

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 3 FEBRUARY 2019

**Readings for Sunday, February 3:** Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13; Luke 4:21-30.

“No prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.” Thus did Jeremiah, and later, Jesus, encounter opposition and lack of faith; thus did both place their hope in the Lord. Paul speaks eloquently of the greatest of all gifts: love.

**Readings for Sunday, February 10:** Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

**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 Feb. MON. 9:00 AM	Donna Czeiner	Francis J. Czeiner Family
6 Feb. WED. 9:00 AM	Thomas Roberts	St. Gabriel Women’s Society
7 Feb. THU. 9:00 AM	Deborah Fick	St. Gabriel Women’s Society
8 Feb. FRI. 9:00 AM	George & Helen Koren	Son & Daughter
9 Feb. SAT. 4:00 PM	Marylou Bruno	Carol Searfoss
10 Feb. 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 SUSAN CIOE.

**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.

**WOMEN’S SOCIETY MEETING** on Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Carol Fry and Anna Baldasano.

**UPCOMING WOMEN’S SOCIETY EVENTS**

March 15 - Pizza and Movie Night  
 April 12 - Pizza and Game Night PLUS “Bags and Baubles”  
 April 28 - Ladies Springtime Tea  
 Mark your calendars! More details on all events will be published at a later date.



**SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** on Sunday, February 10 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and some light pastries. Sponsored by the Fr. Bally Council Knight of Columbus.

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE - February 9/10:**

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Phyllis Villano  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Shelly Stockmal, Terry Donnelly  
 Altar Server - Michael Holmes  
 Greeters - Monica Bauer and Marie Hildebrand

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Rita Templin, Cindy Nore, Cristin Bucciaglia  
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller  
 Greeters - Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

*Marching for Life, 2019*

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap

January 17, 2019

This month marks the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade Supreme Court* decision, which effectively legalized abortion on demand. It also marks another annual March for Life, this year on January 18. It's a time to look back and look ahead. The abortion struggle of the past four decades teaches a very useful lesson. Evil talks a lot about "tolerance" when it's weak. When evil is strong, real tolerance gets pushed out the door. And the reason is simple. Evil cannot bear the counter-witness of truth. It will not coexist peacefully with goodness, because evil insists on being seen as right, and *worshipped* as being right. Therefore, the good must be made to seem hateful and wrong.

The very existence of people, in the March for Life and elsewhere, who refuse to accept evil and who seek to act virtuously burns the conscience of those who don't. And so, quite logically, people who march and lobby and speak out to defend the unborn child will be – and are – reviled by leaders and media and abortion activists that turn the right to kill an unborn child into a shrine to personal choice.

Seventy years ago, abortion was a crime against humanity. Four decades ago, abortion supporters talked about the tragedy of abortion and the need to make it safe and rare. Those days are long gone. Now abortion is not just a "right," but a right that claims positive dignity, the license to demonize its opponents and the *precedence* to interfere with constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, assembly, and religion. We no longer tolerate abortion. We venerate it as a totem.

People sometimes ask me if we can be optimistic, as believers, about the future of our country. My answer is always the same. Optimism and pessimism are equally dangerous for Christians because both God and the devil are full of surprises. But the virtue of hope is another matter. The Church tells us we must live in hope, and hope is a very different creature from optimism. The great French Catholic writer Georges Bernanos defined hope as "despair overcome." Hope is the conviction that the sovereignty, the beauty, and the glory of God remain despite all of our weaknesses and all of our failures. Hope is the grace to trust that *God is who he claims to be*, and that in serving him, we do something fertile and precious for the renewal of the world.

Our lives matter to the degree that we give them away to serve God and to help other people. Our lives matter *not* because of who we are; rather, they matter because of who God is. His mercy, his justice, his love – these are the things that move the galaxies and reach into the womb to touch the unborn child with the grandeur of being human. And we become more human ourselves by seeing the humanity in the poor, the weak, and the unborn child, and then fighting for it.

Over the past 46 years, the pro-life movement has been written off as dying too many times to count. Yet again and again, we disappoint our critics and refuse to die. And why is that? It's because the Word of God and the works of God do not pass away. No court decision, no law, and no political lobby can ever change the truth about when human life begins and the sanctity that God attaches to each and every human life.

The truth about the dignity of the human person is burned into our hearts by the fire of God's love. And we can only deal with the heat of that love in two ways. We can turn our hearts to stone. Or we can make our hearts and our witness a source of light for the world. Those who March for Life have already made their choice. It's a wonderful irony that despite the often ugly weather of January, there's no such thing as winter in the hearts of those who March for Life, only the warmth of God's presence. And that leaves us no room for fear or confusion or despair, because God never abandons his people, and *God's love always wins*.

We are each of us created and chosen by God for a purpose, just as David was chosen in Scripture; which is why the words of the Psalmist speak to every one of us, year in and year out:

*Oh God, I will sing a new song to you;  
With a ten-stringed lyre I will chant your praise,  
You will give victory to kings,  
And deliver David, your servant from the sword.*

The Psalmist wrote those words not in some magical time of peace and bliss, but in the midst of the Jewish people's

struggle to survive and stay faithful to God’s covenant surrounded by enemies and divided internally among themselves. That’s the kind of moment we find ourselves in today. We love our country and want it to embody in law and in practice the highest ideals of its founding. But nations are born and thrive, and then decline and die. And so will ours. Even a good Caesar is still only Caesar. Only Jesus Christ is Lord, and only God endures. Our job is to work as hard as we can, as joyfully as we can, for as long as we can, to encourage a reverence for human life in our country and to protect the sanctity of the human person, beginning with the unborn child.

We also have one other duty: to live in hope; to trust that God sees the weakness of the vain and powerful, and the strength of the pure and weak. Scripture reminds us that David cut down the warrior Goliath with a sling and “five smooth stones from the brook” (1 Sam 17:40). Those who March for Life are not just five smooth stones, but hundreds of thousands of them, joined in spirit by millions of other good people across the country. Our job is to slay the sin of abortion and to win back the women and men who are captive to the culture of violence and despair it creates. In the long run, *right makes might*, not the other way around. In the long run, life is stronger than death, and your courage, your endurance, your compassion even for those who revile you, serves the God of life.

Throughout the Gospels we see that Jesus has power over illness and deformity. But even more radically, Scripture reminds us that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath itself – the one day set aside every week to honor the Author of all creation. The Sabbath is for man, as Jesus said, not man for the Sabbath. In like manner, the state and its courts and its laws were made for man, not man for the state. The human person is the subject of life and the subject of history; immortal and infinitely precious in the eyes of God; not an accident of chemistry, not a bit player, and not a soulless object to be affirmed or disposed of at the whim of the powerful or selfish.

If Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, he is also the Lord of history. And sooner or later, despite the weaknesses of his friends and the strengths of his enemies, his will *will* be done – whether the powerful of our day approve of it or not.

*Parish Support*

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JANUARY 27, 2019.....	\$4,300
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,932
Parish Giving -	\$95
Utility Fund Collection -	\$1,273
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$700)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$155,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$135,315
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,365
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$19,685)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$635)
 <i>JANUARY 281, 2018</i>	
Deposit. ....	\$5,005
2017-2018 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$17,151)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$2,534)

**2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUESTS** can be made by email ([contact@sgsm62.org](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)) or phone (610-326-5127). Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their envelopes).

**“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**

**GAMA PRINTING CO.**  
610-945-4263

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

**2019 MASS BOOK** - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day during 2019 can be made at the parish office. Mass stipend of \$10.00 for weekday Masses and \$15.00 for weekend Masses must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

**MASS ATTENDANCE for January 26/27:**

4:00 PM Mass - 197  
9:00 AM Mass - 130  
Total Attendance - 327  
Mass Attendance for January 27/28, 2018 - 370

**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.



Raffle Drawing

**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**

- January 21 - #109 - Anthony Vitacco - \$50.00
- January 22 - #625 - Marian Lippert - \$50.00
- January 23 - #899 - unsold
- January 24 - #578 - unsold
- January 25 - #648 - unsold
- January 26 - #276 - Jack Carr - \$50.00
- January 27 - #885 - unsold

**MEATBALL & SPAGHETTI SAUCE SALE**

**February 23 and 24, 2019**

Pick up orders in the social hall

Saturday, February 23 after Mass until 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 24 after Mass until 10:00 AM

**All orders must be pre-paid**

Make checks payable to St. Gabriel Women's Society

\_\_\_\_\_ qts. Spaghetti Sauce - \$6.00 per quart

\_\_\_\_\_ doz. Meatballs - \$12.00 per dozen

\_\_\_\_\_ ½ doz. Meatballs - \$6.00 per half dozen

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline for orders is February 17.**

**BAGS AND BAUBLES** - Ladies, do you have a purse that you are not in love with any more or jewelry you are just plain tired of? Before sending it all to the thrift store, save them for the Women's Society. We will be hosting a "Bags and Baubles" event during our Pizza and Game night. Drop off details will be announced at a later date but start sorting NOW!

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

- DEBORAH FICK from St. Gabriel Church Choir;
- DOROTHY V. RIKER from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
- THOMAS ROBERTS from Tom & Carol Palladino; Bonnie Stankunas; May Ann Rozsas; Richard Spare; Evelyn & Larry Engle; Gerry Murgia; Philomena Bracaglia; Barbara & Michael Hipszer; Donna & Rock D'Emilio; Shirley Birmingham; Bob & Vivie Fitch; Grace & Ron Schafer; Fabricated Metal Solutions; Shelba & Anthony Detri; Jeanette & Bill Gatta; Jeannie Ferrante; Nikki Gambino; Thomas Davidheiser; Harold Davidheiser; Jack & Margie Bucciaglia; Frank & Joanne McAdams; Joan Cimino; Peggy Jones; Jacob & Mary Ann Dailey; Betty Skokowski; Ron Bernas; Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer; Chris, Gene & Domenic Gerasimowicz and Lucy D'Emilio;
- ALLAN R. KUKLENTZ, SR. from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
- MARGARET LA ROSA from Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL 2019** - This weekend marks the kick-off of the 2019 Catholic Charities Appeal (CCA). CCA is a time for our Parish to come together to extend our love, generosity, and concern to those who need it most. Your support will provide education, food, shelter, and medical assistance. Taking care of those in need is one of the most important things we can do as Catholics. Please join us in supporting the Appeal as it continues to impact those in need all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. To make your donation, please use the donation card and envelope that was mailed to you or visit [www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org).

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES NIGHT** with the Flyers on Monday, February 11 at the Wells Fargo Center. Flyers vs. Pittsburgh Penguins. Seating available for \$60/ticket. Visit [www.groupmatics.events/event/catholiccharities6](http://www.groupmatics.events/event/catholiccharities6) to purchase tickets - tickets must be purchased directly from the this link to benefit Catholic Charities Appeal.

**ST. PHILIP NERI CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE CENTER EVENTS:**

True Reformers Series from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM - February 5 - St. Charles Borromeo; February 12 - St. Teresa of Avila; February 19 - St. Francis de Sales. Call 215-679-2237 for more details.

**RETROUVAILLE** can help heal your marriage. Next program is February 8-10 at the Family Life Center, Malvern. For details visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 1-800-470-2230.

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** on February 8-10 at Czestochowa, Doylestown. For details call 610-449-1859 or visit [www.wwme-philly.org](http://www.wwme-philly.org).