

PENTECOST SUNDAY

31 MAY 2020

Readings for Sunday, May 31: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23.

All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, "to renew the face of the earth."

Readings for Sunday, June 7: Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; John 3:16-18.

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>		MASSES FOR THE WEEK	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
1 June	MON.	No public Mass	Sherry Madl	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
3 June	WED.	No public Mass	Mary Ellen Nodolski	Bob & Toni Plesnarski
4 June	THU.	No public Mass	Agnes Slaby	Connie & Angie DeMario
5 June	FRI.	No public Mass	Tim Reilly	Jack Reilly
6 June	SAT.	4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
7 June	SUN.	9:00 AM	Those Enrolled in St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Memorial Fund	

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.

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).

The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

SPAGHETTI SAUCE (FROZEN) for sale by the Women's Society. Cost - \$7.00 per quart. Please call Lori LaRosa (610-326-6030) to purchase the sauce and for delivery of the sauce.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

Pentecost Sunday

John's Gospel (21:15-19), ranks way up there as one of the most affectionate and caring gospels that we know. I can just picture in my mind the apostles being out on the Sea of Galilee all evening doing their work as fishermen and catching nothing. It must have been very frustrating for them to come back to the shore with nothing to show for their labor all during the night. Can't you just picture Jesus watching them come in? I'm sure that He had been there seeing them in their anguish as they were trying to catch the fish all throughout the night. He greeted them as little children which is in this case a term of affection toward one who is treasured in the way a parent treasures a child. He then asked them the normal question people tend to ask fishermen: "Did you have any luck?" Then He filled their nets with fish.

When they finally reached the shore, Jesus had breakfast with them. This was not just a thoughtful gesture; it expressed the real reason why He came to us – in order to feed us. The miracle recalls an earlier miracle, the miracle of the loaves and the fishes which took place beside the same lake, a miracle with a definite connection to the Eucharist. On that earlier occasion when Jesus fed the people miraculously, He made clear to them that He did not come just to deliver free meals for people but to be our food for everlasting life. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever," He told us in John 6:51.

The gospel moves on to Jesus' conversation with Peter, a conversation that lovingly gives Peter the opportunity to undo the three times he denied Jesus after Jesus' arrest. The conversation starts with conversion and ends with intimacy. It is the same concept that Jesus asks of you and me. First Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me more than these?" You might recall that at the Last Supper, after Jesus predicted that everyone would desert Him, Peter boasted "though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." (Mt 26:33) Peter is more humble now as he answers Jesus: "You know that I love you." It is interesting the words Jesus and Peter use for love. In the Greek (the original version of the gospel), Jesus asks the first two times with *agape* love, the highest form of love, love that expresses total unselfish love. Peter answers with *philia* love (a friendship, affectionate kind of love, but not the unselfish dedication of *agape* love).

Finally the third time Jesus asks Peter if he loves him as a friend (*Philia*), as if to say, "I'll accept whatever love you have to offer, Peter." You might recall that earlier in John's gospel, Jesus identified Himself as the Good Shepherd. Notice in this gospel, Jesus transferred to Peter Jesus' own office as the Good Shepherd. After each time Jesus questioned Peter and Peter answered, Jesus said, "Feed my lambs and feed my sheep."

Peter's service to Christ's flock must be a loving gift of oneself as all service to God's people should be. Although Peter was distressed that Jesus questioned him for the third time, I am sure Peter felt totally assured of Jesus' forgiveness after this interchange. Peter did serve Jesus and Jesus' flock with *agape* (totally unselfish love) for he gave his life for Christ and His Church. At this point, Peter comes to an understanding of what Jesus did for all of them at the Last Supper when He washed their feet. Leadership is always about service. It is never about control.

This is the beauty of our new Holy Father, Pope Francis. He is the new Peter and he is showing us and the world what it means to be a servant of the servants of God. Service is going out and washing the feet of the other. Each one of us is to do the same. Can't you just hear the Lord asking us the same question, "Do you love me?" How we answer needs a deep reflection on this Easter reading from St. John's gospel.

I would like to suggest that each of you get involved in the service of the parish. As the gospel teaches us, we are called to wash one another's feet and what better way is there than to get involved in parish activities. Remember we are each called by virtue of our Baptism to become fishers of men and women and not just keepers of the aquarium.

Today, as we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, may the Spirit continue to fill our hearts as we journey from friendship to intimacy with the Lord. May the fires of Pentecost make us bold defenders of the faith as we spread His message to our families, our neighborhoods and ultimately, the world.

Please join with me and my classmates who celebrated their 41st Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on May 19, 2020. We were ordained in 1979. Many of our priests were ordained on the third Saturday of May. Ordination this year, because of the virus, will be on June 20, 2020.

May we now continue to praise Christ's victory over sin and death and may we love Christ and one another with a love that expressed unselfish devotion as we wash one another's feet in a life of ministry and service.

Have a good week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR MAY 24, 2020.	\$4,148
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$2,733
Parish Giving -	\$610
Parish Property Maintenance & Repair -	\$540
Easter Flower Collection -	\$50
Easter Collection -	\$70
Mother's Day Collection -	\$145
WEEKLY DEFICIT.	(\$852)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$235,000
Year to Date Collections	\$200,151
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,259
Year to Date Deficit.	(\$34,849)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$741)
 <i>MAY 19, 2019</i>	
Deposit.	\$3,749
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.	(\$28,142)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$6,707)

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

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE

DRAWING to support Religious Education:

MAY DRAWING - Edward Lewis - \$142.00

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

DR. BRIAN AXSMITH from Anna & John Nester;

ROBERT MORGAN, SR. from Mary Lenhardt.

MAGNIFICAT BOOKS Those who purchased the Magnificat can pick up their JUNE issue at the parish office. **Please call before coming to pick up your book.**

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS - Cost for a one year subscription is \$36.00. Subscription begins with the September 2020 issue. Anyone interested in subscribing or renewing their subscription, please call the parish office. Deadline for subscriptions is June 19.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, JUNE 6 AND 7 will be the collection for the Elevator Maintenance.



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.**

JUNE LOTTERY TICKETS ARE ON SALE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS. THANK YOU to all who have been supporting this fund raiser.

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- May 18 - #335 - unsold
- May 19 - #706 - unsold
- May 20 - #312 - unsold
- May 21 - #645 - unsold
- May 22 - #827 - Eric Arendt - \$50.00
- May 23 - #139 - unsold
- May 24 - #843 - unsold

The March 17, 2020 suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia remains in effect until June 6 and 7. 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.

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 Archdiocese of Philadelphia has announced public Masses will resume on June 6 and 7 . They have issued the following guidelines to be observed.

- All those who are at high risk from COVID-19 (i.e., those who are older or who have underlying health conditions) are encouraged to stay home. Those who have a cough of any sort, and anyone feeling sick, should not come to the church for a visit or for any ceremonies. The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays during this phase.
- People are to maintain a minimum of 6 feet distance from each other. Pews will be marked off for this purpose. Families may sit together without 6 feet distance between them. Ushers will be available to assist with seating.
- People should wear a face mask or covering while attending Mass. They are to remove the mask to receive Holy Communion.
- Holy water fonts are to be empty.
- Missalettes and hymnals are to be removed from the pews.
- There is no Offertory Gift Procession.
- The Sign of Peace is suspended.
- People coming in the Communion Procession are to keep a distance of 6 feet between them. Holy Communion will only be given out in the hand. It is strongly discouraged to wear gloves when receiving Holy Communion. The distribution of the Precious Blood continues to be suspended.
- The parish bulletin is not to be distributed, but available for people to take themselves.

The following are additional guidelines for Masses here at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother parish.

- Entrance to church will be through the main front doors and elevator door only.
- Exit from church will be through the side doors only.
- Hand Sanitizer will be available in the vestibule for use prior to entering the main church. We encourage people entering church to use it.
- Holy Communion will only be distributed in front of the Altar. You will continue to come forward using the center aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. For those seated at the back who are unable to come to the front, a minister will bring Communion to you after everyone else has received Holy Communion.

We ask everyone to follow these guidelines for their own safety and the safety of all those attending Mass.