

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 31, 2017
From Pastor's Desk**

Last weekend we were really in a "spiritual hustle & bustle" of the closing out the Fourth Sunday of Advent and praying in Christmas Eve that evening. However, this weekend although still rushing our Christmas Season, it is much more in spiritual sync! This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and on January 1 we honor the Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary. These two liturgical celebrations give witness to the importance of Family in our lives and our world today.

(Continued on page 3)



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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

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
IN MEMORY OF LARRY EICH IV (Janet Eich)**

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4 PM Saturday (January 6) - People of St. Stephen Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (December 31) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9:30 AM — Larry Eich IV (11th Anniv) (Janet & Larry Eich) and Joseph Shapella (39th Anniv) and Betty Shapella (Dorothy Shipe) Father Bill

Sunday (January 7) The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 AM— Dolores Barnes (John Barnes) and Mary Jane Gately (Vince Gately) Father Connolly

Sunday (January 14) Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Eva Stanus (Lillian McBreen & Daughters) and John J. McGovern (Joe Pilo) Father Bill

Mass Attendance

December 23: 5:30 PM: 98

Christmas Eve: 4 PM: 237

Christmas Day: 10:15 AM: 35

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

January 7: Building Fund

January 14: Cemetery Fund

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$3,651.00; Christmas, \$5,604.00; Building \$117.00; Fuel & Heat \$25.00— 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

2016-2017 Budget	\$200,000.00
2017/2018 Budget (All Funds)	\$170,800.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$3,285.00
Collection December 24 Cemetery \$ 688.00	-----
Needed to Date (26th week)	\$85,410.00
Collected to Date (26th week)	\$82,824.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,586.00)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

January 7 and 14
Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray
January 21 and 28
Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



Saturday, January 7
9:30 AM—Emily Gasper
Sunday, January 14
9:30 AM—Taylor Lazarchick
Sunday, January 21
9:30 AM—Emily Yordy

Celebration of the Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary – New Year's Day

January 1 while it is still a "holy day", it is NOT a "holy day of obligation" since it falls on Monday this year. There will be NO MASS on New Year's Eve and only a 10AM on New Year's Day in St. Clare of Assisi. Volunteers are needed to lector, serve, and 2 EM's.

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

- December 31— Father Bill**
- January 7 — Father Connolly**
- January 14 — Father Bill**
- January 21 — Father Connolly**
- January 28 — Father Bill**
- February 4 — Father Connolly**
- February 11 — Father Bill**
- February 18 — Father Connolly**
- February 25 — Father Bill**

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.



From Pastor's Desk (Continued from page 1)

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 \$671.00.

Additional donations and Memorials, Cash \$50; Louise Harig IMO Michael J. Harig, Edward J. Olechnowicz, Jr., Edward J. Olechnowicz, Sr., and Marcella A. Olechnowicz. Nancy Lescavage IMO Joseph & Mary Lescavage.

Mary's Christmas Prayer by Carol Penner

Lord, you have done great things

and holy is your name!

For unto us a child is born

and holy is your name!

For you have shown mercy to your handmaid

and holy is your name!

From the angel's first appearance

I've waited for this moment.

Confident in your plan,

confident that all generations will call me blessed.

Confident, when Joseph doubted me,

when my parents did not understand,

when my friends laughed at me,

and turned the other way.

Confident, in the face of a journey

decreed by Rome's power,

a journey to this city of David.

Confident even in my labour pains

that you would deliver me.

And tonight I brought forth my first-born son.

Here he lies, in my arms;

a tiny baby, beautiful and perfect.

A future king, you say, destined for a throne.

Here in this stable, a king!

Truly you have exalted those of low degree.

Nine months ago, the angel came

planting words in my heart

The power of the most High overshadowing me.

Tonight that angel appeared again

to shepherds in their fields.

In glory the angel told them of a Saviour

Christ the Lord, born this night.

You appeared to the shepherds

but it is I who need your counsel.

Gabriel, come again to me,

I must question you.

I've called my son Jesus.

"Jesus, Son of the Highest,

reigning over the House of David forever,"

those were your words.

But how shall he take his throne?

Who will recognise him?

Joseph and I are ordinary people,

we don't know how to raise a king!

This night we have become parents

to such a child as this.

The shepherds tell of a star,

will this sign bring help for me?

Of all the babies in Bethlehem tonight

this is the one you've destined to bring salvation

and I do not know how this will be accomplished.

This child brings peace on earth,

but my heart is filled with questions.

God, through your tender mercy

calm my fears

and guide my feet into this way of peace.

I am a handmaid of the Lord.



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