TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
16 SEPTEMBER 2018

Readings for Sunday, September 16: Isaiah 50:4c-9a; James 2:14-18; Mark 8:27-35.

Discipleship entails denying our very selves and following the way of the Lord, a way of suffering and service. In professing our faith in him we can rely on the Lord for strength and salvation.

Readings for Sunday, September 23: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20; James 3:16–4:3; Mark 9:30-37.

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

Date			Intention	Requested By
17 Sept.	MON.	9:00 AM	Jasper Wamsher Family	Francis J. Czeiner Family
19 Sept.	WED.	9:00 AM	Joseph T. Hickey	Rev. Gregory J. Hickey
20 Sept.	THU.	9:00 AM	Harry Calandra	Elsie Norton
21 Sept.	FRI.	9:00 AM	Pearl Dori	Tony & Theresa Vitacco
22 Sept.	SAT.	4:00 PM	William Oberley	The Family
23 Sept.	SUN.	9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	

ETERNAL REST grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, especially MARIE BOLONSKI.
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 Altar are in memory of MELISSA OISTER requested by Aunt Lugi, Chrissy, Gene and Domenic.

PREP NEWS

Welcome to **PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) 2018-2019!** Families with school age children in grades K-8, and those with 3, 4, and 5 year olds not yet in Kindergarten, are encouraged to register their children for PREP. PREP will begin Sunday, September 23, 2018 with Mass at 9:00 AM and continue in our PREP building from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Please contact Maria Boyer, DRE at 610-506-2455 or mboyer@sgsm62.org for more information.

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 special Marian Devotions.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - September 22/23:

4:00 PM Mass

Lector -Melanie Warzeski

Extraordinary Ministers - Shelly Stockmal, Terry Donnelly, Nikki Gambino, George Siver

Altar Server - Maeve Donnelly

Greeters - Ginger Scheidt and Maria DiMarco

9:00 AM Mass

Lector - Jack Bucciaglia

Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, Lori Carr

Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller

Greeters - Sylvia and Tom Marcheskie

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

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

"A Special Phone Call"

It was October of 2010 around 4:00 p.m. and the phone rang in my office at Malvern Retreat House. I was just going into a meeting with Brother Bill Hudson to discuss the upcoming weekend and to finalize the liturgy. I was going to let it go to voice mail but decided to answer the phone. I said good afternoon. This is Fr. Hickey, the Rector at Malvern. May I help you?

The voice at the other end sounded nervous and he said his name was Jim and he was at the Wawa in the Malvern Shopping Center and he saw a sign in the window that Malvern Retreat House was offering retreats for men that weekend. He asked me if I could make room for him because he had not registered and I said certainly I could. He then asked about the retreat house and said he had never made a retreat before. I explained what the retreat was all about and in fact that weekend, I was giving the retreat. I told him that Malvern is a place that changes lives.

We agreed to meet at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph Building and I would arrange with the Captain of the retreat to assign Jim a room to spend the weekend. I met Jim at the registration table at the agreed upon time and introduced him to the Captain who was most gracious and welcomed Jim and introduced him to a number of guys on the retreat. I spent about 20 minutes with Jim and explained a few things about the retreat and then walked him over to the dining room. Since he did not know anyone on the retreat, I offered for him to sit at my table for dinner and I would introduce him to several of the retreatants. The only thing he had with him was a small gym bag and a box. The captain then showed Jim to his room and I told him that I would meet him in the dining room at 7:00 p.m.

After we had dinner, I noticed that the gym bag must have been in his room but he was still carrying the box with him. I said, "Jim, give me the box and I will put it in my room for you and you can pick it up on Sunday afternoon after the retreat", and he agreed. For the first day of the retreat, he was there every time I turned around but eventually he made his way and I noticed he sat at a different table for all of the other meals.

On Sunday morning right before the closing Mass, the men have a shared faith reflection time and Jim got up to talk and thanked the men for welcoming him to this retreat and he simply said: "Malvern changed my life this weekend and I will be forever grateful to all of you." Mass was at 11:00 a.m. and after Mass I saw Jim and asked him to meet me at St. Joseph's building and I would give him his box back. He said: "Fine." Jim said, "Do you have time to talk?" I said as much time as you want.

We met in the Library at St. Joseph's building. All of the retreatants had left by that time. I asked Jim how he enjoyed the retreat and he started to cry and said that this weekend was just what he needed. Each retreatant is assigned 20 minutes in a private Oratory to spend time alone with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and it was at this point that Jim said the Lord touched him in a special way. We talked for another 30 minutes and Jim told me how depressed he had been because of a number of factors. I recommended that he see a professional and I arranged the meeting and he did follow through. He told me that he did not need the box back and told me to keep it.

You see Father, when I called you from Wawa, I never expected to be making a retreat. I was on my way to Valley Forge Park to commit suicide. The box contained a gun. After Jim left, I took the box to the Police and gave It to them with no questions asked.

I often think about that phone call – what if I did not answer it? Why did the call come to me and not one of the women in the office? Divine Providence is wonderful when we cooperate with the Lord. Jim is doing well and he still goes back to Malvern Retreat House – the place that changed his life.

The next time the phone rings, think twice about letting it go to voice mail – it may be the phone call that will change someone's life or maybe your own.

Have a good week! Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.. . . . . $5,000
DEPOSIT FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2018. . . . . $3,857
Regular Sunday Collection - $3,737
Parish Giving - $120
WEEKLY DEFICIT. . . . . ($1,143)

Year to Date Budget. $55,000
Year to Date Collections.. . . . . $42,652
Average per week Collection.. . . . . $3,877
Year to Date Deficit. . . . . ($12,348)
Average per week Deficit.. . . . . ($1,123)

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017
Deposit. $3,519
2017-2018 Deficit to Date. . . . . ($12,424)
Difference from previous year.. . . . . $76

MASS ATTENDANCE for September 8/9:
4:00 PM Mass - 191
9:00 AM Mass - 126
Total Attendance - 317
Mass Attendance for September 9/10, 2017 - 339

WINNER OF THE MONTHLY 50/50 GOLD ENVELOPE TO SUPPORT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
August Drawing - M/M James Zeigler - $310.00

WOMEN'S SOCIETY EVENTS

BOSCOV'S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS on Tuesday, October 16 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM. $5.00 shopping pass for 25% off purchases made that day. Available now at the parish office and will be on sale after Masses during September and October. Benefits St. Gabriel Women's Society and your church.

KAUFFMAN'S CHICKEN BBQ o Sunday, October 21. Carry-out from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Includes ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, applesauce, roll and butter - all for ONLY $9.00. New this year: Sell 10 dinners, get one FREE. Think about chicken dinners for EAGLES home game that day. Plus bake table will be available. Tickets available after Mass, at the church office or from any Women's Society member.

"ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK"

O'DONNELL, WEISS & MATTEI, P.C.
610-323-2800

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

September 3 - #025 - unsold
September 4 - #889 - unsold
September 5 - #509 - Bonita Stankunas - $50.00
September 6 - #328 - Catherine Sands - $50.00
September 7 - #739 - unsold
September 8 - #901 - unsold
September 9 - #502 - unsold

MISSION BBQ FUND RAISER sponsored by West End Fire Co., Stowe on September 22 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Cost is $9.00 - includes choice of pulled pork or chicken sandwich, kettle chips or cole slaw and bottle of water. Place orders by September 16 by calling 484-752-9988 or email westendfundraising57@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FLAME OF LOVE FOR MEN on Thursdays, September 20 and 27 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at St. Mary Magdalen Parish, Media. Each evening will have 3 short talks and discussions. Guided by Msgr. Ralph Chieffo. For more details call 610-622-4257.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE on Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. $55 for General Admission. Join us for a day of friendship, prayer and growth in your faith. The day will be devoted to helping women discover their foundational identity as daughters of the King of Heaven and Earth. Mid-September sell out is expected. Register at www.catholicwomensconference.org.