

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5 NOVEMBER 2017

Readings for Sunday, November 5: Malachi 1:14b–2:2b, 8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13; Matthew 23:1-12.

The prophet denounces those priests who in their pride have turned away from the Law, causing others to go astray. Jesus, too, is critical of those religious leaders who fail to practice what they preach. All, rather, are called to greatness through humility and service, by sharing their lives with others.

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

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> |
|-------------|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| 6 Nov. | MON. 9:00 AM | Special Intention | |
| 8 Nov. | WED. 9:00 AM | Nicholas Lenhardt | Ron & Kathy Bernhard |
| 9 Nov. | THU. 9:00 AM | All the Faithful Departed | |
| 10 Nov. | FRI. 9:00 AM | All our Military & Veterans | Francis J. Czeiner Family |
| 11 Nov. | SAT. 4:00 PM | Fortunato Tufani | Daughter & family |
| 12 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 MEETING on Tuesday, November 7 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

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 11/12:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano
 Extraordinary Ministers - Sherry Durante, Frank Durante, Tony Vitacco, John Nester
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio
 Extraordinary Ministers - Cristin Buccigliaglia, Rita Templin, Terry Donnelly
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeter - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

In this article, I would like to give an overview of that process known as the Rite of Christian Initiation, which is abbreviated as the R.C.I.A. This process is facilitated by Mrs. Maria Boyer (DRE), Mrs. Lori Carr and Fr. Hickey who do a wonderful job of preparing people for Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion, and unite with them in the process called conversion.

One of the greatest reforms of the Second Vatican Council is the restoration of the Catechumenate. Today, those who wish to enter the Church are accompanied by the prayers and the witnesses of the Church's faithful. These adults and adolescents pass through this process before they are baptized so they can live out their faith for the rest of their lives. At the same time, the majority of Catholics are still baptized as infants at the request of their parents. Most of us discover we were baptized long after it happens.

When I begin preparing parents for the Baptism of their children, I have often in the past inquired if they have any questions about the sacrament before I go into a formal preparation. Sometimes a parent is concerned about the outward white garment, or the candle, or the time of the ceremony. It is rare that the parent expresses the desire to know what Baptism means for their child's immediate or future life. Yet if parents are unaware that Baptism affects the very meaning of life, this great gift from God can be reduced to a mere ritual.

R.C.I.A. is a privileged, and in many ways, challengingly complex form of adult faith formation. Its complexity flows from the need for the process to be authentically truthful (implying catechesis far removed from the easy sound-bite answers and errors of the culture), authentically personal (implying pastoral flexibility and sacrificial effort to call forth from people deep conversion), and authentically unitive (implying insertion into a profound counter-cultural liturgical way of life to realize union with a divine spouse). In other words, to the degree that the R.C.I.A. process is complex, it is because it must be fully human, so that it may be fully open to the divine. The restoration of the ancient catechumenal process, as called for in no less than five documents from the Second Vatican Council, is a reflection of the Church's wisdom in going back to a tried and true practice in order to lovingly bring people into her fold.

The catechumenal process is not a program. Programs have a fixed length of time and a determined course of studies. No one can program the Holy Spirit as He moves through individuals to conversion; each conversion journey is unique. While we do things systematically and make a calendar of events each year, we must pay close attention to the fact that this is an individual process and a conversion journey for each inquirer.

Our primary task is not to run a program but to be present to help facilitate conversion. For this reason, it is not desirable to call what we do "the R.C.I.A. program" as this invariably creates a false impression for all involved.

Most of us are cradle Catholics and unfortunately have not kept up with theological education past Catholic school graduation or the PREP or CCD programs. I have often heard from Catholics that their spouses who were converts were better Catholics because they chose Catholicism. The R.C.I.A. is a process that brings the person on a journey of adult faith formation, education, and theological formation that is ongoing. May each of us who are Catholics continue our faith formation through prayer, study, and the reading of Sacred Scripture. May we continue to read sound theological magazines and as St. Thomas Aquinas states: "May our faith continue to seek understanding" (*Fides Quaerens Intellectum*).

I look forward each year to Holy Saturday evening when the unbaptized will be welcomed to the Church, be Confirmed and receive Holy Communion for the first time. Those who have been baptized with water and the Trinitarian formula from other faith traditions are received into the Church on Sundays following Easter. The Easter Vigil is all about Baptism.

Have a good week and anyone who is interested in joining the RCIA, please call me or Mrs. Boyer or Lori Carr.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

THE WOODEN YARDSTICKS AND RULERS we are collecting for Fr. Hickey's friend, Tina Hyde, are for special projects for special people. You may recall that years ago, banks and retail businesses gave them to customers as promotions, like carpet, furniture, fabric, hardware and department stores. Most were imprinted with the company's name, address and phone number, but many had slogans. 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

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| WEEKLY BUDGET..... | \$5,000 |
| DEPOSIT FOR OCTOBER 29, 2017. | \$3,572 |
| Regular Sunday Collection - | \$3,487 |
| Parish Giving - | \$85 |
| WEEKLY DEFICIT. | (\$1,428) |
| Year to Date Budget..... | \$90,000 |
| Year to Date Collections..... | \$70,583 |
| Average per week Collections..... | \$3,921 |
| Year to Date Deficit. | (\$19,417) |
| Average per week Deficit..... | (\$1,079) |
| <i>OCTOBER 30, 2016</i> | |
| Deposit. | \$4,193 |
| 2016-2017 Deficit to Date. | (\$21,861) |
| Difference from previous year..... | \$2,444 |

MASS ATTENDANCE for October 22/29:

4:00 PM Mass - 203
 9:00 AM Mass - 151
 Total Attendance - 354
 Mass Attendance for October 29/30, 2016 - 313



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 23 - #402 - Shirley Mohn - \$50.00
 October 24 - #958 - unsold
 October 25 - #552 - unsold
 October 26 - #213 - Cathy Keck - \$50.00
 October 27 - #459 - unsold
 October 28 - #813 - Craig Lloyd - \$50.00
 October 29 - #482 - unsold

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

DC FUNDING

215-586-1575 or 267-251-0341

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION received in honor of:

90th Birthday of MARY LOUISE SCHWENK from Jean Bowman.

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.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON on Tuesday, December 12 at Noon in the social hall. Cost is \$14.00. Payment due by November 7. Call Monica (610-705-9705) for more details.

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.

2015 WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES MEMORABILIA - The Archdiocese has given our parish memorabilia from the World Meeting of Families 2015. The items are available in the church vestibule. There is no charge for the items - please take any items you want.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY APPEAL 2017-2018 begins this weekend. Information about the appeal has been mailed to your homes. St. Charles Borromeo Seminary remains one of the outstanding schools of sacred theology in the United States. In its desire to be of service to the Church, the Seminary placed the formation of young men discerning a call to life as a priest as a first priority. St. Charles Seminary embraces a dual role, as a hub of priestly formation and a center of intellectual life for all. It accomplishes this mission through its four divisions: College Seminary, Theological Seminary, School of Theological Studies and School of Diaconal Formation. Your contribution will help the Seminary reach its goal of \$3.5 million.

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.

SPECTACULAR HOLIDAY SHOW held at the St. Philip Neri Family Life Center, East Greenville. Monday, November 13 from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM - The Ringing Hills Chorus. Hear this chapter of the International Sweet Adelines as they celebrate 25 years by performing their special style of barbershop harmony with memorable songs from the 1960s. Cost: \$10 per person. Registration deadline is November 8. To register for the show visit www.catholicfamilylifecenter.org or by mail with check payable to SPN CFLC, 26 East 6th Street, East Greenville, PA 18041 or phone 215-679-2237.

GRIEF & HEALING BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP being offered by St. Aloysius Church. We offer a safe place in which to do the work of grieving. Each new gathering builds on the previous one. We gather every week on Thursdays at 11:00 AM starting November 9th or on Thursdays at 6:30 PM starting November 9th. We will meet at Sr. Marty's office in St. Aloysius School at 844 N. Keim St., Pottstown. Please call Sr. Marty at the St. Aloysius Parish Office (610-326-5877, ext. 426) to let her know that you plan to attend either session.

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.

WEBINAR on Parents, Kids and Pornography - The Attack on a Generation on November 7 at Noon EST and 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

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

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO 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. For more information visit www.scs.edu/Lectures.

ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at the TK Club, Conshohocken on Sunday, November 19 from Noon to 5:00 PM. The Bazaar will feature live Christmas and Polka music, Polish food, a 50/50 drawing and other games of chance, a Christmas-theme basket raffle and baked goods for sale. Families are welcome as there will be games for children with plenty of prizes. Cover for the Christmas Bazaar is \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the event. The cover for children is \$7 each and free for children under the age of 6. To take advantage of the early bird discount, email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy (610-630-0861) by November 8. Walk-ins are always welcome on the day of the event.

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 or visit www.facebook.com/users/metanoiayoungadults.

AD LUMINA CHRISTI HEALING RETREAT at Malvern Retreat House on November 13-17. Director: Kathleen McCarthy. Retreat is designed to uplift men and women looking for physical, spiritual and/or emotional healing. For more details or to register call 610-644-0400 or visit www.malvernretreat.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.