

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

14 MARCH 2021

Readings for Sunday, March 14: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21.

God pardons and raises up those who have been unfaithful, those who have loved the darkness rather than the light. For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son to deliver the world from exile.

Readings for Sunday, March 21: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33.

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 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Catherine Ivanowicz	John & Elaine Norman
17 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	Decd. Members of Norman Family	Norman Family
18 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Joseph Discher	Wife, Anna Discher
19 Mar.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Josephine Appolonia	Anna Discher
20 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Steven M. Slaby	Dad & Mom
21 Mar.	SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	

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 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.

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

SPECIAL NOVENA FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH on Friday, March 19 at 7:00 PM in the Church.

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 (Ometst@att.net), Chris Owens (484-347-0756) or Gary Huster for tickets.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

One year ago, our lives all changed in ways we'd never expected or likely experienced before. It was at this time last year that the first instances of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 were reported in Pennsylvania. It didn't take long for schools and businesses to be shut down, churches to suspend public worship and the celebrations of the sacraments, and all of us to be ordered to remain home and wear a mask if we had to venture out. It has been a scary, uncertain year in many ways. We all know people who have gotten ill, and many of us have lost loved ones as well. Thankfully, as we've come to know more about this virus, we've all been able to adjust our routines and take extra care to minimize the risk of spreading it.

As a priest, one of my big concerns this past year has been keeping up the essential dimensions of ministry in a safe way. After all, people need the sacraments. People need to know of the loving presence of God—especially in times of crisis. Fortunately, the Church is strong, and has adapted to the situation, just like she has adapted to myriad crises over the centuries. We're still here, and we're not going away. That, in turn, reminds us that God is still here, watching over us and guiding us. He's not going away either.

I've mentioned before some of the initiatives we've undertaken as a parish for us to be better connected with one another. We're continuing to work on them. It's been a lot to undertake, but progress is being made. As I write this, we are expecting to receive guidelines soon from the Archdiocese about the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. No doubt it's going to look different this year, but at least we should be able to have some public celebration of this most sacred time this year. On a practical side, we had to send our Holy Week mailing to the printer back in January. Depending on the guidelines from the Archdiocese, the schedule may have to change. Please keep an eye on the bulletin and our website for the most up-to-date information.

Another practical matter to discuss, as much as I don't like doing it, with regard to the pandemic is parish finances—specifically with our lottery raffle fundraiser. Over the last year, our income from this fundraiser has gone down. I wish the decline was because too many people were winning each month, but it's actually because ticket sales have gone down since the pandemic hit. Not having sales in the church vestibule has had an impact. After assessing the situation with the pandemic, we feel it's safe enough to resume limited ticket sales. Tickets will be sold in the vestibule monthly on the last full weekend of the month. As usual, tickets are also available at the parish office during normal hours, and we can do things by mail if necessary. Please consider supporting this important fundraiser. I will say that, while the lottery hasn't been doing as well as we'd like, regular collections have been stable. Thank you for your faithful support of St. Gabriel's, especially to those who are using online giving or mailing their contributions to us even if they're not here. It's only with your support that we can keep going.

This Friday is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph! As you know, the Holy Father has declared this the Year of St. Joseph. The Archdiocese has published a special novena for this year, asking all parishes to pray the novena monthly on the 19th. **Please join us Friday night, March 19th, at 7:00 pm for this novena.** If you can't make it, we'll send out the prayers via Flocknote so you can pray at home. But try to make it. Hope to see you there!

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 7, 2021.....	\$4,637
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,407
Parish Giving -	\$230
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$363)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$180,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$154,732
Average per week Collection	\$4,298
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$25,268)
Average per week Deficit	(\$702)

MARCH 8, 2020

Deposit.....	\$3,663
2019-2020 Deficit to Date.....	(\$20,550)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$4,718)

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 6/7:

4:00 PM Mass - 87
 9:00 AM Mass - 72
 Total Attendance - 159

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.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY & ASSOCIATES
 610-327-2600

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

GEORGE SIVER from Ginger Scheidt, Barbara & Michael Hipszer, Bonita Stankunas;
DAVID GUADAGNO from Jim, Anna & Donna Baldasano.



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. APRIL LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.**

LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- March 1 - #568 - unsold
- March 2 - #665 - unsold
- March 3 - #105 - unsold
- March 4 - #102 - unsold
- March 5 - #400 - unsold
- March 6 - #598 - unsold
- March 7 - #317 - unsold

WINNER OF MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE DRAWING to support Religious Education:

MARCH DRAWING - Sylvia Marcheskie - \$257.00.

“MORNING JOE” RETREAT with Fr. Christopher Walsh on Friday, March 19 from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the National Centre for Padre Pio, Barto. For more information email Angela@PadrePio.org. Register at www.padrepio.org/events/morning-joe-retreat/ or call 610-845-3000.

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics. Upcoming event: Tuesday, March 16 - Night of Lenten Reflection at Corpus Christi Parish, Lansdale. Contact www.metanoiayoungadults.org for more details.

DAY OF REFLECTION LENTEN RETREAT on March 17 at Malvern Retreat House. Register at www.malvernretreat.com/register or call 610-644-0400 for more details.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 14

First Reading - 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm

℟ Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

- ▶ By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps. ℟
- ▶ For there are captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, and our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!" ℟
- ▶ How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten! ℟
- ▶ May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, if I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy. ℟

Second Reading - Ephesians 1:4-10

Brothers and sisters: God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved – , raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

Gospel - John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

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.

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.

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

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 7:00 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 from February 17 to March 28. Parish collection of "basics" will be collected in the Church vestibule. Donations will be given to Al's Heart Warming Center, run by Pottstown LIFT. Items needed: disposable food service gloves, N95 or KN95 masks, paper towels, underwear - men's and women's sizes M-XL, Leggings/base layer/thermals - men's and women's sizes M-XL, tampons, gloves, non-perishable snacks (the healthier the better).