

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 25, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

The other day I was sitting in the passenger side of a hearse driving me to a cemetery for a burial of a parishioner. As we drove through the downtown, I saw a guy I visited in the hospital last Spring. He suffered a pretty serious heart attack and I was called to anoint him before surgery. After the surgery the doctors told him how lucky he was. Now as I pass him on the street, he is smoking a cigarette! Did he listen to what the doctors had to say to him? Does he value his family and his life that much to continue with a bad habit that almost contributed to his death?

In today's Gospel, God the Father says, "This is my beloved Son, Listen to Him!" What is Jesus saying to me? What is Jesus asking me to do this Lent to put aside some bad habits, some sinful behavior that will keep me from eternal life in heaven?

Strong in faith or weak in faith God has a place for us all but we got to listen!

"If today you hear His voice; harden not your hearts!"

**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 (March 3) - People of the Parish

4 PM Saturday (March 10) Edward P. Lubinsky (17th Anniversary) (Mary Ann & Children)

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (February 25) Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Eva Stanus (Joseph & Mary Zucofski) and Dr. John Joseph Canfield, Jr. (Hugh & Kathy McGowan)
Father Bill

Sunday (March 4) Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Walter Stutz (Winnie & Don Kerns) and Michael J. Foran (Larry & Mary Rose Burns)
Father Connolly

Sunday (March 11) Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Helen Bitterlich (Family) and Jean Thomas and Richard Thomas (Children)
Father Bill

Sunday, February 18 Attendance
At St. Clare 34 people
43 people At St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 4: Building Fund

March 11: Cemetery Fund

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$1,098; Fuel & Heat \$213.00. 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 February 18	\$1,311.00
Cemetery \$ 405.00	-----
Needed to Date (33rd week)	\$111,690.00
Collected to Date (33rd week)	\$104,080.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(6,850.00)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

March 4 and 11

Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray

March 18 and 25

Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, March 4

9:30 AM—Emily Gasper

Sunday, March 11

9:30 AM—Taylor Lazarchick

Sunday, March 18

9:30 AM—Emily Yordy

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

Upcoming Second Collections

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

March 4: Building Fund

March 11: Cemetery Upkeep

March 18: Fuel & Heat

Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses. This week we welcome today's Celebrant, Father Connolly

February 25 — Father Bill

March 4 — Father Connolly

March 11 — Father Bill

March 18 — Father Connolly

March 25 — Father Bill

Easter Sunday

April 1 — Father Connolly

Servers needed for Stations of the Cross

We are in need of servers for our parish devotions of Stations of the Cross. Stations will be at St. Stephen's on Tuesday February 27, (Jacob Challenger) and March 6 beginning at 6PM. Stations will be at St. Clare of Assisi on Tuesday March 20 and 27.

(Continued from Page 1)

Update on the State of the Parish

It has been a while since you have heard or read any news on how we are doing temporally as a parish. Collections are down, however this is due to the number of people who have left. I truly must commend all of you who have hung in during these difficult times because I see your generosity in trying to help us with the budget. So, thank you very much. Nevertheless, I think it is still important for you to realize how serious our financial situation is. While many of our bills are being paid, a major repair or fuel oil consumption would be devastating.

Do date, we have consumed the same amount of fuel oil that we used for the entire heating season last year. So therefore the budget will be off because of increase fuel costs.

Regrettably, the school was broken into again. This time there was no vandalism performed but it leaves us on edge. We are awaiting additional bills to come in to provide increased security for the parish properties. These costs are not covered in the budget for this year.

Two weeks ago the church boiler was inspected and found to be needing safety updates amounting to nearly \$3,900 worth of improvements. None of these extra expenses were anticipated. Please pray we can still continue to manage a balanced budget for this year.

Lenten Devotions & Programs

To make this Lent beneficial and grace-filled, our parish offers a variety of spiritual opportunities, please consult the parish Lenten schedule on-line at www.stclareassisi.weebly.com.

****Tuesday thru Friday [8AM]** – Celebration of Mass in St. Clare daily Mass chapel

****Tuesdays [6PM]**– Eucharistic Devotions/Stations of the Cross/Confessions

****Thursday Mornings [8:30AM]** – “At Home With the Word” a reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings for Mass

****Thursday Evenings [6:30PM]** – Adult Faith Formation using works of Matthew Kelly and Bishop Robert Barron

****Saturday Afternoon [3:15PM]** – Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Clare of Assisi

****Sunday Morning [8:45AM]** – Confessions at St. Stephen’s Feb. 25, March 11 & 25.

****Parish Lenten Mission [7PM]** – March 11, 12, 13.

Words to Ponder from Archbishop Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Nineteen years ago, I sat with the parents of children murdered in the Columbine High School massacre, and buried some of their dead. Nothing seems to change, no matter how brutal the cost. Terrible things happen; pious statements are released, and the nation goes back to its self-absorbed distractions.

The latest massacre in south Florida requires two things from all of us. We need to pray for the victims and their families because – as I witnessed firsthand at Columbine – their suffering is intense and long-lasting. And we need to be angry: angry at our lawmakers for doing so little to prevent these catastrophes; angry at our news and entertainment media for simultaneously feeding off these tragedies and fueling them with a steady stream of sensationalism and moral incoherence; angry at ourselves for perversely tolerating these things, and then forgetting them until the next round of violence.

This is #Lent. As a people, we have a lot to repent and confess. And let’s not lie to ourselves that tighter gun restrictions – as vital and urgent as they now are – will solve the problem. **We’ve lost our respect for human life on a much broader scale, and this is the utterly predictable result.**

School Shootings since January 1, 2018

****Seattle, Washington**

****Denison, Texas**

****Los Angeles, California**

****Italy, Texas**

****San Bernadino, California**

****Marshall, Texas**

****Sierra Vista, Arizona**

****Gentilly, Louisiana**

****Maplewood, Minnesota**

****Mobile, Alabama**

****Dearborn, Michigan**

****Bronx, New York**

****St. John’s, Michigan**

****Oxon Hill, Maryland**

****Benton, Kentucky**

****Philadelphia, PA**

****Winston-Salem, NC**

****Parkland, Florida**

Since the start of 2018, a school shooting has occurred on the average of every three days.

Upcoming Parish Events

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

August 12 – St. Clare of Assisi 10th Anniversary Mass and Parish Picnic

Lenten Confessions

Due to the poor response with Christmas confessions, Father Bill will try to make it easier on parishioners for Lent. **Please note when Father Bill celebrates Mass here on Sundays, Confessions will be heard from 8:45-9:15. These dates will be February 25, March 11, March 25.** Please take advantage of this opportunity to fulfill one's Easter Duty. Please also consult the regular Lenten Schedule for additional Confession times.

Lenten Dietary Restrictions

Day of Fast – Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59 may only partake of one full meal and two small meals not equal to one full meal unless medical reasons dictate otherwise.

Day of Abstinence – Catholics starting at age 14 will refrain from eating meat, soups with meat, and gravies made from meats on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.

Born for This at St. Clare or Assisi Church (insert)

On Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM, Saint Clare of Assisi Church and Lift Your Spirits Performing Arts (LYSPA) are presenting "Born for This" in the church located at 250 East Hancock Street, Saint Clair, PA.

Experience an event that will truly bring the meaning of Easter to life inside of you and your entire family as you journey each step along the road to Calvary and witness the events as you never have before. The production written by CJM Music of England, is based on the Gospel of Mark, and is filled with powerful music, moments of reflection and a special format presenting the journey of the Passion in a most memorable way for all ages.

Lift Your Spirits Performing Arts Group, based in Ashland, is a non-profit 501c3 organization and is the only group performing the production in the United States.

Tickets are \$10.00 per person and can be purchased by calling 570-429-0370. Youth under the age of 16 are free if accompanied by an adult. Youth groups are welcome and encouraged to attend. Tickets are required.

Last Year's Palm for Next Year's Ashes

On Palm Sunday we bless palm which is a sacramental that we as Catholics use to remind us of the Lord's Paschal Mystery for our salvation. Because it is blessed it should not be thoughtlessly discarded and thrown out because it has dried out.

There is a basket at the main entrance of the church for the collection of your old palm. We will later burn this palm to make ashes for next Ash Wednesday.

Work or other Commitments Keeping You from attending Lenten Devotions at Church?

Sub-scribe for FREE to "Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent". Go on-line BestLentEver.com to receive a daily e-mail containing a Lenten reflection, a point to ponder, a recommended prayer for the day, and an inspirational video offered by Dynamic Catholic. One may also purchase (but not necessary) a Lenten journal for \$14.95 which coincides with each daily e-mail reflection.

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>

2017 Contribution Statements

If you did not request a statement but would like to have one, please call the rectory during business hours.

ICC Caterers Breakfast

Immaculate Conception Caterers will hold an "all you can eat" breakfast next Sunday, March 4th, 8:00AM to 11:30AM. Cost is \$6 for adults/\$3 for children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

Protecting God's Children Workshop

At St. Joseph Parish, Frackville in our Social Room, 34 South Line Street, Entrance B on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Please call to register at 570-874-0610, ext. 4.

Pierogi News

Pierogi Sale at St. Clare of Assisi Church. Every Friday in Lent and Holy Thursday, not Good Friday. Advance orders only. (Order by any Wednesday for the following Friday for the rest of Lent.) Call 429-0863, 429-0512, 429-0343, or 429-1942 to order. Pickup time is 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cost is \$7.50 per dozen for cooked with butter & onions, cooked with butter only, or uncooked frozen.

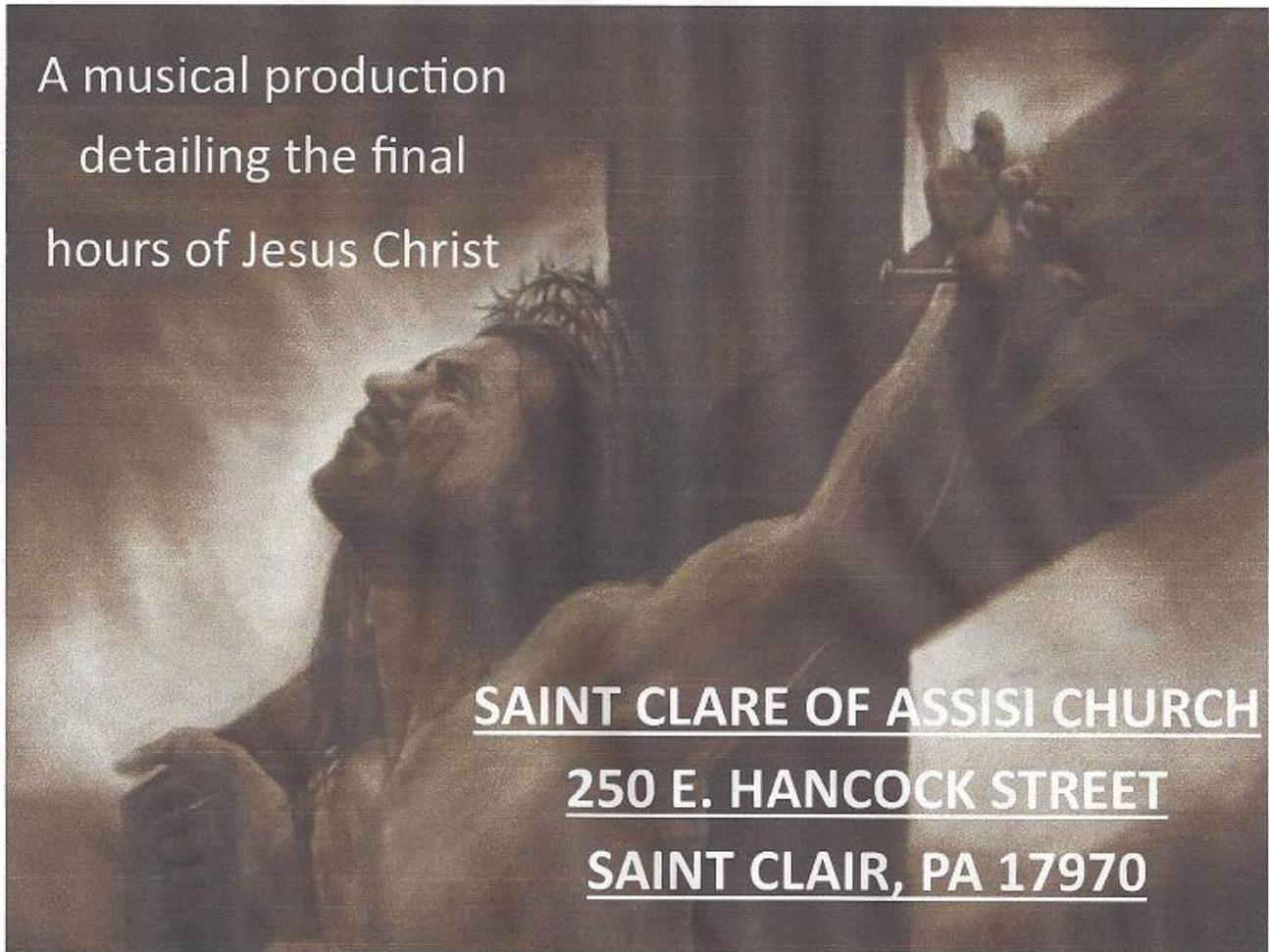
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"cross of wood on his back"

"YOU on his mind"

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detailing the final
hours of Jesus Christ



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250 E. HANCOCK STREET

SAINT CLAIR, PA 17970

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018—6:00 PM

All tickets—\$10.00

(Age 16 and under— free accompanied by an adult)

Youth Groups are welcome and encouraged to attend (tickets required).

Call (570) 429-0370

Born For This is a prayerful way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

Perfect for families and youth groups.

Performed by: Lift Your Spirits Performing Arts



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