

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10 MARCH 2019

Readings for Sunday, March 10: Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13.

Moses recounts great events of salvation history which find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. We confess him to be Lord, for God raised him from the dead. He is ever faithful, resisting temptation to forsake his Father's mission, trusting in God's love.

Readings for Sunday, March 17: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 9:28b-36.

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>
11 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM	Stacey Bennette	Francis J. Czeiner Family
13 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM	Thomas Roberts	Thomas & Sylvia Marcheskie
14 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel Parish	Francis J. Czeiner Family
15 Mar. FRI. 9:00 AM	Karen Sciole	Maria, Steve & Tyler Boyer
16 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
17 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	Mamie Swavely-Johnson	Jack, Lori and families



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.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP on Tuesday, April 23 to Hunterdon Hills to see "Take Me Away." Cost - \$94.00, includes transportation, lunch and show. Call Shirley (610-326-1128) for details and reservations.

UPCOMING WOMEN'S SOCIETY EVENTS

March 15 - Pizza and Movie Night - CANCELLED
 April 12 - Pizza and Game Night PLUS "Bags and Baubles"
 April 28 - Ladies Springtime Tea
 Mark your calendars! More details on all events will be published at a later date.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 16/17:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
 Lector - Melanie Warzeski
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Terry Donnelly, John Nester
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Nikki Gambino and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
 Lector - Tony Vitacco
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Jack Buccciaglia, Cristin Buccciaglia
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller
 Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Tuesday, March 12 from 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

First Sunday of Lent

This past Wednesday, we began the season of Lent once again and celebrated Ash Wednesday. I would like to offer the following quote from Matthew's Gospel for reflection as we begin this penitential season, which will culminate in the solemn Alleluia of Easter.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Matt 16:24)

If you put out into the deep, you will find the cross. If you let Jesus wash your feet, the cross will be present. If you fall in love with Jesus, the cross will be part of that relationship. The cross is the classroom of sanctity. It is the professor of perfection. It is the arena of heroic virtue.

When I reflect on the above, I wonder what dominates our lives. What are the waves and winds that you find in the deep waters of meditation that tend to cause us to sink? We all have them. When we spend time in the deep, we tend to focus on the Cross of Jesus Christ and that is what should dominate our lives, but does it? I used that word dominate on purpose because it comes from the Latin word for Lord so we could realistically ask ourselves what Lords over you in your life? Is it Jesus or is it the winds and the waves that tend to make us sink?

It is easy to read the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday and say, I wish I were Simon of Cyrene and if I had been there I would have helped Jesus carry His cross. Well, we are here in 2019 and we do not have to seek out the cross of Jesus Christ because it finds us readily and are we willing to help Jesus carry His cross on a daily basis or is it simply lip service?

If we wish to grow in intimacy with Our Lord, we must be willing not only to live for Him but also to die with Him. The Cross will always be a part of our life and we should not be surprised when it comes. The Cross comes to us in a variety of ways.

I often hear people say that other people have a heavier cross than I but all crosses are heavy for an individual. Some of the crosses I have seen are sickness, accidents, broken bones, the death of a child, a person in recovery, children not going to Church, not having a deeper prayer life, and the list goes on and on. When we keep our eyes focused on the Cross and we trust and give up our personal control, it is then that we are able to embrace the cross and begin to understand what Jesus said: "Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow me."

Other crosses come into play when we suffer because of our loyalty to Christ, His Church, and the Gospel. Jesus says plainly in the Gospel: "Say yes, when you mean yes, and no, when you mean no." In other words, there can be no wavering, no accommodation, and no instability in our encounter with the Cross. In this period of our lives and the new evangelization, we are each called to the loyalty of the Gospel and to work initially for ourselves but ultimately for all in the Church to bring clarity to His teaching.

When we give up control and learn to trust Jesus, it is then and only then, when we will embrace our crosses. The key statement here is "Never, never, block the cross."

As we begin this journey through Lent, may we grow into an Adult Spirituality and when we reach Easter, may we continue doing what we started on Ash Wednesday. It will help us deepen our Spirituality.

Have a good week!

Fr. Gregory J. Hickey

2019 MASS BOOK - There are still openings in our 2019 Mass Book. Mass stipend of \$10.00 for weekday Masses and \$15.00 for weekend Masses must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention. Both weekend and weekday Masses are still available.

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 Marian Devotions.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 3, 2019.....	\$3,591
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,501
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,409)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$180,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$155,513
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,320
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$24,487)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$680)

MARCH 4, 2018

Deposit.....	\$4,516
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$20,616)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$3,871)



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.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- February 25 - #166 - unsold
- February 26 - #315 - unsold
- February 27 - #944 - unsold
- February 28 - #559 - unsold

FEBRUARY FIGURES: 323 tickets - \$1,615.00. Payout to winners - \$150.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for February - \$1,365.00. Thank you to everyone who supported the February Lottery.

- March 1 - #742 - Fr. Gregory J. Hickey - \$50.00
- March 2 - #848 - unsold
- March 3 - #909 - Bob Zomolsky - \$100.00

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 2/3:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 176
- 9:00 AM Mass - 138
- Total Attendance - 314
- Mass Attendance for March 3/4, 2018 - 359

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

GAMA PRINTING CO.
610-945-4263

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

- REV. JAMES GORMLEY from Anne Chizauskie, Jeannine Ferrante, Tony & Theresa Vitacco, Ron & Kathy Bernhard, Bob & Vivie Fitch, Barbara & Michael Hipszer, Joan Kalejta & family, M/M Roy Endy & family;
- THOMAS ROBERTS from Richard & Nancy Bacchi;
- DOMINIC BIANCHINI from Tony & Theresa Vitacco;
- BARRY MESSERE fro Ron & Carol Fry.

BAGS AND BAUBLES - Ladies, do you have a purse that you are not in love with any more or jewelry you are just plain tired of? Before sending it all to the thrift store, save them for the Women’s Society. We will be hosting a “Bags and Baubles” event during our Pizza and Game night. A large basket is in the vestibule for donations.



SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, March 10 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and some light pastries. Sponsored by the Fr. Bally Knights of Columbus.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NIGHT WITH THE SIXERS on Wednesday, April 10. Join us and watch the Philadelphia 76ers take on the Chicago Bulls. A portion of all tickets sold will directly benefit the Catholic Charities Appeal Programs. If we reach our goal of 100 tickets sold, a Catholic Charities Appeal beneficiary from Catholic Social Services will receive on-court recognition and students from the four Schools of Special Education will take part in the 76ers high-five tunnel. To purchase tickets, please visit www.fevo.com/edp/Catholic-Charities-Appeal-Night-ur9A3a6.

LENT

Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 15 at 1:30 PM in the Church.

Fast and Abstinence - All persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

All persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

Acts of Penance - All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

Operation Rice Bowl - All are encouraged to participate in Operation Rice Bowl which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world. Collections boxes are at the entrances to Church.

LENTEN PROGRAM at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro on Wednesday, March 20 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Speaker is Kathleen McCarthy, author, Catholic radio broadcaster and Catholic lay evangelist for over 40 years. Her message of the Father's merciful love, the Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist and the power of the Holy Spirit are central to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. The evening includes Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Anointing and Prayer over individuals, and Eucharist Benediction. To register contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist (olme@olme.org, 610-582-3333 or www.olme.org).

A LENTEN JOURNEY RETREAT DAY on Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Church, Douglassville. Includes 2 conferences in social hall, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass in the Main Church. Conference presenter is Sister Joan Noreen, the Co-Founder and director of Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist. Registration required by Monday, March 18. Call Immaculate Conception Parish Office (610-582-2411).

HELP WANTED - St. Mary of Providence Center, Elverson is looking for PT/FT lifeguards for their pool, especially evenings and weekends. Call Kathy (610-942-4168).

HOLY HOUR OF REPARATION AND PETITION on Sunday, March 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia from 5:30-6:30 PM. Confessions will be available beginning at 5:30 PM. Holy Hour followed by 6:30 PM Mass.

FLAME OF LOVE LENTEN RETREAT on Saturday, March 23 at Annunciation BVM Parish, Havertown. Speaker and Homilist is Father James Blount, SOLT. Mass at 8:30 AM. Concludes with Benediction at 2:30 PM. Bring our own lunch. Bring a friend. Free of charge. For more details visit www.flameoflove.us or call 610-622-4257.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

The Archdiocesan Initiative, *Remain in My Love*, to reinvigorate marriage and the family is in its third year which is directed to everyone in the Archdiocese, especially married couples and families. Sessions are planned all throughout the Archdiocese to look at marriage as created by God, what is good about marriage and the family as the domestic church.

The Church has something very important to say about marriage and the family and you don't want to miss it. Go to the website for *Remain in My Love*, <http://archphila.org/remain/>, to learn all about the opportunities for you during 2019 and register for the sessions in your area.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT on March 22, 23, 24 at Malvern-Frazer. The Retreat is designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. For information call Lauren (215-720-5828) or Priscilla (215-906-6337). All inquires are strictly confidential.

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Upcoming Events: Tuesday, March 12 - Bible Study at St. Rose of Lima, North Wales at 7:30 PM; Tuesday, March 19 - Theology on Tap at Conshohocken Brewing Co., Bridgeport - Doors open at 7:00 PM; Talk starts at 7:30 PM. For more details, visit www.metanoiayoungadults.org.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR SPRING CONCERT on Saturday, March 30 at Villanova University's Jake Nevin Fieldhouse. Irish band Scythian and McLean Avenue Band. Visit www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org for more information.