

# TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 3 SEPTEMBER 2017

**Readings for Sunday, September 3:** Jeremiah 20:7-9; Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27.

Following the Lord means nothing less than the cross: offering ourselves with Jesus as a living sacrifice and not conforming ourselves to this world. Following him will entail derision and scorn, yet the Lord is our help.

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

**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>
4 Sept.      MON.    9:00 AM	Anna Ross	Brother, Joe
6 Sept.      WED.    9:00 AM	Robert C. Motzer	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
7 Sept.      THU.    9:00 AM	Deceased of St. Gabriel Parish	Anonymous
8 Sept.      FRI.    9:00 AM	Marie Dellaquila	Husband & family
9 Sept.      SAT.    4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
10 Sept.     SUN.    9:00 AM	Our Grandparents	Tony & Theresa Vitacco



**ETERNAL REST** grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially THEODORE BAKOWICZ.

**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 VITTORIO D'EMILIO requested by his Wife and family.

**NO ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** on Monday, September 7 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day Holiday.

**WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING** on Thursday, September 7 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Lori LaRosa and Anna Baldasano.

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

#### **MINISTRY SCHEDULE - August 19/20:**

##### 4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Jim Mich  
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Tony Vitacco, Nikki Gambino, Cindy Nore, George Siver  
 Altar Servers - Tony Vitacco  
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio  
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Debbie Huster, Gary Huster, Tony Vitacco  
 Altar Server - Michael Holmes  
 Greeter - Jack and Lori Carr

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

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ten years ago in January the *Washington Post* conducted an experiment you may have heard about. The experiment involved Joshua Bell, one of the world's greatest violinists who performed for almost all the world's orchestras. Joshua Bell was commissioned to play his \$4,000,000 Stradivarius violin in a subway station in Washington, D.C. So he dressed like a street musician looking for tips and sat in the subway station playing for 45 minutes. The *Washington Post* had a hidden camera to video the entire event. Out of the 1,097 people who passed by him, seven stopped to listen! He received \$32.17 in tips not counting the \$20 he received from one person who recognized him.

The story would be an excellent illustration of what St. James tells us, but I prefer to use this story to illustrate a gospel passage. I am presuming that those 1,097 people who passed by Joshua Bell had good hearing, but their ability to know what to listen for wasn't very well developed - at least not in the area of music.

Jesus healed a man in the gospel who was deaf. What a gift Jesus gave him! He could suddenly hear which is amazing. But he still had a lot of catching up to do to learn how to listen, how to recognize, for example, sounds that warn of imminent danger, how to recognize not only words but also nuances, in the tone of a person's voice, how to recognize sounds from nature, and how to learn what unfamiliar words mean.

We who are blessed with hearing are sometimes not good listeners. This happens in families a lot: spouses with each other, children with parents and vice versa. This happens with God too. He hears us, ("shall he who made the ear not hear?") but we do not always hear him. That's why we need to keep reading the Scriptures over and over, because when we do we discover there is more and more that they can teach us. That's why we need to take quiet time to pray, because there's so much noise around us and God usually speaks in a very quiet voice. As a matter of fact, I've always found that God speaks in thoughts rather than words. When our thoughts are always being pushed and pulled by all the noise around us (including visual noise) thoughts of God do not seem to get through.

The guidance I received that helped me in my relationship with God came from good spiritual books, inspiring speakers and teachers, wise friends, a good confessor, renewal programs, and retreats for which I must give credit. Notice in the gospel, the deaf man's friends brought him to Jesus and begged Jesus to lay his hands on him. We need good books and friends and people in our lives who can lead us to Jesus by their faith and sometimes we have to be the person who leads others to Jesus, but at the same time there is no substitute for quiet time. Notice when Jesus healed the man he took him aside - away from the crowd. We need to get away from the crowd each day to spend a little while in silence with our Lord. Quiet time has been essential to me ever since I can remember, helping to keep me going through difficult times, giving me ideas when I had an issue I couldn't figure out, helping me with what I needed to say to a person needing help, allowing me to experience God's loving presence.

Jesus worked many miracles of healing and he still does. In the gospels we read he healed people because of his compassion, in response to a request, in response to faith, to demonstrate that God's kingdom was present. He healed people to show in a visible way the blessings he wanted to give to us that were not visible. Jesus helped this man to hear, and in doing so he shows us what his primary mission was, to teach us how to hear and how to listen to God. Let us ask God to open the ears of our hearts to His word and to love as we continue offering Mass today.

As we begin a new academic year, may each of us be willing to listen not only with our ears but with our hearts and to really be able to hear what the Lord is saying to each of us and how we respond to one another in our daily discourses.

Have a good week and Happy Labor Day on Monday.

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 like: We go that extra yard for you, Inch by inch, it's a cinch, How do you measure up, We are a foot ahead of the rest, Buy your candy by the yard, to name a few. Now, they give out pens and refrigerator magnets, so yardsticks have become scarce. Please give your donations of yardsticks to Tony Vitacco or drop them off at the parish office. Many thanks for your generosity!

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR AUGUST 27, 2017.....	\$3,679
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,594
Parish Giving -	\$85
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,321)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$45,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$35,509
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,945
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$9,491)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,055)
AUGUST 28, 2016	
Deposit.....	\$3,618
2016-2017 Deficit to Date.....	(\$10,916)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,425

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for August 26/27:**

4:00 PM Mass - 201  
 9:00 AM Mass - 133  
 Total Attendance - 334  
 Mass Attendance for August 27/28, 2016 - 300



### **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 21 - #355 - unsold  
 August 22 - #282 - unsold  
 August 23 - #749 - unsold  
 August 24 - #034 - unsold  
 August 25 - #247 - Lara Dilworth - \$50.00  
 August 26 - #486 - Paula Spollen - \$50.00  
 August 27 - #966 - unsold

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Black and Indian Mission Collection has for the last 131 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. Your financial contribution to this fund assists clergy, religious and lay catechists, parishes, schools and catechetical centers for the evangelization of the Black and Native American peoples throughout our country.

As we embark on another year of evangelization in the Black Catholic, Native American and Alaskan Native communities, everyone is encouraged to make a difference by offering their prayers for the fruitful support of the missions in the United States and to consider expressing concretely their Christian solidarity through sacrificial offerings.

Your support impacts the daily pastoral work of our bishops, consecrated religious women and men, and lay-leadership who labor on Indian reservations, urban centers, Black Catholic and Alaskan Native parishes, mission schools and the many, many diocesan programs and projects that strengthen the work of the Gospel. Locally, through grants awarded from this collection, a number of parishes within the Archdiocese are able to fund pastoral outreach and evangelization programs. It is only through your continued generosity of this collection that such efforts are realized.

The **Collection for the Black and Indian Missions** will be held in parishes of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on the weekend of September 9 and 10, 2017. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support of this collection.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.  
 Archbishop of Philadelphia

**SENIOR CITIZENS** - Join us at our Senior Citizens Meetings! We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. The only requirement for membership is to be 55 years or older. We are strictly a fun group. No dues - when you attend a meeting, you pay \$1.00 - this covers the cost of coffee and donuts. Annual trip to the American Music Theatre Christmas Show on November 14. Bus leaves from the front of church at 11:30 AM. Cost is \$65.00 for the show and bus. Lunch at the Cracker Barrel - order from the menu. Any questions, call Shirley (610-326-1128).



**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!

UPCOMING 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** on September 22 - note change in date.

**Kauffman's Chicken BBQ** on October 8.

More information to follow on these events. Thank you for supporting the Women's Society and your parish.

**"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"**

**O'DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI, P.C.**

610-323-2800

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

SANDY LAGHI from Tom & Louise Roberts;

ELEANORE LABIK from Ron & Carol Fry;

ROBERT & STEVE BONETZ from Ron & Carol Fry.

**ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH SCHOOL** now accepting Pre-K (3 year olds) - 8<sup>th</sup> grade applications! Call 610-326-6167 to schedule an appointment. Join our family today! Visit [www.saintaloyssiusschool.com](http://www.saintaloyssiusschool.com).

**MASS FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM ADDICTION** on Saturday, September 9 at 11:00 AM at St. Ann Church, Phoenixville. Celebrant - Fr. John News, Pastor.

**PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER** for Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. 2 to 3 days a week, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Email resume to [olme2@olme.org](mailto:olme2@olme.org).

**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. To register contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist at 610-582-3333 or [olme@olme.org](mailto:olme@olme.org).

**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.