

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## 17 MAY 2020

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

The people of Samaria come to worship the Lord and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is this same Spirit that leads us into the truth. In the body, Jesus was put to death; in the Spirit, he was raised to life. We are called to this same glory.

**Readings for Sunday, May 24:** Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a.

**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.**

<u>Date</u>		<b>MASSES FOR THE WEEK</b>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
18 May	MON.	No public Mass	Rev. Francis Conroy	
20 May	WED.	No public Mass	Garrante & Annetta Ferrante	Jeannine Ferrante
21 May	THU.	No public Mass	Tim Reilly	Mom & Dad
21 May	THU.	No public Mass	Dean Gulotta	Dorothy Levanovitch
22 May	FRI.	No public Mass	Peter & Dorothy Chuck	Paula & Dennis Bolonski
23 May	SAT.	No public Mass	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
24 May	SUN.	No public Mass	Michael Cress	The Family

**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.
- WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETING** scheduled for Thursday, June 4 has been cancelled. Women's Society Meetings will resume in September.



We welcome RICHARD and KATHLEEN KNIGHT who recently joined St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish!

**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](mailto:contact@sgsm62.org)).

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

#### *Thoughts for May*

Last weekend, we were celebrating three major events. First, we are celebrating the month of Our Blessed Mother and the love she showed Jesus and received so much love in return. Secondly, we are celebrating the Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and the canonization of the children she appeared to. Finally, we celebrated Mother's Day and the love that all of our mothers have given to us. It was a very different Mother's Day in a time of social isolation but hearing from many Moms, families did the best they could to make Mom's special day a day that Mom would remember for a long time.

I can't earn love but I can give it away. What does this authentic love look like? Well look at a mother. She gives her blood during a pregnancy. She gives her milk after the child is born. She gives her sleep for the first two years; she gives immense amount of time and her sweat and her attention to her child. And in giving she receives, perhaps not immediately, but she receives love. It comes not always from the child, but always from God. Authentic love does not look much like what you see on television. It looks a lot more what you see in your mother, and hopefully your father too.

Which is why we love our mothers. You have taught us how to love. You have given us the love you received from God, and have taught us to share it with another by your very sharing it with us. May we honor you, our mothers, by sharing the love you have given us, even until it hurts. May we honor our Blessed Mother, who first received love incarnate, Jesus Christ, and then gave Him to us all.

There is no love like a mother's love. A mother loves their child simply because they are. There is no question of the child earning their mother's love. A child can do nothing for their mother, or even acknowledge her love. A mother's love for her child is absolutely unconditional. It can be summed up in the following poem which I would like to share with you.

A baby asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

"Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy."

God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you and you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?"

God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

"Who will protect me?"

God said, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking their life."

"But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore."

God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about Me and will teach you the way to come back to Me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked, "God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

God said, "You will simply call her, Mommy."

On that special day, all of us sons and daughters called, texted, posted messages on Facebook, sent flowers and wished you the happiest Mother's Day and we thanked you for the gift of life that you have given to us. We deeply appreciate all you do for us, for worrying about us, for always being there for us, and especially for loving us. For our Mothers who are in heaven, we pray for you daily and we know that you watch over us even now as we live our lives here on earth. We know that one day you will be there to welcome us home to our eternal home.

To: All Moms - I hope you enjoyed your special day in spite of these very different days.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

### Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MAY 10, 2020.....	\$3,200
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,383
Parish Giving -	\$450
Mother's Day Collection -	\$367
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$1,800)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$225,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$193,139
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,292
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$31,861)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$708)

MAY 5, 2019

Deposit.....	\$3,978
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$26,399)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$5,462)

**CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.**  
Call the Parish Office for details.

### **WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE to support Religious Education:**

APRIL DRAWING - M/M James Mich - \$150.00.

**ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUN DONATION** received in memory of:  
REV. MSGR. JOSEPH W. MURRAY from Steve, Maria & Tyler Boyer.



**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**

- May 4 - #353 - unsold
- May 5 - #701 - unsold
- May 6 - #862 - unsold
- May 7 - #425 - unsold
- May 8 - #066 - unsold
- May 9 - #842 - unsold
- May 10 - #168 - Jeff Lesik - \$100.00

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL** - Speaker weekends have been postponed due to the Coronavirus. Your support is needed by the beneficiaries that are struggling right now. There is still an immediate need for resources, essential items, and services in our community and we want to make sure these individuals in need are not forgotten. To find messages from three different speakers, click these YouTube links:

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu4N0mY7Df0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu4N0mY7Df0)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnfjOzv\\_fiU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnfjOzv_fiU)
- [www.youtbue.com/watch?v=dinwn5jJjms](http://www.youtbue.com/watch?v=dinwn5jJjms)

## 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](http://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.**

“We fly to your protection, O holy Mother of God.”

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Blessed Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.