

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 28 JULY 2019

**Readings for Sunday, July 28:** Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13.

In bargaining with God, Abraham demonstrates a real persistence in prayer. Jesus invites us to persist in prayer as well, to “ask...seek...knock.” May our prayer open us to God’s will, and so build up his strength within us. In baptism we have died with Christ, and have been raised to life with him.

**Readings for Sunday, August 4:** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21.

**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>
29 July      MON.    9:00 AM	Helen G. Hickey	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
31 July      WED.    9:00 AM	Doris Enright	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
1 Aug.       THU.    9:00 AM	Rev. Edmond J. Speitel	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
2 Aug.       FRI.    9:00 AM	Matthew Cappelletti	The Holleran Family
3 Aug.       SAT.    4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
4 Aug.       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.

**HOAGIE VOUCHERS** - Last weekend to purchase vouchers for 8" hoagies from Valentino’s in Stowe. Cost is \$7.00. Vouchers are good for your choice of any hoagie except the Supreme. Vouchers expire on September 30. Vouchers available at the parish office until July 31. This fund raiser is sponsored by the Women’s Society.



**CASINO TRIP TO TROPICANA, ATLANTIC CITY** on October 26. Leave at 9:30 AM from church area; return by 8:00 PM. Receive \$25 slot play. No meal voucher available.

Cost is \$35. Deadline for reservations is September 21, 2019. Questions - call Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030). No refunds unless the trip is cancelled.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Our Parish Golf Outing will be held on Friday, September 20 at 11:00 AM at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville. Watch the bulletin for more details.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - August 3/4:

#### 4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey  
 Lectors - Jim Mich  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Carol Fry, John Nester, Nikki Gambino, Tony Vitacco, Cathy Reilly, Deacon Murtha  
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes  
 Greeters - Marie Hildebrand and Ginger Scheidt

#### 9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega  
 Lectors - Rocco D’Emilio  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Lori Carr, Chris Gerasimowicz, Deacon Murtha  
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz  
 Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

### *17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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 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 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

<i>Parish Support</i>	
WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR JULY 21, 2019.....	\$3,202
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,112
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT. ....	(\$1,798)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$15,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$10,392
Average per week Collection.....	\$3,464
Year to Date Deficit. ....	(\$4,608)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,536)
<i>JULY 15, 2018</i>	
Deposit. ....	\$3,484
2018-2019 Deficit to Date. ....	(\$3,653)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$955)

**MASS ATTENDANCE for July 20/21:**

4:00 PM Mass - 171  
 9:00 AM Mass - 139  
 Total Attendance - 310  
 Mass Attendance for July 21/22, 2018 - 292

**EXTRAORDINARY YEAR OF MISSION** in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (October 2018-19) declared by Archbishop Chaput. Welcome to Fr. Casimir Nyaki from the Diocese of Zanzibar, Tanzania. Pope Francis says, by our baptism, we are challenged to reach out to the peripheries, to people in remote villages through the work and witness of Mission Priests, Religious and lay leaders. Extend your heart-filled witness through your prayers and offering today.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**, August 3 and 4, is for our Air Conditioning Expenses.

**“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**  
**ON THE THIRD DAY**  
**The Master’s Mercantile**  
 610-705-0130

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



**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.**

<b>LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS</b>	
July 15 - #050 - Sue Commale -	\$50.00
July 16 - #925 - Loretta Gauger -	\$50.00
July 17 - #159 - Ken Stoudt -	\$50.00
July 18 - #334 -	unsold
July 19 - #195 -	unsold
July 20 - #382 -	unsold
July 21 - #810 - Fr. Gregory J. Hickey -	\$100.00

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of: ALICE BAKOWICZ from Mary Lenhardt, Albert & Josephine Battista, Helen Chieffo; PAMELA SNYDER from an anonymous donor.

**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.

**PHILLIES BASEBALL BUS TRIP** sponsored by St. Gabriel Lodge on Saturday, August 3. Phillies vs White Sox. Game time is 7:05 PM. Bus leaves St. Gabriel Lodge at 4:30 PM. Tickets are \$80.00 per person, includes transportation and seat in the 100 level (outfield). Sign-up sheet at St. Gabriel Lodge or call 610-326-4137 for tickets.

**PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN MANDATORY CLASS** - The Archdiocese of Philadelphia requires that all parish adult volunteers and employees that have contact with children take a one time mandatory class - Protecting God’s Children. The Archdiocese will present a class at St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center, Limerick Township on Thursday, August 1 at 6:00 PM. Registration must be done online at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org). Click the registration link on the left hand side of the screen and complete as directed.