

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

3 MARCH 2019

Readings for Sunday, March 3: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45.

The fruit of our speech and actions will wither and die unless we first recognize the plank in our own eye. By humbly admitting our own sins, we can more fruitfully persevere in the work of the Lord.

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

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>
4 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
6 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM	Joseph A. & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
6 Mar. WED. 7:00 PM	Margaret LaRosa	Jim & Anna Baldasano
7 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	Roy Nynce	Francis J. Czeiner Family
8 Mar. FRI. 9:00 AM	Rita Bernas	Husband, Ron & children
9 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
10 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	Gentile-Almond Families	Jack & Margie Buccigliaglia and family



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially REV. JAMES GORMLEY.

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.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING on Thursday, March 7 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. Hostesses: Loretta Gauger and Diana Gulotta.

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.

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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 9/10:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
 Lector - Phyllis Villano
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamaro, Mara Tamaro, George Siver, Helen George, Shelly Stockmal
 Altar Server - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Marie Hildebrand

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
 Lector - Rocco D'Emilio
 Extraordinary Ministers - Rita Templin, Cindy Nore, Chris Gerasimowicz
 Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

“Lent is a time to work on our Spiritual DNA”

Counselors and therapists are told that in dealing with their clients they must at all times control their emotions. They must maintain a certain distance and detachment. This advice makes sense. Otherwise they would not be able to maintain the necessary perspective. They would leave themselves open to manipulation and possibly take-over by their clients. They would also be in danger of burn-out. Hence, at all times they must maintain their professional cool.

Yet this coolness, this detachment, can be carried too far. The quality of the relationship between therapist and client is far more important than procedures and techniques. A cold, detached, unsympathetic attitude on the part of the therapist is not conducive to healing. The patient must experience warmth, sympathy and care if healing, change and growth are to take place.

The most successful psychotherapists are those who are able to show warmth and empathy. Therapy works best when the therapist is affected by the plight of the patient, and is not afraid to let the patient see this. The famous psychologist, Carl Jung, said, “I have learned that only the physician who feels himself deeply affected by his patients could heal.” Scott Peck, author of the *Road Less Travelled*, goes so far as to say that it is essential for the therapist to love a patient for the therapy to be successful.

When as a patient you meet someone who seems to understand what it is like to be you, without wanting to analyze you or judge you, then you find it easier to open up. When you discover that your pain is felt by the person in whom you have confided, it makes you want to get well.

Yet professionals often come across as cold – cold to people who are extremely vulnerable. Many people are unable to deal with pain. You hear some people say, “I could never be a nurse or doctor – I can’t bear to see people suffer.” The best nurses and doctors are precisely those who can’t bear to see people suffering, and therefore try their best to relieve that suffering, but that doesn’t mean that there aren’t limits.

While professionals tend to keep their distance, amateurs tend to get more involved with patients. The former often look down on the latter, yet the latter sometimes achieve more. This is not surprising when you realize that the word “amateur” comes from the Latin word *Amare* which means “to love.” In the long run, love is the thing that heals. I’m sure you have heard the following expression. The first day when I was leaving the house for a new teaching job, my Mom said, “Remember, you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.” That statement rang true so many times.

Jesus was no detached healer. He showed care and compassion for those who suffered. He wasn’t afraid to let the sufferers know that he cared about them. There is a fine example in the Gospel. On stepping ashore, he was met by a large crowd. He didn’t see them as a crowd, but a collection of individuals, each with problems and worries. He had compassion on them, precisely because they were wounded and in need.

Caring is essentially a matter of the heart. One actually is less exhausted by a total involvement of self than by an attempt to barricade oneself behind defenses, provided one knows how to replenish one’s reserves. Those who give themselves, somehow recharge themselves at the same time.

On Wednesday of this week, we will enter into the Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is a season of healing and conversion and we pray to the Wounded Healer that he will change our Spiritual DNA and conform it to his. Masses will be at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

Have a good week and remember you may be the instrument that brings healing to a person by your kindness or refer them to a professional that can begin the process of therapy. We are all our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers. Spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament and listen to what the Lord is saying to you in prayer. We have Stations of the Cross every Friday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. during Lent in the Church. May this Lenten Season be a spiritual and profitable time for you.

Fr. Gregory J. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2019.....	\$4,144
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,110
Parish Giving -	\$95
Feast Day Collection -	\$939
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$856)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$175,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$151,922
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,341
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$23,078)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$659)
 <i>FEBRUARY 25, 2018</i>	
Deposit.....	\$4,403
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$20,132)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$2,946)

MASS ATTENDANCE for February 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass - 191
 9:00 AM Mass - 128
 Total Attendance - 319
 Mass Attendance for February 24/25, 2018 - 330

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

DC FUNDING
 215-586-1575 or 267-251-0341



We recently received notification that one of our parishioners attending Pope John Paul II High School received Academic Honors for the Second Quarter - DOMENIC GERASIMOWICZ received First Honors.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
KAREN SCIOLE from Ron & Carol Fry;
MARGARET LA ROSA from Pete & Lori LaRosa.



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 18 - #368 - Gina Karaszkiwicz - \$50.00
- February 19 - #613 - unsold
- February 20 - #603 - unsold
- February 21 - #959 - unsold
- February 22 - #029 - unsold
- February 23 - #062 - unsold
- February 24 - #723 - unsold



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.

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.

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.

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.

LENT

Ash Wednesday, March 6 - Ashes distributed during Masses at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM in the church.

Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 8 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.

ARCADIA SENIOR LIVING AT LIMERICK POINTE offers state of the art Senior Care: Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care. This facility will offer a spiritual environment supported by St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish including a Chapel, daily Mass, regular devotions and a resident Priest. Located at Swamp Pike and Lewis Road in Limerick, Arcadia is scheduled to open in Fall 2020 and already has over 25 residents signed up. An Open House Information Session will be held at St. Teresa of Calcutta Education Center, Schwenksville on Thursday, April 25 between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. For more information call Kati Cohn (610-321-1977, ext. 115).

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).

ASH WEDNESDAY LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION on March 6 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Malvern Retreat House. Directed by Fr. James McGuinn, this is the perfect day for you to begin Lent with the distribution of ashes, a sit-down lunch, Mass and Confessions. The theme is "Understanding and Pursuing Catholic Spiritual Growth." Cost is \$40 per person. Register at www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

WOMEN AFIRE RETREAT FOR WOMEN on March 8-10 in the Malvern Retreat House McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center. Fr. Douglas McKay will be joining the team this year, along with Anna latesta, Kathleen McCarthy and Anne McGlone. Music by Mark Griswold, a noted prayer and praise worship leader. For more details visit www.malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, March 8.

Dear Parishioners of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church,

We would like to express our deep appreciation for all the lovely donations given to Birthright through your Advent Giving Tree. Christmas was good to us which means we will be able to help clothe lots of babies. May God bless all of you.

Sincerely,

Birthright of Pottstown

PHILOSOPHY LECTURE - "The Relationship Between Faith and Science" on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Vianney Hall. Speaker is Professor Stephen Barr, PhD in the department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Delaware. He is the author of *Modern Physics and Ancient Faith* (Univ. of Notre Dame, 2003). For information visit www.scs.edu.