

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

17 MARCH 2019

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

Abram's faith is sealed with a covenant initiated by God, our light and our salvation. The transfiguration of Jesus prefigures the transformation in glory to which we are called by our sharing in the paschal mystery – the dying and rising of Jesus.

Readings for Sunday, March 24: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9.

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>
18 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM		
20 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM		
21 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	Karen Sciole	St. Gabriel PREP
22 Mar. FRI. 9:00 AM	Thomas Roberts	Jake & Barb Cepko
23 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	Steven Slaby	Mom & Dad
24 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



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.



Flowers on the Altar are in memory of MAMIE SWAVELY-JOHNSON requested by Jack, Margie, Lori, Pete and families.

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.

RESTAURANT GIFT CARD BASKET RAFFLE - Basket includes: \$50.00 Gift cards to Red Lobster, Cutillo's, Longhorn Steakhouse and Vincenzo's; \$50.00 Cash; \$50.00 in Lottery tickets; and a spring floral arrangement. Chances are \$5.00 each. Chances for sale beginning March 30 and 31 after Masses. Chances also available at the parish office. Drawing will be held on April 15.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey

Lector - John Nester

Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamarro, Mara Tamarro, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal, Helen George

Altar Server - Michael Holmes

Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega

Lector - Rocco D'Emilio

Extraordinary Ministers - Kathy Bernhard, Rita Templin, Cindy Nore

Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz

Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Two mountains dominate our readings for this weekend: Mt. Moriah, the place where Abraham's faith was tested and another mountain, which was most likely Mt. Tabor, where Jesus was transfigured. I think these two mountains symbolize the ups and downs of every life. Each of us have those times when our faith is tested, moments when we think God is demanding too much of us, moments when it seems God is asking us to give up all the blessings he had previously given us. We have high moments when God seems so close, when His presence fills us with wonder and awe, moments of blessing that we do not want to see come to an end.

Often we have no control over where God might put us at different times in our lives: whether we find ourselves on Mt. Moriah facing great trials, or we find ourselves on Mt. Tabor in a state of ecstasy. However for most of us, most of the time we are somewhere in between, plugging along every day. Difficult times often seem to last forever but they seldom do. Abraham's time of trial ended when God said "Hold off, you do not have to sacrifice your son. I just want to know you were willing to obey me." Sometimes that's all God wants from us, to say "Thy will be done."

The joyful moments in our lives end all too quickly. The Apostles wanted to stay on Mt. Tabor forever but Our Lord said it was time to go back down to reality. There was a lot of work to be done and very hard times ahead for Jesus and them.

Not mentioned is a third very important mountain. It is foreshadowed in the story of Abraham and Isaac. God did not demand the human sacrifice of Isaac, but God's only Son was to remain faithful to His mission even at the cost of His life on the hill of Calvary. Calvary also casts its shadow over the glory of Mt. Tabor. St. Mark makes an obvious connection between Jesus' passion and death and His transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. Mark tells us specifically the transfiguration took place six days after Jesus' first prediction of His passion and death. Mark ends his narration of the transfiguration with Jesus telling Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone of the vision until he had risen from the dead. The obvious linking of Jesus' death and resurrection with the transfiguration tells us that while Calvary reminds us of Jesus' suffering and his cross, it is also his hour of glory that brings us salvation, hope, and peace.

The transfiguration was not only a revelation of the divinity hidden in Jesus but it was also a preview of His future glorification in the resurrection. It is also a preview of the glory God the Father wants us to share with His Son. The transfiguration is the fourth of the new mysteries of light for the rosary. As I was meditating on this mystery the other day, I wondered how often the Apostles experienced Jesus' glory like this? Only once, and it was only three of them. They had to simply go on faith the rest of the time, seeing only the human side of Jesus who ate and slept and grew tired and was sometimes sad or angry just like them.

These special moments when we experience God's special closeness, when Jesus' presence is tangible to us, when our lives are touched by glory, are few and far between. Most of the time we have to simply go on faith. However, it is a faith that will lead to future glory. St. Paul asks us in this weekend's reading: "Is it possible that he who did not spare His own Son but handed him over for the sake of us will not grant us all things besides?"

I would strongly suggest that during this period of Lent, which is a period of formation, that you would spend time in prayer on each one of the three mountains. See what the Lord reveals to you personally on each of them. The mountain in Sacred Scripture is a place of Theophany. It is a place where God speaks to you in the silence of your heart and He makes himself manifest to you. May you grow deeply on each mountain during this period of faith, formation, and conversion. May the mountain lead you to transformation. It is worth the effort.

Have a good week!

Fr. 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 10, 2019.....	\$4,607
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,507
Parish Giving -	\$135
Ash Wednesday Collection -	\$965
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$393)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$185,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$160,120
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,328
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$24,880)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$672)
 <i>MARCH 11, 2018</i>	
Deposit.....	\$3,775
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$21,841)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$3,039)

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 9/10:

4:00 PM Mass - 201
 9:00 AM Mass - 142
 Total Attendance - 343
 Mass Attendance for March 10/11, 2018 - 406



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

March 4 - #659 - unsold
 March 5 - #837 - unsold
 March 6 - #380 - unsold
 March 7 - #087 - Barbara Hipszer - \$50.00
 March 8 - #196 - unsold
 March 9 - #543 - unsold
 March 10 - #952 - unsold

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years, Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have practiced their faith in the shadows for fear of persecution. Despite these obstacles, Catholics continue to grow in faith and in numbers. God's perfect love has sustained and strengthened the people and the Church, creating a new generation of believers while sustaining those who have made it through the darkest of times.

Your participation in the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe** will assist in the building of churches; training and educating of pastors and lay people; sustaining orphanages; evangelizing children, adults and seniors as well as providing scholarships to Catholic students.

I am grateful, on behalf of our Catholic brothers and sisters in Central and Eastern Europe, for your generous sacrifice and prayers.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,
+Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
 Archbishop of Philadelphia

This collection will be conducted in our parish on the weekend of March 23 and 24.

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

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY
 610-327-2600

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
REV. JAMES GORMLEY from Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie, Jack & Lori Carr;
DEBORAH FICK from Sylvia & Tom Marcheskie;
SEARLES BOONE from Shirley Birmingham;
LENORE MILLER from Tony & Theresa Vitacco.

CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG CANDY SALE by Cindy's Homemade Sweets (in loving memory of Cynthia Miller-Stein). All proceeds benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children®. Varieties offered: Milk and Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter; Milk and Dark Chocolate Buttercream; Milk and Dark Chocolate Coconut. \$15.00 per lb. box. Contact Terry Donnelly to place an order at 610-529-2562 or tmiller217@yahoo.com.

LENT

Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 22 at **11:00 AM** 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.

PIZZA & GAME NIGHT on Friday, April 12 starting at 5:00 PM in the social hall. Please sign up in the vestibule so we have enough pizza. This is always a fun night with a reasonable meat free lenten meal. Then, take a little time to stop by the Bags and Baubles sale.

BAGS AND BAUBLES SALE on Friday, April 12 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the social hall. There have been some amazing items donated to this sale. It would be a shame to miss out on the bargains. Everything will be reasonably priced. Come and chose a new bag or necklace and earrings for Easter to support your Women's Society. Make sure to sign up for pizza and stay for the evening if you like. It will be a fun night and don't forget to bring some friends. **Last day for bag and jewelry donations is March 31.**

LADIES SPRINGTIME TEA on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Tickets on sale beginning March 23. Adults \$10, ages 5-12 \$5, under 5 free. Tickets available in the vestibule after Masses or at the church office.

Donations being accepted for door prizes for Ladies Tea on April 28. We had some very lovely, new donated items last year and are asking again for your generosity. New items can be dropped off at the church office.

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. To purchase tickets, please visit www.fevo.com/edp/Catholic-Charities-Appeal-Night-ur9A3a6.

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. 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).

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.

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. **Tuesday, March 19**, Theology on Tap at Conshohocken Brewing Co., Bridgeport - Doors open at 7:00 PM; Talk starts at 7:30 PM. Visit www.metanoiayoungadults.org for more details.