

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

3 MAY 2020

Readings for Sunday, May 3: Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10.

God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. Through his wounds, we have been healed and have returned to our shepherd. Let us listen for his voice and follow him.

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

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>
4 May	MON. No public Mass	Philip & Caroline Maddaloni	Phyllis & family
6 May	WED. No public Mass	Earl Keck	Wife, Cathy
7 May	THU. No public Mass	Decd. Members of Pottstown Police Dept.	Tony Vitacco
8 May	FRI. No public Mass	Mary Rulli	Bruce & Patti Pollock
9 May	SAT. No public Mass	Our Living and Deceased Mothers	
10 May	SUN. No public Mass	Our Living and Deceased Mothers	

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RETREAT are postponed - will be rescheduled at a later date.

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 COMBINED MEETING & PRAYER SERVICE scheduled for May 7 has been cancelled.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

If we lived in Israel at the time of Jesus, we would instantly relate to what Jesus told us today in the gospel. Sheep were the people's main source of meat, milk, and cheese. They provided wool for clothing and they were regularly used as sacrifice in their liturgy.

If I were to try to think of something in our culture today that would be similar to the relationship of a shepherd to his sheep, the best comparison I can come up with is a mother who needs to be home to care for several toddlers. Just as toddlers depend on their mother's care, and their mother is always busy, sheep depend on the care of their shepherd and the shepherd, who has dozens of sheep, is kept busy twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Today's gospel makes reference to an activity that shepherds had to go through daily. When night came, a number of shepherds would come together with their sheep and put them in a pen. Then they would sleep while one shepherd would stay awake watching out for thieves or predatory animals. In the morning, each shepherd would call out for his sheep to follow him to pasture. The sheep knew the voice of their own shepherd and would follow only their own shepherd's voice when they were called. They would ignore all the other shepherds who were calling for their sheep. The gospel reflects this when Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

Some people are offended to hear themselves compared to sheep. Perhaps that's because they don't realize they need God's constant care at all times and not just when they have problems.

We live in a society where everyone is trying to get our attention. You can't turn on the radio or television without someone trying to sell you something. Even to go for a drive, you have billboards trying to catch your eye. Companies spend significant amounts of money to buy just 30 seconds of advertising time in order to get their message across. Sometimes, like sheep, we just follow the latest message we hear, or sometimes we hear so many messages and, like sheep, we just follow the crowd. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice." If we want to belong to Him, we do have to hear His voice, though in today's world, it takes a conscious effort to do so. We have to take time to shut out all kinds of other noises so we can listen to Him. If we don't make the effort, we can easily lose touch with the Shepherd. This is one reason (among many) to take time to pray daily and to come to church every Sunday. We need to keep in touch.

Our Lord does not want to lose any one of us. His desire is for us to be with Him forever, in heaven, where there will be no more sadness or pain, where our second reading tells us, He will wipe every tear from our eyes. One of the ways He leads us is through the Eucharist we are celebrating. He is with us as we gather in His name. He speaks to us in the Sacred Scriptures. He feeds us with His own Body and Blood. Sheep may not be smart, but they are smart enough to know they need their shepherd and to recognize his voice. Let us pray we are always smart enough to know we need our Shepherd and to listen to His voice.

This weekend is also Vocation Weekend. We pray every week for vocations, but on Good Shepherd Sunday, we are reminded of the important role religious vocations as well as good marriages have in guiding us in the ways of Jesus Christ. There are many single men and women who do not choose marriage or a religious vocation but do marvelous work for the Kingdom of God in their professional lives. On May 19, 2020, I will celebrate my 41st Anniversary of Ordination. It has been a marvelous 41 years and the Lord and the Church have asked me to do many things during those years. I have met countless numbers of people and have thoroughly enjoyed all of my assignments. I have always viewed each assignment as a privilege to serve. As you probably know, most of my life has been spent in education and working with our youth but I have also had many experiences in pastoral work as well. Each assignment brings its joys and challenges but each is to bring the Good News to those I serve.

As I look back over the last 41 years, I suspect if I had lived my life in any other way than as a priest, I would not have found the happiness I did. I just wanted to put in a good word for the priesthood and religious life. I would like to see others come forward with a similar desire to serve Him within the Sacrament of Marriage and also as a priest, deacon (permanent deacon), religious brother or sister or a dedicated layman or laywoman.

Vocations are not jobs as you know but ministries that are not contained in a nine to five job. We are all cogs in a wheel that make up all of our vocations as we are called to serve as parents, religious, and those called to the single life to make up the Church.

Have a great week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 26, 2020.....	\$4,402
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,572
Parish Giving -	\$550
Easter Collection -	\$1,245
Easter Flower Collection -	\$35
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$598)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$215,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$186,154
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,329
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$28,846)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$671)

APRIL 21, 2019

Deposit.....	\$9,255
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$24,381)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$4,465)

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:

HILDA MAE CARPENTER from Steve, Maria & Tyler Boyer;

G. MARIE PAINTER from Steve, Maria & Tyler.

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).



Raffle Drawing

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.

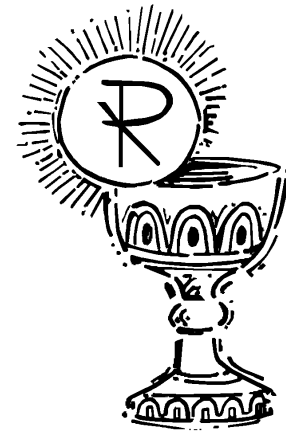
LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- April 20 - #604 - unsold
- April 21 - #835 - Monica Bauer - \$50.00
- April 22 - #440 - Theresa Vitacco - \$50.00
- April 23 - #553 - unsold
- April 24 - #393 - unsold
- April 25 - #788 - unsold
- April 26 - #257 - unsold

CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL. Call the parish office for details.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE begins on May 4. Unlock the gifts of the Spirit within you! Free Registration: www.youaremadenew.com/life-in-the-spirit-2020.

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.