

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 11, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

The boundless love of God is on full display in our readings for this Sunday. The Chosen People had "added infidelity to infidelity", repeatedly turning away from God as is quoted in the first reading. But God still loved them, and through armies of Cyrus, the king of Persia, the Babylonians are defeated. The exiled Hebrews are permitted by Cyrus to return to Israel and Cyrus even helps them rebuilt the destroyed temple.

St. Paul testifies in our second reading that our salvation comes because of God's great love for us as recounted by St. John in his Gospel "for God so loved the world..."

Last weekend we heard Jesus tell us that the Temple will be destroyed but that He would raise it up in three days. This is not the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed by the Babylonians in 587BC and then again by the Romans in 70AD. Jesus refers to the "Temple of His Resurrected Body"; He promises us that through Him our bodies are also temples of the Holy Spirit. Despite our infidelities God loves us despite the sin and will restore the temples of our bodies if we seek His mercy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

**St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church
216 Valley Street, Port Carbon PA 17965**

Mail to:

**250 E. Hancock St., Saint Clair, PA 17970
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 in-  side
for Holydays and changes. We are**

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**



**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

March 18 and 25

Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, March 18

9:30 AM—Emily Yordy

Sunday, March 25

9:30 AM—Aiden Brennan

Easter Sunday, April 1

9:30 AM—Neiko Eckley

Sunday, April 8

Annabella Chaklos

****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.**

Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses.

**This week we welcome today's Celebrant, Father Connolly
March 11 — Father Bill
March 18 — Father Connolly
March 25 — Father Bill**

**Easter Sunday
April 1 — Father Connolly**

Living Stations

Our PREP program will re-enact the Living Stations on Wednesday, March 14 in St. Stephen's at 6PM. We hope you all attend and pray the Stations with our children.

Parish Stations

Stations will be at St. Clare of Assisi on Tuesday March 20 and 27 at 6PM with Benediction and Confessions.

Thank you to the Anonymous Donor for the \$1,000 donation

****SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION**
EDWARD P. LUBINSKY (17th Anniv)) (Mary Ann & Family)**

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

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

4 PM Saturday (March 10) - People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

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 (March 25) Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:30 AM—Ronald Pavlick (Anne Pavlick) and Joan Albertini (3rd Anniv) (Al Albertini)
Father Bill

Sunday, March 4 Attendance

At St. Clare 60 people

94 people At St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 18: Fuel and Heat

March 25: Cemetery Upkeep

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$3,119.00; Fuel & Heat \$194.00; Building Fund \$612.00; Anonymous Donation \$1000.00! Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are \$5,790.00 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 March 4	\$3,925.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (36th week)	\$118,260.00
Collected to Date (36th week)	\$112,469.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(5,790.00)

(Continued from Page 1)

First Penance

This past Saturday, our children made their first penance followed by a luncheon for our children and their families. Our thanks to the women of St. Clare of Assisi parish for coordinating the luncheon and making treats.

Our First Penance Celebrants

Jacob Adams	Jillian Balulis
Ethan Clarke	Brandi Boyer
Aidan Corby	Kenna Corby
Elijah Jones	Jemma Daubert
Anthony Marx	Kaylin Lipshaw
Luke Strausser	Madison McBreen
Gavin Strausser	Addison Messner
Brayden Tokonitz	Braelynn Strenkoski
Connor Woll	

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.

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.

St. Clare of Assisi Lenten Mission Begins this Sunday—All are invited to attend

Tonight at 7PM, we open our Lenten Mission with Fr. Stephen Isaac as our homilist. We will pray the Stations of the Cross and we invite parishioners in groups of 3 to hold the crucifix and candles under each of the 14 Stations. **Confessions will be heard on Sunday evening from 6:15PM to 6:45PM.** A light reception will follow each night's service.

On Monday evening at 7PM, Fr. David Anthony will be our celebrant and homilist for Mass. **Confessions will be heard on Monday evening from 6:15PM to 6:45PM.** A light reception will follow each night's service.

On Tuesday, Fr. John Rother will offer us a homily followed by the administering of the Sacrament of the Sick beginning at 7PM. **Confessions will be heard on Tuesday evening from 6:15PM to 6:45PM.** A light reception will follow each night's service.

Our Eucharistic Lord will be present on the Altar Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday beginning at 4PM for private prayer and devotion.

Minor Ministries Needed for Holy Week

We are still in need of volunteers to serve, to lector, and distribute Holy Communion for Masses /Devotions on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, and also men, women, and children for Holy Thursday foot washing. Please see Bulletin Insert and call the rectory to let us know your availability.

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

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.

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.



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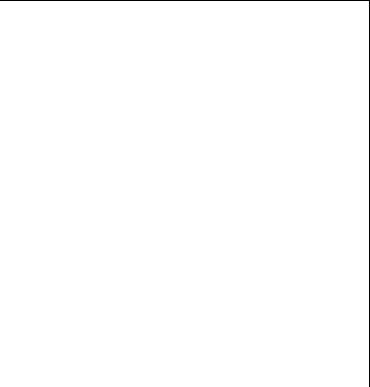
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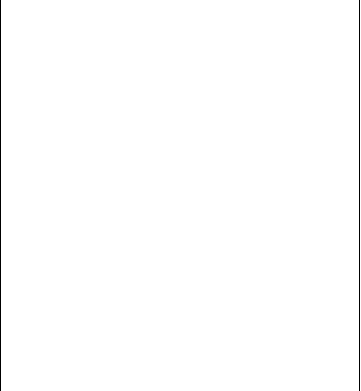
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