

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 16, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

OK here we are in the Third Week of Advent! The first week we reflected upon the Star and our life's direction. The second week took us on a journey to Bethlehem, one of the smallest cities in the entire Kingdom of Israel – a place of little to no significance. Here in Bethlehem we pondered upon the humility of the Christ Child from His birth. This weekend invites us to study some of the adorers to the manger bed. They were the shepherds roused from their quiet night watch and slumber by an 'angelic host'. Unusual, perhaps even strange, that the Holy Family's first visitors were marginalized people – lowly, insignificant, poor, and some even thieves to keep their families. Zechariah, (John the Baptist's father) would proclaim in his great canticle "The Almighty will cast the mighty from their thrones and raise up the lowly."

**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 (December 22) - People of the Parish

4PM Saturday (December 29) - Joseph & Joan Krynock
(Children)

Masses at St. Stephen

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 Shoer)

Christmas Vigil, Tuesday December 24

4:00 PM—The People of the Parish

Sunday (December 30) Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Helen Bitterlich & Family (Family)

Sunday, December 9 Attendance

117 at St. Stephen; 44 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 23: Cemetery Upkeep

December 30: Fuel and Heat

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 12/9 Weekly and Cash \$2,538.00; Retired Religious \$327.00. 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 9 | \$2,538.00 |
| Cemetery \$332.00 | ----- |
| Needed to Date (24th week) | \$69,323.04 |
| Collected to Date (24th week) | \$66,486.25 |
| Over/(Under) Budget | \$(2,836.79) |

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

December 23

Ed Tray/Judy Johnson

December 24

Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray



Sunday, December 16

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, December 23

Ciara Gilbert/Charissa Gilbert

4PM December 24 Christmas Vigil

Emily Gasper

December 30

Taylor Lazarchick

9:00 AM

Tuesday, January 1

Volunteer needed

Sunday, January 6

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 16 — Father Bill**

**December 23 — Father Bill
December 24 Christmas Eve — Father Connolly
December 30 — Father Bill
January 1 — Father Bill
January 6 — Father Connolly**

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Upcoming Advent Blessings

This Sunday we will bless straw for your manger. Next Sunday please bring your Baby Jesus from your Nativity set to be blessed by placing it in the parish manger before Mass on December 23.

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 and 19.

Christmas Confession Schedule

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.

Change in Mass Schedule & Rectory Office Hours

The rectory office will close at NOON on Friday, December 21 and not reopen till Thursday, December 27.

There will be NO DAILY MASS Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, December 28.

Congratulations to our Basket Raffle Winners:

#1 Angels/BVM Throw/Picture – Ticket # 705261 - Gasper

#2 Soup/Chili/Pasta Basket – Ticket # 705846 - Phil

#3 Auto Care Basket – Ticket # 705485 - Kreydt

#4 Goodie Basket – Ticket # 705726 - Lisa Mill

#5 New Year's Eve Basket – Ticket # 705749 - Phone # only given

#6 Christmas Basket – Ticket # 705324 - D. Palamar

#7 Pampering Basket – Ticket # 705815 – is this your ticket? ***

#8 Coffee and Tea Basket – Ticket # 705790 - Mary Ann Lubinsky

#9 Penn State Wreath – Ticket # 705030 - Sue Legutko

#10 Restaurant Gift Cards – Ticket # 706280 - Carol

#11 Knit Afghan Basket – Ticket # 705941 - Kerns

#12 Lottery Ticket Snowman – Ticket # 706162 - Kelly

#13 Wine & Crimson House Gift Card – Ticket # 705505 - Liz Kleckner

***** Wrong side of ticket was deposited into drawing.** If this is your ticket, please bring to church vestibule after Mass, or call the rectory at 570-622-6600. If no ticket holder comes forward, drawing will be repeated using pool of all non-winning tickets.

Heartfelt thanks from Friends of St. Stephen's to all who contributed items or baskets for the raffle, as well as those who purchased tickets, made donations and/or attended "Dine Out" Night. This was FOSS' most successful fundraising effort to date: \$1200 in raffle ticket sales and donations, plus \$250 from Crimson House "Dine Out" Night = \$1450 raised for St. Stephen's Parish.

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

-March 16 First Penance

-March 24, 25, 26 St. Clare Parish Mission

-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 Requests

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

Counselor— Pottsville (Part-Time)

Catholic Charities Diocese of Allentown is hiring a part-time (20-25 hr. /week) counselor based at the Pottsville Office location with possible travel in the five-county service region. The counselor provides individual, family, and marriage counseling for those seeking mental health services. Applicants are required to have a master's degree in related field with counseling licensure or licensure eligible. Applicants must be willing to provide services that align with the ethical, moral, and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Send cover letter and resume to CCAD@allentowndiocese.org. Please specify POTTSVILLE COUNSELOR in the subject line.

The End of Hunting Season

I asked my friend how deer hunting was going? His reply was that he wasn't seeing too many deer from his deer stand but the quiet was helping his prayer life. I then asked him to tell me about his prayer. He blushed and said he was praying to St. Anthony to find him a deer! I said that's your problem, St. Hubert is the patron saint of hunters!

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.

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

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.

