

**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 21, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

Many people are afraid of commitments these days. Young couples fear the loss of their independence and avoid marriage. "It is easier to live together and if I desire I can leave with no strings attached." RIGHT? Talking about marriages that do end in divorce, there is more controversy over the dog than children! Many couples choose pets over having children because it is less responsibility. However, without commitments how can we grow? Be accountable? Be responsible? Be trusted?

It takes a commitment to be a Catholic Christian, a disciple of the Lord. Often people come to me looking for one of the Sacraments and I must say "do you practice your Faith?" The answer always is, "No but I am a good person." We all need to be good but being a Catholic Christian calls for a deeper commitment than just being good. I can be a good person and not believe in God. I can be a good person and have no Faith. Jesus says "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for another." A marital vow is a commitment. Raising children in the Faith is a commitment. We cannot approach God's throne of grace and expect Him to welcome us unless we are committed.

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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 (October 27) - Harry, Sophia and Jeff Tohill
(Helen Tohill)

4PM Saturday (November 3) - People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (October 21) Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Jean Macaluso, King and Maccarone Families
(Nancy King & Family)

Sunday (October 28) Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Sonny Shipe (14th Anniv) and Kathy Bambrick
(Dorothy Shipe)

Sunday (November 4) Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Veronica McGovern (Sue Shober)

Sunday, October 14 Attendance

120 at St. Stephen

45 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

October 28: Free will offering for the victims of
Hurricanes Florence and Michael

November 4: Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 10/14
Weekly and Cash \$2,509.00. Thank you to those
parishioners who mailed their yearly donations.
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 October 14	\$2,509.00
Cemetery \$365.00	-----
Needed to Date (16th week)	\$46,215.36
Collected to Date (16th)	\$45,215.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(1,000.11)

**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

October 28

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger

November 4

Judy Johnson/Ed Tray



Sunday, October 21

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, October 28

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, November 4

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, November 11

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,**

October 21 — Father Reiley

October 28 — Father Connolly

November 4 — Father Connolly

November 11 — Father Bill

November 18 — Father

Brensinger

November 25 — Father Bill

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What One Missed On the Italy Pilgrimage

A group of parishioners and friends of our parish spent last week in Assisi and Rome. During those wonderful 10 days, we visited the four major basilicas of Rome, climbed on our knees the "holy stairs" Jesus walked up to be condemned by Pontius Pilate, went to the Church of the Holy Cross and viewed the relics of Jesus' cross, thorns from His crown, and a nail that held Him to the Cross. We also saw relics of Jesus' manger bed. We prayed at the tombs of St. Clare of Assisi, St. Francis of Assisi, Saints Peter and Paul, St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier, Pope St. John XXIII, Pope St. Paul VI.

We walked the streets of Assisi as St. Francis and St. Clare did and saw where they were born, lived, and died. We offered Mass in many beautiful churches and the Vatican. We saw the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican Gardens. We attended a papal audience and the canonization Mass of 7 new saints in St. Peter's Square. We were very close to the Holy Father as he drove by in the Popemobile. This was an experience of a lifetime!

Parish Bus Trip to St. Ann's Shrine

Next Saturday is the Confirmation Retreat to St. Ann's Shrine in Scranton for all parishioners receiving Confirmation this April whether you are in St. Clair, Pottsville, or Assumption BVM Schools. We have seats available for any parishioner who wants visit for private prayer. The cost is \$20 which includes a fee for the bus and donation to the Shrine. Please call the rectory on Monday if interested.

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

- November 1 Feast of All Saints holy day
- November 4 EST begins. "Fall Back" on your clocks
- December 1 Morning of Reflection and Catechesis for Lectors and Eucharistic Minister.
- March 16 First Penance
- April 30—Confirmation
- May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
- May 18-19 St. Clare of Assisi Chinese Auction
- May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion

The Month of October

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to pray the rosary daily during the month of October, asking Mary and St. Michael the Archangel to intercede for the protection of the Church in a moment of "spiritual turbulence." The Pontiff had recently affirmed that prayer "is the weapon against the Great Accuser who 'goes around the world seeking to accuse.' Only prayer can defeat him. The great saints of all the traditions advised, in moments of spiritual turbulence, to shelter beneath the mantle of the Holy Mother of God." The pope said that recitation of the rosary would invoke Mary's intercession, placing the Church under her "protective mantle."

Rosary Devotions for October

During October we will pray devotions to Mary at the Grotto beginning at 12PM. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather we will pray in the main church.

Saturday, October 27 Recitation of the Franciscan Crown Rosary remembering the Joys in the Life of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by Lucy O'Connor.



Thursday Bible Study Resumes

Beginning Thursday, November 29, following the 8am Mass, we will begin reviewing the Sunday readings once again. Coffee will be available. We will be using the At Home with the Word Book. If you wish to purchase one, please call the rectory.

Mandated Reporter Training

Mandatory for every parish volunteer. If you have not completed it, please call the office to be scheduled.

10/29 – St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven – 5:30 PM

11/12 – St. Richard, Barnesville – 5:30 PM

Hurricane Florence

On Sunday October 28, there will be a Special free-will offering Diocesan Collection for the victims of Hurricane Florence. Thank you for your generosity.

Attention Parish Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers

There will be a Morning of Reflection and Catechesis on Saturday, December 1 in St. Clare of Assisi Church Hall. The day will begin with Mass at 8AM followed by breakfast. At 9AM we will pray Morning Prayer together followed by a talk on our liturgical readings for the Season of Advent. There will also be instruction on changes to the role of the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist by the Diocese. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend as some important information will be shared.

Many of us are uncomfortable with people who look and act “different”. As a result, many people with disabilities are often ignored, isolated or rejected. When our response grows out of pity, the person with the disability feels patronized and diminished and does not necessarily react with gratitude. How much better to regard someone primarily as a person with abilities, and only secondarily as someone who may need assistance to use those abilities! November 11, 2018 is Diocesan Disability Inclusion Awareness Sunday.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Veneration of the First Class Relic of St. Pauline Visintainer takes place on the last Monday of each month at 5PM in Our Lady’s Chapel of St. Patrick Church. The next Mass will be at 5PM on Monday, October 29th.

Marriage, Divorce and Annulments

Have you ever been asked or wondered... Is an annulment just "Catholic divorce"? Can divorced people receive the Eucharist? Join us as Msgr. Victor Finelli discusses how to answer these and other common questions about the Church's teaching on marriage! This free event will take place on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, from 7-9PM at St. Ignatius Loyola (School Meeting Room) — 2810 St. Alban's Drive, Sinking Spring. There is no charge for attending TRUTH: What the Catholic Church Really Teaches. For questions contact the Office of Adult Formation by email at adultformation@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900, Ext. 2021

Spaghetti Dinner

Knights of Columbus Council 14009, on Saturday November 10, 2018 after 4:00 o'clock Mass at St. Clare of Assisi Parish Hall. Cost : \$8.00 Adults; \$4.00 Kids under 12. Members of K of C will be selling tickets before every Mass at St. Clare.

You are invited to a special event “The Master Craftsman: God’s Amazing Plan for Teens (and their Parents)” co-sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church. Join us for a faith-filled evening with nationally-recognized speaker Scott Anthony, as he helps us see the Truth of God’s guiding hand in our lives. We encourage teens in grades 9-12 and their parents to attend! After this evening, you and your youth will look toward the future with a newfound sense of hope.

The event will take place on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM, at St. Thomas More Church Family Center (1040 Flexer Ave, Allentown, PA 18103).

This event is free of charge. Light refreshments will be provided.

To register for this event, please visit www.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman. For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Francesca Frias at Ffrias@allentowndiocese.org.