

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7 APRIL 2019

Readings for Sunday, April 7: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11.

To the exiles in Babylon, Isaiah foretells a new exodus, when the Lord will led his people from captivity to freedom. True freedom is rooted in the person of Jesus, not in observance of the Law. It is he who challenges us to examine our own hearts before self-righteously judging others.

Readings for Sunday, April 14: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56.

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>
8 Apr. MON. 9:00 AM	Msgr. James Mortimer	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
10 Apr. WED. 9:00 AM	Fr. James Gormley	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
11 Apr. THU. 9:00 AM	Fr. Michael J. Sheehan	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
12 Apr. FRI. 9:00 AM	Msgr. Richard Wright	
13 Apr. SAT. 4:00 PM	Deborah Fick	Her Mom
14 Apr. 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, especially JOHN BRUNNER and MATTHEW CAPPELETTI.

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.



Congratulations to our newly baptized, PATRICK NICHOLAS BUSSMANN and his family!

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING on Tuesday, April 9 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

BUS TRIP on April 23 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Take Me Away" - a musical, comedy, mystery based in the streets of London. Start with sit-down lunch ordered from menu topped off with a magnificent dessert buffet. Cost - \$94.00 all inclusive. Payment due April 18. Leave from front of church at 9:00 AM and return about 5:30 PM. For reservations, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

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 Marian Devotions.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 13/14:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
 Lectors- Melanie Warzeski and John Nester
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tammaro, Mara Tammaro, Terry Donnelly, Helen George, John Bracaglia
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Marie Hildebrand

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
 Lectors - Rocco D'Emilio and Jack Bucciaglia
 Extraordinary Ministers - Denise Bucciaglia, Jim Bucciaglia, Lori Carr
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller
 Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

The gospel story of the prodigal son is a well-known parable. However, because of its familiarity, it is easy to miss the essential meaning and message of the story. The prodigal son story highlights the essential elements of what true forgiveness and reconciliation is all about. We hear about a man with two sons. One decides to take his inheritance, leave home and have a great time. When all has been spent and nothing is left and he has hit rock bottom, he decides to go back home and ask forgiveness. The twist in the story is that his father welcomes him back instantly not caring about what or how he lost everything. In fact, he does not even wait for the son to get back in the house; he goes out to him, welcomes him back, and celebrates his return. The older son was faithful but did he understand love and forgiveness?

Let's take a look at the family. The oldest son was a hard and conscientious worker. Every day, from dawn until dusk, he worked in the fields. Whatever his Dad asked him to do, he would do. The youngest was a daydreamer. He loved to sit in front of the house and watch the caravans go by to the fabulous cities in the far-east. The very thought of these cities would send the blood rushing through his veins. He was tired of the monotony of family life, the same fields, the same flocks, and the same duties. His youth was passing away and he wanted to have his fling before it was too late. Filled with self-pity he goes to his Dad and asks for his share of the inheritance. The point of the story is abundantly clear when we consider the relationship between the father and his younger son. As regards the relationship between the father and the older son, Jesus leaves the conclusion open-ended. We have to reflect on what might have happened, whether the older son gave in to the father's pleading to be forgiving or whether he refused. How we end the parable will tell us a lot about ourselves.

The younger son learns quickly of a law in Economics which is the "law of diminishing returns." When you have lots of money, you can do just about anything you want. When that money runs out the friends that you have been picking up the tab for all seem to disappear and do not return the favor. The young guy then hits rock bottom and decides to come home and ask forgiveness and to reconcile with the father because he knows that he will have a roof over his head, food to eat, and clothes to wear.

The oldest son is not very happy when the brother returns and grows angry and jealous. The father responds that all I have is yours and invites him to join in the festivities. Isn't the sin of the oldest brother far greater than all of the sins of the younger brother? He couldn't forgive his own brother. I think you as parents can relate to this story with your own children. I think we all can identify also with the oldest son. How many times have we been jealous, envious, and angry because God gave someone else what we thought was due to us?

The parable is not about either one of these sons. It is all about the father. It is more about the father's unconditional love than the sins of the sons. It is really all about our heavenly father who loves each of us unconditionally with a love we can never be worthy of. Who loves us not because of what we are but because of Who He is. It is all about fidelity of the love of God. It is all about Divine Mercy.

I am sure that each one of us can relate to one of these two brothers in several ways or can tell each of us a modern day parable based upon either our own family or a family we know. The psychic glue of this relationship was the father who knew well the mind of each of his children and gave each of them the benefit of the doubt. He forgave both of them from his heart and never turned back. That's what true forgiveness is all about. Forgiveness is one thing. Forgetting is another issue. Our Father in heaven not only forgives us but forgets our failings. Each day is a new day. It is a lesson that He invites each of us to try.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

Dear Fr. Hickey,

Thank you so much for the very generous gift of \$300.00 your parish has given to Metanoia Young Adults. With your financial support, we are able to hold our monthly Bible studies, host Theology on Tap events with dynamic Catholic speakers, pray together at our monthly Holy Hour, and enjoy deepening our fellowship through social activities. Your gift also allows us to hold our annual young adult retreat that is always a highlight of our ministry. Your generosity allows us to further the mission of Metanoia Young Adults, to grow in faith, fellowship and communion. Thank you once again for your support of our ministry, and God Bless!

Sincerely,

Danielle Gallo

President of Metanoia Young Adults

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 31, 2019.....	\$5,332
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,669
Parish Giving -	\$90
Easter Flower Collection -	\$1,573
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$332
Year to Date Budget.....	\$200,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$173,073
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,327
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$26,927)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$673)
 <i>APRIL 1, 2018</i>	
Deposit.	\$9,905
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.	(\$18,094)
Difference from previous year..	(\$8,833)

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 30/31:

4:00 PM Mass - 191
 9:00 AM Mass - 190
 Total Attendance - 381
 Mass Attendance for March 31/April 1, 2018 - 377

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, April 13 & 14, will be for Operation Rice Bowl.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

O'DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI, P.C.
 610-323-2800

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

RESTAURANT GIFT CARD BASKET RAFFLE - Basket includes: \$50.00 Gift cards to Red Lobster, Cutillo’s, Longhorn Steakhouse and Vincenzo’s; \$50.00 Cash; \$50.00 in Lottery tickets; and a spring floral arrangement. Chances are \$5.00 each. Chances for sale after Masses on the weekend or at the parish office during regular business hours. Drawing will be held on April 15.



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

March 25 - #301 - Mary Louise Schwenk - \$50.00
 March 26 - #621 - Judy Viscusco - \$50.00
 March 27 - #746 - unsold
 March 28 - #747 - unsold
 March 29 - #798 - Barb Rambo - \$50.00
 March 30 - #894 - unsold
 March 31 - #766 - unsold
MARCH FIGURES: 309 Tickets sold - \$1,545.00. Payout to winners - \$700.00. Cost for tickets - \$100.00. Profit for March - \$745.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the March Raffle.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, April 14 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and juice and some light pastries. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT on Friday, April 12 starting at 5:00 PM in the social hall. Please sign up in the vestibule so we have enough pizza. This is always a fun night with a reasonable meat free lenten meal. \$2.00 for a slice of pizza and a soda. Bring your own games, use ours or just come to socialize. Then, take a little time to stop by the Bags and Baubles sale.

BAGS AND BAUBLES SALE on Friday, April 12 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the social hall. There have been some amazing items donated to this sale. It would be a shame to miss out on the bargains. Everything will be reasonably priced. Come and chose a new bag or necklace and earrings for Easter to support your Women’s Society. Make sure to sign up for pizza and stay for the evening if you like. It will be a fun night and don’t forget to bring some friends.

LENT

Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 12 at 1:30 PM in the Church.

Fast and Abstinence - All persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

All persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

Acts of Penance - All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

Operation Rice Bowl - All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. Collections boxes are at the entrances to Church.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14 - Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 PM; Sunday Mass - Procession starting at Marian Shrine at 9:00 AM, weather permitting. Palms distributed at both Masses.

LADIES SPRINGTIME TEA on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Adults - \$10, ages 5-12 - \$5, under 5 free. Tickets available in the vestibule after Masses or at the church office. Pre-purchased tickets only. No tickets sold at the door. Deadline for ticket purchases - April 17. No assigned seating. Come early for best seating.

Donations being accepted for door prizes for Ladies Tea on April 28. We had some very lovely, new donated items last year and are asking again for your generosity. New items and gift cards can be dropped off at the church office.

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG CANDY SALE by Cindy's Homemade Sweets (in loving memory of Cynthia Miller-Stein). All proceeds benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Varieties offered: Milk and Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter; Milk and Dark Chocolate Buttercream; Milk and Dark Chocolate Coconut. \$15.00 per lb. Box. Contact Terry Donnelly to place an order at 610-529-2562 or tmiller217@yahoo.com. Deadline for orders is April 7.

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

REV. JAMES GORMLEY from Bucciaglia Family, Anna Nester & John;

SUSAN CIOE from Anna Nester & John;

DEBORAH FICK from Anna Nester & John;

THOMAS ROBERTS from Anna Nester & John, Dean & Diana Gulotta;

JAMES OTTAVIANO, SR. from Anna Nester & John;

MARY RULLI from Jack & Lori Carr, Bucciaglia Family, Nikki Gambino, Philomena Bracaglia, Gerry Murgia, Helen Chieffo, Tom & Ann Marie Akana, Tom & LeaAnn Care, Bob & Vivie Fitch, Anna Nester & John, Kathy & Ron Bernhard, Jeannine Ferrante, Anne Chizauskie;

MATTHEW CAPPELLETTI from Ginger Scheidt & Marie Hildebrand, Nikki Gambino, Jake & Mary Ann Dailey, Dean & Diana Gulotta;

BARBARA BRAULT from Tony & Theresa Vitacco.

BREAKFAST at St. Gabriel Lodge on Sunday, April 14 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST hosted by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, April 28 from 8:00AM to 12:00 PM at West End Fire Co., Stowe. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk & coffee. \$7.00 - adults; \$6.00 - seniors; \$5.00 - children 4-12 years; children under 4 eat for free.

TENEBRAE - A candlelight service symbolizing how light is shone in darkness as we journey into Holy Week on April 12 at 7:00 PM at St. Aloysius Church, Pottstown.

LENTEN PROGRAM at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro - Father James Blount on Wednesday, April 10 - 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. For more information or to register contact olme@olme.org, 610-582-3333 or www.olme.org.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP offered by Diakon Ministries at Manatawny Manor, Pottstown on April 10 at 10:30 AM. Discussion topic - Sleeping Problems. For more information contact Gina (610-705-3749 or CookeG@diakon.org).

HOLY WEEK QUIET RETREAT for men and women - April 15 to Easter Sunday at Malvern Retreat House. Registration and details - Joanne Bouvier (484-321-2535).

A BABY'S BREATH RUN FOR LIFE on Saturday, April 13 at Norristown Farm Park - 9 AM Fun Run; 9:30 AM 5K Run. Call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-316-6281) for details.