

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 2, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

From a theological reference, "A *SIGN* is something conventional that leads to a meaning of greater significance." We understand this definition better from hearing Jesus' own words found in the Gospel of Luke chapter 12 beginning with verse 54: *Then Jesus said to the crowds, "As soon as you see a cloud rising in the west, you say, 'A shower is coming,' and that is what happens. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It will be hot,' and it is. 56: You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky. Why don't you know how to interpret the present time?..."*

The candles on our Advent Wreath are signs to visually remind us of the four weeks of this holy season leading up to Christmas. The first candle we light is sometimes called "The Candle of The Sign" referring to the Star of Bethlehem. This astronomical sign declared Jesus' birth and pointed the way to find the newborn king.

What signs lead us to re-discover the Christ in our lives? What points us in the right direction to

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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 (December 8) - People of the Parish

4PM Saturday (December 15) - People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (December 2) First Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Mary C. Balulis (Hugh & Kathy McGowan)

Friday, December 7 Vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

6PM—Ann Kilmurray (Linda & Al Baldinger)

Sunday (December 9) Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Matt McDonald (Fredericks Family)

Sunday, November 18 Attendance

113 at St. Stephen; 36 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 2: Building Fund

December 9: Retired Religious Sisters & Brothers

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 11/25 Weekly and Cash \$2,283.00; Fuel & Heat \$25.00.

Thank you to those parishioners who mailed their yearly donations. 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 November 25	\$2,308.00
Cemetery \$24.00	-----
Needed to Date (22nd week)	\$63,546.12
Collected to Date (22nd week)	\$61,535.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,010.87)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

December 9

Karen Kuperavage/Ed Tray

December 16

Maureen Challenger/Lisa Gasper



Sunday, December 2

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, December 9

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, December 16

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, December 23

Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert

4PM December 24 Christmas Eve

Emily Gasper

December 30

Taylor Lazarchick

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, December 2 — Father Connolly

**December 9 — Father Bill
December 16 — Father Bill
December 23 — Father Bill
Christmas Eve — Father Connolly**

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amend our "crooked and misdirected ways" in this materialistic world? Do we realize there are two meanings to the Advent wreath? Our preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas? And the coming of Christ at the end of time? Advent begins the new year of our spiritual life; what resolutions do we make for a deeper Faith, a reconciliation with a loved one, or to be a better follower of the Lord

ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast

Today, December 2, at Immaculate Conception Hall in St. Clair, 8-11:30, \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

We will celebrate the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of her mother, Ann on Friday, December 7 with Masses at 4PM in Immaculate Conception Church, Diener's Hill and at 6PM in St. Stephen's Church, Port Carbon. On Saturday, December 8, Mass will be celebrated at 9AM in St. Clare of Assisi Church.

December Communion Calls

Communion Calls to the Sick and Shut-ins of the parish will be made the week of December 4. Some of our parish Eucharistic Ministers will be visiting and will be making phone calls to make one aware of their visit. As customary, Fr. Bill will be bringing Holy Communion for Christmas and enable those who so desire to go to confession on December 18, 19, and 20.

Christmas Schedule

The Christmas Schedule was included in last week's bulletin and is also on our website. Please note the changes for Confessions: no Confessions on Monday Dec 17; change of times for Thursday Dec 20.

**Complete Christmas Confession Schedule
Sunday, December 9 8:45AM to 9:10PM at St. Stephen**

Wednesday, December 12 6PM Confession with our PREP children and parishioners to last person in line. Fr. Bill will invite a couple of his priest friends to assist him.

Saturday, December 15 3PM to 3:45PM

Sunday, December 16 8:45AM to 9:10PM at St. Stephen

Tuesday, December 18 4PM to 5PM

Wednesday, December 19 6PM to 7PM

Thursday, December 20 4PM to 5PM

Saturday, December 22 3PM to 3:45PM

Sunday, December 23 8:45AM to 9:10AM at St. Stephen

December 23 5PM to 6PM at St. Clare

"Waiting in Joyful Hope: Advent Day of Reflection"

The Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth invites you to prepare for the Season of Advent and Christmas with a special program on Wednesday, December 5 from 10AM-3PM. The program includes: reflective talks, opportunities for private prayer, Confession and Mass, lunch. Donation of \$50. For more information contact the rectory or Melinda at the Jesuit Center 610-670-3642 or mleonowitz@jesuitcenter.org.

2019 Mass Books and Hymnals

The 2019 Mass Books and Hymnals are in the pews. Thank you to those who contributed to them. If you donated at least \$10 but did not request a memorial, please do so as soon as possible so the labels can be printed. If you requested a memorial but did not donate a minimum of \$10, please send the additional amount so the memorial can be added to the list. This year we only ordered 100 books at a cost of \$652. To date, we have only received \$430 from 45 families toward the cost of the books. Last year we purchased 220 books at a cost of \$1,325 and we received donations of \$691 from 55 families.

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

-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

2019 Mass Book

We are now taking St. Stephen Mass requests for 2019. Please visit the rectory at St. Clare of Assisi Tues through Fri 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm to schedule your Masses. We also have a St. Stephen's intention at every 4PM Mass at St. Clare. If you wish to have your intention there, call our rectory number.

Christmas Wafers

Christmas Wafers to be used for those families who celebrate the custom of 'holy supper', may be found in the rear of St. Clare Church or in the rectory during business hours. A donation of \$3.00 for a pack of 4 wafers is suggested.

Blessing of Babies in the Womb

Are you with child? At all weekend Masses on December 8 and 9, we invite all expectant parents to have your child yet to born blessed in the womb with a special blessing offered by the Church as we celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception.

New Teen Ministry for Schuylkill County

Schuylkill Catholic Young Church is the new Schuylkill County regional youth ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming "Alpha" series, which includes free dinner. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and meaning. Know a teen with questions about life? Invite them to Alpha. Please RSVP: annie@allentowndioocese.org. Alpha will be held on Sundays from 6-8pm at the Frackville Youth Center (7 S. Broad Mountain Ave, Frackville) from January 27 through March 24.

In praise of His Glory!

Annie Sarlo | Director, Youth Ministry – Schuylkill Region
Diocese of Allentown
7 S. Broad Mountain Ave.
Frackville, PA 17931
(o) 570-874-0610 x9

UDIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN WILL ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT COMPENSATION AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAM FOR ABUSE VICTIMS, SURVIVORS

The Diocese of Allentown deeply regrets the pain caused by the abusive actions of some members of the clergy. Compensation alone cannot repair the damage caused to those who were harmed by clergy. This program will meaningfully assist in recovery and healing for victims and survivors, and for their families.

Compensation determinations will be made solely by an Administrator who is independent from the Church. The Administrator's work will be overseen by an independent board. The Diocese will have no influence over the decisions of the Administrator. Planning, including how the program will be substantially funded, is actively under way. A timetable for implementation and additional details will be released in the near future.

Anyone who knows of incidents of abuse, in the Church or outside it, should report it to the State ChildLine at 1-800-932-0313, the State Attorney General's hotline at 1-888-538-8541 or to local law enforcement. The Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available to provide assistance to anyone who, as a minor, was abused by a priest, deacon or employee or volunteer of the Diocese or its parishes. Her direct line is 1-800-791-9209.

The Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women is sponsoring a Christmas Novena for Bishop Schlert and his intentions. The novena begins on December 8th and concludes on December 16th, 2018. Anyone can participate. A card will be presented to the Bishop, including the names of all those who enroll. To sign up to receive the daily prayer in your email in-box, go to <http://allentowndioocese.org/BishopNovena> For questions, contact 610-289-8900 ext. 2021 or e-mail cfw@allentowndioocese.org

Want to give yourself the perfect Christmas gift?

Join the women of the diocese at a Day of Reflection to be held at the Jesuit Center, Wernersville on Saturday, December 15, 2018 from 9:30am to 2:15pm. The Commission for Women is hosting the event, with the theme "Advent: New Church Year, New Me." Deacon James Russo will be discussing a Catholic perspective on the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol." Cost for the day is \$20, which includes a light breakfast, Mass, Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours as well as lunch and time for fellowship. If you would like to register, please go to www.allentowndioocese.org/cfw-spirituality. For questions, please contact Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763 or e-mail cfw@allentowndioocese.org. Hope to see you there!

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 new-found 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.allentowndioocese.org/craftsman. For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Francesca Frias at Ffrias@allentowndioocese.org.