

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10 MAY 2020

Readings for Sunday, May 10: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12.

We are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood” called to place our faith and trust in the Spirit of Jesus who guides the community of faith.

Readings for Sunday, May 17: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21.

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.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled until further notice.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
11 May	MON. No public Mass	Joseph & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
13 May	WED. No public Mass	Pauline Harbach	Husband, Joe
14 May	THU. No public Mass	Stanley & Philomena Weil	Bruce & Patti
15 May	FRI. No public Mass	Walter Lesik	Wife & family
16 May	SAT. No public Mass	Gregor & Rose Ferenz	Granddaughter, Bonnie
17 May	SUN. No public Mass	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	

Fr. Hickey will celebrate 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.



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 until further notice.

CHOIR PRACTICE is cancelled until further notice.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT is cancelled until further notice.

CONFESSIONS scheduled for Saturdays are cancelled - contact Fr. Hickey for Confession.

SENIOR CITIZENS MEETING scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 has been cancelled.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Reflections of the Easter Season

A very short time after the Ascension of Jesus, Peter and John were on their way to the Temple to pray. There was a lame man sitting at the Temple Gate. In that culture, it was bad enough to be handicapped, but a person like that was looked down upon because it was everyone's belief that he must have been a great sinner and he was suffering because of them. The lame man asked Peter and John for a little money as they passed. Peter said, "I do not have any money, but I will give you what I have. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk." Then Peter helped him to his feet and he was healed. He was so excited, he jumped and danced and praised God. Of course, this created quite a commotion and everyone wondered what had happened. Peter took the opportunity to explain. He credits it all to Jesus. The First Reading from one of the Sunday's after Easter is part of his explanation.

I'm sure most of us have had wonderful life-changing events we could talk about, getting a good job; meeting a wonderful person who changed our life, whether it was a teacher, a friend, or someone who eventually became our spouse; the birth of a son or daughter; inheriting a large amount of money; or finding a cure for a chronic illness. The lame man who I mentioned in the first paragraph, whose healing is described in the 3rd chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, certainly had his life changed dramatically by this encounter with Peter and John.

Last Sunday we heard again about the Resurrection of Jesus. Easter is too big a feast to celebrate just one day. We celebrate it for 50 days, and then we continue to celebrate it every Sunday when we gather in faith to meet our risen Lord in the Eucharist. Our gospel took us back to Easter Sunday. In the afternoon of Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to two of His disciples. They were walking away from Jerusalem, discouraged and depressed over Jesus' death. Jesus walked with them, talked with them about the Scriptures, and when He broke bread with them they recognized Him. They came running back to the Upper Room to tell the others. When they got there, they were told Jesus had appeared to Peter and then suddenly Jesus appeared to all of them. In spite of the appearances in the early morning to the women, to the two disciples, and to Peter, Luke tells us the Apostles were terribly frightened. I suppose that would be a normal reaction. Jesus assured them He was very much alive. They could see and touch Him. To give them further proof, He asked for something to eat. He ate something they themselves had prepared to convince them He was real and that they were not seeing a ghost or seeing Him was not something out of their imagination.

Whatever wonderful life-changing events we might think of, the Resurrection of Jesus is the most wonderful life-changing event ever. Because Jesus rose from the dead, our world is different. Because Jesus rose from the dead, evil and hatred and suffering have been overpowered. They still hang around inflicting difficulties on us, but their power has been broken by the glory of the Resurrection. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death no longer has the last word over any of us. Death has been overcome by life, eternal life. Even sin will not win out, but forgiveness in Jesus' name will destroy sin. Sin and evil will keep on trying to pull us down and destroy us, but in Christ we are raised up. We must be careful not to give in to sin's destructiveness.

John tells us in one of the Second Readings, and the way not to give in is to keep His commandments so His love can be perfected in us. Because Jesus rose from the dead, even fear cannot hold on to us for long, for Jesus came to us offering us peace. Notice that Jesus' first word to the Apostles was "peace." Our world is a totally different world now after Jesus' Resurrection. But if it continues to look the same to all of us, with evil and hatred and suffering, maybe we who have been changed by the Resurrection are not doing what Jesus said to do. We heard Him say at the end of last week's gospel: "You are witnesses of these things."

This world-changing event has happened and we hope to share in its blessings. It partly depends on us, however, to bring about those blessings to the world around us through the witness of our lives, our goodness, our love, our peace, and our joy, depends on our cooperating with God's grace. As we go through

our week, let us reflect on the question. How can we witness more fully the Resurrection in our daily lives?

Our world has drastically changed during the last several weeks. Many events have either been cancelled or postponed. One of the events that was scheduled was Confirmation and because of the Coronavirus, it was postponed. I received good news recently that Archbishop Nelson Perez will be here on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to celebrate Confirmation with the Confirmandi, their sponsors, and the Parish community. I usually like to have the Sacraments on a weekend Mass schedule so that those receiving the sacraments may join with the parish community. The Archbishop had to reschedule 27 Confirmations along with many other events, so many of the Confirmations had to be scheduled on a weekday this fall. I tried my best but there was nothing available on a weekend.

May the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit fill our Confirmandi with the same zeal which the apostles felt to boldly practice their faith and proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Have a great week!!!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MAY 3, 2020.....	\$3,785
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,340
Parish Giving -	\$325
Easter Collection -	\$120
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,215)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$220,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$189,939
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,317
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$30,061)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$683)
APRIL 28, 2019	
Deposit.....	\$4,004
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$25,377)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$4,684)



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

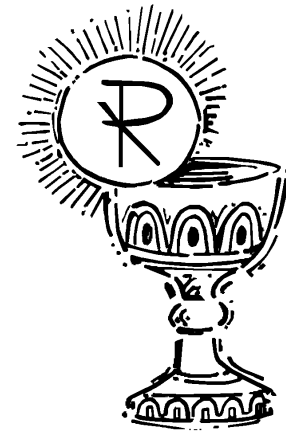
LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- April 27 - #611 - unsold
- April 28 - #554 - unsold
- April 29 - #317 - Michael Burke - \$50.00
- April 30 - #785 - unsold
- APRIL FIGURES: 293 tickets sold - \$1,465.00. Payout to winners - \$600.00. Printing of tickets - \$100.00. Profit for April - \$765.00. THANK YOU for your support!
- May 1 - #089 - unsold
- May 2 - #608 - Nikki Gambino - \$50.00
- May 3 - #633 - unsold

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).



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly
to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

The March 17, 2020 suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia remains in effect until further notice. This includes all Sunday and weekday Masses with the faithful. Priests will continue to offer Holy Mass privately during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.

Options for viewing Mass on TV or the internet:

TV: 6ABC - Sunday at 5:30 AM; ME TV - Sunday at 7:00 AM; EWTN - Sunday at 8:00 AM.

Internet: Live streaming of Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul on Sunday at 11:00 AM from www.archphila.org; check web sites for St. Aloysius Church, St. Teresa of Calcutta Church, St. Thomas More Church and St. Columbkil Church for viewing the Mass.

Pope Francis is asking people to recite the Rosary during this difficult time. He has written prayers for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and asks people to pray these prayers after the Rosary.

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus's suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people,"
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
Joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.