

# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 12 NOVEMBER 2017

**Readings for Sunday, November 12:** Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

We seek many things in this life, but we should seek first the Lord and his wisdom. By so living, we will keep vigil for the Lord as we await his return in glory.

**Readings for Sunday, November 19:** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30.

**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>
13 Nov. MON. 9:00 AM	Michael J. Rudy	Daughter, Mary
15 Nov. WED. 9:00 AM	Rosemary Rice	Rice & O'Connell Families
16 Nov. THU. 9:00 AM	Joseph & Helen G. Hickey	Rev. Gregory J. Hickey
17 Nov. FRI. 9:00 AM	All the Faithful Departed	
18 Nov. SAT. 4:00 PM	John Menicucci	Droege Family
19 Nov. SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



**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.



**SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** on Sunday, November 12 in the social hall after Mass. Come enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

**SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP** on Tuesday, November 14 to American Music Theater - leave from front of church at 11:30 AM - return about 6:00 PM. Lunch at Cracker Barrel. Any questions, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Sunday, December 3 at 12:30 PM at Shorty's Sunflower Café, N. Charlotte St., Pottstown. Member price of \$21 includes soup, salad, entree, dessert and assorted beverages. Non-member price is \$26. Choose an entree of Crab and Tilapia Cake, Moroccan Style Chicken Breast, Winter Lasagna or George's Beef Stew. Please reply by November 19 with payment and entree choice to Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030) or the parish office.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - November 18/19:

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Sherry Durante, Frank Durante, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal  
 Altar Servers - Tony Vitacco  
 Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Marie Hildebrand

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Lori Carr  
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller  
 Greeter - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

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

### Reflection on Grief

As we enter the month of the Holy Souls, I can't help but remember our parishioners who have died this past year, and our parishioners who have lost loved ones. I also am cognizant of our many tragedies that our fellow citizens have endured with severe weather conditions that resulted in loss of lives and changed the landscapes of many lives. There has been too many shootings and national tragedies that have left so many people still asking why. So many of us are still making the journey of the grieving process.

Someone on Reddit wrote the following heartfelt plea online: "My friend just died. I don't know what to do." Many people responded. Then there was an incredible response from an older gentleman that stood out from the rest that might just change the way we approach life and death.

Alright, here goes. I'm old. What that means is that I've survived (so far) and a lot of people I've known and loved did not. I've lost friends, best friends, acquaintances, co-workers, grandparents, Mom, Dad, relatives, teachers, mentors, students, neighbors, and a host of other folks. I have no children, and I can't imagine the pain it must be to lose a child. But here's my two cents.

I wish I could say you get used to people dying. I never did. I don't want to. It tears a hole through me whenever somebody I love dies, no matter the circumstances. But I don't want it to "not matter." I don't want it to be something that just passes. My scars are a testament to the love and the relationship that I had for and with that person. And if the scar is deep, so was the love. So be it. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are a testament that I can love deeply and live deeply and be cut, or even gouged, and that I can heal and continue to live and continue to love. And the scar tissue is stronger than the original flesh ever was. Scars are a testament to life. Scars are only ugly to people who can't see.

As for grief, you'll find it comes in waves. When the ship is first wrecked, you're drowning, with wreckage all around you. Everything floating around you reminds you of the beauty and the magnificence of the ship that was, and is no more. And all you can do is float. You'll find some piece of the wreckage and you hang on for a while. Maybe it's some physical thing. Maybe it's a happy memory or a photograph. Maybe it's a person who is also floating. For a while, all you can do is float. Stay alive.

In the beginning, the waves are 100 feet tall and crash over you without mercy. They come 10 seconds apart and don't even give you time to catch your breath. All you can do is hang on and float. After a while, maybe weeks, even months, you'll find the waves are still 100 feet tall but they come further apart. When they come, they still crash all over you and wipe you out. But in between, you can breathe, you can function. You never know what's going to trigger the grief. It might be a song, a picture, a street intersection, the smell of a cup of coffee. It can just be about anything...and the wave comes crashing. But in between waves, there is life.

Somewhere down the line, and it's different for everybody, you find that the waves are only 80 feet tall. Or 50 feet tall. And while they still come, they come further apart. You can see them coming. An anniversary, a birthday, or Christmas, or landing at the airport. You can see it coming, for the most part, and prepare yourself. And when it washes over you, you know that somehow you will, again, come out the other side. Soaking wet, sputtering, still hanging on to some tiny piece of the wreckage, but you'll come out.

Take it from an elderly gentleman. The waves never stop coming, and somehow you don't really want them to. But you learn that you'll survive them. And other waves will come. And you'll survive them too. If you're lucky, you'll have lots of scars from lots of loves and lots of shipwrecks.

Grieving is not a set amount of time. It is a process that can last a lifetime.

Eternal rest grant unto each of them! Always remember to pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

**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.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH**  
**MEMORIAL FUND DONATION** received in memory of:  
MARCELLA VITACCO from Chris, Gene & Domenic  
Gerasimowicz.

*Parish Support*

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2017.....	\$5,378
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,829
Parish Giving -	\$90
All Saints Collection -	\$677
All Souls Collection -	\$782
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$378
Year to Date Budget.....	\$95,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$75,961
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,998
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$19,039)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,002)
 <i>NOVEMBER 6, 2016</i>	
Deposit. ....	\$5,504
2016-2017 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$21,357)
Difference from previous year.....	\$2,318

**MASS ATTENDANCE for November 4/5:**

4:00 PM Mass - 206  
 9:00 AM Mass - 173  
 Total Attendance - 379  
 Mass Attendance for November 5/6, 2016 - 343

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL 2017-2018**

Information about the appeal has been mailed to your homes. Next weekend, our parish will welcome Philip Maas. He is a seminarian and he will share with us his personal experience at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. For those of you who have contributed in the past we ask you to consider doing so again this year. For those of you who may have never contributed, we invite you to make the effort to do so this year. For us to reach our goal and support those in formation at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, we need everyone to participate.

**"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**GUTTER DOCTOR**  
 610-776-2000

**"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**

October 30 - #691 - unsold  
 October 31 - #978 - unsold  
 October figures: 371 tickets sold - \$1,855.00. Payout for winners - \$700.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for October - \$1,055.00.  
 November 1 - #893 - Terry Donnelly - \$50.00  
 November 2 - #537 - unsold  
 November 3 - #595 - unsold  
 November 4 - #024 - Rose Trajick - \$50.00  
 November 5 - #493 - unsold

**WINTER COAT AND OUTERWEAR COLLECTION** - The Women's Society is sponsoring the collection of winter coats, hats, scarves and gloves. The outerwear for men, women and children will benefit the Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center. All items must be clean and in good condition. Drop off items before and after Masses in the social hall. Last day of collection is November 19.



**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE** next weekend, November 18 and 19. Please bring your donations of non-perishable food items (canned soup, canned pasta, canned beef stew, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, peanut butter, jelly, etc.) to the church vestibule. Food collected will be delivered to the Pottstown Outreach Center for those in need in our area.

**CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE:** We are selling chances on a Christmas Basket beginning this weekend until Sunday, December 3. Chances are \$5.00 each. Basket contains a Christmas arrangement with \$50 cash, \$50 Gift card to Cutillo's Restaurant, \$50 Gift Card to Giant Food Stores, \$45 in Instant Christmas Lottery tickets, Bottle of wine, Hallmark ornament and Christmas hand towels. Drawing will be held on Monday, December 4.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** on Sunday, November 12 at the West End Fire Co., Stowe from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon. "All you can eat" breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk and coffee. Sponsored by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club. Cost: Adults - \$7.00; Seniors - \$6.00; Children - \$5.00; Children 4-12 eat free.

**BUS TRIP TO SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL** on Saturday, December 2. Sponsored by St. Philip Neri Catholic Family Life Center. Depart from the Center by bus at 8:45 AM and leave the Shrine at 12:45 PM, stopping for lunch on the way back. Arrive back around 4:30 PM. Please call 215-679-2237 or visit [www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com](http://www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com) for more details. Registration deadline is November 25.

**THE BALL BROTHERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT** on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown. Held in conjunction with the Pottstown Hometown Holiday Celebration. Reserved Seating - \$22.50 (fees included); General Seating - \$17.00 (fee included). Limited to 431 seats. Tickets on sale at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY LECTURE SERIES:** Philosophy Lecture - "Evolution and Creation" on November 13 at 7:00 PM at St. Charles Seminary St. John Vianney Auditorium. Presenter: Nicanor Austriaco, O.P., microbiologist, theologian and priest. For more information visit [www.scs.edu/Lectures](http://www.scs.edu/Lectures) or call 610-785-6287 to register. RSVP's not mandatory, but help estimate the number of participants. Event is free.

**OPEN HOUSE AND CHRISTMAS CONCERT** at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on Sunday, December 10. Tours begin at 1:00PM and Christmas Concert takes place in the St. Martin of Tours Chapel at 4:00 PM. The event is free and open to the public.

**WEBINAR** on Parents, Kids and Pornography - The Attack on a Generation on November 16 at 8:00 PM EST. This webinar will explore the use of pornography by youth within the faith community, the impact of its destructive messages on both attitudes and behavior and practical steps that parents and pastors can take in helping young people navigate this minefield of lies and deception. The webinar will last an hour and is free. Register at [bit.ly/pornography-impact-on-youth](http://bit.ly/pornography-impact-on-youth).

**ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL** Class of 1967 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on Saturday, November 25 at Sandy Run Country Club, Oreland. For details contact: Jim Fitzsimmons (267-716-9716 or [jfitzsimmons0124@gmail.com](mailto:jfitzsimmons0124@gmail.com)).

**CONCERTS AT THE CATHEDRAL:** November 19 at 3:00 PM - Westminster Williamson Voices. James Jordan and the Grammy-nominated ensemble return with a diverse and inspiring program showcasing their rich palette of choral colors. Held at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.

**EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) PROGRAM** - As part of the Pennsylvania 2017-18 state budget, lawmakers approved a \$10 million increase for the expansion of the EITC program. However, Gov. Wolf has yet to sign the bill into law. He has threatened to veto the legislation that would provide for the increase. Send a letter to Gov. Wolf urging him to sign the education funding bill into law today! Link to send your message: <http://www.pacatholic.org/resources/voter-voice/?vsrc=%2fCampaigns%2f54365%2fRespond>.

**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. Upcoming events: Tuesday, November 14 - Theology on Tap at Appalachian Brewing Co., Collegeville. Doors open at 7:00 PM, talk starts at 7:30 PM. Speaker - Stump the Priest Panel. Tuesday, November 21 - Bible Study at Corpus Christi Parish, Lansdale at 7:30 PM. Tuesday, November 28 - 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).

**ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA WOMEN'S RETREAT** at Malvern Retreat House on November 17-19. Director: Fr. Tom Sullivan, a former close associate of St. Teresa of Calcutta. The theme for the weekend will focus on the mission of St. Teresa of Calcutta and the message of Our Lady of Fatima. A first class relic of St. Teresa of Calcutta along with the presence of some of St. Teresa's Sisters of Charity will be incorporated into this retreat. For more details or to register for this retreat call 610-644-0400 or visit [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com).

**ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** at the TK Club, Conshohocken on Sunday, November 19 from Noon to 5:00 PM. For more details email [stmaryconshy@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryconshy@gmail.com) or call Dorothy (610-630-0861).

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** at Visitation BVM Church, Trooper on Friday, November 17 (6:30-10:00 PM) and Saturday, November 18 (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM). For more details go to [www.facebook.com/visibazaar](http://www.facebook.com/visibazaar).