

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31 JULY 2022

Readings for Sunday, July 31: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21.

Listen carefully to the voice of the Lord: set your heart on what will last forever. We only fool ourselves if we believe that our possessions will bring us happiness and life. Instead, "grow rich in the sight of the Lord."

Readings for Sunday, August 7: Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48.



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.



<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
1 Aug.	MON.	9:00 AM	Frank Gambino
2 Aug.	TUE.	9:00 AM	Wife & family
3 Aug.	WED.	9:00 AM	Dennis & Paula Bolonski
4 Aug.	THU.	9:00 AM	Ron & Carol Fry
6 Aug.	SAT.	4:00 PM	Tony Vitacco
7 Aug.	SUN.	9:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish
			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.



SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, August 4 at 7:00 PM - Reading Phillies celebrate Your Faith Night with Fireworks following the game. Contact Maria Boyer, DRE, to purchase tickets (610-506-2455 or mboyer@sgsm62.org).

THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP leads the recitation of the Rosary before the 9:00 AM Mass every Sunday. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS - Cost for one year is \$36.00. Subscription begins with November 2022 issue. Anyone interested in subscribing, please call the parish office. Deadline is July 31.



We welcome DOLORES JOHNSON who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish!

FIELD TRIP on August 17 to local butterfly garden sponsored by the Women's Society. Will leave parking lot at 10:45 AM or meet at garden at 11:00 AM. Any and all welcome, men and women - but need to know who is interested. Additional info when you call Lori (610-326-6030).

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



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Critical thinking, it seems, is going the way of cursive writing. Apparently, there's not much use for either today. Today's computers are able to print words as one speaks. They will even sign your name *for* you. So, why bother using a pen? This is the Internet Age as well, and there are a plethora of online "experts," "pundits," "journalists," and social media



sensation wannabees that are quite willing and more than happy to think critically for you. So, why bother thinking about things too much? The thought police might well pull over the rare critical thinker today: *What did I do, Officer? Buddy, I believe you've had a little bit too much to think!* In the seminary, we didn't just learn about Church teaching in order to regurgitate it on a Sunday morning like some winged fowl feeding its young. We learned about it in order to consume it and digest it. It was to become part of us and who we were that we might live it, proclaim it, and apply it to our world – especially on a Sunday morning.

This necessarily involved critical thinking. Theology and critical thinking go hand in hand. Baseball players have their pre-game pepper and seminarians have theological discussions. I loved batting that ball around – most of the time. Sometimes discussions got intense. There was one tense discussion that I was intending to forgo. Things were getting a little too heated. My classmate, Rick, was at an impasse. He deflected. *Well, I wonder what Gene thinks?* My other classmates sighed. *Low blow, Rick!* Amazingly, the professor bought the deflection. I was dragged into the debate. Soon, Rick and I were going at it verbally. Nice. I don't even remember what the topic was. It

was the debate that I remember. Rick and I came out of it still friends and on speaking terms. *Nice deflection, you @\$%! More recently, I was doing some critical thinking and reflection of my own without having been dragged into it. The Church recently celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene. It was she to whom the Risen Lord first appeared. The Church thus names her Apostle to the Apostles. She so longed for the Lord. She so longed for the One Who forgave all her sins. It was she that remained at the foot of the Cross with the Lord's Mother and the Beloved Disciple. Here's where critical thinking meets theology in speculation. It would seem that Our Risen Lord should logically appear first to the woman that gave birth to Him. This would certainly be appropriate for the Immaculate One. As His sufferings were hers as well (remember Simeon's prophecy), perhaps so also His Resurrection in some way known but to her. Mother and Son were *always* as one in life, in suffering, in being without sin, and so maybe, in Resurrection, too. Mary Magdalene, on the other hand, had great sin forgiven and she longed for her Lord. Could it*



be said, that as Immaculate Mary gave birth to Jesus in this world, Forgiven Mary gave birth to His Resurrection? I'm not sure – but, I would love to bat that theological ball around and hear the pros and cons of that debate. It would sure be interesting. And how about this: if all of us have a guardian angel, would not this also be true of the Mother of Jesus? Would it have been Gabriel or Michael assigned to this task, or would there have been an angel especially so dedicated? And what was his name? In fact, it seems that Mary Immaculate would not only have had a special guardian angel in this world, but a whole legion of angels guarding her against the wiles of the Evil One. Again, it would be an interesting theological discussion to have. Theology aside, I believe that we need to encourage critical thinking anew in our world today. We need to encourage that uniquely human ability to reflect and ponder. We have to learn anew how to engage in discussion and debate civilly and with reason agreeing at times to simply disagree and take up the discussion again another day.



*If we cannot reason together; if we cannot think critically together, then in the end, we will wind up at war with those that criticize our thinking. Yes, Officer, I have had just a little bit too much to think! What do **you** think?*

Peace!

Fr. Wilson

Lost WEEK

Collections ©JPPC *thank you*

DEPOSIT FOR JULY 24, 2022. \$4,614
2022-2023 Year to Date Collections. \$16,153
2021-2022 Year to Date Collections. \$14,785

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, AUGUST 6 AND 7, will be the Air Conditioning Collection.

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:
JULY DRAWING - Shirley Kovach - \$293.00.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

MEMORIES 'N' MORE

610-326-1911



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.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

July 18 - #424 - unsold
July 19 - #931 - unsold
July 20 - #457 - unsold
July 21 - #096 - unsold
July 22 - #129 - unsold
July 23 - #304 - unsold
July 24 - #127 - Stephanie Pacanowski - \$100.00

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
FLORENCE LONG from Anna & John Nester;
ROBERT H. HARTMAN, SR. from Tony & Theresa Vitacco.

MASS ATTENDANCE for July 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass - 119

9:00 AM Mass - 93

Total Attendance - 212



SAVE THE DATE! Our Parish's 15th Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, September 23 beginning at 11:00 AM at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville. More details available soon!

FORMED
FAITH AT HOME

All parishioners are welcome to use the free FORMED.org service provided by our parish. Go to our parish website and click on the FORMED.org picture on the home page. Follow prompts to find many books, talks, movies and Bible studies for all age groups.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE on Monday, August 1 and 15 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the social hall. Prospective donors, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

The Corner

Lord, help me to know that when I criticize others, I condemn myself.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - August 6/7

4:00 PM Mass

Lector - Vitacco

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Tammaro & Bracaglia; Choir, Tammaro

Altar Server -Holmes

Greeter - Wade

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Iannozi

Ministers of Holy Communion - Front, Deacon; Break, Gerasimowicz & Carr

Altar Server - Gerasimowicz

Greeter - Neiman