

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22 SEPTEMBER 2019

Readings for Sunday, September 22: Amos 8:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13.

Amos cries out against those who exploit the poor for the sake of extortion and greed. They seek to serve only themselves rather than the Lord. By giving ourselves to God rather than money, we can truly pray with blameless hands for all those in need, especially the poor whom the Lord will raise up.

Readings for Sunday, September 29: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31.

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>
23 Sept. MON. 9:00 AM	Louise Yacovelli	Paul & Christine Fry
25 Sept. WED. 9:00 AM	Angelina Testa	A Friend
26 Sept. THU. 9:00 AM	Tommy Chuck	Paula & Dennis Bolonski
27 Sept. FRI. 9:00 AM	Nancy & Tony Barbalace	The Family
28 Sept. SAT. 4:00 PM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	
29 Sept. SUN. 9:00 AM	Bob & Alice Cress	The Family



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.

PREP (Parish Religious Education Program) 2019-2020
 Families with 3, 4, and 5 year olds not yet in Kindergarten, and school age children in grades K through Grade 8 are encouraged to register their children for PREP. **Registration** for new students and **Re-registration** for those continuing in the program is taking place now through the month of September. Forms have been emailed to registered families. It would be helpful and greatly appreciated if all registrations are completed and sent in as soon as possible, so we can order text books for the new year. Completed forms with payment may be mailed, dropped off at the Parish Office, or placed in the Sunday collection basket. **New families must register with the church first and make an appointment with Father Hickey before being accepted into the program.** Information as well as the registration form are available on the Parish website or feel free to contact Maria Boyer, DRE - office 610-327-5376, cell 610-506-2455 or mboyer@sgsm62.org with any questions/concerns.

<u>MINISTRY SCHEDULE - September 28/29:</u>
<u>4:00 PM Mass</u>
Celebrant - Fr. Ortega; Deacon Michael
Lector - Melanie Warzeski
Extraordinary Ministers - Vincent Tamarro, Mara Tamarro, Helen George
Altar Servers - Michael Holmes
Greeters - Nikki Gambino and Maria DiMarco
<u>9:00 AM Mass</u>
Celebrant - Fr. Hickey; Deacon Michael
Lector - Sylvia Marcheskie
Extraordinary Ministers - Gary Huster, Debbie Huster, Cristin Buccaglia
Altar Server - Domenic Gerasimowicz
Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background to the Reflection:

Seven hundred fifty years Before Christ, Israel was enjoying a time of great financial and material prosperity. But spiritually they were bankrupt. In their prosperity they lost their focus on God. The Sabbath and the new moon were days of both prayer and rest. The Israelites resented this interruption in what they considered most important in life – making money. The ephah and shekel, mentioned in our first reading, were weights used in buying and selling. They didn't use honest weights, thereby cheating both their suppliers and their customers. They even exploited their customers by mixing useless materials in with the products they wanted to sell – such as mixing chaff with the wheat. The world has changed considerably since then, but in many ways human nature seems to remain the same.

Reflection:

Late one night, a robber wearing a ski mask jumped into the path of a well-dressed man, stuck a gun in his side and demanded "Give me your money." Indignant, the affluent man said, "You can't do this. I'm a United States Congressman!" "In that case," replied the robber, "give me my money."

That's what the rich man in this weekend's gospel wanted: his money. He had heard that his employee was taking advantage of him. Whether the employee was stealing from the rich man or not isn't the main point, although he probably was. And whether the employee reducing the debt that various business people owed his master was honest or dishonest is not the point of the parable either. The main point is that the employee was clever and wasted no time in planning for a secure future for himself.

Jesus tells us we need to be just as clever in planning for a secure future for ourselves, and it's not just for the few years we spend on this earth that we have to provide, but also for our time in eternity. Jesus is constantly reminding us that material things can make us feel so secure in this life that we forget about what is most important, our eternal life. That was the point of today's first reading from the Book of Amos.

The prosperous era that the Israelites were enjoying 750 years before Christ led them to forget about the God who had blessed them so richly. When they lost touch with God, this led to the moral decline of the nation and its eventual collapse. Our life in this world is temporary. Eternity is forever. Jesus is telling us this weekend to use the blessings God has given to help us get closer to God and not let our possessions become a god in themselves.

History has a way of repeating itself. We as Catholics and as citizens of this great nation must remember that we were founded as one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. We just remembered the tragedy of 9/11 last weekend. In the midst of chaos and grief, we came together as a nation and packed our churches as we looked towards God. We can be like the Israelites and let down our guard. We too, can forget about God and take Him out of our lives and replace Him with new cathedrals that speak to us of a new reality that is devoid of Him. Sometimes, because of political correctness, some can fear mentioning His name but He never fails to mention ours.

In conclusion, great ideas come into our world as gently as doves. Perhaps *if I listen attentively*, I shall hear amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings and a gentle stirring of life and hope. (Adapted from the journals of Albert Camus [1913-1960], a French novelist, playwright, and philosopher.)

Perhaps this week, as part of your Centering Prayer, take the italicized part of the conclusion and see what "gentle stirrings" you can identify. It also works well with Lectio Divina.

Have a great week!

Fr. Hickey

Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2019.....	\$4,213
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,123
Parish Giving -	\$90
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$787)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$55,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$41,513
Average per week Collection.....	\$3,774
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$13,487)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$1,226)
SEPTEMBER 9, 2018	
Deposit.....	\$3,857
2018-2019 Deficit to Date.....	(\$12,348)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$1,139)

MASS ATTENDANCE for September 14/15:

4:00 PM Mass - 142
 9:00 AM Mass - 129
 Total Attendance - 271
 Mass Attendance for September 15/16, 2018 - 309

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

“ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK”

VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
 610-644-2551

CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL - We are grateful for the generosity shown thus far as the 2019 Catholic Charities Appeal year enters its final months. Our parish has raised \$6,532 of our \$12,000 parish Appeal goal. We ask those who have not yet donated to prayerfully consider contributing. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office.

ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS received in memory of:
ANTHONY BARBALACE from Phyllis Villano, Chris, Gene & Domenic Gerasimowicz and Lucy D’Emilio;
ELSIE ANN NORTON from Phyllis Villano;
ALICE BAKOWICZ from Phyllis Villano;
BEVERLY ENDY from Phyllis Villano

COMBINED FINANCE AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Thursday, September 26 at 7:15 PM in the convent building.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Friday, September 27 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

BUS TRIP - The Senior Citizens are going to the American Music Theatre on Tuesday, November 19 for the Christmas Show. Bus leaves from the front of church at 10:45 AM. Lunch will be at the Cracker Barrel on your own. Cost of \$66.00 includes the show, bus and tip. Return around 6:30 PM. Payment due by October 8. For more details or reservations, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

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



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.**

LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

September 9 - #712 - unsold
 September 10 - #415 - Gene Harding - \$50.00
 September 11 - #530 - Bob Zomolsky - \$50.00
 September 12 - #158 - Edna Hersperger - \$50.00
 September 13 - #248 - unsold
 September 14 - #950 - Kitty Miller - \$50.00
 September 15 - #985 - unsold

BOSCOV’S FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS on Wednesday, October 16 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM. \$5.00 Shopping Pass for 25% off purchases made that day are available at the parish office and after Masses on the weekends during September and October. Benefits St. Gabriel Women’s Society and your church.

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.

ST. ALOYSIUS PARISH SCHOOL has a need for: Classroom Substitutes (Must have a college degree) and Aide Substitutes (Must have a high school diploma or equivalent). All applicants will need to have clearances. If interested, send your letter of intent and resume to schoolsec@saintaloyus.net.

BASKET RAFFLE sponsored by the Women's Guild of St. Joseph Church, Spring City. Held on October 6 at the Friendship Hook & Ladder, Royersford. Doors open at 12 Noon; raffle starts at 2:00 PM. Cost is \$20 for a raffle admission sheet (25 tickets). Must be 18 years of age to attend. For more details call Carmella Mungin (610-948-7731) or Emma Mungin (610-948-2064).

PRE-CANA PROGRAM for all engaged couples planning to marry - held at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Phoenixville on Saturday, October 5. Light continental breakfast starting at 8:30 AM; Class begins at 9:00 AM and ends after the 4:00 PM Mass. For more details or an application visit www.stmaryassumption.org or call 610-933-2526.

ANNUAL POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL sponsored by St. Mary Polish American Society on Sunday, September 29 from Noon to 5:00 PM at the TK Club, Conshohocken. Live Polka music, Polish food, 50/50 drawing, games of chance, baked goods and games for children. Admission is \$10 in advance; \$15 on day of the event. Admission for children 6 to 12 is \$7.00; Free for children under the age of 6. For tickets, email stmaryconshy@gmail.com or call Dorothy Swedkowski (610-630-0861).

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND on October 18-20 or November 22-24 at Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. The weekend is designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with one another in order to deepen and enrich their relationship. For more details visit www.wwme-philly.org/ or call 610-449-1859.

METANOIA is an active community of Catholic young adults in western Montgomery County who support Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. Tuesday, September 24 - Holy Hour at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Parish, North Wales at 7:30 PM. For more information contact metanoiayoungadults@gmail.com.

HOPE BLOOMS: A Healing Retreat for Catholic Women on October 4-5 at St. Raphaela Center, Haverford. This is a two day retreat that offers healing, peace, and transformation for women who have experienced betrayal trauma, abuse or emotional wounding. Visit <http://bit.ly/HopeBloomsRetreat> for more details or to register.

POST-ABORTION HEALING RETREAT sponsored by Rachel's Vineyard Ministries on October 11, 12, 13 in Malvern. For information call Lauren (215-720-5828) or email lklovesnyc@gmail.com. All inquires are strictly confidential.

OUR LADY OF CONFIDENCE CHRISTIAN RETREAT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - A three day retreat at Malvern Retreat House on October 8, 9 and 10. The retreat is geared for adults with intellectual, physical or emotional disabilities. Retreat directors are Fr. Jim McGuinn and Fr. Mike Speziale. Theme is *We All Belong*. For more information email OLCRetreat@gmail.com or call Malvern Retreat House (610-644-0400). The registration form is also on line at www.opdarchphilly.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE PHILADELPHIA - Opening Mass and Holy Hour on Sunday, September 29 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia. Holy Hour at 5:15 PM led by the Sisters of Life. Mass celebrated by Archbishop Charles Chaput at 6:30 PM. For more information visit www.prolifeunion.org or call 215-885-8150.

FREDERICK LIVING TRAIN SHOW AND FALL FESTIVAL - Train Show on Friday, October 11 from Noon to 7:00 PM and Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Six operating train layouts. Fall Festival on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hay rides, pumpkin painting, magic show, face painting, carnival games, food and fire truck experience. Held rain or shine. This event is a fund raiser for the Frederick Living Benevolent Fund and the Pottstown Salvation Army Food Pantry. Free Admission - bring a non-perishable food item or monetary donation. For details contact Trina Johnson-Brady at tbrady@frederickliving.org or call 610-754-5150, ext. 353.

125TH ANNIVERSARY NEWMAN CELEBRATION - Celebrate campus ministry in America as well as the canonization of Cardinal Newman and the inauguration of the new four-story Newman Center on October 4-6. Held at the Inn at Penn. Sunday's events include a Celebration Mass and ribbon cutting. For more information, visit www.newman.upenn.edu/newmancelebration.