

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## 21 MARCH 2021

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

The grain of wheat must die to produce fruit. Such dying must be cultivated by obedience and by our covenant with God, rooted in love and forgiveness.

**Readings for Sunday, March 28:** Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1–15:47.

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**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.**

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### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
23 Mar.	TUE. 9:00 AM	Mary Bien	John & Trish Nodolski
24 Mar.	WED. 9:00 AM	Dave Frantz	John & Elaine Norman
25 Mar.	THU. 9:00 AM	Barbara Vanore Snyder	Jeanette & Bill Gatta
26 Mar.	FRI. 9:00 AM	Thomas Marcheskie	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
27 Mar.	SAT. 4:00 PM	Matthew Cappelletti	John & Loretta Gauger
28 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](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)).

The parish office will be closed from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Wednesday, March 24.

**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.

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

DAVID GUADAGNO from Marge & Jack Bucciaglia;  
GEORGE SIVER from Marge & Jack Bucciaglia, Anna & John Nester, Bob & Vivie Fitch, Loretta & John Gauger;  
EVELYN SEGNERE from Marge & Jack Bucciaglia.

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

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Next week (already!) is Holy Week. The schedule for Holy Week has been mailed to all parishioners, is included in this bulletin, and will be posted to the website and sent out via Flocknote. I do hope everyone will make an effort to participate in these celebrations as much as possible.

As you know, we've been printing the readings for Mass in the bulletin each week, and many parishioners have been grateful that we are. But doing so presents a challenge. Space gets tight as we have to wedge in the Sunday readings, parish/area news, and the long-winded Administrations's column each week. You know how long the reading of the Passion is on Palm Sunday; there's no way it's going to fit in a size that anyone could read without a microscope.

The parish staff discussed returning the missalettes to the pews, but we got a sense that some people are still apprehensive about sharing them. We've decided to come up with a compromise solution. Starting next weekend, we will have a limited number of missalettes available in the vestibule of the church for people to borrow. If you borrow one, it's yours until we feel comfortable enough going back to the old system. Please take it with you and bring it back with you each week (and take good care of it). Think of it like checking out a library book: you borrow a missalette for your exclusive use, and it has a due date of a few weeks or months from now. We only have so many to go around, so if you get to church one day and realize you forgot yours, please do not take another one, and hopefully you'll remember the next week. (I would probably keep mine in the car if I were going to borrow one.)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this. Hopefully this allows people to better participate in the Mass while helping everyone feel safe in doing so. It may not be the ideal solution, but it beats having to take up a second collection to buy a couple hundred microscopes.

Fr. Steven W. Kiernan

## 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).



**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 AND AFTER MASSES NEXT WEEKEND.**

**LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS**

- March 8 - #687 - unsold
- March 9 - #364 - unsold
- March 10 - #178 - unsold
- March 11 - #022 - unsold
- March 12 - #211 - Sue Commale - \$50.00
- March 13 - #573 - unsold
- March 14 - #306 - unsold

<i>Parish Support</i>	
WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 14, 2021.....	\$3,628
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,503
Parish Giving -	\$125
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,372)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$185,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$158,360
Average per week Collection	\$4,280
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$26,640)
Average per week Deficit	(\$720)
 <i>MARCH 15, 2020</i>	
Deposit.....	\$2,110
2019-2020 Deficit to Date.....	(\$23,440)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$3,200)

**MASS ATTENDANCE for March 13/14:**

- 4:00 PM Mass - 97
- 9:00 AM Mass - 58
- Total Attendance - 155

**2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:** 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). Statements will be mailed or can be picked up at the parish office.

**“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”**

**MORGAN BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**  
610-696-0100

**THE SHROUD OF TURIN REPLICA EXPOSITION AND PRESENTATION** at National Centre of Padre Pio Spirituality Centre, Barto on Holy Saturday, April 3. Rosary at 11:30 AM; Presentation at 12:00 PM. No cost to attend but free will offerings are always welcome. To register email [Angela@padrepio.org](mailto:Angela@padrepio.org) or call 610-845-3000.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** was founded on the basic principles of Saint John Paul II’s call to action in *Ecclesia in Africa* and the adoption of the statement *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* from the Bishops of the United States.

Africa faces the economic and social hurdles of enormous debt, epidemics, severe poverty, and political unrest. In spite of these challenges, Catholicism is flourishing amid these harsh circumstances.

Your support of the **Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa** assists in the delivery of basic pastoral care which includes religious education, seminary formation and youth ministry. It also supports important projects such as pastoral care for the sick.

On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Africa, I am grateful for your continued generosity.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

**+Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.**  
Archbishop of Philadelphia

**The collection for the Church in Africa will be conducted in our parish on the weekend of March 27 and 28.**

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 21

### First Reading - Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.

### Responsorial Psalm

℟ Create [a clean heart,] a clean heart in me, O God.

- ▶ Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. ℟
- ▶ A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. ℟
- ▶ Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you. ℟

### Second Reading - Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### Gospel - John 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me." "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.