

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

22 MARCH 2020

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

Samuel does not see as God sees in the choice of David, who is anointed with oil. As Jesus cures the blind man, so too are we brought from darkness into light through the grace of baptism.

Readings for Sunday, March 29: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45.

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>
23 Mar.	MON.	No public Mass	Mary Ellen Nodolski	Bonita Stankunas
25 Mar.	WED.	No public Mass	Agnes Slaby	Judith & James Kennedy
26 Mar.	THU.	No public Mass	Steve Slaby	Mom & Dad
27 Mar.	FRI.	No public Mass	Matthew Cappelletti	Loretta & John Gauger
28 Mar.	SAT.	No public Mass	Robert & Joan Sabo	Cliff & Barb Keller
29 Mar.	SUN.	No public Mass	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	

Fr. Hickey will have a private Mass each day to fulfill the Mass Intentions for Masses previously scheduled.

The Chapel will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for private prayer.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will still be held on Mondays from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.



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.

CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC:

PREP CLASSES are cancelled - will resume on Sunday, March 29.

HOT BREAKFAST scheduled for Sunday, March 29 has been cancelled.

CHOIR PRACTICE cancelled until further notice.

LADIES ROYAL TEA scheduled for April 19 has been postponed - will be rescheduled at a later date.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING scheduled for March 30 has been cancelled - Fr. Hickey will contact members via email.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING scheduled for March 26 has been cancelled - Fr. Hickey will contact members via email.

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) or email (contact@sgsm62.org).

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their APRIL issue at the parish office. **Please call the office prior to stopping for your book.**

CELEBRATING MARY'S YES: An online VIRTUAL Rosary - On Wednesday, March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, all are invited and encouraged to gather online at www.HeadTheCall.org to hear about a new vocation initiative and join Archbishop Nelson Pérez as he leads us in praying the Rosary.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

The Joy of Teaching

For the last several weeks, the Gospels have centered on the Sermon on the Mount. They are also known as the Beatitudes. When I was teaching at Immaculata University, I had a course on Matthew's Gospel and spent a few classes on that very topic. At the end of the three classes, I used the following prayer to close the Beatitudes and move on to another section of the gospel. We are not very different than the disciples.

Then Jesus took his disciples up to the mountain and gathering
them around him, he taught them saying,
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the meek.
Blessed are they that mourn.
Blessed are you when persecuted.
Blessed are you when you suffer.
Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.
Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to know this?"
and Andrew said, "Do we have to write this down?"
and James said, "Will we have a test on this?"
and Philip said, "I don't have any paper."
and Bartholomew said, "Do we have to turn this in?"
and John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."
and Matthew said, "May I go to the bathroom?"
Then one of the Pharisees who was present, asked to see Jesus'
lesson plan, and inquired of Jesus, "Where is your anticipatory set
and your objectives in the cognitive domain?"
and Jesus wept.

This week, we leave the mountain and enter into the Season of Lent. We always begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. I want to say a word or two about the desert. Jesus was sent there by the Holy Spirit right after His Baptism. It was a time to reflect and pray, a time of Transition from the workshop of the mountain to His work of teaching and healing. We all need to go into the desert from time to time. Sometimes the Holy Spirit takes us there by denying to us for a time the joys and consolations that we would like our religion to bring us. Sometimes life itself takes us into a desert, with the loss of a loved one or a job or our health, or a feeling that we've lost our purpose. Our faith is really tested during those times.

Lent is a time to draw into our own desert. It is a time to reflect and pray. It is a time to deny ourselves and reflect on the Eucharist and the great love that Jesus has for each one of us. These thoughts are profound but that is what Lent is all about.

Matthew McConaughey, in accepting his Oscar on March 3, 2014, did not worry about being politically correct. He thanked God for his success. He thanked his family for their love and support and singled out his Mom and talked of his Father who had passed away. He also said that he always wants to better himself. He said, "One always has to look up, look forward, and chase his heroes." May each one of us have the courage, not only during this Lenten Season, but every day to go out to the larger arena outside of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church and let the world know how we feel. It is easy to do that on Ash Wednesday as we give public witness for all to see. It is much more difficult to do that every day and to give public witness on every occasion. Ashes are an outward sign of an interior transformation. May this Lent be the best one every and may you too look up, look forward, and chase your heroes.

Have a good week.

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 15, 2020.....	\$2,110
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,020
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$2,890)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$185,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$161,560
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,366
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$23,440)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$634)

MARCH 10, 2019

Deposit.....	\$4,607
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$24,880)
Difference from previous year.....	\$1,440



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.**

APRIL LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PICK UP TICKETS.

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- March 9 - #940 - unsold
- March 10 - #001 - unsold
- March 11 - #759 - unsold
- March 12 - #523 - Fr. Gregory J. Hickey - \$50.00
- March 13 - #538 - unsold
- March 14 - #713 - Tom Reilly - \$50.00
- March 15 - #491 - Joe Karpinski - \$100.00

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 14/15:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 107
- 9:00 AM Mass - 71
- Total Attendance - 178
- Mass Attendance for March 16/17, 2019 - 372

EASTER PLANT SALE

from Levengood'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.

Please mail order form to: Lori LaRosa, 301 Jem Avenue, Stowe, PA 19464 or call Lori at 610-326-6030.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY AND REFLECTION has been cancelled.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS have been cancelled.

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.

All the faithful are encouraged to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures during Lent.

**ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ ANNOUNCES THE SUSPENSION OF ALL PUBLIC MASSES
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez has suspended all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia effective at 12:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 18 and until further notice.

Last week, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels. These measures will be re-evaluated pending future developments.

Archbishop Pérez said, “As the Archbishop of Philadelphia, my first priority is to ensure the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church. So, in light of the developing Coronavirus pandemic, a decision has been made to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time being.

All of us need to do our part to slow the spread of this illness. Like you, we are monitoring coronavirus developments and look forward to continuing our lives on a more normal basis.

While things may look and feel different during these uncertain times, I want to be very clear that the Catholic Church in Philadelphia is not closing down. It is not disappearing and it will not abandon you. Time and again as our history has proven the Church has risen to meet great challenges and provide a beacon of hope and light.

As your shepherd, I promise that the Church remains steadfast and is prepared to walk with you and serve you. Neither the Church nor its charitable works will stop. God is always by our side. He never abandons us. I invite you to join me in prayerful solidarity for the intentions of the sick, suffering, and their caregivers as well as government and health officials. With God’s grace and blessing, we will navigate the difficult waters of this challenge as a united human family, for after all is said and done, we are people of Hope!”

Though public Masses are suspended in all churches in the Archdiocese, the right and need of the faithful to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments is not put aside. Pastors, along with all those who work with them, will be as attentive as possible to all the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of the people they serve.

Priests will continue to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions. Baptisms, Confessions, Marriages and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

In conjunction with directives already in force in hospitals and institutions, all visits to the sick with Holy Communion, including in private homes, by priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are suspended.

On Sunday, March 15, the Archdiocese featured a live streaming broadcast of the 11:00 A.M. Mass on its website and Archbishop Pérez’s Facebook page for the benefit of those wishing to participate in the liturgy remotely. This broadcast will continue each Sunday on an ongoing basis. Additional information regarding opportunities for prayer and devotions are available on the Archdiocesan website.

PRAYER TO END THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC:

Our Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church have encouraged us to pray for the sick, for those exposed to the current epidemic, and for those who are ministering to us.

Prayer to Our Lady of Prompt Succor

O, Mary, Mother of God, who,
amidst the tribulations of the world,
watches over us and over the Church of your Son,
be to us and to the Church truly Our Lady of Prompt Succor,
make haste to help us in all our necessities,
that in this fleeting life you may be our succor,
and obtain for us
an end to epidemics and pandemics
and all other afflictions.
Help us to gain life everlasting through the merits of Jesus,
as we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.