

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26 MAY 2019

Readings for Sunday, May 26: Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29; Revelation 21:10-14,22-23; John 14:23-29.

By listening attentively to the Spirit promised by Jesus, the early Church resolves the question whether Gentile converts need to observe certain Jewish ritual practices. All are called to dwell in the heavenly Jerusalem, founded on the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Readings for Sunday, June 2: Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17:20-26.

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>
27 May	MON. 9:00 AM	Mary Rulli	Kienle Family
29 May	WED. 9:00 AM	Joseph A. & Martha Shemansky	Daughter, Cathy
30 May	THU. 9:00 AM	Mary Rulli	Jack & Lori Carr
30 May	THU. 7:00 PM	Fr. Michael J. Sheehan	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
31 May	FRI. 9:00 AM	Mary Rulli	Betty Grace
1 June	SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
2 June	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.

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.



Flowers on the Blessed Mother Altar are in honor of OUR BLESSED MOTHER requested by St. Gabriel Women's Society.

Flowers on the Main Altar are for Memorial Day requested by L.Cpl. Matt Snyder Camp Snoops Project.

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS - Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their JUNE issue at the parish office.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD - Thursday, May 30 is a Holyday of Obligation. Masses at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM in the Church. No Vigil Mass on May 29.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - June 1-2:

4:00 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega

Lectors - Melanie Warzeski

Extraordinary Ministers - Helen George, George Siver, John Bracaglia, Nikki Gambino, Shelly Stockmal, John Nester

Altar Servers - Tony Vitacco

Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey

Lectors - Rocco D'Emilio

Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Rita Templin, Cindy Nore

Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller

Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

6th Sunday of Easter

“God’s Mercy”

There is such a contrast in the gospel between the cruelty of the scribes and the Pharisees and the compassion of Jesus in the Gospel from John (Jn 8:1-11). The scribes and Pharisees had no regard for the woman. They were only interested in using her to trap Jesus. She was simply a pawn in their game of chess. They had little regard for the fact that maybe she did not initiate the sin, perhaps it was the man. Jesus is full of compassion. He restored the woman in two ways. He restored her spiritually by forgiving her and telling her he did not condemn her. He also insisted that she not sin again and restored her to society by saving her life. No one knows what Jesus wrote on the ground but I would suspect that he wrote the sins of the Scribes and the Pharisees. Take note that the oldest person went away first, possibly because he committed more sins. Sometimes those who have lived longer have more to be sorry for in their own lives. The woman received forgiveness from Jesus and also received her life back again. In this Time of Mercy, especially in this Easter Season, we need to revisit this gospel passage often.

There is a sentence in this gospel which is especially relevant to each of us. Jesus’ last words to the woman are: “Go away and sin no more.” Jesus has forgiven her and now He expects her to live a life of union with God from now on by not sinning anymore. Jesus does not say that sin does not matter because sin does matter and damages our relationship with God. So Jesus says, “Go away and sin no more.” When we receive Jesus’ forgiveness, He expects us to live as new people transformed in His love. This is called conversion. That is precisely the attitude with which we should all come to Reconciliation. It would make no sense to come to Reconciliation and confess our sins if we intended to continue committing the same sins over and over. If we do not have the intention of amending our lives then we cannot say that we are truly sorry for our sins. Surely we can only genuinely say that we are truly sorry for our sins if we have a firm intention not to commit sin again. In other words, many see Reconciliation as only episodic but we need to view it as Saint Paul uses the term *metanoia*, which is a true transformation that leads to conversion.

In the first five or six centuries of the Church, people were allowed to receive confession only once in their lifetime. It was only for publicly committed serious sins. The attitude of Church leaders was that if a person sinned again, there was no hope for them. In addition, people had to go through a period of public penance before reconciliation. In around the sixth or seventh century, mostly due to the influence of the monasteries, a practice developed where the sacrament began to be used for spiritual direction. People went, even though they had no grave sins, and they went more frequently. It is the practice we have today, although many more people took advantage of the sacrament two or three generations ago than they do now. So you see throughout these 2,000 years, the sacrament has gone through several changes. One thing that has not changed is God’s forgiveness and compassion.

It reminds me of a story of a Native American grandfather who invited his grandson over for a sleep over around the campfire. The grandfather explained that he had two wolves inside him. One was full of peace, calm and forgiveness. The other wolf was full of anger, jealousy and mean spirits. He looked at his grandson and said that you also have two wolves inside you. Your little friends also have those same wolves inside them. The grandson looked at the grandfather with great respect and asked, “Grandfather which of the wolves will win?” The grandfather said, “The wolf you feed.” This is so true for each of us. That is the mystery of personality and what makes us human.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most rewarding things I do as a parish priest, especially when I know I have helped lift a burden of guilt and self-hatred off a person’s conscience. I feel blessed to be able to participate in the process of bringing God’s love and peace to someone. It is never too long or too late to avail yourself of this beautiful sacrament. I have even witnessed people after many years literally skip out of the confessional or an office call full of the Lord’s peace. As I have said before, people go to confession every day on national television but there is no absolution.

The Lord wants to say to each of us as he said to the woman in John’s Gospel, “Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more.” He invites us to look at the wolves inside us and ask: “Is there a wolf keeping us from His love?”

In this time of Mercy, the Lord is inviting us to reconnect with this beautiful sacrament and experience the love and compassion He offers to us unconditionally.

Have a great week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MAY 19, 2019.	\$3,749
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$3,594
Parish Giving -	\$90
Mother's Day Collection -	\$65
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$1,251)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$235,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$206,858
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,401
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$28,142)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$599)
<i>MAY 20, 2018</i>	
Deposit.	\$3,702
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.	(\$23,550)
Difference from previous year..	(\$4,592)



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

- May 13 - #617 - Arlene & Shirley - \$50.00
- May 14 - #625 - Lew Chillot - \$50.00
- May 15 - #075 - unsold
- May 16 - #159 - Loretta Gauger - \$50.00
- May 17 - #452 - unsold
- May 18 - #577 - unsold
- May 19 - #120 - Sylvia Marcheskie - \$100.00

MASS ATTENDANCE for May 18/19:

- 4:00 PM Mass - 158
- 9:00 AM Mass - 144
- Total Attendance - 302
- Mass Attendance for May 19/20, 2018 - 373

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND is the Collection for Elevator Maintenance.

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

DCS PAVING & SEALCOATING
610-495-5700

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS - Cost for a one year subscription is \$36.00. Subscription begins with the September 2019 issue. Anyone interested in subscribing or renewing their subscription, please call the parish office. Deadline for subscriptions and payment is June 21.

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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CLOTHING

DRIVE will be held on Saturday, June 8 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be using the services of GreenDrop to support their clothing drive. Look for the GreenDrop truck in the church parking lot where an attendant will be available to assist you with your donations. Please place your donations of usable men's, women's and children's clothing in plastic bags or boxes. Household items such as kitchenware, games/toys, small appliances under 50 pounds, electronics, sporting goods, books, CDs and videos are also accepted. Unfortunately, furniture, large appliances, TVs or computer monitors cannot be accepted. For a full list of acceptable items visit www.gogreendrop.com.

OPEN HOUSE & ARTS NIGHT at St. Aloysius Parish School, Pottstown on Wednesday, May 29 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All are welcome - stop by to learn more about the school.

91ST ANNIVERSARY SPAGHETTI DINNER - ST. GABRIEL LODGE on June 1 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All you can eat Spaghetti with 2 meatballs or sausage with 1st serving, tossed salad, bread and dessert. \$8.95 - Adult; \$5.95 - Children (5-10 yrs); Children under 5 eat free. Walk-ins welcome.