

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY
AND JOSEPH
DECEMBER 30, 2018
From Pastor's Desk**

On the Sunday after Christmas we celebrate Jesus' human family. Appropriate to the season, we usually visualize the Holy Family as they appear in the typical nativity scene: the baby Jesus lying in the manger, surrounded by doting parents. But Joseph, Mary, and Jesus lived together for many years, through Jesus' infancy, childhood, adolescence, and maybe even into his young adulthood. As we celebrate the Holy Family, let us think of the families we have been a part of, both as children and as adults.



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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 BERTHA CORSON (Bob Corson)

Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

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

4PM Saturday (January 12) - People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

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 (January 6) The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 AM—Rita Matsko (Charlies, Chris and Chad Snukis)

Sunday, December 23 Attendance

117 at St. Stephen; 34 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

January 6: Building Fund

January 13: Cemetery Upkeep

January 20: Fuel & Heat

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 12/23 Weekly/Cash \$2,225.00; Fuel & Heat \$52; Building Fund \$1.00; Christmas Collection \$4,707.00. 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 23	\$2,278.00
Cemetery \$418.00	-----
Needed to Date (26th week)	\$75,099.96
Collected to Date (26th week)	\$71,948.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(3,151.51)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

December 30

Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger

January 6

Karen Kuperavage/Lisa Gasper

January 13

Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson



December 30

Taylor Lazarchick

9:00 AM

Tuesday, January 1

Volunteer needed

Sunday, January 6

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, January 13

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, January 20

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, January 27

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, December 30 — Father Bill

January 1 — Father Bill

January 6 — Father Connolly

January 13 — Father Reiley

January 20 — Father Connolly

January 27 — Father Bill

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Communion Calls

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

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.**

Change in Mass Schedule & Rectory Office Hours

The rectory 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 Monday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 2.

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.

Enjoy the Holy Days & Holidays

Christmas is a very special time of the year for us; it is a time for awe of the miracle of the Incarnation, the Motherhood of Mary, the strength of Joseph who loved Jesus as a son, the hope brought to the poor shepherds, and the recognition of the Three Wise Men to the nature of Jesus.

It is also a very special time for family and friends to celebrate another year and to welcome a new year. It is a time to let them know how significant they are in our lives and how much we love and appreciate them. It is also a time to remember the lonely, the forgotten, the elder, and the poor. Acts of charity are fruitful at this time of the year.

We all want to relax and enjoy; appreciate and pray. Therefore we ask you to allow our rectory staff to enjoy the holy days and holidays too! The rectory office will be closed for some extra days off. We will close at noon on December 21 and reopen after Christmas at 9AM on Thursday, December 27. We will close again on Monday, January 31 (the entire day) and reopen on Thursday after New Year's January 3.

Daily Mass will also be cancelled on Dec. 26, 27, and 28 and on Jan. 2 and 3.

Parish Religious Education Preparation News [PREP]

PREP resumes after the Christmas break on Wednesday, January 2.

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 be presented with their awards (\$25.00)and have them fill out the forms their so their entries may be passed on to the State level for additional judging.

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

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.

A Meditation of the Divine Maternity by Dan Burke (2016)

The divine maternity is the source of all Mary's privileges. Mary, the Immaculate One, the beloved Daughter of the Father, is also the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, whose power overshadowed her because she had been chosen to be the Mother of the Incarnate Word. All Mary's greatness and glory are explained in the light of her divine maternity; furthermore, her very existence is explained by her predestination to this high office. If God had not decreed that the Incarnation of His Son should take place in the womb of a virgin, we should never have had that masterpiece of grace and loveliness, the Most Blessed Virgin; we should never have had her smile or her maternal caresses. Therefore, we love and honor Mary because she is the Mother of God, the Mother of Jesus; and loving her in her relation to God, our devotion to her only makes our love for God, for Jesus, deeper and more tender. "*Mater Dei, Mater Creatoris,*" Mother of God, Mother of our Creator, we invoke her in the litany. These two titles which seem to be contradictory, actually express a unique synthesis because Mary, although a creature, is really the Mother of her Creator, the Mother of God's Son to whom she has given a human body: the fruit of her flesh and blood is the Son of God in whom and by whom all things were created. Here we understand more than ever how Mary's dignity reaches the threshold of the infinite. "God could make a bigger world or a wider sky, but He could not raise a pure creature higher than Mary, for the dignity of the Mother of God is the highest dignity that can be conferred on a creature" (St. Bonaventure).

To anyone who wonders why so little is said about Mary in the Gospel, St. Thomas of Villanova replies: "What more do you want? Is it not enough for you to know that she is the Mother of God? It would have been sufficient to say, '*De qua natus est Jesus,*' Jesus was born of her." In fact, O Mary, all I need to know, in order to love you, is that you are the Mother of my God.

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.