26 - #151 - Mark Flynn - \$50.00  
 April 27 - #422 - Arlene Dominicus - \$50.00  
 April 28 - #781 - unsold  
 April 29 - #347 - Patricia Norwood - \$100.00

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

### **“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**

#### **CATAGNUS FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION CENTER**

Pottstown: 610-323-4440  
 Boyertown: 610-367-4440

**BASKET RAFFLE** - Chances for a “Spring Time Fun” Basket are on sale until May 13 after the weekend Masses and at the parish office. Chances are \$5.00 each. Basket includes a \$120 Gift Certificate for the Colebrookdale Railroad, \$100 in cash, \$50 in instant Lottery tickets and a spring/summer floral arrangement. Drawing will be held on Monday, May 14.

**MANNA FOOD DRIVE - MAY 19 AND 20.** Manna Bags will be distributed at all Masses next weekend, May 12 and 13. Kindly return your filled Manna bags on May 19 and 20. Canned food items in greatest need are: beef stew, tuna fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta, soups, and pork & beans. Food collected will be delivered to the Outreach Center in Pottstown for those in need in our area. Thank you for reaching out to people in emergency situations.

#### Manna Prayer

Jesus, many times throughout Your life You fed hungry people and You called others to help. You called the young child with the loaves and fishes to share his gifts. You call each one of us today. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our ears to hear your call to share. Open our hearts to welcome all people to the table of love. Amen.

**ASCENSION OF THE LORD, THURSDAY, MAY 10 IS A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION.** Masses will be on Thursday, May 10 at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM in the church. No vigil Mass on May 9.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION** received in memory of: LINDA L. WHITE from Tony & Theresa 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.

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL IN-PEW WEEKEND - MAY**

**12 AND 13.** As we celebrate In-Pew Weekend for the 2018 Catholic Charities Appeal, consider how you can help those most in need in the Greater Philadelphia Area. The Catholic Charities Appeal is now in its 60<sup>th</sup> year, and the overall goal of \$12.5 million is vital to the efforts of the human service programs in the five-county Philadelphia area. Contributing to our parish's individual goal allows you to be an active part of the success of this year's Appeal. Thank you to those who have given and we ask those who have not yet given to reflect on those individuals who are the most hungry, ill, and vulnerable among us, and prayerfully consider how you can help by supporting the 2018 Catholic Charities Appeal. Pledge cards will be in the pews next weekend, May 12 and 13.

**ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH SCHOOL** has opened registration for the 2018-2019 school year. The school offers an education for students beginning at 3 years old in our PreK3 program thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. You are invited to schedule a guided tour by calling the main office at 610-326-6167. School website: [www.saintaloyssiusschool.com](http://www.saintaloyssiusschool.com).

**BEEF & BEER FUND RAISER** to support West End Fire Company Firefighters on Saturday, May 19 at West End Fire Company's Nicholas J. Lenhardt Hall from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Must be 21 years old or older to attend. \$25.00 admission includes: Food, Beer, Soda, Ice Tea, Water, Door Prizes. 50/50 and Basket Raffle tickets will be sold.

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ST. COLUMBKILL GOLF OUTING** on June 9 at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville. Price includes an event-opening lunch followed by a 1:00 PM shotgun start, 4-man scramble format. Beer and refreshments will be served throughout the day. A delicious steak dinner with refreshments. Great skills and raffle prizes. Tickets are \$100 or, if not playing golf, lunch and dinner for just \$35. For more information contact Mike Pishock at [mikep@stcolumbkill.org](mailto:mikep@stcolumbkill.org) or [www.stcolumbkill.org](http://www.stcolumbkill.org).

**ARCHDIOCESAN MAY PROCESSION** on Sunday, May 6 at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. Come honor the Mother of Jesus and our Mother!

**CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA** presents Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale on May 23 at 7:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. The Emmy-winning and Grammy-nominated ensemble closes the season with a celebration of spirituality and Americana. Tickets at [www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org](http://www.CathedralPhilaConcerts.org).

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES NIGHT WITH THE PHILLIES -**

Monday, June 25 at Citizens Bank Park at 7:05 PM. Philadelphia Phillies vs. New York Yankees. Seating is available in the following areas: Outfield (101-107) - \$43/ticket; Pavilion (201-205) - \$34/ticket; Pavilion Deck (301-305) - \$23/ticket. To purchase tickets visit [www.phillies.com/catholiccharitiesnight](http://www.phillies.com/catholiccharitiesnight). A portion of all tickets sold will directly support the Catholic Charities Appeal.

**24 HOUR YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** for ages 18 to 35 years directed by Fr. Matt Guckin on May 11 and 12 at Malvern Retreat House. Megan Mastroianni, Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of Young Evangelization, will be the featured speaker. Prayer and Praise under the Stars, Holy Hour, Reconciliation, outside firepit and uplifting music. *Our Continual Conversion to Christ* is the theme. Register at 610-644-0400 or online at [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).

**24 HOUR RETREAT FOR MEN** on June 8 and 9 at Malvern Retreat House. Fr. Larry Richards, international author, evangelist, TV and radio host will direct the retreat entitled *Be A Man*. Men of all ages are invited to attend this dynamic, life-changing retreat. Register at 610-644-0400 or online at [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).

**METANOIA** is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County that supports Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. May Activities: Tuesday, May 8 - Bible Study at St. Rose of Lima, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, May 15 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville - Doors open at 7:00 PM, Talk starts at 7:30 PM; Saturday, May 19 - Hike at Valley Forge Park (start at Wayne's Woods Picnic Area) at 3:00 PM; Tuesday, May 22 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM. For more information contact [metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com](mailto:metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com) or visit the Facebook Page, [www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults](http://www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults). Website: [www.metanoiayoungadults.org](http://www.metanoiayoungadults.org).

**FREE ONE HOUR WEBINAR** - "Parents, Kids and Porn: The Conversation." Dates May 15 at Noon EDT and May 22 at 8:00 PM EDT. "The Conversation" will address how to initiate age-appropriate discussion free of fear and shame, how to approach technology, social media and pornography, and ultimately how to create an atmosphere of openness and honesty in your home where you are the go-to person for your kids. Presenters: Jasper Hall, Jr. and Dan Martin. Register at [bit.ly/ParentsKidsandPorn](http://bit.ly/ParentsKidsandPorn).