

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 17, 2017  
From Pastor's Desk**

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday which means rejoice in Latin. We rejoice this Sunday, knowing that we are over halfway through this period of preparation and that Jesus' coming is so close that we can feel it in our very being. We will sing, "My soul rejoices in my God" in the responsorial psalm. Let us take a moment today to put all the Christmas planning and worries aside and reflect on the wonderful gift God gave us in Jesus.

**(Continued on page 3)**



**St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church**

**218 Valley Street**

**Port Carbon PA 17965**

**Phone: 570-622-6600 FAX: 570-429-0630**

**OFFICE HOURS: At St. Clare of Assisi**

**250 E. Hancock St., St. Clair, PA 17970**

**Monday through Friday 9AM—4 PM, closed holidays  
and day after the holiday**

**Rev. Msgr. William F. Glosser, V.F., M.A., M.Div.**

**Administrator**

**570-429-0701**

**Mon-Fri 9 am-4 pm**

**SCAssisi@ptd.net or saintstephen2@verizon.net**

**Website - <http://saintstephen2.com>**

**E-mail Address - [saintstephen2@verizon.net](mailto:saintstephen2@verizon.net)**

**Mass Schedule**

**Sundays: 9:30 AM**

**\*\*Please consult weekly Schedule inside for Holy-  
days and changes. We are  
*handicap-accessible***



**CHANGES OF ADDRESS** Please notify us as soon as you are aware that you will be moving. Our deadline to change a mailing address for envelopes is the last weekday of the month prior to delivery. Envelopes are non-profit rate and are not allowed to be forwarded by the U. S. P. S. They must be returned to us and then we must pay postage **again** on the returned mail. Thank you for your cooperation.

**MARRIAGES:** Couples planning to be married must **contact the pastor at least 1 year prior** to the desired date of the marriage.

**BAPTISMS:** Call the Rectory to Schedule

**CERTIFICATES OF ELIGIBILITY** to act as a Confirmation Sponsor, Godparent, Marriage Witness, etc., will only be issued to parishioners who are actually registered in the parish and attend Mass on a regular basis. **If you are not receiving and using weekly envelopes, you are NOT REGISTERED.**

**PREP/CCD:** A child preparing to receive any Sacrament must be a practicing Catholic and in a Religious Education Program for two consecutive years immediately prior to receiving the Sacrament. **CCD/PREP families must be registered parishioners. See <http://svrep.weebly.com/> for more information.**

**The Rosary** is prayed before each Mass on weekends and weekdays. (Please join us about 30 minutes before each Mass)

St. Vincent de Paul Society – Second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Rectory

**NOTE: Diocesan Policies on the Protection of Youth can be found at  
<http://www.allentowndiocese.org/the-diocese/youth-protection/>**

Mary Ann Lubinsky—Local Safe Environment Coordinator— Phone—570-622-6600

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak— Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator— **Direct Line—800-791-9209**

Sr. Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT— Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator— **Phone—610-332-0442, Ext. 2019**



**SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION**

**4 PM Saturday (December 16)** - People of St. Stephen Parish  
**Masses at St. Stephen**

**Sunday (December 17) Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 AM** — Patricia Quinn Hovan & Ronald Carestia (Family)  
 and Michael Foran (Hugh & Kathy McGowan)  
 Father Bill

**Saturday (December 23) Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**5:30 PM** — Edward & Eleanor Hale, George & Edwardine Hahn  
 (Karen Hahn)  
 Father Bill

**Sunday (December 24) Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**NO MORNING MASS AT ST. STEPHEN**  
**9:30 AM AT ST. CLARE OF ASSISI ONLY**

**Sunday (December 24) Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord**  
**4:00 PM—People of the Parish**

**Monday (December 25) The Nativity of the Lord**  
**10:15 AM—People of the Parish**

**See Christmas Schedule for other Masses**  
**at St. Clare of Assisi**

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**December 24: Cemetery**  
**Christmas Eve/Christmas Day, One collection only**  
**December 31: Fuel and Heat**

**Weekend Mass Attendance for December 10**  
**9:30AM: 129**  
**53 attended St. Clare of Assisi's 4 PM Mass**

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$2,561.00. Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are \$3,818.00 in the red for fiscal year 2017-2018.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

<b>2016-2017 Budget</b>	\$200,000.00
<b>2017/2018 Budget</b>	
<b>(All Funds)</b>	\$170,800.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$3,285.00
<b>Collection December 10</b>	\$2,561.00
<b>Cemetery \$354.00</b>	-----
Needed to Date <b>(24th week)</b>	\$78,840.00
<b>(Corrected)</b>	
Collected to Date <b>(24th week)</b>	\$75,022.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(3,818.00)

**LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**December 17 and 31**  
 Ed Tray/Elizabeth Harrison  
**See schedule for 12/23 and Christmas Masses**



**Saturday, December 23**

**5:30 PM—Neiko Eckley**

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

**4:00 PM—Annabella Chaklos**

**Christmas Day, December 25**

**10:15 AM—Jacob Challenger**

**Sunday, December 31**

**9:30 AM—Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert**

**Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel Open Hours:**

**SUNDAY 12am, 4am; FRIDAY 7pm; Saturday 4am, 12pm. Please call Aleece @ 449-7678 to commit to your Holy Hour with Our Lord.**

**Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses. This week we welcome Father Bill as our Celebrant**

**December 31— Father Bill**  
**January 7 — Father Connolly**

**SUNDAY OBLIGATION ONLY**  
**Saturday, December 23 5:30PM —**  
**Father Bill**

**Sunday, December 24 9:30 only at St. Clare of Assisi**

**CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION ONLY**  
**Sunday, Christmas Eve for Christmas Only 4PM—Father Connolly**

**Christmas Day 10:15 AM—Father Connolly**

**See Christmas Schedule on Next Page for additional Masses at St. Clare of Assisi**

## **From Pastor's Desk (Continued from page 1)**

### **Opportunities for Confession before Christmas**

Sunday morning Dec. 17, Father Bill will hear confessions in St. Stephen's from 8:45am-9:15am

Sunday, December 17 from 6-7PM in St. Clare of Assisi

Monday, December 18 from 4-5PM in St. Stephen & following 6PM Mass in St. Clare

Tuesday, December 19 from 4-5PM in St. Clare of Assisi

Wednesday, December 20 from 6:30PM to last person in line in St. Stephen

Thursday, December 21 from 6PM to last person in line in St. Clare

Twelve (12) hours were provided for one's reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After Thursday there will be no more confessions heard. Please take the opportunity now!

### **Communion Calls**

Christmas Communion Calls to the sick and shut-ins of the parish will be made by Father Bill on December 20 and 21. As always a phone call will be made prior to the visit. Please also note that there will be **NO Communion Calls in January.**

### **Extremely Important Information about Sunday Masses the Weekend of Dec. 24!**

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. In light of our pastor's responsibility to two parishes, the Mass Schedule for the weekend of Dec. 23 and 24 will be different. We are publishing it now to give adequate notice.

For Saturday, Dec. 23 Masses for the Sunday obligation will be at 4PM in St. Clare and 5:30PM in St. Stephen.

For Sunday, Dec. 24 Mass will be at 9:30AM ONLY in St. Clare.

St. Clare of Assisi Christmas Masses: 4PM, 6PM, 8PM on Christmas Eve and 9AM on Christmas Day

St. Stephen Christmas Masses: 4PM on Christmas Eve and 10:15AM on Christmas Day

### **Blessing of Baby Jesus**

Next weekend at all the Masses we ask you to bring your baby Jesus from your home Nativity set and place it in our parish manger to be blessed during Mass. Following Mass remember to retrieve it. Please be careful not to take someone else's infant.

### **Catholic Charities Giving Tree**

This year Catholic Charities is asking that you buy specific gift cards to help them purchase larger items that are needed on a case by case basis like car seats, strollers, coats, etc., and to replenish other items as the need arises. Please take one of the pink or orange requests from the main entrance and purchase a gift card. When you do, please place in an envelope and drop off in the collection basket or the rectory mail slot. **DO NOT LEAVE IN CHURCH. Deadline to contribute is December 21st.**

### **Upcoming Events for both Parishes**

January 7—ICC Monthly Breakfast

March 10 – First Penance for both Parishes

April 25 – Confirmation location TBA

May 6 – St. Stephen First Holy Communion

May 6 – Chinese Auction at St. Clare of Assisi

May 13 – Mothers Day

May 20 – St. Clare of Assisi First Holy Communion

### **Mass Books and Hymnals**

Thank you to those who have contributed to our Mass Books for the 2018 Liturgical Year. The books are more than \$1,000. Total donated so far is \$581.00. Any donations accepted. Once again, if you wish to donate one or more IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF, they are \$10 each. The list of donors and Memorials are available at the entrances of the church. Additional memorials will be posted in later bulletins.





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