

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 28, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

To be honest as a priest I am getting scared. As I approach my 60th birthday sometime in the next few months, there will be fewer priests in the Diocese than when I was first ordained close to 34 years ago. I will be asked to work harder at age 60 than when I was age 26. The average age for a priest of our Diocese is presently 63 (I'm still one of the young ones LOL).

In the next 5 years there will only be 80 priests to serve our 5-county Diocese and of those 80 priests in addition to age, a number have some sort of health-issue or other difficulty that will impair them to satisfy the needs of the flocks they shepherd.

In the first reading today, we hear that Moses has similar concerns to mine and God promises him that God will raise up a prophet like Moses. You and I know that prophet was Jesus and it is from Jesus Christ that I and my other brother priests receive our priesthood. Despite the shortage of priests, we know that God will take care of His Church; but God might be calling His Church to "adapt and overcome" its problems. The solution just might be the faithful not just praying for vocations; but also
(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

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****

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4 PM Saturday (February 4) - Michael Foran (Mary Bildheiser)

4 PM Saturday (February 11) - Rita Matsko (Karen Bukoski)

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (January 28) Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Joseph & Joan Krynock (Ann Stefonick) and William Kalymun (Thad & Frances Blum)
Father Bill

Sunday (February 4) Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Jean Marie Zimerofsky (Children) and Jean Macaluso (Nancy King & Family)
Father Connolly

Sunday (February 11) Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—LAOH St. Brigid and Margaretta Lonergan (Winnie & Don Kerns)
Father Bill

St. Stephen Attendance- Sunday, January 21
53 at St. Clare ; 120 at St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 4: Building Fund

February 11: Cemetery Upkeep

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$2,993.00; Fuel & Heat \$557.00. Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are \$.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 January 21	\$3,550.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (30th week)	\$98,550.00
Collected to Date (30th week)	\$95,186.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(3,364.00)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

February 4 and 11

Ed Tray/4th Lisa Gasper
Ed Tray/11th Mary Ann Lubinsky

February 18 and 25

Karen Kuperavage/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, February 4

9:30 AM—Neiko Eckley

Sunday, February 11

9:30 AM—Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, February 18

9:30 AM—Jacob Challenger

Sunday, February 25

9:30 AM—Ciara Gilbert & Charissa Gilbert

****NOTE:** The actual Sanctuary Candle is now being used for In Memory Of and In Honor Of Intentions. The cost is now \$15 because it is a 7-day candle as opposed to the previous 5-day candle that was used. Call the rectory if you would like to schedule a candle for your intention. Thank you.

First Friday & First Saturday Devotions

We will honor Jesus' Sacred Heart with Mass this Friday at 8AM and Mary's Immaculate Heart this Saturday at 8AM, both in the daily Mass chapel at St. Clare of Assisi.

CEMETERY BILLS

2017 Bills were recently mailed reflecting the new \$125 Cemetery Care Annual Fee.

Birthday wishes to Father Edward B. Connolly who turned 80 this past week. We are grateful to him for assisting Father Bill with our weekend Masses.

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

- January 28 — Father Bill**
- February 4 — Father Connolly**
- February 11 — Father Bill**
- February 18 — Father Connolly**
- February 25 — Father Bill**
- March 4 — Father Connolly**
- March 11 — Father Bill**

(Continued from Page 1)

stepping up to the plate! This is our Church and parish we all need to build her up and keep her strong!

The Gospels for the next three Sundays will focus on Jesus' healing ministry and driving out demons. WE need to pray to the Father in Heaven to heal not only our personal maladies and to drive out of us our own demons; but those afflictions and demons that prohibit unity in our Church.

ICC AYCE Breakfast

Next Sunday, 2/4/18, 8-11:30 am. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish

Upcoming Second Collections

Note: Initial Offering is to help defray the printing and postage costs of Offering Envelopes

February 4: Building Fund

February 11: Cemetery Upkeep

February 18: Catholic Home Missions

February 25: Cemetery Upkeep

From Our Bishop

Until further notice, Bishop Schlert has asked all parishes to refrain from physical touch during the Sign of Peace and receiving Holy Communion from the Cup now that we are in the midst of the flu season. We also highly encourage anyone who has flu-like symptoms to stay at home rather than coming to Mass. We will miss you but we would rather share your love than your germs!

Tips to Avoid the Flu

1. Frequent handwashing with warm water & soap
Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not sanitize after 3 consecutive applications. Soap & Water are still the best method of cleansing.

Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, or mouth without washing hands first.

2. Avoid touching surfaces or using articles frequently used by others such as pens, door handles, etc. If one must use a hand sanitizer after usage. During flu season sharing is the necessarily the best way of caring

If You Are Sick

1. It is NOT a sin to miss Mass if you are ill! We prefer you to stay home and get better rather than spreading more germs.

2. Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze with your elbow or a hankie.

3. DO NOT leave your used tissues in the pew for someone to clean up after you!

Ash Wednesday Help

As our custom we are seeking volunteers to serve in the Minor Ministries for our Masses on Ash Wednesday. We are in need of altar servers, a lector, and 3 Eucharistic Ministers who will not only distribute Communion but also assist with distribution of ashes. Please contact the rectory if you are able to assist and we will contact you.

Getting Ready for Lent

Fr. Bill needs an idea how many of our parishioners and friends would be interested in a Thursday night Lenten program? He is exploring a number of programs that would help educate us in Faith. Please call the rectory to let us know if you are interested.

Upcoming Parish Events

February 14 – Ash Wednesday

March 10 – First Penance for both Parishes

April 25 – Confirmation at St. John the Baptist, Pottsville

May 6– St. Stephen First Holy Communion

May 6 – Chinese Auction

May 13 – Mothers' Day

May 20 – St. Clare of Assisi First Holy Communion

St. Clare of Assisi Parish 10 Day Pilgrimage to Assisi & Rome

WHAT: To celebrate the 10th anniversary of our founding as a parish we wish to visit Assisi and see St. Clare's home as well as the holy sites of our Catholic Faith in Rome.

Our pilgrimage was specifically designed by our pastor to include sites not normally visited on tours of this nature. We need a total of 25 people to make this a reality. Please come and join us!

WHEN: October 6-15, 2018

HOW MUCH: \$4,300.00 per double occupancy which includes air fare, hotels, group transportation in Italy and the following meals 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners

Not Included Fees are:

the bus to take us back and forth to Newark Airport
\$199 for Traveler's Insurance

\$100 for tips for some tour guides, bus driver, and dining room staff in Italy

5 lunches and 1 dinner (last night in Rome)

For more information ask for a flyer or visit <http://bit.ly/FrGlosserItaly>

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass followed by Veneration of the First-Class Relic of Saint Pauline Visintainer of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus, Patron Saint of Diabetics and all those who are sick, will be held Monday, January 28 at 5 p.m. at Our Lady's Chapel of St. Patrick Church.

Knights of Columbus

St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Soup Sale to benefit Nativity BVM High School, and a Sub Sale to benefit the Knights' charities on Saturday, Feb 24th from 9am-12 noon. See any Knight for sub tickets.



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