

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

14 FEBRUARY 2021

Readings for Sunday, February 14: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1; Mark 1:40-45.

Jesus manifests the powerful, healing love of God by curing the leper who was forced to live under severe restrictions by Jewish legislation. He turned to Jesus in his need and was filled with joy. We are called to imitate the healing and compassionate Jesus.

Readings for Sunday, February 21: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

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 7:00 PM in the Church.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
16 Feb.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Walter & Roseanne Nodolski	John & Trish Nodolski
17 Feb.	WED. 9:00 AM	Sr. Bernadette Ann, OSF	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
17 Feb.	WED. 7:00 PM	Donovan-Duncan Family	Tom Donovan
18 Feb.	THU. 9:00 AM	Albert Testa, Sr.	Son, John & Daughter, Mary
19 Feb.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Theresa Africano	Theresa Vitacco
20 Feb.	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
21 Feb.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Thomas Valinoto	Jim & Anna Baldasano

Mass on weekdays will be in the Church. Remember to practice the social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask or covering for the safety of all.



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.

THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN! However, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, for the safety of our parishioners and staff, all parish business will be conducted by phone (610-326-5127), regular mail or email (contact@sgsm62.org).

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 15 for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

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

THE ROSARY is prayed on weekdays before the 9:00 AM Mass. We also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. We welcome all to join us for these special Marian Devotions.

2021 MASS BOOK - There are still openings in the Mass Book for weekday Masses from April thru June. Mass stipend is \$10.00. Please call the parish office to schedule Masses.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Growing up, I always loved snow, and the more the better. A few winters ago, I was expressing my excitement at the prospect of a big snowfall in the forecast, and a wise priest told me to enjoy it while I could. He said once I was in charge of a parish and had to sign the checks to pay for snow removal, my opinion of snow would forever change. Well, after the snowstorms of the past couple weeks, I have to admit he was right. I still like snow, and a fresh winter scene can be very beautiful, but knowing there will be a big bill to pay after it's all done has tempered my excitement a bit. Fortunately for us, your support of the parish in the weekly and special collections means we can pay for these expenses and help keep our grounds accessible and safe. Thank you.

Speaking of safety, I want to mention a slightly different protocol for Ash Wednesday this year. In an effort to avoid direct contact that happens with the distribution of ashes in the manner we're used to (i.e. the minister puts the ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross), parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were offered a couple suggestions. The option we will employ here in this parish is a change from what we probably experience. The ashes are going to be sprinkled over the top of our heads. This is actually the normal way ashes are imposed every year in Rome and other parts of Europe; my understanding is that ashes on the forehead is really an American custom. For most of us, this will be a new experience, but just like we've adjusted to everything else in the past few months, I'm sure we'll adjust to this as well.

This might be a good moment to talk about the symbolism of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. In Scripture, ashes are a sign of mourning and repentance. There are plenty of occasions where you see people clothing themselves in sackcloth and covering themselves with ashes while they fasted in atonement for sin. In the first few centuries of the Church, ashes played a role in the Sacrament of Penance. Those who confessed serious sins would then be covered in ashes and undergo a lengthy period of public penance, which usually involved prayer, fasting, and works of charity. They would usually be forced to remain outside of the church during Mass – often kneeling outside the building. As a result, everyone knew you committed a serious sin. Forgiveness and reconciliation would usually be offered once a year at Easter. Over time, things morphed and developed. Confession became a private affair, but a period of penance before Easter became the norm, and thus we have Lent as we know it today.

We receive the ashes on Ash Wednesday as a recognition that we have sinned and that we desire – through prayer, fasting, and good works – to be returned to a right relationship with God. The ashes are a humble way for us to show that. Receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday should be about an internal movement. Our Lenten practices should be ways for us to turn away from the things of the world and turn back to the Lord. The way we will receive ashes this year will be different. It will probably not be as visible as the usual way is. If we are not able to make it to Mass on Ash Wednesday, we can still express an inward desire for repentance and conversion and begin our Lenten journey without receiving ashes. Even if we don't have the external symbol, what really matters is what's going on inside and how we spend the next 40 days turning more toward the Lord.

Don't forget we have plenty of extra times for Confession scheduled during Lent. And don't worry, if you come to Confession here, I promise that you will not have to kneel on the Howard Street steps while wearing burlap until Easter.

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET..... \$5,000
 DEPOSIT FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2021..... \$4,342
 Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,228
 Parish Giving - \$305
 Parish Property Maintenance & Repair
 Collection - \$809
 WEEKLY DEFICIT. (\$658)

Year to Date Budget..... \$160,000
 Year to Date Collections..... \$137,301
 Average per week Collection \$4,291
 Year to Date Deficit. (\$22,699)
 Average per week Deficit (\$709)

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Deposit. \$3,493
 2019-2020 Deficit to Date. (\$17,843)
 Difference from previous year..... (\$4,856)

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, February 20 and 21 will be the 50/50 Gold Envelope to support Religious Education.

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: Requests can be made by email (contact@sgsm62.org) or phone (610-326-5127). Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their envelopes). Statements will be mailed or can be picked up at the parish office.

MASS ATTENDANCE for February 6/7:

4:00 PM Mass - 106
 9:00 AM Mass - 29
 Total Attendance - 135

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

THOMAS MARCHESKIE from Villano Family, Cristin Bucciaglia.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

MEMORIES ‘N’ MORE
 610-326-1911



PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number.

Raffle Drawing 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. MARCH LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- February 1 - #868 - unsold
- February 2 - #127 - Stephanie Pacanowski - \$50.00
- February 3 - #536 - unsold
- February 4 - #080 - unsold
- February 5 - #215 - Bob Zomolsky - \$50.00
- February 6 - #732 - Maeve Donnelly - \$50.00
- February 7 - #703 - unsold

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their MARCH issue at the Parish Office. Please call before coming for your book.

RAFFLE sponsored by Knights of Columbus Father Bally Council for a trip for 4 to Walt Disney World for a week. Included is airfare, hotel on site, park tickets. Raffle tickets are \$25.00 and only 800 tickets will be sold. Helps K of C charitable works. Drawing on March 21. Contact Ozzie Mest (Omest@att.net), Chris Owens (484-347-0756) or Gary Huster for tickets.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

First Reading - Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Responsorial Psalm

℟ I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

- ▶ Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile. ℟
- ▶ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin. ℟
- ▶ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart. ℟

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Brothers and sisters; whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, no seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Gospel - Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER FEAST DAY - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27. Join in our celebration of our Parish Feast Day - Mass at 9:00 AM in church. Devotions and Blessing with the Relic of St. Gabriel at 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, February 27 and 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, February 28.

LENT 2021

Minimum Obligations for Fasting: Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for ages 18 to 59 - Fasting is defined as one main meal and two smaller meals with no food in between. Abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent for ages 14 and up.

Other ideas for Fasting - Find a personal sacrifice that will be meaningful to you and help you on your own spiritual journey. Check out resources on Formed.org instead of watching TV or movies.

Ash Wednesday, February 17 - Masses at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Ashes distributed during Mass.

Sacrament of Penance/Confession - Sundays from 8:00-8:45 AM. Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 PM. Saturdays from 3:00 -3:45 PM.

Eucharistic Adoration - Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

Stations of the Cross - Wednesdays at 7:0 PM and Fridays at 1:00 PM.

Operation Rice Bowl - Provide food for the hungry by donating spare change or making a cash donation to Operation Rice Bowl. Rice Bowls are in the vestibule of church.

Lenten Homeless Outreach - Support the local interfaith homeless community outreach. Parish Collection of "basics" will be collected in the Church vestibule. See flyer in today's bulletin for items most needed.

Lenten Devotional Books - The Magnificat Lenten Book and The Word Among Us Lenten Book are available in the Church vestibule. Please take a copy home with you. Both provide daily Lenten reflections.