

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

31 MARCH 2019

Readings for Sunday, March 31: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Having arrived in the promised land, the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from affliction and distress in the Passover. Christ, our passover, has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation: let us forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional and abundant love of God our Father.

Readings for Sunday, April 7: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11.

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>
1 Apr. MON. 9:00 AM	Mary Margaret Friel	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
3 Apr. WED. 9:00 AM	Roger Villano	Wife & family
4 Apr. THU. 9:00 AM	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
5 Apr. FRI. 9:00 AM	Joseph A. & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
6 Apr. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
7 Apr. SUN. 9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	



ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially MARY RULLI.

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, April 4 at 7:00 PM in the social hall. We will be working on favors for the Tea at this meeting. Hostesses: Lori LaRosa and MaryAnn Dailey.

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 after Masses on the weekend or at the parish office during regular business hours. Drawing will be held on April 15.

<u>MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 6/7:</u>
<u>4:00 PM Mass</u>
Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
Lector - Phyllis Villano
Extraordinary Ministers - Frank Durante, Sherry Durante, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal
Altar Server - Michael Holmes
Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer
<u>9:00 AM Mass</u>
Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
Extraordinary Ministers - Chris Gerasimowicz, Tony Vitacco, Rita Templin, Cindy Nore
Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Go take a walk to holy place, even in your own backyard

Reprinted by permission of the author – Sister Ann Heath, I.H.M.

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Originally posted on March 5, 2019

Taking a walk is a favorite activity of mine. I have walked in lots of places around the world, but walks with the greatest impact possess a spiritual dimension. They are the soulful ones. And for me the walking is a pilgrimage.

There are many ways to make a pilgrimage and you do not need to travel far, although you can. I like to think of pilgrimage as a journey of the heart which carries me closer to God, by entering into the lives of the saints, touching places they have blessed with their presence; or encountering the sanctity of the ages by visiting churches, shrines, and sacred places, which speak of God's unique blessings upon past generations; or seeking out beauty with the intention of glorifying all that is good, holy and perfect in God's creation.

What kind of walking is required? For sure, my preparation involves calming my hurried pace and stepping into a gentle, meandering kind of walk, a saunter. As the pilgrim saunters, so too I focus on walking with the spirit of a traveler seeking a holy land, one seeking to be revitalized by purpose and goodness, one ready to be immersed in a holiness of time, place and presence.

At one time in my life, the thought of traveling worldwide to places where saints have trod was unimaginable! But trying to envision that experience led me to consider how each day offers an opportunity for moments of personal pilgrimage. The words of St. Paul in Philippians 4:8 provided inspiration: "If there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

So this mindfulness makes possible a pilgrimage of the heart where we step deliberately into the presence of the holy to think upon such things in the ordinariness of daily life.

Now those who have the benefit of living around Philadelphia and its environs, we are surrounded by actual places where saints have walked. Each Lent, I make a one-day pilgrimage locally to become immersed in the spiritual life of the church as lived concretely by these witnesses of faith. The proximity provides easy access to some wonderful places. The itinerary could be quite varied, but here are a few saints whose shrines rank among my personal favorites

St. John Neumann (1811-1860) worked tirelessly as a Redemptorist priest and bishop among the people, especially the most abandoned poor, in the vast diocese of Philadelphia during the 19th century. His shrine, located at 1019 North Fifth Street in Philadelphia, invites visitors into the heart of the Church's mission as servant.

St. Rita of Cascia (1381-1457) plays a significant role in the devotional life of many individuals today. While on earth, she strove to be a peacemaker, imploring the intercession of her three patron saints, John the Baptist, Augustine, and Nicholas of Tolentine. Her shrine in South Philadelphia at 1166 South Broad Street welcomes visitors to seek the intercession of St. Rita for peacemaking, healing, and reconciliation.

St. Katherine Drexel (1858-1955) renounced life as a wealthy Philadelphia heiress to become a religious sister, educator, and foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Her profound legacy of service has its roots in her dedication to work among the American Indians and African-Americans in the western and southwestern United States. Her sacred remains were recently moved to a shrine within the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Pilgrimage offers a framework for walking with the divine, sometimes through brief moments in our daily life as we encounter the spiritual dimension in how we live, and at other times through journeying to places with spiritual significance. Today, technology offers the option to visit some holy places via the internet and to take a sacred virtual tour in the quiet space of our hearts.

So, as the Lenten journey begins, the spirit might be beckoning each of us to exercise our soul through a pilgrimage of grace, to walk with the holy in a new and perhaps unexplored way.

I met Sister Ann Heath, Ph.D. when I was stationed at Immaculate in 2001-2007. She is a very talented and creative person who has a deep spirituality. Sister has held many positions in education. She is currently the Director of the Doctoral Program in Higher Education and Professor of higher education at Immaculata University.

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 24, 2019.....	\$2,959
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,869
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$2,041)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$195,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$167,741
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,301
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$27,259)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$699)
 <i>MARCH 25, 2018</i>	
Deposit.....	\$3,848
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$22,999)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$4,260)

MASS ATTENDANCE for March 23/24:

4:00 PM Mass - 191
 9:00 AM Mass - 144
 Total Attendance - 335
 Mass Attendance for March 24/25, 2018 - 405



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 18 - #028 - unsold
 March 19 - #618 - Joe Donnelly - \$100.00
 March 20 - #322 - Birthright of Pottstown - \$50.00
 March 21 - #073 - unsold
 March 22 - #331 - Helen Chaykowsky - \$50.00
 March 23 - #123 - Michael Burke - \$50.00
 March 24 - #827 - Eric Arendt - \$100.00

LADIES SPRINGTIME TEA on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Adults - \$10, ages 5-12 - \$5, under 5 free. Tickets available in the vestibule after Masses or at the church office. Pre-purchased tickets only. No tickets sold at the door. Deadline for ticket purchases - April 17. No assigned seating. Come early for best seating. **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.

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. \$2.00 for a slice of pizza and a soda. Bring your own games, use ours or just come to socialize. 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 donations is March 31.**

LENT

Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 5 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.