

# TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 22 OCTOBER 2017

**Readings for Sunday, October 22:** Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21.

The Lord is king and there is no other. We are to render to God, therefore, fitting praise and service, as is God's due. God's word to us, in turn, is a matter of power and strength, to be lived with conviction of heart.

**Readings for Sunday, October 29:** Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40.

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**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.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
23 Oct.	MON. 9:00 AM	Paul Nettle	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
25 Oct.	WED. 9:00 AM	Pauline Ondik	Daughter, Monica
26 Oct.	THU. 9:00 AM	Mary Anne Droege	Anna Droege
27 Oct.	FRI. 9:00 AM	John Glass	Wife, Donna
28 Oct.	SAT. 4:00 PM	John R. Schwenk	Gerry & Kathy Pennypacker & family
29 Oct.	SUN. 9:00 AM	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Ken & Helen George	Their Children



**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.

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING** on Thursday, October 26 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

**WINTER COAT AND OUTERWEAR COLLECTION** - The Women's Society is sponsoring this 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.

**THANK YOU FROM THE WOMEN'S SOCIETY** - A heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the purchase of chicken, baked goods and Boscov's vouchers. Everyone worked together to make these projects successful. We would also like to thank St. Gabriel's Lodge and Bill Strock for the ongoing support with food donations for our events.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - October 28/29:

#### 4:00 PM Mass

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

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio  
Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Terry Donnelly  
Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly  
Greeter - Jack and Lori Carr

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

### The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

This event is mentioned in the longer ending of Mark's Gospel, 16:12-13. *After this he appeared in another form to two of them walking along on their way to the country. They returned and told the others; but they did not believe them either.*

Luke, in his developed account, only names one of the two disciples, Cleopas. The assumption is that they were both men. They could have been husband and wife. In any event these two disciples are not leaders of the community. They are representative of all followers of Jesus. Can we see ourselves in them, especially when we attend Mass? Are we aware of the presence of Jesus, in our own lives, as we travel on the Way?

The disciples are going in the wrong direction. They are leaving Jerusalem. They are leaving the embryonic church. Their discussion about all that had happened surely must have been wrapped in frustration and disappointment. What frustrations in life prevent us from experiencing the presence of Jesus?

Jesus was beside them, even when they were walking away. Jesus also walks with us on the road of life. Jesus does not leave us, even in our negativism, even when we trip and fall. Experiencing the Lord is a pure gift. It is a grace from God. Jesus comes to us as he did to these disciples. The experience is total. It is more than just talk.

The two disciples were downcast because their preconceived ideas about Jesus and his church (or kingdom) were radically upset. They did not know what it means to really be a disciple of Jesus. Sometimes our faith understanding is shattered by a crisis in our lives – a cross that we are forced to carry. Perhaps this is a necessary step for the further development of faith.

Jesus being thought of as a stranger in Jerusalem, unaware of the events that had taken place, is an example of irony in Luke's Gospel. Luke has us his readers, who know Jesus' identity, listen to the disciples tell the Living One of their discouragement over his death (24:19b-24). Even today people act as if Jesus is not part of the Church, not a fellow pilgrim, not one with us. It is especially ironic not to be able to recognize the Risen Lord in the midst of our own difficulties and hurts.

The disciples readily admit that Jesus was a great prophet because of the things he said and did. *"The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him."* However, they did not accept his divinity. They understood the messiah to be a national savior not a suffering servant. *"But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel."* The disciples failed to appreciate the need for change in their own lives. For this reason their sense of hope died with Jesus in the grave. Where is the Lord in the midst of all the talk and turmoil? What is our hope?

The disciples are foolish; they are slow to believe in the **full** gospel message. If Christ should suffer, so shall the Church, so shall we. *"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first"* (John 15:18). Refer to Matthew 10:16-25. One of the themes of Luke's Gospel is that the messiah must suffer (4:43; 9:22; 13:33; 17:25; 22:37; 24:7, 26 & 44).

The terms Moses, prophets and scriptures in verse 27 and again in 44 are references to the Old Testament. Hebrew Scriptures were divided into three sections: the Law also called the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. The last term included the Psalms and the Wisdom Literature. Both Jesus and Moses lead stiff-necked people; both knew rejection and denial. Refer to Acts 7:35 & 39.

Jesus gave the impression that he was going on further. *But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over."* So he went in to stay with them. Jesus wants to be invited to stay with us. Had he not been invited by the disciples to stay, he really would have departed. It is getting dark. Without Jesus darkness would have descended. This indication of the time of day allows Luke to make a favorite contrast, the contrast between darkness and light. At the time of his arrest, Jesus said: *"Day after day I was with you in the temple area, and you did not seize me; but this is your hour, the time for the power of darkness"* (Luke 22:53).

*And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.* What criteria are necessary for Christ to be present with us? *"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them"* (Matthew 18:19-20). "Resurrection Faith" is not lived in isolation but in community, in Church. What is significant about **breaking** the bread?

*And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were open and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. It is not important for Jesus to be seen physically, if we, his disciples, as well as the Eucharist are seen as sacraments of his presence, not just seen as signs, but understood as the reality of Jesus. Furthermore, where did Jesus go? Did he vanish out the front door of the inn?*

The “burning” heart is a sign of Christ’s presence. Saint Paul wrote: *“I am alive; or rather, not I; it is Christ that lives in me.* (Galatians 2:20). Saint Bernard wrote: *He is closer to me than I myself.”* The Risen Jesus can be found in our hearts.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem to be with their brothers. We cannot sustain our belief in Jesus if we are separated from his Church, from his community of believers. The Eucharist creates communion, community, family.

The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon, indicating the primacy of the papacy. The Church is conceived in the proclamation of the Resurrection, which it continues to proclaim.

We have much in common with these disciples. Before, they were able to see Jesus in his humanity. Now, they like us cannot see the Risen Jesus in the world except through the eyes of faith. Note that their faith was founded on Scripture being opened to them by Jesus. *“We’re not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”*

So it is with us; with a solid knowledge of Salvation History as recorded in the Bible and taught by the Church, and with frequent reception of Holy Communion at Mass our perception of the Risen Jesus will sharpen. Every Mass we attend is like an Emmaus experience. During Mass: we listen to the words of the prophets, and try to apply to our lives the insights contained in Scripture; we picture a scene from the life of Jesus as the gospel is being read, and try to imagine being one with Jesus as the Eucharistic prayers are being said.

Even though their hearts were burning on the way to Emmaus, it was only with the breaking of the bread, the Eucharist that the disciple’s eyes were open and they recognized Jesus. The Risen Jesus, whose earthly body was broken on the cross, comes to us in the Eucharist, to be intimately one with us to heal us of our brokenness.

Have a great week! Remember that the Concert to dedicate the new organ is this coming Saturday at 2:30 to 3:30 P.M. on October 28, 2017. Fr. Hickey

**“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**

**CROCKER & CROCKER, PC**  
610-323-5700

**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.

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



**DEDICATION OF OUR NEW ORGAN** on Saturday, October 28. Open Concert from 2:30-3:30 PM. Performing: Michael

Stairs, former Organist for the Philadelphia Orchestra and Rudolf A. Lucente, church musician for over 40 years and holiday staff organist at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square. Dedication will take place at the 4:00 PM Mass. Free will offerings will be accepted.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of: MELISSA OISTER from Angie & John Testa; MARCELLA VITACCO from Capital Planning Associates of Greater Delaware Valley Inc., Robert P. Derr & Theresa Kressler, Dorothy Levanovitch, Phyllis Villano, Pete & Lori LaRosa; JOHN F. MONAHAN from Pete & Lori LaRosa.

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## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR OCTOBER 15, 2017. ....	\$4,001
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,916
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$999)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$80,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$62,372
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,898
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$17,628)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,102)
<b>OCTOBER 16, 2016</b>	
Deposit. ....	\$3,953
2016-2017 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$19,027)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,399

### POPE JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

**ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR** on Thursday, October 26 from 6:00-8:00 PM in Main Gymnasium. More than 115 Institutions will be in attendance. Open to the public and Admission is free.

**FALL OPEN HOUSE** on Wednesday, October 25 from 6:30 -8:30 PM. Visit us to experience for yourself why our families are giving such high praise to the outcomes and the values-based education our students receive.

RSVP - [www.pjphs.org](http://www.pjphs.org) - Admissions - Visit.

**WEEKEND RETREAT** - *A Time Apart With Jesus to Grow in Your Spiritual Life* - Friday evening, November 3 to Sunday at noon, November 5 sponsored by Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist at Ave Maria Retreat House, Doylestown. Retreat is offered by Sr. Joan Noreen, Co-founder of OLME. Retreat includes daily Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration, conferences on Catholic Spirituality, Prayer with Sacred Scripture, Liturgy of the Hours and much more. For more information: 610-582-3333 or [www.olme.org](http://www.olme.org).

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for October 14/15:**

4:00 PM Mass - 201  
 9:00 AM Mass - 172  
 Total Attendance - 373  
 Mass Attendance for October 15/16, 2016 - 339

**THEOLOGY LECTURE SERIES** "*The Reformation after 500 Years: An Ecumenical Remembrance*" on October 23 at 7:00 PM at St. Charles Seminary St. John Vianney Auditorium. Presenter is Dr. Timothy George. Call 610-785-6287 to register.



**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.**

**FUEL THE FLAME** on Monday, October 30 from 7:00-9:00 PM at St. Charles Seminary Vianney Auditorium. Designed to energize and mobilize the Archdiocese to support and promote vocations, thereby helping to create a Culture of Vocations. Special Guest: Mike Patin. This event is free but all are asked to register at <http://heedthecall.org/event/fueltheflame>.

**2017 ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE IN HONOR OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER** on Saturday, October 28 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. Program begins at Noon and includes Confessions, Procession and Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Rosary, and concludes with Solemn Mass at 3:00 PM. Archbishop Charles Chaput - celebrant and homilist.

### LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

October 9 - #956 - unsold
October 10 - #317 - Michael Burke - \$50.00
October 11 - #381 - unsold
October 12 - #224 - unsold
October 13 - #603 - unsold
October 14 - #365 - unsold
October 15 - #663 - Cathy Keck - \$100.00

**LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS** invites you to join us on October 28 to celebrate 25 years since Saving our Beloved School. There will be tours, a program and social. The Flossie Shop open from 3-6 PM. RSVP to [alumnaupdates@littleflowerschool.org](mailto:alumnaupdates@littleflowerschool.org) or 215-455-6900.