

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

Our focal point for the first week of Advent was upon signs, specifically the STAR in the East. Signs need to be interpreted and this yields to our second candle on the Advent Wreath, namely the Prophecy of Bethlehem. From the Old Testament Book of the Prophet Micah: *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* The descendants of Jacob's son Benjamin settled in Bethlehem. Benjamin was the youngest son of Jacob and Rachel and therefore his portion of the land of Judah was smaller than his other brothers. However, Micah the Prophet points out that it is from Bethlehem comes King David who too was the youngest of sons. God does not favor the mighty, powerful, or strong but the lowly one. From humble, lowly beginnings Jesus' roots will be taken.

The prophet's cry is not necessarily one of woe but also the thrill of hope for those who like the Blessed Mother believe "the lowly shall be raised up while the mighty topple from their thrones!" Advent is our season to hope that "Prophecies" foretold and the "Star in East" will lead us to the Promised Land of Heaven.

**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 15) - People of the Parish

4PM Saturday (December 22) - People of the Parish

Sunday (December 9) Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Matt McDonald (Fredericks Family)

Sunday (December 16) Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Mary Ann Rambo (Winnie & Don Kerns)

Sunday (December 23) Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Veronica McGovern (Sue Shober)

Sunday, December 2 Attendance

81 at St. Stephen; 41 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 9: Retired Religious Sisters & Brothers

December 16: Fuel and Heat

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 12/2

Weekly and Cash \$2,054.00; Building Fund \$309.00. 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 December 2	\$2,413.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (23rd week)	\$66,434.58
Collected to Date (23rd week)	\$63,948.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,486.33)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

December 16

Maureen Challenger/Lisa Gasper

December 23

Ed Tray/Judy Johnson



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

Sunday, January 1

Aiden Brennan

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 9 — Father Bill**

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

(Continued from Page 1)

December Communion Calls

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 Confession Schedule

Wednesday, December 12 6PM Confession with our PREP children and parishioners to last person in line. Msgr. Handges, Fr. Reiley, and Fr. Jim will be here to assist with confessions.

Saturday, December 15 3PM to 3:45PM

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

Monday, December 17 **Confessions Cancelled**

Tuesday, December 18 4PM to 5PM

Wednesday, December 19 6PM to 7PM

Thursday, December 20 **Moved to 4-5PM**

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

Advent Ember Days

Ember Days are quarterly observances of the Catholic Church set aside to pray in gratitude for the blessings of the season and human labor, to thank God publicly, to pray for priests, and to observe any special needs of the Church.

The Advent Ember Days are Wednesday, December 19, Friday, December 21, and Saturday, December 22. Bishop Schlert has requested of his priests to abstain from meat on these days, to fast, and to observe a special holy hour as a practice of sorrow and a sign of healing during these difficult days for the Church. Bishop Schlert requests all Catholics of the Diocese of Allentown to join his brother priests and he in these Ember Day observances.

There will be a holy hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, December 19 beginning at 6PM. Fr. Bill will also be hearing confessions for Christmas at this time.



Minor Ministers Needed for Christmas Eve

4PM: Server Emily Gasper, we need 1 more server. Lector Lisa Gasper. Eucharistic Ministers Ed Tray, and Lisa Gasper. Please call the rectory as soon as possible if you can serve.

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE BASKET RAFFLE TICKETS - drawing will be held **TODAY** immediately after the 9:30 am Mass. Winners will be called during the week, and baskets may be picked up next Sunday after Mass or by appointment. Full list of winners will be published in next week's bulletin. Many thanks to all those who purchased raffle tickets and/or patronized our well-attended Dine Out Night at the Crimson House Restaurant - God bless you for your support!

Parish Religious Education Preparation News [PREP]

PREP will meet this Wednesday at 6PM in St. Clare of Assisi Church for the children's Christmas confessions. There will be 3-4 priests available to administer the Sacrament this evening. We encourage parents to also take this opportunity to go to confession and show good example in the practice of one's Faith to their children. Children will be dismissed immediately after going to confession; however, no child will be let go unless a parent or designate is there to escort them home.

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.

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@allentowndiocese.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

STILL LOOKING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT?

Give each other the gift of a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend, a gift that will outlast anything money can buy! For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

All You Can Eat Homemade Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by St. Patrick Church, Sunday, January 6, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. St. Patrick Parish Center, 319 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville. Eat in or Take out, Adults: \$8; Children: \$3.50.

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.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality. For questions, please contact Joanie Norelli at 917-406-4879 or Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763 or e-mail cfw@allentowndiocese.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.allentowndiocese.org/craftsman. For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Francesca Frias at Ffrias@allentowndiocese.org.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat™

An intimate spiritual journey for anyone seeking healing after abortion, March 22-24, 2019

In a safe, supportive, non-judgmental environment you can focus on this painful time in your life and enter into the process of healing. Through scripture readings, guided meditations, and activities flowing from the meditations you can experience God's compassion and forgiveness.

For *registration information contact:

Sr. Meg Cole
1-866-3 RACHEL (Toll Free)
610-332-0442 Ext. 2019
projectrachel@allentowndiocese.org

* Deadline for Registration is March 14th For information about the retreat experience visit the national website: www.rachelsvineyard.org