

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTER
May 13, 2018
From Pastor's Desk

Happy Mothers' Day! We honor all our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, and those who have acted as mothers in our lives. For many of us, the love we have received from our mothers and has remained in us is a wonderful model of the love of God for us. During the month of Mary, we remember all our mothers living and deceased in every Mass celebrated on our parish altar.

We also seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother to ask her Son Jesus to hear our prayers.

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St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church
216 Valley Street, Port Carbon PA 17965
Phone: 570-622-6600 FAX: 570-429-0630
E-mail Address – saintstephen2@verizon.net
Website - <http://saintstephen2.com>

MAIL TO:

250 E. Hancock St., Saint Clair, PA 17970

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

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**



**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

May 20 and 27

Judy Johnson/Elizabeth Harrison

****SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION****
IN MEMORY OF BERTHA CORSON (5th Anniv) (Bob Corson)
Masses at St. Clare of Assisi
4PM Saturday (May 12) People of the Parish
4PM Saturday (May 19) - Joseph & Joan Krynock (Children)



Sunday, May 20

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, May 27

Neiko Eckley

Sunday, June 3

Annabella Chaklos

Masses at St. Stephen
Sunday (May 13) Seventh Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

9:30 AM—Living and Deceased Mothers of the Parish

Sunday (May 20) Pentecost Sunday

9:30 AM—Joseph J. Kreydt (5th Anniv) (Louise Kreydt) and Bertha Corson (5th Anniv) Bob Corson

Sunday (May 27) The Most Holy Trinity

9:30 AM—Alice Pitchalonis Fegley (Children) and Thomas Mooney (M/M Paul Strauss & Family)

Sunday, May 6 Attendance
74 At St. Clare people
139 people At St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

May 20: Fuel and Heat

May 27: Cemetery Upkeep

Collections: Weekly and Cash \$2,912.00; Building Fund \$404.00. Thank you for your generosity! Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are 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 May 6	\$3,316.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (45th week)	\$147,825.00
Collected to Date (45th week)	\$139,089.00
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(8,736.00)

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

Do not place loose checks in the collection basket. Always use an envelope with your name and the amount recorded on it.

As we have done in the past, the parish is offering Mothers' Day Remembrance cards for both living and deceased mothers. The suggested offering is \$10. During the entire month of May (the month of God's Mother, Mary), our mothers will be remembered each time Mass is offered.

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

May 13 — Father Brensinger

May 20 — Father Connolly

May 27 — Father Bill

June 3 — Father Brensinger

June 10 — Father Bill

**PLEASE NOTE:
OUR MAILING ADDRESS HAS CHANGED TO:**

**C/O 250 E. HANCOCK ST.
SAINT CLAIR, PA 17970**

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Congratulations to our students who are receiving their First Holy Communion last Sunday: Brandi Boyer, Ethan Clarke, Anthony Marx, Madison McBreen, Gavin Strausser, and Brayden Tokonitz.

A Wonderful Celebration of Faith

Last Sunday, we celebrated First Holy Communion and honored Mary as our Queen of May crowned by first communicant Madison McBreen. We wish to thank Lisa Gasper, Tom Dowd, and Amy Benulis our catechists who prepared our children so well. We thank Mary Burns and our St. Stephen's choir for the wonderful music. Our gratitude to Lisa's Flowers and to Carol Stencovage, Carol & Rich DeWitt for setting up the beautiful May Shrine. Lastly Mary Ann Lubinsky for all the behind the scenes coordination.

A Rosary to Honor Mary in May

Join us Thursday evening May 17 at 6:30PM to pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary. If the weather is conducive, we will offer the rosary outside at the Madonna Della Strada statue of Mary (bring a lawn chair). If the weather is rainy and or chilly, the rosary will be prayed in the church gazing upon our Marian Shrine. **If attendance merits, we will conduct similar on May 24th and May 31st.**

Time to Plan Parish Vacation Bible School for St. Clare & St. Stephen's Parishes

All are invited to help plan this summer's VBS for our younger parishioners on Tuesday, May 15 at 6:30PM in St. Clare of Assisi Daily Mass Chapel. We need help and ideas! Remember about 100 children attend this fun-filled event every year!

Cemetery Concerns

Grass Cutting Season officially begins April through October. From now until mid-October, our cemetery is contracted to be cut every two weeks. Dependent upon the weather affecting how the grass grows, it costs \$885.00 per cut. Our Cemetery Upkeep Account is extremely low on funds. We ask you to please be generous to the cemetery collections so we can keep the cemetery looking presentable.

Upcoming Parish Events

May 13 – Mothers' Day
May 13 - Bakeless Cookie Sale
May 15 - Vacation Bible School Meeting at SCA
May 20 – St. Clare of Assisi First Holy Communion
August 12 — St. Clare of Assisi 10th Anniversary Mass and Parish Picnic

St. Stephen Church Food Sale will be held Saturday May 19, 5 pm (after 4 pm Mass) at St. Clare and Sunday May 20, 10:30 am (after 9:30 am Mass) at St. Stephen. Food to be sold includes soup (\$6/quart), chili and BBQ (\$10 quart), plus a special treat – Terrie K.'s Famous Rice Pudding! Cooked, chilled food will be sold in takeout containers – ready to heat up at home! Cooks are needed – volunteers may pick up empty containers after 9:30 am Mass at St. Stephen on Sunday May 13 or by request (burns812@msn.com/717-649-7894).

Novena Time is Fast Approaching

We all have some "knots" in our lives... and Mary can untie them! The devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots has become more popular ever since Pope Francis encouraged the devotion in Argentina, and then spoke about it during his first year as pontiff. The theology of the devotion actually goes back to the second century. Saint Irenaeus wrote that, "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by the obedience of Mary; what the virgin Eve bound by her unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosened by her faith." Mary's faith unties the knot of sin! So we will pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary will intercede for us all, to untie the knots of sin in our lives – so that we may be purified and ever closer to God. The 9 day novena will begin at daily Mass on Tuesday, May 22. Candle-light Rosary will be on Thursday, May 31. Our former seminarian, now Fr. David Anthony will be our homilist for the evening. One can also Google praymorenovenas.com for the Mary Undoer of Knots novena and pray it at home.

Great News about our Trip to Assisi/Rome

UniTours which is overseeing all the arrangements for our fabulous 10 day pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome has extended the deadline to reserve a spot on the pilgrimage until the beginning of July. Our trip will be from October 6-15, 2018 with a direct flight to Rome departing from JFK. We will charter a bus (an additional cost) to get us to JFK. The total cost of the trip is \$4,300.00 per person per double occupancy which includes air fare, hotels, group transportation in Italy and the following meals 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 6 dinners. There will be some other incidental expenses not included in the trip cost.

We welcome and certainly could use a few more travelers with us; please tell your friends! For more information ask for a flyer or visit <http://bit.ly/FrGlosserItaly>

A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Father, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones. We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children. For the late nights spent rocking a colicky infant. For the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, backing, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring. We thank you for the gift of time moms give for their kids, whether it's stay-at-home moms, working moms, and moms who have some combination of the two. We thank you for the flexibility of moms, for their tirelessness, their perseverance, and their devotion.

We pray you give each mom strength. Help her to see in every mundane task the eternal, cosmic significance that you place on motherhood. Help her to understand that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening anonymously in her home. Help her to forgive those who undermine her significance.

We especially pray for single moms, who must lean solely on you for the fathering of their children. We thank you that you're big arms surround children who may never know their earthly father. We also pray for mother who never had the honor of bearing children, but whose nurturing extends to the many poor and needy who cross the threshold of their lives.

We ask you to be the daily bread of tired mothers. We ask you to be their living water. We ask you to be their source of spiritual and physical strength. We pray that the same grace that flowed from Father to Son to us in salvation will flow from mothers to their children. We pray that each mother rejects perfectionism and instead embraces the goodness of the gospel. We pray the rhythms of repentance and forgiveness shape every home.

Lord, give each mother a worshipful reverence of you, the Creator and Sustainer of life. Help each mother to rest in the knowledge that they are but stewards of your children and that only your Spirit can produce change into the hearts of each boy and girl. May each mother find rest in you.

Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. Amen!

- Daniel Darling



Bishop's Annual Appeal Update

We are grateful to our parishioners who have already made a pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. So far this year, we have raised \$2,415 from 29 donors. Last year our parish raised \$6,102.00 from 92 donors. As pastor my only hope and goal is that we as a parish can raise the same amount as last year.

Making a six-month pledge to the Appeal allows you to maximize the amount that you may give by making monthly payments. For example, a \$300 gift to the BAA may be set-up with six \$50 installments. Your sacrifice and generosity to those less fortunate will allow the ministries of our Diocese to offer services to those who need our assistance. You can make your gift online at Faith-HopeCharityGives.org.

Last Week's Corrected

2016-2017 Budget \$200,000.00

2017/2018 Budget

(All Funds) \$170,800.00

Amount Needed Weekly \$3,285.00

Collection April 29 (incl Heat) \$3,316.00

Cemetery \$ -----

Needed to Date **(44th week)** \$144,540.00

Collected to Date **(44th week)** \$135,773.00

Over/(Under) Budget \$(8,767.00)