

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 16, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

Our Faith is a consolation, but it is also a challenge. We know this intuitively, but sometimes we're not conscious of it. Our Faith demands that we stand up for what we believe, and sometimes that is difficult. Our Faith demands that we reach out to those in need. Our Faith demands that we make sacrifices. Our Faith demands that we take up our cross. Every Sunday when we walk in here we make the sign of the cross. May it remind us of what Jesus asks us to do.

Life is not fair; that's why Jesus shows us how to get to Heaven.

To love God means to love our neighbor. Sacrifice unites us closer to God.

Jesus' death on the cross was considered a scandal yet He rose from it.

We must always temper justice with mercy and be ready to forgive from our hearts.

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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 MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. KREYDT (Louise Kreydt)

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

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

4PM Saturday (September 22) - Rita Matsko (M/M Thomas
Dalvet)

Masses at St. Stephen

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 Vander-
martin)

Sunday (September 30) Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Kathy Bambrick (24th Anniv) and Patrick Bambrick
(Dorothy Shipe)

Sunday, September 9th Attendance

76 at St. Stephen

34 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

September 16: Fuel and Heat

September 23: Cemetery Upkeep

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 9/9
Weekly and Cash \$1,730.00; Building Fund \$40.00.
Please also note our posting of collection informa-
tion to make budget, we are in the red for fiscal
year 2018-2019.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2017/2018 Budget	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection September 2	\$1,770.00
Cemetery \$328.00	-----
Needed to Date (11th week)	\$31,773.06
Collected to Date (11th week)	\$29,266.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,506.81)

**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

September 23

Maureen Challenger/Elizabeth Harrison

September 30

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, September 16

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, September 23

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, September 30

Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, October 7

Emily Gasper

**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 rec-
tory if you would like to schedule
a candle for yourself or your in-
tention. 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 16 — Father Bill

September 23 — Father Bill

September 30 — Father Bill

October 7 — Father Connolly

October 14 — Msgr. Handges

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Were United in Holy Matrimony

Last weekend, the Lorence Twins Anna and Grace (the daughters of Clare and Paul) were wed to Alex Kreszel and Jeremy Bohn respectfully. It will probably be the only time our church will see the marriage of twins together! It was a great and beautiful day! Our prayers for God's blessings upon Anna & Alex and Grace & Jeremy as they begin their lives together.

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

- 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

Rest in Peace

Father Mike Ahrensfield, Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Lehighton. Father Ahrensfield was only 64 years old.

Edward Zemanik, father of Msgr. Edward Zemanik

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. 21, and Saturday, Sept. 22. 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).

Please be FAITHFUL to YOUR Parish

Everyone of us is aware that our parish financial situation is unstable. Fr. Karns spoke about it from the pulpit and Fr. Bill formed a finance council as well as frequent updates to the parish. Many drastic financial cuts were made and for the last two years we have had budgets that balanced and 'end of the year' financial statements balance in the black. For two years, we feared that the parish would close and miraculously the doors have stayed OPEN! We are aware that our Savings have long been depleted but the cuts made, scrutinizing expenses, and your generosity have done so. In 2016, Bishop Barres' transfer to Rockville Center brought us one more year. In 2017 when our new Bishop was appointed he wished to review our circumstances more fully. Now in 2018, other pressing Diocesan matters could possibly once again postpone any consideration to closing St. Stephen's. This should make many of you happy that unless for some serious maintenance expense issue, we might stay open longer than the nay sayers predicted.

BUT!!!!!! Despite our best efforts of many people, parishioners are STILL leaving the parish and joining elsewhere. WHY???? Back in January 2018, the average Mass attendance was approximately 140 people at the 9:30AM Mass. Currently the Mass attendance has dropped to between 75-100 people per week; and the weather has been good! We have controlled the financial situation and pray we can get by with no breakdowns or costly oil bills. The Friends of St. Stephen's are trying to help with some fund raising. But if people don't come to church or remain in the parish, there is little we can do to correct that situation.

Important: if a loved one is hospitalized it is important for a family member to call the rectory to let us know. We will do our very best to make a visit.

Our Lady of Sorrows

The Blessed Virgin Mary grants seven graces to the souls who honor her daily by saying 7 Hail Mary's and meditating on her tears and dolors (sorrows). The devotion was passed on by St. Bridget. The Seven Sorrows are:

- 1) The prophecy of Simeon. (St. Luke 2:34, 35).
- 2) The flight into Egypt. (St. Matthew 2:13, 14).
- 3) The loss of the Child Jesus in the temple. (St. Luke 2: 43-45).
- 4) The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross.
- 5) The Crucifixion.
- 6) The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross.
- 7) The burial of Jesus.

Healing Mass

Next 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 **Msgr. 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

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.

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 home-made 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.

Now that the children are back in school, how about a refresher course for Mom and Dad? **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** is an enrichment weekend to help make good marriages even better. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

