

**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

As we gather this weekend, Mark's Gospel proclaims about Jesus, "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak." The Gospel relates to you and me the transformative power of God. God can transform our lives to make them something better, something true, and something holy. However, we have to be open to it!

How have I failed to be open to those who were outside my comfort zone? Or my circle of friends? How open am I to admit my own faults, failures, and sins? We live in a day and age where we hide our faults, failures, sins from others; nevertheless, we are always on the prowl to find a scapegoat to find fault with and to blame for all the troubles in our lives and in our world. It is quite easy to find the flaws in others but how open are we to admitting or correcting our own?

In another Gospel Jesus shouts, Ephphatha "Be Open!" Will we let His healing touch our ears and tongues to do as we heard in the words of St. James last weekend – "Be doers of the Word and not just Hearers!"

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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****

IN HONOR OF THE MARRIAGES OF
ALEX KRESZL & ANNA LORENCE AND
JEREMY BOHN & GRACE LORENCE

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday (September 8) - Rita Matsko (M/M Thomas Dalvet)

4PM Saturday (September 15) Joseph & Joan Krynock (children)

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (September 9) Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—William Kalymun (John & Debbie Yacavosky)

Sunday (September 16) Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Joseph J. Kreydt (Louise Kreydt)

Sunday (September 23) Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Russell Vandermartin (3rd Anniv) (Patricia Vandermartin)

Sunday, September 2nd Attendance

80 at St. Stephen

43 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

September 9: Cemetery Upkeep

September 16: Fuel and Heat

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 9/2 Weekly and Cash \$2,515.00; Building Fund \$326.00; Fuel & Heat \$81.00. 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 September 2	\$2,922.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (10th week)	\$28,884.60
Collected to Date (10th)	\$27,496.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(1,388.35)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

September 16

Ed Tray/Lisa Gasper

September 23

Maureen Challenger/Elizabeth Harrison



Sunday, September 9

Neiko Eckley

Sunday, September 16

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, September 23

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, September 30

Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert

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, September 9 — Msgr. Handges

September 16 — Father Bill

September 23 — Father Bill

Annual Shower of Roses Festival

The Shrine of Therese, 15 E. Garibaldi Ave., Nesquehoning, sponsors the annual devotions to St. Therese on Oct. 7. Mass at 1PM, Rosary Procession 3PM, 4PM Benediction of Blessed Sacrament, Shower of Roses 5PM. Ethnic foods, vendors, music, spaghetti dinner.

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Today is the last day to order subs

Cost is \$6.00 per sub, with a choice of Italian or Ham. Subs will be available to pick up on Thursday, September 13 at the parish rectory between 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM. Order yours today when leaving Mass.

Next Saturday – September 15

Next Saturday is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Bishop Schlert is calling upon the Faithful of the Diocese to be part of a Day of Sadness, Prayer, and Reparation. Here at St. Clare, we will offer Marian Mass at 8AM celebrating our Lady of Sorrows. The Blessed Sacrament will be on the Altar till Benediction at 8PM. Please see the insert for other prayer opportunities.

Other Liturgical Initiatives in light of the Grand Jury Report

In addition to the September 15 Day of Prayer, in reparation against the sins against the Body of Christ, Bishop Schlert asks...

The praying of the Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel at all Masses. We hope to place the prayers in our hymnals as soon as possible for communal recitation

All priests of the Diocese to observe Thursdays as a Day of Strict Fast beginning September 13 to last indefinitely

A re-institution of the Ember Days (Traditional Days of Fasting after the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross) Wednesday, Sept. 19, Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 20. The Faithful may observe Day of Abstinence (no meat at meals) or a strict day of Fast (2 small meals and one full meal with no snacking).

Another Question: "All the Church seems to be doing right now is apologizing. When is the Church going to do something?"

The scandal first broke in November 2001. Immediately thereafter the American bishops met in Dallas where they drew up the "Dallas Charter" which basically stated a zero tolerance policy was now in effect and immediate removal of any accused priests. Shortly after returning home to the Diocese Bishop Cullen requested all the District Attorneys in the 5 County Diocese of Allentown to examine every priests' file. When Bishop Barres became the fourth bishop of Allentown, he conducted a review of all Bishop Cullen's work. For the last 15 years, our Diocese has been enforcing a stringent safe environment policy and conducting programs to keep our children safe. While we cannot change the events of the past, Bishops Cullen, Barres, and Schlert

have done everything possible to prevent and cooperate fully with this heinous crime. Information is always found in the rear of both St. Clare and St. Stephen's Church.

The *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* is a comprehensive set of procedures originally established by the USCCB in June 2002 for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy. The *Charter* also includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse. It was revised in 2005, 2011, and 2018.

The *Charter* directs action in all the following matters:

Creating a safe environment for children and young people;

Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors;

Making prompt and effective response to allegations;

Cooperating with civil authorities;

Disciplining offenders;

Providing for means of accountability for the future to ensure the problem continues to be effectively dealt with through the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection and the National Review Board.

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)

There will be no PREP on Wednesday, the 12th due to Nativity's Back to School Night. PREP will continue on Wednesday, the 19th.

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 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.

PRIEST, PROPHET, KING: The Archangels and the Masculine Spirit – The Diocesan Commission for Men is offering a men's morning of reflection on Saturday, **September 29, 2018**, at **Queenship of Mary** in Northampton. An optional Holy Mass will be offered at 8:00 AM followed by refreshments. Presentations by **Msr. John Martin**, **Rev. Patrick Lamb**, and **Rev. Eugene Ritz** will begin at 9:15 AM. To register for this free offering visit www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality

Upcoming Parish Events for St. Clare of Assisi and St. Stephen

- Sept 9 Deadline to order subs
- Sept 13 Sub Pickup
- Sept 24 Healing Mass with Bishop Schlert
- March 16 First Penance
- Last Week of April—Confirmation TBA
- May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
- May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion

Happy
Grandparents
Day

The History of Grandparents Day

In 1970, Marian McQuade hoped to establish a national day to raise awareness about senior citizens, in particularly honoring grandparents. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared the first Sunday after Labor Day to be National Grandparents Day. Each year, the president issues a proclamation to keep the tradition going. The official flower for Grandparents' Day is appropriately the "forget-me-not."

Lord God almighty,
bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health.

May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Today in Mark's gospel, Jesus heals the deaf man and the crowds were astonished! Let Jesus heal any disappointments in your marriage. Attend a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend and experience peace and joy in your marriage. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

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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Annual Diocesan Marriage Anniversary Mass

Thinking of what to do for your wedding anniversary? Why not go to the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena? All married couples and their families regardless of how long you have been married are invited to a special Sunday Mass and social to follow. Couples celebrating 1-5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 years or more will receive a special certificate.

Diocesan Family Festival

Our Diocesan Family Festival is scheduled for Sunday, September 30th at SteelStacks, Bethlehem, PA. This is a great day of faith and fun beginning with an outdoor Mass at 11:00 AM, (bring a chair or blanket) celebrated by Bishop Schlert and with sacred music provided by our Diocesan Choir. The day follows with fun games, live music, and tons of great homemade food. Students from all of our Diocesan Elementary Schools, High School, and Schools of Special Learning will be present to join in the festivities as well. Don't miss this once a year event as we celebrate our family of faith and Catholic Education. There's something for all ages and for all people across the five counties of our Diocese. We would love to see you there. Contact the Parish Office for more information.