

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 22, 2018

From Pastor's Desk

The 23rd Psalm

The 23rd psalm is really a prayer, meant to be used in worship. It is not like the gospels- a theological reflection on someone's life or a discourse on Paul's letter to the Romans on a particular issue such as matters of sin and grace. Neither is it a letter addressed to a particular church, dealing with matters of discipline or some problem- like Galatians, Ephesians or Thessalonian

No, the 23rd psalm is a prayer -- an expression of someone's inner state before God. An honest expression of someone's deepest concerns and how they experience God as part of those concerns. One can have problems/issues in your life and not feel as though God has anything to do with it. Many people fight their battles alone. But not the writer of psalm 23.

In great detail the psalmist gives us the broad scope of God's relationship with us. It is a psalm for the non-believer, the atheist, the bored, the disinterested, the lost, the confused, the lonely and the abused. It is for the one who thinks God is irrelevant, old fashioned or out of date, because it is someone's personal testament. Take it or leave it.

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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**



****SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTION****

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday (July 28) - People of the Parish

4PM Saturday (August 4) People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (July 29) Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Francis Lubinsky (Robert Lubinsky) and Alice Pitchalonis Fegley

Sunday (August 5) Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Rita Matsko (M/M Thomas Dalvet) and William Kalymun (2nd Anniv) (Family)

Sunday, July 8th Attendance

**107 at St. Stephen
40 at St. Clare**

Sunday, July 15th Attendance

**101 at St. Stephen
42 at St. Clare**

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

July 29: Mission Co-op

First Collection will be for Weekly and Fuel and Heat

August 5: Building Fund

August 12: Cemetery Upkeep

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 7/15 Weekly and Cash \$2,927; Fuel & Heat \$325; Building \$57. Please also note our posting of collection information to make budget, we are in the red for fiscal year 2018-2019.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2017/2018 Budget (All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection July 8	\$1,542.00
Cemetery \$ 256.00	-----
Needed to Date (2nd week)	\$5,776.92
Collected to Date (2nd week)	\$3,248.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,528.67)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

<u>July 22</u> Ed Tray/Elizabeth Harrison
<u>July 29</u> Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



<u>Sunday, July 22</u> Neiko Eckley
<u>Sunday, July 29</u> Annabella Chaklos
<u>Sunday, August 5</u> Jacob Challenger

We have Mass Intention openings. Please call the rectory if you wish to schedule a Mass.

Sanctuary Candles are available In Memory Of or In Honor Of or Special Intentions. The cost is \$15 for the 7-day candle. Call the rectory if you would like to schedule a candle for yourself or 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.

**Grateful for Saying our Sunday Masses. Today we welcome our Celebrant,
Father Bill**

- July 29 — Missionary**
- August 5 — Father Connolly**
- August 12 — Father Bill**
- August 19 — Msgr. Handges**
- August 26 — Father Bill**

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2017/2018 Budget (All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection July 15	\$3,309.00
Cemetery \$125.00	-----
Needed to Date (3rd week)	\$8,665.38
Collected to Date (3rd week)	\$6,737.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(1,928.13)

Enjoy Your Summer

With this great weather to be outside and hopefully get some time away to be with family and friends, we pray for your leisure time and your safety. However, please remember that while you are away, the bills still keep coming.

10th Anniversary Parish Celebration Plans – Mark the Calendar!

On Sunday, August 12 we will celebrate the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi and the tenth anniversary of our parish under her patronage with a special Mass at 3PM and a picnic to follow “up da Gunny” till 7PM. Fr. Mark Searles will be our homilist for the Mass.

The picnic will be catered by Hess Catering. The menu will include: B-B-Q chicken and ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, and pulled pork sandwiches. There will also be pasta salad, baked beans, corn on the cob, fresh fruit, nachos w/ salsa. The cost will be \$15 per person. Those attending need to bring their own refreshments.

Please use a reply form found in the back of the church so we can include you in the count. Payment is needed with the form. Deadline to submit an RSVP is Monday, August 6.

Help Needed for the Anniversary Mass

We are looking for volunteers to be Minor Ministers for our 10th Anniversary Mass on August 12th at 3 PM. We would like 4-5 altar servers and 2-3 lectors. Due to the number of priests expected, there is no need for Eucharistic Ministers.

Because the picnic follows the Mass, it is permissible for servers and lectors to wear shorts and sundresses on the altar; however, please make sure you look respectable.

Important Mass Change on August 12

When we celebrate St. Clare of Assisi's 10th Anniversary on Sunday, August 12, there will be a change in the Sunday Mass schedule! **THERE WILL BE NO 10:30am Mass** that day due to many of our parishioners attending the anniversary Mass at 3pm followed by the parish picnic.

Mass Schedule Weekend of Sunday, August 12

Saturday at 4PM

Sunday at 8:30AM

Sunday at St. Stephen's 9:30AM

Sunday at 3PM followed by picnic

Vacation Bible School

It's finally here! Our parish VBS is this July 23, 24, 25 and 26 from 6-8PM in the hall. Children should bring bathing suits, a towel, and if necessary a change of clothes.

National Office

Our parishes' administrative assistant, Mary Ann Lubinsky attended the national convention of the Ladies Ancient Order Hibernians in Louisville, KY the week of July 8th. At that meeting, she was elected national treasurer. Congratulations!

Important PREP News

New this summer, registration materials will be emailed to all families that have attended the PREP program in the previous year to be filled out at your convenience. **ALL** non-parishioners attending the St. Clare/St. Stephen PREP program must get written permission from their pastor to attend our program. Make sure all email addresses are written clearly since this is our main mode of communication. Place all material and payment in an envelope and either send to the rectory or place in the collection basket. Please send in registration by July 31st. Have a great Summer!!!

Upcoming Parish Events for St. Clare of Assisi and

August 12 – Celebration of the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi & 10th Anniversary of Founding of the Parish Mass at 3PM. Parish Picnic up the Gunny following Mass till 7PM

September 24 – Mass Celebrating the Lord's Comfort and Healing Love at 6:30PM with Bishop Schlert at St. Clare of Assisi

Healing Mass

On Monday, September 24 at 6:30 PM there will be a Mass Celebrating the Lord's Comfort and Healing Love. All are invited to join in prayer at this Mass here at St. Clare of Assisi with The Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert as celebrant and homilist. Following Mass there will be a Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for confession. The evening will conclude with Benediction at 8:30 PM.

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)

We are in need of hall monitors to sit in the halls near the bathrooms to make sure our children are safe. Hall monitors can bring a book or a laptop while performing this duty. We are in need of classroom aides to assist our catechists in those classes where there are a large number of children or projects needing help or supervision. We could always use some more catechists or substitutes to teach our young people. How can we expect our children to pass on the faith if we do not pass it on to them?

All these positions will require compliance with State and Diocesan Codes of Conduct. While not extensive, it will take some time to receive back clearance checks. Therefore, it helps if we begin now. For more information please speak with Tom Dowd, Fr. Bill, or Mary Ann Lubinsky.

Diocesan Red, White, & Blue Mass

All Police, Firefighters, First Responders, Legal Professionals, Health Care Workers, & their Families are invited to join to Bishop Alfred A. Schlert as he celebrates the First Red, White, & Blue Mass on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 6:30 PM Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena. Please wear your uniforms.

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We all have personal testimonies. From the lady who believes that God found a parking space for her when she prayed, to the man who believes that God healed his cancer. All of us can identify those moments in our lives when the hand of God just reached in and touched us in some special way. We have no doubt that it was the grace of God at work in us.

So the 23rd psalm is a personal testimony of someone's experience of God. So what is his testimony? In the following lines I have summarized the basic components of the writer's experience of God.

The lord is my shepherd – That's relationship

I shall not want- That's supply

He makes me lie down in green pastures – That's rest

He leads me beside still waters – That's refreshment

He rests my soul – That's healing

He leads me in the path of righteousness – That's guidance

For his name sake – That's Purpose

Yea though I walk – That's testing

I will fear no evil – That's protection

For you are with me – that's faithfulness

Thy rod and thy staff- that's discipline

You prepare a table for me – That's hope

You anoint my head with oil- That's consecration

My cup runs over – That's abundance

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me – That's blessing

And I will dwell in the house of the lord – That's security

Forever – That's eternity

Psalm 23 is a test of our faith. It asks the question. Do you believe in a God of abundance, supply, healing, rest, protection, hope and blessing? Now, each one of these attributes of God poses a problem for some of us. The psalm challenges us to assess where we stand in our relationship with God. Do you truly believe in a God who can supply ALL of your needs? Not just your need for security and protection but all the others as well as a good shepherd does.

Do you believe that God can respond to that one need you have, the one you told no one about, the one you don't even like to mention, the one you think is not so important? Psalm 23 challenges us to believe and trust in that God.

Visiting Missionary

Fr. Cherian Pulikunnel V.C , a Vincentian Missionary Priest from India, will be in our parish next Sunday to participate in our Annual Missionary Cooperation Plan. He will preach and will make an appeal on behalf of the Vincentian Missions.

The Vincentian Congregation (V.C.), a missionary-sending Religious Congregation, was founded in Kerala, India in 1904, modeled after the Congregation of the Mission founded by St. Vincent de Paul. Members of this flourishing Religious Congregation, all natives of India, are engaged in Mission Work in all parts of India and in several countries in Africa.

The Vincentian Missionaries need our help to carry out their many missionary, educational and charitable activities in their missions worldwide. They need our special financial support for the training of young men studying for priesthood. There will be special mission collection next weekend (July 28 & 29) to help the Missionary work of the Vincentian Fathers. We urge you to be very generous in your mission offering since these Missionaries need our help. Please keep Fr. Cherian and all the Vincentian Missionaries and seminarians in your prayers. PLEASE USE THE SPECIAL MISSION CO-OP ENVELOPE THAT WAS INCLUDED IN THE MAY-JUNE MAILING OR A PLAIN ENVELOPE.

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The kids just finished school less than 2 weeks ago, but it is necessary for us to begin planning and preparing for our next school year and religious education. We are in need of hall monitors to sit in the halls near the bathrooms to make sure our children are safe. Hall monitors can bring a book or a laptop while performing this duty.

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