

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 4, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

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 (March 3) - People of the Parish

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

Masses at St. Stephen

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) Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday (March 18) Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Thomas Mooney (Al & Linda Baldinger) and Joseph & Joan Krynock (Children)
Father Connolly

Sunday, February 25 Attendance

At St. Clare 62 people

111 people At St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 11: Cemetery Upkeep

March 18: Fuel and Heat

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$3,704.00. Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are \$6,431.00 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 25	\$3,704.00
Cemetery \$ 431.00	-----
Needed to Date (35th week)	\$114,975.00
Collected to Date (35th week)	\$108,544.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(6,431.00)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

March 11
Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray

March 18 and 25
Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



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.**

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.

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, March 6 beginning at 6PM. Stations will be at St. Clare of Assisi on Tuesday March 20 and 27.

ICC Caterers Breakfast—Immaculate Conception Caterers will hold an "all you can eat" breakfast today Sunday, March 4th, until 11:30AM. Cost is \$6 for adults/\$3 for children under 8.

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

March 4 — Father Connolly
March 11 — Father Bill
March 18 — Father Connolly
March 25 — Father Bill

Easter Sunday
April 1 — Father Connolly

(Continued from Page 1)

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!
IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD
AT ALL !

B. I. B L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before
Leaving Earth!

First Penance

Next Saturday, March 10 our children from both St. Clare of Assisi and St. Stephen's will be making their First Confessions at a penance service at 10AM. We ask you to pray for these young children to always be aware of God's mercy and the need to seek forgiveness for their wrong doings.

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 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.

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

This evening 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. Tickets available at the door, \$10 adult; 16 and under, free with adult.

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.

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.

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>

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

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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