

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

**Readings for Sunday, September 24:** Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a.

How different are the Lord's ways from our own! Gracious and good to all, the Lord is equally generous in compassion and love to those who are quick to respond to his invitation, as well as to those who are slow to hear his call. May the Lord Jesus always be our life.

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

**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>
25 Sept.      MON.    9:00 AM	Andy Lopuski, Jr.	The Family
27 Sept.      WED.    9:00 AM	Nancy Barbalace	Husband & family
28 Sept.      THU.    9:00 AM	Steven M. Slaby	Mom & Dad
29 Sept.      FRI.    9:00 AM	Timothy Patrick Reilly	Mom & Dad
30 Sept.      SAT.    4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 Oct.        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, especially MARCELLA VITACCO.

**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.

**WELCOME TO PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) 2017-2018!** PREP begins Sunday, September 24 with Mass at 9:00 AM and continues in our new location (the convent building) from our usual time of 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. For more information, contact Maria Boyer, DRE (610-506-2455 or [mboyer@sgsm62.org](mailto:mboyer@sgsm62.org)).

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - September 30/October 1:

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vince Tamaro, Mara Tamaro, Nikki Gambino, Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, John Nester  
 Altar Servers - Tony Vitacco  
 Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Marie Hildebrand

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jim Mich  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Cristin Buccaglia, Rita Templin, Helen George  
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller  
 Greeter - Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie

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

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING** on Thursday, September 28 at 7:15 PM in the Rectory.

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

Jesus was asked one time what is the most important commandment in the law. We know how He answered. He not only gave us the most important commandment but the second most important commandment as well, two commands that perfectly complement each other: to love God with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus gave us the answer not only by His words but also by the way He lived.

I would like to reflect today on how Jesus showed love for His Father. His perfect obedience was one way He showed His love. Another way He showed it was by spending time with His Father in prayer. That is what I especially want to focus on today. The topic of prayer was inspired by today's Gospel, which is part of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper.

We have little or no information about what His life was like before He began His public ministry. The little information we do have shows us that Joseph and Mary were faithful in their Jewish observances. Thus Jesus would have been brought up in that tradition, going to the synagogue on the Sabbath and going to the Temple in Jerusalem annually for Passover. St. Luke tells us that when Jesus was beginning His ministry, He went to Nazareth and went to the synagogue on the Sabbath "according to His custom."

Synagogue services would have been very similar to the first part of our Mass. There would be common prayer and readings from the Law and the prophets and with a commentary after each reading. St. Luke points out in his gospel that Jesus was praying as John the Baptist baptized Him. Immediately after that, recall how Jesus went into the desert for 40 days to fast and pray. His encounter with the devil there showed He knew the Sacred Scriptures well and He could quote them easily. Frequently, it is mentioned that during His public ministry, Jesus was at the Temple participating in liturgical celebration there. The gospels tell us about Jesus getting up early in the morning to pray or staying up all night in prayer. He would spend time in prayer before important decisions or important events.

One time after seeing Jesus praying, the disciples asked Him to teach them to pray and of course we are all familiar with the prayer He taught them. In addition to the Our Father, Jesus taught a lot about prayer. For example, the parable of a man who had a friend, visited him at night, and he went to his neighbor to borrow some food, and he kept on knocking until he got what he needed. That's the way Jesus said we should pray. Even when He wasn't teaching about prayer, His teachings reflect the deep relationship Jesus had with His Father. There is no doubt about it; prayer played a major role in Jesus' life. The Last Supper of course was more than an ordinary supper. It was the Passover which Jesus was celebrating with His disciples, which was a religious celebration.

His prayer (in the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of John) is divided into three parts. First Jesus prays for Himself, then for His apostles, then for all who would come to believe in Him. Notice how many times the word "glory" is used in today's gospel. Jesus saw His death and resurrection as a moment of glory, a moment when God's saving love would be revealed to the world. He prays that the Father might be glorified in all that was to take place, and that in the fulfillment of His mission, He might be a source of life for all who would believe in Him. It is comforting to know He prayed for all of us at the Last Supper. He continues to intercede for each of us each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

There is not enough time to analyze this prayer thoroughly. My main point today was simply to point out the prayerfulness of Jesus. We see in the first reading how Jesus' followers imitated His example as they gathered together in prayer in the upper room after the Ascension, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Louis Evely in his Book, *Teach Us to Pray*, wrote: "Too many Christians regard God as pilots regard their parachute, namely, good if needed, but better if they can get along without it." We might wonder why Jesus would need to pray. He was already as close to the Father as He could possibly be. I am sure there are many reasons why Jesus prayed, but this question might best be answered with another question: "why do we need to spend time with those who are important to us, with those whom we love?"

A true disciple of our Lord will make a priority in their lives, and by "prayer" I mean more than just a rapidly recited Our Father or Hail Mary. Prayer is spending time with our God. Do we feel like we're too busy? I will never forget what our spiritual director told us in the seminary. "The busier we are, the more we need to pray."

Today we come together for the greatest prayer there is. As we gather in prayer today, we are not alone and I don't mean simply that there are others here in Church with us. Christ is with us and it is in union with His perfect sacrifice of love and obedience on the cross that we offer our prayers and praise to God our Father.

Have a great week!!!!

Fr. Hickey

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2017.....	\$3,388
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,303
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,612)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$60,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$45,964
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,830
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$14,036)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,170)

### SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

Deposit.....	\$3,568
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$15,084)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,048



**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 11 - #989 - unsold
- September 12 - #775 - unsold
- September 13 - #829 - Jack & Marge Bucciaglia - \$50
- September 14 - #095 - unsold
- September 15 - #402 - Shirley Mohn - \$50
- September 16 - #016 - unsold
- September 17 - #051 - Joe Gierschick - \$100

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for September 16/17:**

- 4:00 PM Mass - 192
- 9:00 AM Mass - 143
- Total Attendance - 335
- Mass Attendance for September 17/18, 2016 - 324

### **"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**ST. GABRIEL LODGE**  
610-326-4137

**"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.

**BASKET RAFFLE** - We are selling chances on a Fall Floral Arrangement with \$75.00 cash included. Chances are \$5.00 each. Chances are available after Masses on the weekends of September 16 and 17 and September 23 and 24. The drawing will be held on September 25. Thank you for your generous support!

**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.

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

**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.

**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.