

# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)

## 16 APRIL 2023

**Readings for Sunday, April 16:** Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31.

Thomas believed because he saw the risen Jesus. Although we have never seen him, we believe in him. We give thanks to the Lord for this gift of faith, especially when we gather for the breaking of the bread and the prayers.

**Readings for Sunday, April 23:** Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35.



**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Wednesday. Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 5:00 PM in the Church. Benediction at 5:00 PM.**



<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
17 Apr.	MON. 9:00 AM	Mary Louise Schwenk	Robert & Shelia Mauger
18 Apr.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Gormley, Yeager, Campbell & McQue Families	
19 Apr.	WED. 9:00 AM	Deceased of Hegedus Family	The Family
20 Apr.	THU. 9:00 AM	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Patti & Bruce
22 Apr.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
23 Apr.	SUN. 9:00 AM	C. Ronald Yost	Wife, Theresa



**ETERNAL REST** grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially ALICE STEINER and DOROTHY LEVANOVITCH.

**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.



**THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** leads the recitation of the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join them.

### *The Corner*

**"His mercy endures forever."** —Psalm 118:1

Welcome to a day of great grace! **Did you know...**

"On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday." —United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)



### **AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES**

on April 17 and May 1 and 15 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

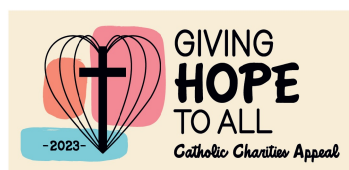
**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS** - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their MAY issue at the Parish Office.

# Collections ©PPC thank you

**DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 2, 2023.** ..... \$4,996  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. .... \$174,627  
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. .... \$167,649

**DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 9, 2023.** ..... \$11,370  
 2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. .... \$185,997  
 2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. .... \$171,665

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, April 22 and 23, is the Gold 50/50 Envelope Collection to support Religious Education.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES

**APPEAL** is a time for our parish to extend our love, generosity, and concern for those who need it most. When you

give to the Appeal, your gift is transformed into hope, providing education, food, shelter, and medical assistance to our brothers and sisters and neighbors in the Greater Philadelphia Area. To make your donation use the envelope mailed to your home or go to [www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org).

## "ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

**STOWE OIL COMPANY**

610-327-3744

**CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.**  
 Call the Parish Office for more details.

## MASS ATTENDANCE for April 1 and 2:

4:00 PM Mass - 123

9:00 AM Mass - 127

Total Attendance - 250

## MASS ATTENDANCE for April 8/9:

8:00 PM Mass - 50

9:00 AM Mass - 243

Total Attendance - 293



## 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. **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 RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

March 27 - #752 - unsold

March 28 - #639 - Dan Grim - \$50.00

March 29 - #050 - unsold

March 30 - #703 - unsold

March 31 - #134 - unsold

MARCH FIGURES: 260 tickets sold - \$1300.00. Payout to winners - \$550.00. Cost of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for March - \$650.00.

April 1 - #452 - Jerry Long - \$50.00

April 2 - #621 - unsold



## VOCATION PRAYER

God our Father,  
 in Your plan for our salvation  
 You provide shepherds for Your people. Fill Your Church in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, especially St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish, with the Spirit of courage and love.  
 Raise up from our families future priests: worthy ministers for Your altars, generous and ardent servants of the Gospel.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 22 & 23

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Mich

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tammaro & Tammaro; Choir, Nester

Altar Server - Francis

Greeter - DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Bernhard & Donnelly

Altar Server - Donnelly

Greeter - Carr



Due to an increase in the cost of the votive candles, we need to ask for a donation of **\$3.50** per candle. The cost of the small candles at the Blessed Mother Statue in the vestibule will not change.

**REDNER'S REGISTER TAPE PROGRAM:** Money we receive from the Redner's Register Tape Program is put towards our Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) expenses. Just a reminder that the Redner's tapes only count when you use a Save-A-Tape card and that information prints out at the bottom of your receipt. Collection containers are in the Church vestibule or you can drop tapes off at the Parish Office. Thank you to everyone for collecting the Redner's Tapes for our parish.



### CYO SPAGHETTI DINNER

on April 21 at the Knights of Columbus Father Bally Council 1192 Hall, Stowe. Benefits St. Aloysius Youth Group Trip to World Youth Day. Cost is \$15.00. Seatings at 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 6:00

PM, 7:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Contact Gary Huster (610-972-0356) for more details or tickets.



### DEEPEEN YOUR DISCIPLESHIP - GROW IN MISSION

Join Archbishop Pérez in his mission to create a culture of missionary disciples in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia! Subscribe to receive a weekly text from the Archbishop with one action step you can take that week to deepen your friendship with Jesus or grow in your mission to bring Jesus to others. It will be a year of journeying with the Archbishop into deeper missionary discipleship from February 2023 to February 2024. To subscribe visit [www.phillydisciples.org/goforth](http://www.phillydisciples.org/goforth).

**CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MEN!** Please consider a weekend at Malvern. As men of faith, we need to come together and rejuvenate our relationship with Christ. Come to the peaceful grounds known as "St. Joseph's in the Hills." Sit in silence before our Lord in one of the adoration chapels. Walk the Stations of the Cross. Spend some time in quiet contemplation at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Hear our retreat director, Father Boniface Hicks illuminate God's Word and explain why St. Joseph is such a necessary model for Catholic men in today's world! Attend daily Mass. Sit in silence. Pray and reconnect with our Lord. Go to [www.MalvernRetreat.com](http://www.MalvernRetreat.com) and select "Register Now." Scroll down the calendar to the St. Joseph the Worker Men's Retreat, April 28-30. To register by phone call Malvern (610-644-0400).

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER EXPERIENCE** on April 21-23 at Sheraton Great Valley, Frazer. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is an enrichment for married couples who value their relationship and desire a richer, fuller life together. For more information visit the website [www.wwme-philly.org](http://www.wwme-philly.org) or call Al & Mary Liz (610-449-1859).

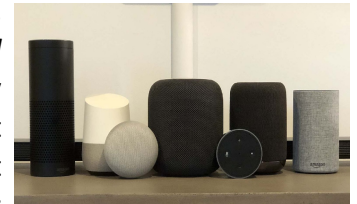
**EAGLE EYE MINISTRIES - YOUNG ADULT RETREAT ON APRIL 28-30** at St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson. Eagle Eye seeks to form, unite and inspire today's young adults to grow in their relationship with Christ. Email Sarah Roberto ([phillyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:phillyretreat@gmail.com)) for more information or to register.



Wi-Fi connected smart speakers with their hard-wired artificial intelligence have crept rather quickly and somewhat eerily into our lives. It was rather early one chilly morning not too long ago. The sun had not yet come up. I was brewing coffee and getting ready for some prayer time. Java and JC make for a great start to the day. I quietly asked my smart speaker to play some meditative instrumental music as I usually do, but



something very strange happened that day. The smart speaker got smart. It spoke back to me in a very low and faint voice. *Why are you whispering? If you whisper to me, I will whisper to you!* Then, “she” started to play the requested music. Weird, huh? Well, get ready – it’s gonna get a whole lot weirder! Smart cars will be getting smarter. They won’t just buzz



and rattle a bit when straying from the lane. They will take corrective measures themselves and maybe even give a little shock in tuckus just to make sure the driver is awake, alert and paying attention. Already, there is transcription technology at use in voicemail and with texting. Careful enunciation is oh so important especially when communicating with someone whose last name is “Dumas.” Language translation technology is also already in use, though far from perfect. One need only consider poetry, idioms, and colloquialisms to understand the difficulty. Smart homes are a part of our world now, too. As we monitor our homes 24/7, now our homes are monitoring us similarly. And if all this wasn’t enough, ChatGPT has made its appearance. Even experts in the field are concerned with this “AI-powered language model developed that has been trained on a massive amount of text data from the internet and can generate human-like text responses to a given prompt. It can answer questions, converse on a variety of topics, and generate creative writing pieces.” In other words, it can



fake being human. All of this melding of man and machine *à la deus ex machina* makes for many questions. This is precisely the time for a good deal of critical thinking and some cutting edge philosophy besides. Since philosophy is foundational to our theology, raising questions answered ultimately by the study of God, and since the intertwining of humanity and artificial intelligence is occurring at a rapid pace, can it not be posited that attention need turn to what



might be called “AI” theology? Can machines be ethical? Can machines be moral? Can machines make decisions - or do they rather make calculations? Here perhaps is just one key of what will be for sure a continuing and necessary conversation. Machines, computers, and AI are binary systems that indeed calculate based on data input and outcomes sought. Machines calculate. Humans decide. Faith, ultimately, is not a calculation of some desired outcome (Heaven), but a choice made to Love. Sorry, Mr. Pascal! That Love is *always* in the present moment – a bit of Heaven on earth if you will! There’s nothing weird about it! This is something the most “intelligent” of machines can never know, but only One Who is most fully human *Deum de Dio!* For God so loved the world, that (in His Mercy) He sent us His Only Begotten Son that everyone who chooses Him might be saved and have Eternal Life! (cf. John 3:16)

Peace!

Fr. Wilson