

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 23, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

With Christmas this Tuesday there is little time for prayer and meditation for this Fourth Sunday of Advent. But our Advent theme fits well in this 2 day celebration with the notion of welcome. Welcoming makes us feel recognized, appreciated, and at home. We all know the hurt when our presence is not acknowledged or we are not recognized for our efforts. But can we take the focus off how we feel? How well do we welcome the stranger or the estranged? Do we congratulate or thank others for their time and effort?

Jesus came into the world impoverished and unrecognized. How well do we see Jesus in others or better still how well do we appreciate the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus' birth and not the presents and parties to follow?

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 29) - Joseph & Joan Krynock
(Children)

4PM Saturday (January 5) - People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (December 23) Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM—Veronica McGovern (Sue Shober)

Tuesday December 24, Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 PM—The People of the Parish

Sunday (December 30) The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Tuesday, January 1, The Solemnity of The Holy Mother of God

9:00AM— Jack Kerns (Don and Winnie Kerns)

Sunday, December 16 Attendance

121 at St. Stephen; 39 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 30: Fuel and Heat

January 6: Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 12/16 Weekly/Cash/Fuel & Heat \$3,184.00; 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
2018/2019 Budget	
(All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection December 16	\$3,184.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (25th week)	\$72,211.50
Collected to Date (25th week)	\$69,670.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(2,541.25)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

December 23

Ed Tray/Judy Johnson

December 24

Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray

December 30

Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger

Servers' Schedule



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

Sunday, January 13

Annabella Chaklos

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 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 your Baby Jesus from your Nativity set.

Last Call for Christmas Confessions

This Sunday evening, December 23 5PM to 6PM at St. Clare, will be one's last opportunity for confession. Please prepare for Christmas properly.

Communion Calls

There will be no Communion Calls in January due to Father Bill's Christmas calls.

Change in Mass Schedule & Rectory Office Hours

The rectory office will reopen for business at 9AM on Thursday, December 27. The office will be closed to observe the Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary on Monday, December 31 and reopen on Thursday, January 3.

There will be NO DAILY MASS Wednesday, December 26, Thursday, December 27, and Friday, December 28.

In the event of a funeral or a true emergency, Call the rectory number 570-429-0701 and press option 6 for instructions. Fr. Bill can also be reached in a TRUE emergency on the parish cell phone 570-391-2044.

The Solemnity of the Motherhood of Mary (New Year's Day)

The Motherhood of Mary is a holy day of obligation. We will celebrate Mass for the holy day on Monday evening December 31 at 6PM in St. Clare of Assisi **and on Tuesday morning January 1 at 9AM in St. Stephen's.**

There will be NO Daily Mass Monday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 2.

We would appreciate someone to volunteer to lector, serve, and assist as Eucharistic ministers for both Masses.

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

Knights of Columbus Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

Our St. John Neumann Regional Council 14009 of the Knights of Columbus wishes to announce the winners of the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest who are our parishioners. Great artwork kids! The Baby Jesus is smiling upon you!

Age 5-7 Category: Danny Trezise and Emma Womer both of St. Clare of Assisi

Age 11-14 Category: Annabella Chaklos from St. Stephen's. Congratulations Annabella!!!

Winners are asked to come to the St. Clare of Assisi Church Hall on January 10th, 2019 at 6:00PM to present them with their awards (\$25.00) and have them fill out the forms their entries may be passed on to the State level for additional judging.



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

New Events for Teens in the Schuylkill Region

SCHUYLKILL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

The series is free of charge. Dinner is included.

If you would like to attend a parent meeting to learn more about "Alpha," to offer input on the new youth ministry in the county and to learn about the plans for the coming year(s), please email Annie Sarlo, the Director of Youth Ministry for Schuylkill County: annie@allentowndioocese.org. She will then contact those interested to set up a meeting.

PARENTS AND TEENS

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.allentowndioocese.org/craftsman For questions call (610) 289-8900, ext. 2021 or email Thea Aclo at tacl@allentowndioocese.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.

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@allentowndioocese.org

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

All You Can Eat Home-made 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.