

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

26 NOVEMBER 2017

Readings for Sunday, November 26: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46.

The Lord is our shepherd. At the end, at his coming, he will hand over the kingdom to his Father. He will “judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats,” between those who have lived lives for others, and those who have lived for themselves.

Readings for Sunday, December 3: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b-64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

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>
27 Nov.	MON. 9:00 AM	Timothy Patrick Reilly	Mom & Dad
29 Nov.	WED. 9:00 AM	All the Faithful Departed	
30 Nov.	THU. 9:00 AM	Marie Dellaquila	Husband & family
1 Dec.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Stephen Ondik	Daughter, Monica
2 Dec.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
3 Dec.	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.

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.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Monday, November 27 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING on Thursday, November 30 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

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.

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - December 2/3:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - John Nester

Extraordinary Ministers - Cindy Nore, Shelly Stockmal, Tony Vitacco, Sherry Durante, Frank Durante, John Bracaglia

Altar Servers - Michael Holmes

Greeters - Phil Bracaglia and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio

Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, Lori Carr, Debbie Huster, Gary Huster

Altar Server - Tommy Miller

Greeter - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

“Thanksgiving”

On Sunday morning, most of us go to something called “Mass” – but the real word for it is “Eucharist.” That word means “thanks” in Greek and is still used today in modern Greece. I still remember when friends of mine went to Greece and stopped at a “*taverna*” or sidewalk café in Athens for some coffee. They told me it was a warm, sunny day and Bob and Joan enjoyed watching the people walk by. When they were ready to leave, Bob asked the waiter for his check. When he brought it, Bob paid for their coffee and then added a small tip. The waiter said “*efkaristo*.” He immediately recognized the word as a variation of “Eucharist.”

“Thank you” – these words express one of the most important sentiments that we owe to one another. Gratitude is a virtue that is practiced too rarely. We tend to take so many things for granted: Our parents, the country in which we live, the planet earth, the stars in the sky, the flowers in the field, sunset and sunrise. If we truly realized how blessed we are, our hearts would be filled with such gratitude that we would be saying “thank you” every time we breathe. All it takes is a little foreign travel to realize how much we have been blessed, and these blessings have come to us freely. So, it is fitting that we take some special time occasionally to focus on some of the things for which we should be especially thankful.

In many of his letters, St. Paul thanks God for the graces we have all received. Another word for “graces” is the expression of love which God has bestowed on us, without our merit or any real effort on our part. The first among these is the gift of our faith. We believe in Jesus. We believe in life everlasting. Because of our faith, we see the whole world and everything in it from a different perspective than those who do not believe. They see nothing but what they can touch, taste, see and feel. For them, the world is limited to material things. But through the eyes of faith, we see beyond the world of our senses to the wonderful world of the spirit and the great grace of our redemption in Jesus Christ. The real beauty of the world lies beyond what we can see with our senses.

Thanksgiving is a special day when we say thanks for all the good things which have come to us throughout our lives. Let us be thankful for being born in a time and place where so much is given to us, but most of all let us give thanks for the great love which is ours in Jesus Christ. The best way to give thanks is by sharing that love with one another.

Some of the things that I am grateful for are: my family, my health, having electricity, heat, a house to live in, and the parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish, my staff, and the generosity of so many people. My heart goes out to many people here in the United States that have been ravished by floods and tornados and have suffered both personal and financial loss. I pray for people throughout the world that are suffering because of war and the loss of family members. I particularly thank God for our personal freedoms here in the United States and pray for those throughout the world who do not enjoy freedoms – even basic ones.

The next time we join with Jesus in that great sacrifice, as we receive Communion and share in His Eucharist, let us say “thank you” to God for all the many blessings which are ours on a daily basis. I hope each of you had a wonderful day last Thursday as you celebrated Thanksgiving. I hope you remembered all those things that you are grateful for and remembered to say Grace. We, as a family, started a tradition on Thanksgiving going around the table and saying one thing we were grateful for during the past year. It’s a wonderful tradition and the children like it because they feel involved and look forward to doing it not just on Thanksgiving, but on special days that you have family dinners. We had a special Mass here at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish on Thanksgiving morning, November 23rd, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the Church to thank God for His many blessings.

Even though Thanksgiving is not a holyday, so many people attended Mass that morning to thank God for the many blessings they have received. Since Eucharist means Thanksgiving, it is a wonderful tradition to start the morning with the family and then end with the meal of Thanksgiving and start with Grace before Meals.

Happy Post-Thanksgiving to each of you and your families!

Fr. Hickey

THE WOODEN YARDSTICKS AND RULERS we are collecting for Fr. Hickey’s friend are for special projects for special people. Years ago, banks and retail businesses gave them to customers as promotions. Now they give out pens and refrigerator magnets, so yardsticks have become scarce. Please give your donations to Tony Vitacco or drop them off at the parish office. Many thanks for your generosity!

Parish Support

Due to an early printing schedule, figures from the November 19 collection will be printed in the December 3 bulletin.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND:

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the special Year of Consecrated Life proclaimed by Pope Francis, the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter to the Church highlighted the importance of consecrated religious life for the mission of the Gospel. Pope Francis, reiterating the teaching of Saint John Paul II, reminded us that "consecrated life is a gift to the Church, it is born of the Church...(and) deeply a part of her."

Our many consecrated Religious, men and women, in the Archdiocese have lived out this precious ecclesial gift in their ministries of education, caring for the sick and marginal, and in various apostolic endeavors. These consecrated persons have energized and brought vitality to the Church's efforts for evangelization. Both in active ministry and in contemplative life, we recognize the countless fruits of their dedication.

With sincere gratitude to our religious congregations and recognizing the pressing difficulties they confront with declining numbers and with costly obligations for the care of their aging members, each year our Archdiocese participates in the national Retirement Fund for Religious Collection. This appeal enables us to demonstrate genuine appreciation for their service and their increasing needs.

As Archbishop, I ask that you remember all our consecrated men and women in your prayers and in generous support of this national collection scheduled for December 2-3. I am confident that your concern will be greatly rewarded. May the Lord's peace be with us all.

Gratefully in Jesus Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

Archbishop of Philadelphia

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

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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.**

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 beginning **Monday, November 27 (no requests will be accepted before that date)**. The Mass stipend of \$10.00 must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE: We are selling chances on a Christmas Basket 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, 2 Bottles of wine, Hallmark ornament and Christmas hand towels. Drawing will be held on Monday, December 4.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS will be available at the parish office beginning Monday, November 27. 5 Wafers per packet. A donation of \$3.00 per packet or \$5.00 for two packets is requested. Available on a first come, first serve basis.



OUR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

will be in the vestibule of Church beginning next weekend, December 2 and 3 until Sunday, January 7. We are collecting items for Birthright of Pottstown. Items most needed are: 3 month girls outfits, diapers up to size 3, baby wipes, socks up to size 18 month, receiving blankets, baby wash cloths, bibs, bottles, onesies size newborn and 0-3 month, maternity tops size L and XL and Leggings size XL for expectant mothers. Help us decorate our Giving Tree by placing an ornament on the tree for each gift you give. Ornaments are in a box next to the Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

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