

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8 MARCH 2020

Readings for Sunday, March 8: Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9.

Abram places trust in God's promise of making his name and descendants great on earth. In Jesus' transfigured glory is revealed that life and immortality will rob death of its power.

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

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>
9 Mar. MON. 9:00 AM	Rita Boyle	John Dori
11 Mar. WED. 9:00 AM	Dolores Degenhart	Paula Bolonski
12 Mar. THU. 9:00 AM	Joseph & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
13 Mar. FRI. 9:00 AM	Elsie Norton	John Dori
14 Mar. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
15 Mar. SUN. 9:00 AM	Mamie Swavely-Johnson	Jack, Lori & families



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 SHIRLEY KOVACH and ADELE & GABRIELA FALCONE who recently joined our Parish!

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING on Tuesday, March 10 at 1:30 PM in the social hall.

PREP NEWS: Please pray for our PREP students (Gary Jacob, Hannah, Elizabeth and Ava) who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, March 14 at 1:00 PM.

NO SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY on Sunday, March 8.

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.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - March 14/15:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey
 Deacon Michael Murtha
 Lector - John Nester
 Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamaro, Mara Tamaro, Helen George
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
 Greeters - Patty Wade and Monica Bauer

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega
 Lector - Tony Vitacco
 Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Terry Donnelly, Cristin Bucciaglia
 Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly
 Greeters - Marie Hildebrand

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Reflections as we begin Lent

Just eleven (11) days ago, we began the holy season of Lent. I was impressed when Fr. Ortega, Deacon Michael Murtha and Mrs. Maria Boyer told me about the number of people who attended Masses here at Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish as we began anew to celebrate this very special season leading up to Easter. The word "Lent" is an Old English word for spring. It is an appropriate word. As the season of spring prepares the earth to break forth into new life, the season of Lent is a time to prepare to break forth, spiritually, into new life. I read that, historically, Lent started out as a time of prayer, fasting, and doing good works for those who were preparing to become member of the Church at Easter. These are the people who are going through what we refer to today as the RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).

The RCIA is a wonderful experience for people to study and to learn about the Church. Most of us were brought into the Church as babies. Some of us went to Catholic School and others were educated in PREP or CCD Classes. How many of us have continued to study past these two experiences? The RCIA is a period of formation that we learn and study about the Church as adults and hopefully have an adult faith formation. All of us, who are adults, even though we have been baptized, should think about deepening our faith and knowledge of the faith by joining the RCIA, to become life-long learners.

Since early Christian communities were quite small, it would have been an exciting time when a new member was preparing to embrace Christ through Baptism. The early Christian communities would join with those preparing for Baptism by also making this season a time of prayer, fasting, and doing good works. Even though most Church-goers today are only remotely conscious of new members joining the Church, it is still fitting that this season continues to be a time to prepare for new life. There may be some among us who are perfect but for most of us, our life in Christ can always benefit from some greater or lesser degree of spiritual renewal. In addition, there is our eternal life we all need to prepare for. In the early Church, those who had sinned seriously and publicly did public penance during this time of Lent. By wearing sackcloth and ashes and by asking for prayers, they could prepare themselves for returning to the community before Easter. This is how Lent took on a penitential aspect. Many people today use this time of Lent to repent of their mistakes of the past. Add to this the example of Jesus who prayed and fasted in preparation for His public ministry, and we can find some kind of motivation to make this a holy season of prayer, fasting, and doing good works.

Many of us grew up viewing Lent as a gloomy time when we had to practice difficult forms of self-discipline. Today there is a more joyful side to Lent if we see it as preparing us for a deeper relationship with God. Preparing for other important things in life sometimes requires hard work and self-discipline. Why should we think our spiritual life should somehow be different? St. Paul doesn't think so. Self-discipline is not a bad thing even if it is sometimes hard. Psychologically a person who lacks self-discipline cannot be a mature or happy person, so it is a good thing to learn.

Our world would be a little better and all of us would be a lot happier if each one of us decided to work harder and love ourselves more by making ourselves a better person. As we begin this season of Lent, our Scripture readings at Mass will call us to conversion, to change our hearts, to turn a little, or maybe a lot more into the person we know God wants us to be. This is called transformation. Information leads to transformation and hopefully will lead us all to transforming our lives.

As we move into the last two weeks of Lent, however, we begin to focus on Christ's passion. Several years ago a movie entitled "The Passion of Christ" came out. It was very moving and it helped us remember what Jesus Christ did for us to save us. We often forget how much we owe our Creator. One reason why Sunday is dedicated to offering God worship and praise is so we don't forget. We do not offer animals or other food as the Jewish people did. Instead, we have the perfect sacrifice. Our participation in the Mass unites us with the perfect act of worship and love and obedience offered to the Father by Jesus as He died on the Cross.

Our readings today put things in perspective by reminding us of the worship we owe God, our Creator. They remind us we need more than material things to truly live and to be more fully human. It is not by bread alone that we live. They remind us God must take priority over everything else in our lives. God alone deserves our worship. I pray that everyone here will have a spiritually enriching Lent as we prepare for a new and more abundant life in Christ. I encourage everyone who has not already done so, to decide today what Lenten practice or practices you will adopt in the next six (6) weeks.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MARCH 1, 2020.....	\$5,386
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,051
Parish Giving -	\$90
Ash Wednesday Collection -	\$1,245
WEEKLY SURPLUS.....	\$386
Year to Date Budget.....	\$175,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$155,787
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,451
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$19,213)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$549)
FEBRUARY 24, 2010	
Deposit.....	\$4,144
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$23,078)
Difference from previous year.....	\$3,865



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 24 - #297 - unsold
 - February 25 - #953 - unsold
 - February 26 - #775 - unsold
 - February 27 - #651 - unsold
 - February 28 - #849 - Nikki Gambino - \$50.00
 - February 29 - #992 - unsold
- FEBRUARY FIGURES: 305 Tickets - \$1,525.00. Payout to winners - \$500.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for February - \$925.00.
- March 1 - #275 - unsold

MASS ATTENDANCE for February 29/March 1:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 205
- 9:00 AM Mass - 128
- Total Attendance - 333
- Mass Attendance for March 2/3, 2019 - 314

“CONSIDER REMEMBER YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.”
Call the parish office for details.

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

MORGAN BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
610-696-0100

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: Requests can be made by email (contact@sgsm62.org) or phone (610-326-5127). Statements are available for registered parishioners (those who receive and use their envelopes). Statements can be picked up or mailed to you.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of: **THOMAS A. KALEJTA** from his mother Joan Kalejta, Barbara & Michael Hipszer, Helen Chieffo & family.

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.

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.

THE ROSARY 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 special Marian Devotions.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, a growing materialist culture, rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers make it hard for people to practice the faith.

Young people today are called by God, but they need help from the Church to recognize his voice. Last year, you helped youths in Jamaica to experience God and listen for his presence. By supporting the Collection for the Church in Latin America, your parish made possible a camp for young people centered on the gift of the Eucharist. More than 500 young persons attended the camp in the Archdiocese of Kingston, opening their hearts to God.

Because of your generosity, many young people are accepting the challenge to grow in their Catholic faith. Please continue your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. The Christlike charity of you and your fellow parishioners is changing lives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our Archdiocese will take up this Collection the weekend of March 14 and 15, 2020. Please be as generous as possible in this Collection and take this opportunity to share your faith with the young of Latin America and the Caribbean. Your support will truly make a difference. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

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.

2020 MASS BOOK - Requests for Masses to be offered on a specific day for January thru June can be made at the parish office. All weekend Masses are full. Weekday Masses are still available. Mass stipend of \$10.00 must be paid at the time you request the Mass Intention.

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 13 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.

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.

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. Operation Rice Bowl boxes are at the entrances to church for your donations. Also, Operation Rice Bowls are at the entrances for your homes.

ELVIS GOSPEL SHOW with Jeff Krick at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, Schwenksville on March 8 at 3:00 PM in the Church. Tickets are \$10.00 per person.

ST. THERESE, THE EUCHARIST AND THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING presented by Fr. Lawrence Kozak on Mondays in March from 7:00-9:00 PM. **HOLY SACRIFICE OF MASS & SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** with Fr. Lawrence Kozak on Thursdays in March from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Held at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, Birdsboro. For more details or to register visit www.olme.org or call 610-582-3333.