

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

15 MARCH 2020

Readings for Sunday, March 15: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42.

Jesus satisfies our thirst for eternal life. Through his Spirit his grace has been poured into our hearts. God satisfies the thirst of the Israelites whose hearts had become hardened and rebellious.

Readings for Sunday, March 22: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

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>
16 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM	Tim Reilly	Mom & Dad
18 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM	Rita Boyle	Kathryn Axsmith
19 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	Agnes Slaby	Joe Harbach
20 Mar. FRI. 9:00 AM	Agnes Slaby	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
21 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
22 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	Nan Gacura Moyer	Mom & Tom



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.



We welcome **KENNETH STRZELECKI** and **LORETTA HOGAN** who recently joined our Parish!

SPAGHETTI SAUCE - A few quarts of frozen spaghetti sauce are still available. Cost is \$7.00 per quart. Please call Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030) to purchase the spaghetti sauce.

HOT BREAKFAST on Sunday, March 29 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass in conjunction with Sunday Hospitality and the Knights of Columbus. Please join us for a breakfast of eggs, meat, potatoes, juice and coffee. Adults - \$6.00; Children age 6-13 - \$3.00; Children to age 5 - eat free. Reservations requested - please sign up in church lobby before March 21.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATION received in memory of:
AMY LYNN VITACCO from Tony & Theresa Vitacco.

LADIES ROYAL TEA on Sunday, April 19 from 1:00-3:00 PM in the social hall. Ticket sales start on March 15. More details to follow.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 21/22:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
 Lector - Jim Mich
 Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Helen George, Nikki Gambino
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Maria DiMarco and Ginger Scheidt

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
 Deacon Michael Murtha
 Lector - Patty Murtha
 Extraordinary Ministers - Rita Templin, Cindy Nore, Lori Carr
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, March 16 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Transition Time

Transition! Is this a position one applies for?
Is it a decision one makes for chaos of life,
for the strife of up and down feelings,
and roller-coaster chills?
Transition!
Is it a *from-to* or a *to-from* state of confusion
that flows from an illusion;
or does it stem from ebb-tide happenings of moving out of stress,
of looking for peace?
What piece of discernment turns the key and
opens the door to this place?
What grace sustains the transition-er
through weeks of getting settled, of letting go,
Until one knows it's ok
To hang **AT HOME** sign on the heart?
One just doesn't take off and land or travel first class through transition time!
The threads of rhyme and reason for the journey
ravel and unravel day by day
in the daze of learning that there is no check list
for getting through the maze of adjustment.
One wishes that there was a way to chase away the tears,
to calm unspoken fears,
and organize the unpredictable!
So, what is the answer?
What is the clue
that makes this **new** space a place to embrace as friend?
Must one move out of the fast lane of left-brain thinking
to sit a bit with dreams?
Does one watch sunbeams sparkle on the morning dew
and listen to the whisper of the breeze in the trees?
Is this the balm,
the incense,
the soul's anointing
That's pointing to acceptance of the **now**?
How **does** one befriend the present moment
and patiently explore the vistas of the day
the way a clown explores the treasures in a grab bag?
Does one say to God: "Don't tease me when I'm learning how to please **You - Here!**"

Ah, there is an answer to be found in prayer,
where reality is seen as real, where retreating into silence gives God a chance to speak.
"Slow down!" God says, "there's glory all around you waiting to be seen."
Oh, God, I need your grace to stop the treadmill pace!
Encircle me as breath, as light, as inspiration
while I discard this burden of expectation that weigh me down.
Let me gaze into the hourglass that mysteries autumn into winter,

winter into spring, to what brings new life out of the strife of growing.

You've set this plan for me

Please give me freedom to enjoy it.

Tick-tock, tock-tick me through this transition time!

When I turn the corner,

when the stress and toil are to my back,

let me lift my face to the sun in gratitude.

Let me breathe in the full freshness of my surroundings,

And breathe out the dust, the must, the rust of tensions

long corrosive to my spirit.

Then lead me forward to the marketplace of your choice,

to where my voice can mingle with those of others,

to make a melody of praise for the ways of your Love.

Prime the canvas of tomorrow

With laughter, with rainbows and wishing stars,

With opportunity for laughter and some happy-ever-after dreams.

Your **more** is before me....

Amen

Sister Mary Catherine Walton, S.S.J.

Chestnut Hill,, PA

I thought I would share this poem with you. It was written by my Spiritual Director for me when I was transitioning to St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish seven years ago. As I was praying with it this past week, I was thinking of the Gospel from last Sunday with the Apostles witnessing the Transfiguration and thought we are always in Transition in one way or the other.

Some are transitioning with jobs, school, relationships, finances or recent moves.

Some are transitioning after a death in the family.

Transition can lead to transformation as it occurred in the Gospel with the Apostles on the mountain. Sit with it and let the Lord penetrate your being and see where Transition fits into your life.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 7/8:

4:00 PM Mass - 209

9:00 AM Mass - 136

Total Attendance - 345

Mass Attendance for March 9/10, 2019 - 343

PAJAMA PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT on Friday, March 20 in the social hall. Times: Pizza - 6:00 PM; Movie - 7:00 PM. Bring your blankets, sleeping bags, chairs and don't forget to wear your PJ's. Movie - BREAKTHROUGH. Admission: Single Adult/Couple - one new pair of "child size" pajamas (not infant); Children up to age 14 - a "child size" pair of new socks. Adults bringing PJ's will get up to 2 tickets per adult for pizza slices. Children bringing socks will get 1 ticket for a pizza slice. Extra slice - \$1.00. Soda/water - 50¢. Donations will be given to a children's home. Reservations required - sign up in the church lobby.

EASTER PLANT SALE

from Levensgood's, Douglassville

All 6" Pots All \$10.00 each

Pick-up Times

Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, April 5 after 9:00 AM Mass

	Amount	Total
Red Tulips	-----	-----
Purple Hyacinth	-----	-----
Easter Lily	-----	-----
Daffodils	-----	-----
	Total Order	-----

Name _____

Phone _____

Last Date to Order is March 27.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 8, 2020.	\$3,663
Regular Sunday Collection - \$3,548	
Parish Giving - \$115	
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$1,337)
Year to Date Budget.	\$180,000
Year to Date Collections.	\$159,450
Average per week Collection.	\$4,429
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$20,550)
Average per week Deficit.	(\$571)

MARCH 3, 2019

Deposit.....	\$3,591
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.	(\$24,487)
Difference from previous year.....	\$3,937



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

- March 2 - #221 - Michael Burke - \$50.00
- March 3 - #469 - unsold
- March 4 - #671 - Marian Lippert - \$50.00
- March 5 - #939 - unsold
- March 6 - #845 - unsold
- March 7 - \$510 - unsold
- March 8 - #011 - unsold

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

MARCH DRAWING - M/M Mark Flynn - \$324.00.

CONGRATULATIONS! Domenic Gerasimowicz, a student at Pope John Paul II High School, achieved First Honors for the Second Quarter of the 2019-2020 school year!

BREAKFAST at St. Gabriel Lodge on Sunday, March 15 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. All are welcome!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION - Walk with our Lord from his entrance into Jerusalem, through his Passion and Death, and on to his glorious Resurrection as we study and reflect on the scriptures of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. Three, hour-long sessions will be held in the convent on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Fridays of Lent. Sessions will begin at 12:15 PM and end at 1:20 PM as we move to the Church to pray the Stations of the Cross. Dates: March 20, March 27, April 3. All materials will be provided.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Friday, March 20 at 1:30 PM in the Church.

FAST & ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR

LENT - The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, 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 on Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Archdiocese of the Military Services was established by Saint John Paul II in 1985 to provide a full range of Catholic pastoral ministries to those in the United States Armed Forces.

The mission of the Archdiocese is to “serve those who serve” by offering pastoral care to Catholics serving in the U.S. military, enrolled in the nation’s service academies, undergoing treatment at any of the 153 Department of Veterans Affairs’ Medical Centers in the United States, Puerto Rico and Guam, working in civilian jobs for the federal government beyond U.S. borders, and the families of these populations. The Archdiocese and its priests and deacons are responsible for pastoral service for approximately 1.8 million Catholics. However, unlike a conventional diocese, the Archdiocese has no parishes or parish registries and no weekly collections. It relies solely on the generosity of private donations to support its programs and services.

Last year, Pope Francis told military ordinaries from around the world that “The role of military chaplains is to accompany and support [those in need] on the journey, to be a comforting and brotherly presence for them all.” Your support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services will bring the Gospel, the sacraments and other forms of spiritual support to men and women who serve our country and defend our freedoms, including many individuals and families who hail from our own Greater Philadelphia region.

The collection will be conducted in our parish on March 21 and 22, 2020. I ask your continued prayers and generous financial support for this important collection.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

+ Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.