

# TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 30 AUGUST 2015

**Readings for Sunday, August 30:** Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

Through the observance of the Lord's commands, we shall experience the fullness of life. Living in conformity with God's will frees us from all casuistry about good and evil. We are called to welcome God's word and to let it take root in our hearts.

**Readings for Sunday, September 6:** Isaiah 35:4-7a; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37.

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**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 6:30 PM in the Chapel.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
31 Aug.	MON. 9:00 AM	Bertha Carmosky	Clifford & Barbara Keller
2 Sept.	WED. 9:00 AM	William H. Bowman	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
3 Sept.	THU. 9:00 AM	Ferdinando & Grace Barbalace	Brother & children
4 Sept.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Albert Miller	Wife, Kitty
5 Sept.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
6 Sept.	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.

**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.

#### PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) 2015-2016:

Families with 3, 4 and 5 yr. olds not yet in Kindergarten, and school age children attending public schools in grades K and up are encouraged to register their children for PREP. **Registration** for new students and **Re-Registration** for those continuing in the program is taking place now through the month of August. Forms have been mailed out to registered families. It would be helpful and greatly appreciated if all registrations are completed and sent in as soon as possible, so we can order text books for next year. Completed forms with payment may be mailed, dropped off at the Parish Office, or placed in the Sunday collection basket. **New families are asked to register with the church first by contacting Father Hickey (610-326-5127 or [ghickey@sgsm62.org](mailto:ghickey@sgsm62.org)) for an appointment.** We are in need of dedicated adult volunteers. Please think and pray about how your gifts and talents might be put to use in our Parish; then contact Maria Boyer in the office 610-327-5376, cell 610-506-2455 or [mboyer@sgsm62.org](mailto:mboyer@sgsm62.org).

#### ALTAR SERVERS for September 5/6:

4:00 PM Mass - DURANTE

9:00 AM Mass - GERASIMOWICZ

**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 Marian Devotions.

**BUS TO PAPAL MASS - September 27, 2015** - We have had a few cancellations for the bus to the Papal Mass. If interested in attending, please call the parish office.

**MAGNIFICAT BOOKS:** Those who purchased the Magnificat may pick up their SEPTEMBER issue at the parish office.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FATHER GREGORY J. HICKEY

Weekend of August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Muslim Numbers May Equal Christians by 2050**

Reprinted by permission of CARA - Connie Neuman via the telephone

A recent report from the Pew Research Center begins, "The religious profile of the world is rapidly changing, driven primarily by differences in fertility rates and the size of youth populations among the world's major religions, as well as many people switching faiths. Over the next four decades, Christians will continue to make up the largest religious group, but Islam will grow faster than any other major religion. If current demographic trends continue, by 2050 the number of Muslims around the world (2.8 billion, or 30% of the population) will nearly equal the number of Christians (2.9 billion, or 31%), possibly for the first time in history."

Below are some of the other findings from a continuing six-year study that has gathered and analyzed input data from more than 2,500 censuses, surveys, and population registers covering 70 countries. If current trends continue, researchers project that by 2050:

- In Europe, Muslims will make up 10% of the overall population.
- India will retain a Hindu majority but also will have the largest Muslim population of any country in the world, surpassing Indonesia.
- In the United States, Christians will decline from more than three-quarters of the population in 2010 to two-thirds in 2050, and Islam will displace Judaism as the largest non-Christian religion.
- Four in ten Christians in the world will live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The global Buddhist population is expected to remain fairly stable because of low fertility rates and aging populations in countries such as China, Thailand, and Japan.
- Jews, the smallest religious group for which separate projections were made, are expected to grow 16%, from a little less than 14 million in 2010 to 16.1 million worldwide in 2050.

The study's projections "attempt to incorporate patterns in religious switching in 70 countries where the surveys provide information on the number of people who say they no longer belong to the religious group in which they were raised." This assessment finds that, "Over the coming decades, Christians are expected to experience the largest net losses from switching. Globally, about 40 million are projected to switch into Christianity, while 106 million are projected to leave, with most joining the ranks of the religiously unaffiliated."

On a personal note based on this study, we are already seeing the trends of this study happening within our own Archdiocese with the number of parishes that have closed or merged, not to mention the number of schools. This is also happening within our neighborhood of Stowe and Pottstown. Global studies such as this one also affect the local areas. We are a microcosm of a larger macrocosm of society.

For a fuller in depth look at this study go to: The future of world Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050: Why Muslims are rising fastest and the Unaffiliated are shrinking as a share of the world's population," April 2, 2015, appears on the website of the Pew Research Center Religion and Public Life ([www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02religious-projections-2010-2050](http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02religious-projections-2010-2050)).

If you are looking to subscribe to an organization, I would strongly recommend this one. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) is a researched base organization and does research on a variety of topics that affect religious trends in society. Rather than just reading the local paper, it is important to look at all the facts and CARA does that.

They can be reached at: (202) 687-8080 for subscription information. Their address is: Georgetown University, 2300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, D.C. 20007. Their website is: <http://cara.georgetown.edu>. All of their research is top notch and supported by the facts and I highly recommend them.



**KAUFFMAN'S CARRY OUT CHICKEN**

**BARBEQUE** sponsored by the Women's Society on Sunday, October 18 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in the church parking lot. The \$8.00 Dinner includes: ½ BBQ Chicken, baked potato, baked beans and applesauce. Our goal is to sell 500

dinners. Tickets will be on sale after the Masses beginning Saturday, August 22. Tickets will also be available at the parish office during regular business hours. Tickets will be on sale until October 15. Advance tickets only. With everyone's participation, we should have a successful outcome.

**PARISH FUND RAISER** 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 this year. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month.** For more information please call the parish office (610-326-5127). Your support is greatly appreciated.

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR AUGUST 23, 2015.....	\$3,463
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,343
Parish Giving -	\$120
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,537)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$40,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$29,516
Average per week Collections.....	\$3,690
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$10,484)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,310)
 <i>AUGUST 24, 2014</i>	
Deposit.....	\$3,249
2014-2015 Deficit to Date.....	(\$12,311)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,827

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for August 22/23:**

4:00 PM Mass - 211  
9:00 AM Mass - 123  
Total Attendance - 334  
Mass Attendance for August 23/24, 2014 - 299

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

**MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
610-327-2600

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

HELEN G. HICKEY from Pearl Kushnerick, Henry C. Krier Jr., Joan Marie & Thomas Boyle, Phyllis & John Neill, Nicholas & Catherine Pompeo, Dolores & Joseph Morgan, Mary & Tino Rulli.

### **WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2015 PHILADELPHIA**

September 22-27, 2015

Come to the World Meeting of Families Congress! Interact with others about the joys and challenges in your life, while learning new strategies for a richer life! There is something for everyone: compelling content for Adults; Fun faith formation for young people ages 6 to high school graduate. Day Care also available. Register at [WorldMeeting2015.org](http://WorldMeeting2015.org).

Get your World Meeting of Families - Philadelphia 2015 Keepsakes - Get your keepsakes including t-shirts, knit scarves, rosaries, and more on our online shop. [shop.worldmeeting2015.org](http://shop.worldmeeting2015.org). To receive a 20% discount on your purchase, enter Code: STOWSGOTSM20 when placing your order.

### **LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

August 17 - #726 - unsold  
August 18 - #739 - unsold  
August 19 - #120 - Ann Kunsch - \$50.00  
August 20 - #993 - unsold  
August 21 - #348 - unsold  
August 22 - #984 - unsold  
August 23 - #332 - unsold

### **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARISH GOLF OUTING**

to benefit

**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish**

**Friday, October 2**

**10:00 AM**

**Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville**

**Rain or Shine!**

\$85.00 per golfer includes:

Hot dog/sauerkraut Lunch, Post-Play Banquet, Refreshments throughout the day, greens fees, skill prizes.

\$20.00 per Banquet Guest (non-golfers)

**Sponsorships:** 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.

**Donations Needed for Gift Baskets for Golf Outing:** Gift Card from Rocket Car Wash; Car Air Fresheners; Gift Card from local restaurant; Gift Card from local movie theater; Instant Lottery Tickets (any denomination); Men's after shave; Men's shower gel; Electric Shave; Men's Cologne; Men's deodorant; Men's Razors; Bags of chips, pretzels, popcorn, corn chips, cheese curls, crackers, cookies, candy bars; bottles of wine and whiskey. Donations may be dropped off at the parish office during regular business hours. To make other arrangements for donations or for more details, call Kathy at the parish office.

For more information or reservations, contact Kathy at the parish office (610-326-5127) or email [contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org).

**Come join us for a fun-filled day!**

**RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY - OCTOBER 4** - At all Masses on the weekend of October 3 and 4, the Knights of Columbus will be asking for your contributions for a "Rose for Life," the symbol of the Pro-Life Movement. Remember, you are not "buying a rose," but offering support to Birthright (a Pottstown pro-life pregnancy center), to A Baby's Breath (2 pro-life pregnancy centers in the Norristown area), the Pro-Life Coalition of Southeastern PA, and to shelters that house and feed people in need. Please help those who can't help themselves. And Pray the Rosary to End Abortion!