

# TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 10 SEPTEMBER 2017

**Readings for Sunday, September 10:** Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20.

May our hearts not be hardened, but may we turn from our sin. In our love for one another, we may be called to confront our sister and brother for the wrong they may be doing.

**Readings for Sunday, September 17:** Sirach 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35.

**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>
11 Sept.      MON.    9:00 AM	Anna Ross	Jeanette & Bill Gatta
13 Sept.      WED.    9:00 AM	Margie Hospodar	Patrick, Michele & Fran
14 Sept.      THU.    9:00 AM	Mary Anne Droege	Anna Droege
15 Sept.      FRI.    9:00 AM	Roger Villano	Wife & family
16 Sept.      SAT.    4:00 PM	William Oberley	The Family
17 Sept.      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.



Flowers on the Altar are in memory of ALBERT E. MILLER (85<sup>th</sup> Birthday) and CYNTHIA MILLER-STEIN (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary) requested by the Miller Family.

**WELCOME TO PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) 2017-2018!** Families with school age children in grades K and up, and those with 3, 4, 5 year olds not yet in Kindergarten, are encouraged to register their children for PREP. PREP will begin Sunday, September 24 with Mass at 9:00 AM and continue in our new location (the convent building) from our usual time of 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. We also have 2 adults who are interested in coming into our Catholic Faith, so we have an RCIA class, if there is anyone else interested. Please contact Maria Boyer, DRE (610-506-2455 or [mboyer@sgsm62.org](mailto:mboyer@sgsm62.org)).

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - September 16/17:

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Melanie Warzeski  
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Bracaglia, John Nester  
 Altar Servers - Tony Vitacco  
 Greeters - Phil Bracaglia and Maria DiMarco

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Tony Vitacco  
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Kathy Bernhard, Lori Carr, Rita Templin  
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller  
 Greeter - Marie Hildebrand

**SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING** on Tuesday, September 12 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

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

During Holy Week we focus on sufferings of Christ crucified. This week, our focus will be on the glory and victory of the cross, as we celebrate the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. In Jesus' day the cross was an instrument of torture, brutality, and shame. The Romans reserved it for the worse criminals and enemies of the Roman Empire. If a criminal was a Roman citizen, he or she was exempt from crucifixion because it was such a terrible way to die. Roman citizens were simply beheaded. But Jesus has turned the cross into a symbol of victory, a symbol of hope, a symbol of sacrifice and infinite love. St. Paul tells us in Galatians (2:20), "I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."

Over and over the Scriptures tell us through the cross Jesus saved us, but early Christian art seldom pictured the cross. They didn't need to. Father Foley in Saint of the Day said: "It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority." Included in this group of those who defied Rome's authority were the Christians who would not worship pagan gods, but only the Father, the Lord Jesus and the Spirit. The emperor Constantine who made Christianity legal in 313 A.D. also eliminated crucifixion as a form of capital punishment.

Once the Roman Empire actually ceased crucifying people, then images of the cross appeared in Christian art. These first images of the cross did not include any image of the suffering Christ, but they were crosses decorated with jewels and precious metals. Incidentally, it was a vision of the cross that led to the conversion of Constantine. He was assured in the vision that in the sign of the cross he would conquer Maxentius, a rival to the throne, and he would become emperor of Rome.

Once Constantine gained control of the Roman Empire, he went to the Holy Land with his mother, St. Helena, to discover the places where Jesus lived and died. Constantine and his mother had churches built in Bethlehem and the Mount of Olives but the most famous church he built is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. It is built over the hill of Calvary, and the tomb of Jesus. It was in the process of building the Church of the Holy Sepulcher that Jesus' cross was found. How did they know it was Jesus' cross? Legend has it that the men working on the project found three crosses and they did not know which one was Jesus' cross. They touched each of the crosses to a woman who was dying and when she was touched with the third cross, she was instantly healed. The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross goes back to that time, around the year 320 A.D. It celebrates the finding of the true cross and the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. So that is why this feast is celebrated in the middle of September and not during Lent as we might expect.

The readings from the gospel for the feast is sometimes called the gospel in miniature. These few verses express the essence of the entire gospel: God's offer of eternal life through the sacrifice of Christ, a sacrifice offered out of love for us. God so loved the world, God so loved you and me, that He gave us the greatest gift, the gift of His Son, so we would know the greatest blessing: eternal happiness with Him.

Today, we approach the cross not with sorrow but with joy, not as a symbol of death but of life, not as a sign of defeat but of victory, not as a cause for fear but of hope, not as an instrument of cruelty and hatred but of eternal love. On a practical level, I know somehow it was inevitable if Jesus were to be true to His mission. If He had run away from it, He would never have risen and His message would have soon been forgotten.

Today, Christians make up one third of the world's population. If Jesus had abandoned His mission to change the world through love, perhaps some obscure history book might have had a sentence or two about this person who did a lot of healing and was a good preacher, but for the most part His ministry would be forgotten. This is just a superficial explanation of the mystery of the cross. There is so much more to this mystery, but each of us has to discover it for ourselves. To come to a deeper understanding takes a lot of prayer and discernment and that is what the Mass does for us each week. It reminds us of God's love and the hope and joy and freedom and peace and salvation it gives us.

As we go through our daily lives, each of us will experience the Cross. Whatever we experience, it is only a sliver of the Cross. Are you willing to be a Simon and help Jesus carry His cross or will you be like the masses and turn your back on the Cross? It is worth the discernment.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR SEPTEMBER 3, 2017.....	\$3,548
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,463
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,452)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$50,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$39,057
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,906
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$10,943)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,094)

### SEPTEMBER 4, 2016

Deposit.....	\$3,714
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$12,202)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,259



### 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

August 28 - #066 - unsold

August 29 - #060 - unsold

August 30 - #626 - Joyce Moliken - \$50.00

August 31 - #985 - unsold

August figures: 332 tickets sold - \$1,660.00. Payout for winners - \$350.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for August - \$1,210.00.

Sept. 1 - #860 - unsold

Sept. 2 - #868 - unsold

Sept. 3 - #210 - unsold

### MASS ATTENDANCE for September 2/3:

4:00 PM Mass - 203

9:00 AM Mass - 141

Total Attendance - 344

Mass Attendance for September 3/4, 2016 - 355

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND** will be for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. This collection will help address the humanitarian and Church needs caused by Harvey. PLEASE NOTE: Please place your regular Sunday collection envelope and your 50/50 Gold Envelope in the first collection next weekend due to the special collection for the victims of Hurricane Harvey.

### "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

ON THE THIRD DAY  
THE MASTER'S MERCANTILE  
610-705-0130

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

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of: **THEODORE BAKOWICZ** from Helen Chieffo, Bob & Vivie Fitch, Paula & Denny Bolonski, Jeannine Ferrante.

**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.

### WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:

AUGUST DRAWING - Barbara Hipszer - \$301.00.

### EVENTS - Sponsored by the Women's Society

**Boscov'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.

**Movie Night** CANCELLED due to conflict with dates.

Thank you for supporting the Women's Society and your parish.



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
**to benefit St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church**

**Friday, September 22**

**11:00 AM Shotgun Start**

**Held at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville**

**Rain or Shine**

\$85.00 per golfer includes Hot dog/sauerkraut Lunch, Post-play Banquet, Refreshments throughout the day, Door Prizes and Individual and Team Skill Prizes. Our goal is to have 72 golfers at our outing. Help us reach our goal by coming out to golf and invite your friends.

Banquet Guest only - cost is \$20.00 per person.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Family Sponsor - \$25.00

Prize Sponsor - \$50.00

Course Refreshment Sponsor - \$75.00

Hole Sponsor - \$100.00

Food Sponsor - \$250.00

Event Sponsor - \$300.00

For more information, sponsorships or registration, please call the parish office or email [contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org).

Come join us for a day of golf and lots of fun!

**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.

**BREAKFAST** at St. Gabriel Lodge on Sunday, September 17 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. All are welcome!

**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.

**FATIMA EVENING** on September 13 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. Fr. Harry McCreedy will lead this Evening of Prayer for Peace and Protection of the World. Event includes Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praying the Rosary, Act of Consecration of Our Nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Eucharistic Benediction and Mass. To register contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist at 610-582-3333 or [olme@olme.org](mailto:olme@olme.org). All are welcome! Your generous donation will be deeply appreciated.

**FATIMA PRAYER SERVICE** at Visitation BVM Church, Norristown on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 PM in the Lower Church. This date is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fifth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Come pray for world peace. The Prayer Service will provide an opportunity for a plenary indulgence. Please contact Bob Hehn (484-557-1371) for more information.

**SPECIAL EVENT ON THE DIARY OF ELIZABETH KINDLEMANN** on Thursday, September 14 at the IHM Conference Center, Malvern. Sponsored by Flame of Love. Begins at 8:30 AM and ends at 12:00PM. Retreat Master is Fr. James Otto. Cost is \$25. Register by calling 610-581-0120.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE FLAME OF LOVE** on September 22 (1:00 -9:00 PM) and September 23 (8:30 AM-4:15 PM) at Renaissance Philadelphia Airport Hotel. Register online at [www.flameoflove.us/conference](http://www.flameoflove.us/conference) - register by September 12. For more details call 610-622-4257.

**POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL** at the TK Club, Conshohocken on September 17 from Noon to 6:00 PM. For more details call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).