

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 OCTOBER 2017

Readings for Sunday, October 1: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32.

Jesus was obedient to the Father, even to death on a cross. We need never fear if we turn away from the path of virtue for the Lord is ever ready to forgive us, if we but repent. Remember, the Lord's compassion and kindness are from of old.

Readings for Sunday, October 8: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43.

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>
2 Oct. MON. 9:00 AM	Nancy Barbalace	Patti & Bruce Pollock
4 Oct. WED. 9:00 AM	Rev. Francis Suchanek	
5 Oct. THU. 9:00 AM	Timothy Patrick Reilly	Mom & Dad
6 Oct. FRI. 9:00 AM	Stanley Ludwig	Wife, Gloria
7 Oct. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
8 Oct. SUN. 9:00 AM	Bob & Alice Cress	The Family



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.

RCIA CLASS begins on Thursday, October 5. Please contact Maria Boyer, DRE (610-506-2455, 610-327-5375 or mboyer@sgsm62.org) for more information.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, October 8 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and some light pastries. Free will offering accepted.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, October 5 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Linda Neiman and Elsie Thum. Guest speaker: Attorney Sandi Liberatori. All women of the parish are welcome to attend!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - October 7/8:
<u>4:00 PM Mass</u>
Lector - Melanie Warzeski
Extraordinary Ministers - Shelly Stockmal, Tony Vitacco, Cindy Nore, John Bracaglia
Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
Greeters - Phil Bracaglia and Maria DiMarco
<u>9:00 AM Mass</u>
Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
Extraordinary Ministers - George Siver, Helen George, Chris Gerasimowicz
Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
Greeter - Marie Hildebrand

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY
The Wooden Bowl by Rabbi Moshe Wolfe- reprinted with permission

I was talking to my friend Rabbi Wolfe last week and wishing him a Happy Rosh Hashanah which is the Jewish New Year (September 20-22) and also a Happy Yom Kippur (September 29-30), which is the Day of Atonement. I was complimenting him on the article that he published in the Fraternal Order of Police Newsletter in Chicago a few years ago and he gave me permission to use it. It has a lot of good points for each of us.

I was out on the street during the Holidays and my phone rang. It was one of our department brothers. He mentioned how his family brought Mom home from the hospital for the holidays, so she can celebrate with the children and grandchildren. He asked if I could stop by and see the family. I said, "It would be my pleasure."

I knew it was no easy feat to bring home and care for a terminally ill, frail Grandmother, but the children did it anyway because it was the right thing to do. I walked into the home and there was the whole family to give Grandma the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of her labor. I said to myself there is no better way to teach children and grandchildren love and respect of elders than by being a living example. This family made me proud, no sacrifice was too much when it came to their beloved Mom. It reminded me of "The Wooden Bowl....Author Unknown."

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and seven year old grandson. The man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table but the elderly Grandfather's shaking hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about Grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The seven-year old watched it all in silence. One evening before dinner, the father noticed his son playing with wooden scraps on the floor. He asked the child, "What are you making?" The boy responded, "Oh I am making a little bowl for you and Mom to eat your food in when I grow up." The seven-year old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. The tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no words were spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, he ate every meal with the family. For some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth was soiled.

The parents in the story represent all of us while the old man signifies all the elderly. In this story, it was only through the eyes of a child that the parents were able to realize their error in the way the Grandfather was treated. The child represents the pure honest truth, which freed the parents to truly see life. Children are remarkably perceptive, and if they see us patiently provide a comfortable atmosphere for our older family members, they will imitate that attitude for the rest of their lives.

On a positive note, I've learned that, no matter what happens, how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will be better tomorrow. I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. I've learned that no matter what your relationship with your parents is, you will miss them when they are gone from your life. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day, you should reach out and touch someone. I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you but, if you focus on your family, your friends, and the needs of others, your work, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.

People love that human touch – holding hands, a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.

Have a great week and do not forget to wish your Jewish friends a Happy New Year and may they and you seek forgiveness and give it freely.

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2017.....	\$3,589
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,504
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,411)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$65,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$49,553
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,812
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$15,447)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,188)

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

Deposit.....	\$3,221
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$16,863)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,416



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

- September 18 - #203 - unsold
- September 19 - #338 - unsold
- September 20 - #346 - Gene Hunter - \$50
- September 21 - #653 - unsold
- September 22 - #969 - unsold
- September 23 - #760 - unsold
- September 24 - #177 - David Takacs - \$100

MASS ATTENDANCE for September 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass - 203
 9:00 AM Mass - 164
 Total Attendance - 367
 Mass Attendance for September 24/25, 2016 - 294

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

WARKER-TROUTMAN FUNERAL HOME
 610-326-1510

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

EVENTS - Sponsored by the Women's Society

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser: Tickets currently available. When you purchase your ticket for ONLY \$5.00, you can shop all day on October 17 with a shopping pass good for a 25% discount on purchases on that day from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Buy them also for family members and friends. Tickets available at the parish office.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!! The Women's Society needs baked items for a Bake Sale to be held along with the Chicken BBQ on Sunday, October 8. Please bring your donations to the Bake Table in the church parking lot on October 8 after 9:00 AM.

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE

DRAWING to support Religious Education:
 SEPTEMBER DRAWING - M/M James Baldasano - \$253.00.

BASKET RAFFLE WINNER - #219459 - Bev Kretovich. Thank you to everyone who supported this Basket Raffle. A profit of \$220.00 was made.

KAUFFMAN'S CHICKEN BARBEQUE sponsored by the Women's Society on Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the church parking lot. The \$8.00 dinner includes: ½ BBQ Chicken, baked potato, baked beans and applesauce. Advance ticket sales only. Tickets on sale at weekend Masses and at the parish office. Deadline for tickets is October 1.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP to the American Music Theatre Christmas Show on November 14 - seats still available. Bus will leave from the front of church at 11:30 AM. Lunch at the Cracker Barrel. Cost is \$65.00 which is due by October 10. For more information or reservations, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

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 devotions.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:

THEODORE BAKOWICZ from Mary Lenhardt;
MARCELLA VITACCO from Ron & Carol Fry, Ron & Kathy Bernhard, Sharon McCarthy, Agnes Slaby, Louis & Kathleen Ferranti, Dominic & Janet Gentile, Jeannine Ferrante, Ronald Bernas, Angeline & Albert Testa, Tom & Louise Roberts, Paula & Dennis Bolonski, Mary Lenhardt, Jack & Margie Buccigliola, St. Gabriel Women's Society, Vincent & Carol Leskusky, Lucy D'Emilio, Tamanend M.S. Staff, Monica Bauer, Phil & Linda Ferrante, Ralph & Gerry Murgia, Rita Boyle & family, Cliff & Barb Keller, Barbara & Michael Hipszer, Jeanette & Bill Gatta, Donna & Eric Irely, Helen Chieffo, Nikki Gambino, Bob & Vivie Fitch, Rose Grenewald, Shirley Birmingham, Elizabeth Skokowski, Jake & Mary Ann Dailey.

Dear Members of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish:
Please accept our deep appreciation for your generous collection made through your Spiritual Adoption Program, and for all the prayers. I'm sure there are babies alive today due to your praying for them. May God bless you.
Sincerely,
Birthright of Pottstown

ANNUAL ITALIAN NIGHT at St. Gabriel Lodge on Saturday, October 7 - doors open at 6:00 PM; Antipasto at 6:30 PM; Italian Dinner Buffet at 7:00 PM. Entertainment by Nicola Desiderio. Cost - \$30 per person - cash bar. For more information call 610-326-4137.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL PICNIC on Sunday, October 15 from 1:00-5:00 PM at the Grove in Stowe. Open to anyone from our parish. Fun and games for all. No reservations needed - just bring a dish (salad, dessert, etc.) - one dish per family.

ARCHDIOCESAN ROSARY at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia on Saturday, October 7 at 7:00 PM. This year, the Archdiocesan Rosary will focus on the invitation of Our Lady of Fatima to the shepherd children and to all to pray the Rosary daily for the intentions of peace. Parking available in the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center Parking Lot.

SHARE THE JOURNEY - On September 27, Pope Francis launched the *Share The Journey* campaign to the world to support our brothers and sisters who have fled their homes seeking a decent and safe life for their families. The Holy Father is encouraging all to participate in a "Week of Prayer and Action" for migrants and refugees from October 7 to October 13. You can help our Archdiocese and our parish in the "Share The Journey" campaign through prayers and acts of compassion and support. For more information visit <http://journey.caritas.org>.

OUR LADY OF CONFIDENCE CHRISTIAN RETREAT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES at the Malvern Retreat House on October 10, 11 and 12 for adults with disabilities. For a registration form email OLCRetreat@gmail.com or call Malvern Retreat House (610-644-0400). The registration form is also on line at www.opdarchphilly.org.

ANNUAL ROMAN RUN hosted by Roman Catholic HS on Sunday, October 8. The 5K run will take place on Kelly Drive along the historic Boat House Row, Philadelphia. All proceeds benefit Roman Catholic Students. To register visit www.romancatholics.com/Page/808 or contact Lisa Mertz (lmertz@romancatholics.com or 215-627-5487, ext. 315).

POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT hosted by Rachel's Vineyard Ministries on October 6, 7, and 8 at Malvern-Frazier. This retreat is designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. For more information contact Lauren (215-720-5828) or Priscilla (215-906-6337). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

EVENING OF REFLECTION WITH GARY ZIMAK on Thursday, October 5 at Malvern Retreat House. The evening retreat will focus on how to overcome negative thinking and believe in God's promises. This 6:00-9:00 PM retreat includes dinner. For more information or to register visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

FLAME OF LOVE CELEBRATES THE MIRACLE OF THE SUN on Friday, October 13 at St. Charles Seminary, Wynnewood. Time: 6:00 PM - Holy Hour; 7:00 PM - Fatima Narrative; 7:30 PM - Mass, Celebrant and homilist is Fr. Chris Walsh, Pastor of St. Raymond of Penafort Church. No registration necessary.

HARVEST FEST at St. Mary Church, Hamburg on October 6 and 7. For more details call 610-562-7657 or visit www.stmaryhamburg.org.