

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25 JULY 2021

Readings for Sunday, July 25: 2 Kings 4:42-44; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:1-15.

The miracle performed by Elisha finds its perfect fulfillment in Jesus' feeding of the five thousand. He opens his hands and satisfies our deepest needs. In him we form one body.

Readings for Sunday, August 1: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
26 July	MON. 9:00 AM	All Those Suffering with COVID-19	Francis Czeiner Family
27 July	TUE. 9:00 AM	Thomas & Nancy Valinoto	Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer
28 July	WED. 9:00 AM	Marie Ferrizzi	Debbie Lombardi
29 July	THU. 9:00 AM	Evelyn Segnere	Bob & Vivie Fitch
31 July	SAT. 4:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
1 Aug.	SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	

Mass on weekdays will be in the Church.



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.



ST. GABRIEL PARISH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING is scheduled for Friday, September 24 at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville. Plan on joining us for a day of golf and lots of fun!

Look for more details in future parish bulletins.



Flowers on the Altar last weekend were in memory of LCPL MATT SNYDER, USMC requested by Jane Perkins (aunt and Godmother).



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.

THE INSTALLATION of Father Wilson as Pastor of Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish will be held on Sunday, August 15 at the 9:00 AM Mass.



Over the past year, I've been asked a number of times about the Sunday Mass obligation. Some folks wanted to know when the suspension of the obligation would end. There was a desire to get back to some normalcy and, I suppose, the thought that the obligation reinstated would result in many of "the faithful" flocking back into church. Well, people were not exactly filling churches prior to COVID and lockdowns, so we'll see what happens in a (somewhat) post-COVID world. The human psychology of it all is very interesting. When we're told that we absolutely cannot have something, then we often want it all the more. That was me in the supermarket cereal aisle when I was a kid. I could have any breakfast cereal that I wanted, except Captain Crunch. Guess what one I wanted? "Mommmyy, pleaseeeeee," I screamed while throwing a tantrum right in the aisle. The Shredded Wheat served by my mother that entire week prevented any future cereal aisle tantrums. Way to go mom! During the time that folks were not able to attend Mass, online services offered became a substitute for in-person attendance, but the substitute is not like the real thing, just like Shredded Wheat doesn't even come close to the Captain for an eight year old. Someone more recently asked me if watching Mass online would still "count" for fulfillment once we resumed the obligation of attending Sunday Mass. I chuckled and then had to explain why I did. Watching Mass online, in fact, never "counted." It was simply a good substitute when unable, with good reason, to be physically present. It still is, but it isn't and cannot be the same as being physically present. Think of a fabulous dinner affair. Oh, it is going to be quite the party. There will be all kinds of delectable delights for the palate. Come hungry! Imagine getting an invitation that was simply a virtual one. Your attendance at the fabulous affair would occur online. You could, I suppose, take great delight in watching those actually gathered there to eat. The scrumptious filet mignon and over-stuffed baked potatoes really look good along with that bottle of Malbec on the table. Oh, and the dessert table is out of this world. Need I mention that the appetizers were to die for! Such a virtual meal wouldn't exactly be satisfying would it? I would still be hungry. Sharing a special meal at table also involves a lot of interesting conversation and catching-up with folks not to mention hugs, handshakes, and sometime even kisses! Although one can listen to the conversation online and watch the meal, the eating, hugs, handshakes, and smooches too, participation really isn't possible unless one is present. Every Sunday there is a most fabulous meal that takes place. It is quite the affair. The One hosting it has a most unusual occupation as Priest, Prophet, and King. Yours is an invitation not virtual, but very real. I hope that your mouth is watering already – and I hope to see you at church!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson

PS - The obligation to attend Sunday Mass resumes August 15th. Please see the Archbishop's Letter in today's bulletin.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JULY 18, 2021.....	\$3,439
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,259
Parish Giving -	\$180
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,561)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$15,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$11,321
Average per week Collection.....	\$3,774
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$3,679)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,226)

JULY 19, 2020

Deposit.....	\$3,405
2020-2021 Deficit to Date.....	(\$3,620)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$59)

MASS ATTENDANCE for July 17/18:

4:00 PM Mass - 101
9:00 AM Mass - 98
Total Attendance - 199

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

POTTSTOWN ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

610-326-7880

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

ISABELLE WILSON from Bob & Vivie Fitch;
ALEXANDER DI MARCO from Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer;
MARGARET CAPIELLO from Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer.



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. AUGUST LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT THE PARISH OFFICE. TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AFTER MASSES ON THE LAST FULL WEEKEND OF EACH MONTH.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

July 12 - #088 - unsold
July 13 - #869 - unsold
July 14 - #177 - Marie Effrig - \$50.00
July 15 - #795 - unsold
July 16 - #569 - M. P. Onifrek - \$50.00
July 17 - #839 - Birthright of Pottstown - \$50.00
July 19 - #184 - unsold

MAGNIFICAT - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their AUGUST issue at the parish office.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - July 24/25

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Warzeski

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon

Choir and Break - George

Altar Server - Holmes

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozzi

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon

Break, Carr

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ REGARDING REINSTATING THE
OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS**

“We have all felt the impact of COVID-19 as individuals and families. It has been a time of acute hardship and struggle, of separation and isolation. It has also had an impact on our lives of faith. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, has been with us throughout this challenging period and is most especially near to us when we encounter him in the Eucharist. The Eucharist offers us His healing and peace, His mercy and reconciliation. It is now time for everyone to return to the Eucharist with renewed faith and joy.

As many aspects of life are now returning to normalcy, each Catholic Bishop in Pennsylvania will reinstate the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days beginning on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Bishops previously jointly decided to dispense the faithful from this obligation in March of 2020 in order to provide for the common good given concerns over the developing pandemic. Now, with the impact of the pandemic considerably reduced, it is again possible for the faithful to assemble for the Eucharist. It is time to lift the dispensation from the obligation.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days comes from our Baptism as Christians. Baptism compels Christians to unite themselves with Christ at the altar in his saving Sacrifice of the Cross. Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2182). This is the foundation for the law of the Church that binds Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 1247) and the Christian way fully to observe the Third Commandment, to keep holy the Lord’s Day (Deuteronomy 5:12; Exodus 31:15; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 2180-2181).

This obligation, as is always the case, does not apply to those who are seriously ill, have a serious health risk, as well as those who have serious anxiety about being a part of large groups at this time. Likewise, the obligation does not apply to those who care for those who cannot attend Mass in person (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2181). Those who are legitimately excused from Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the Death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading the Sacred Scriptures, and uniting themselves to Christ in his worship of the Father of us all. Those who are legitimately excused are also encouraged to view a broadcast of the Mass which is intended for those who cannot participate in person.

As Bishops, we welcome this moment of the reinstatement of the obligation for all Catholics in Pennsylvania. This is a moment to thank God anew for the great gift of the Mass and the Real Presence of Jesus to us in his Holy Body and Blood as well as the joy of gathering together as people of faith.”

Most Reverend Nelson Pérez
Archbishop of Philadelphia

July 15, 2021