

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2019**

**From Pastor's Desk**

A dear friend of mine is filled with many expectations. She desires everything to be perfect and nice; she wants the party, vacation, luncheon, whatever it may be -- she wants everyone to have a good time! She also wants to be able to laugh and smile and have warm fuzzy feelings later on about what took place. Heartbreakingly, her expectations have a habit of tripping her up and she is moved to tears.

We think we have it all figured out. We know what to expect. But then something happens to surprise us and we have to decide whether to believe it or not. Is this for real? The folks in Nazareth had expectations of their native son. This "son of Joseph" couldn't possibly be the Anointed One, could he? God has a habit of surprising us, of defying our expectations.

In the case of my friend, her expectations are always for the better. She longs for a reality, she knows that is bothersome. Hope is good, it is a virtue, but our expectations have to be grounded in reality and IN GOD. Let GO and Let GOD!

**Continued on Page 3)**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:SCAssisi@ptd.net) or [saintstephen2@verizon.net](mailto:saintstephen2@verizon.net)

**Mass Schedule**  
Sundays: 9:30 AM

**\*\*Please consult weekly Schedule inside for Holydays 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)

**St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi**

**4PM Saturday February 9**—People of the Parish

**4PM Saturday (February 16)** - Edward P. Lubinsky (Mary Ann & Family)

**Sunday (February 3) Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:30 AM**—Rev. John J. McNamara (Sandra Lurwick)

**Sunday (February 10) Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:30 AM**—Mary C. Balulis (Rich Kost)

**Sunday (February 17) Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**Sunday, January 27 Attendance**

**95 at St. Stephen; 45 at St. Clare**

**UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**February 10: Cemetery Upkeep**

**February 17: Fuel & Heat**

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 1/27: Weekly and Cash \$2,920.00; includes mail ins; Fuel & Heat \$217.00; Building Fund \$5.00; Catholic Relief Services \$352.00. 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**

<b>2016-2017 Budget</b>	\$170,800.00
<b>2018/2019 Budget (All Funds)</b>	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
<b>Collection January 27 Cemetery \$364.00</b>	-----
Needed to Date <b>(30th week)</b>	\$89,542.26
Collected to Date <b>(30th week)</b>	\$84,444.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(5,098.01)

**LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

**February 3**

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger

**February 10**

Karen Kuperavage/Mary Ann Lubinsky

**February 17**

Maureen Challenger/Ed Tray



**Sunday, February 3**

Emily Gasper

**Sunday, February 10**

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,  
February 3 — Father Connolly**

**February 10 — Father Reiley  
February 17 — Father Bill**

(Continued from Page 1)

### **Please Note: Change in this Next Week's Mass Schedule**

Bishop Schlert and 20 priests of our Diocese will be participating in a special program called "*Good Leaders, Good Shepherds*" throughout the course of this year. Fr. Bill is a part of this group of priests. There will be NO MASS from Monday, February 11 to Wednesday, February 13. Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, February 14 at 6PM and on Friday, February 15 at 8AM.

### **Rest in Peace**

To Lena "Lee" Shamonsky who passed away recently. May she rest in peace.

### **Communion Calls**

Fr. Bill will be making February Communion Calls this Wednesday. A phone call will be made prior to his visit.

### **Thank You to PREP**

Fr. Bill wishes to thank our PREP students for the "get well" cards that Mr. Dowd delivered. Laughter is the best medicine and the cards made him laugh and smile.

### **Thank You**

To visitors Attorney Robert Reedy and his wife Kathleen. They saw that we were unable to purchase as many hymnals as last year so they gave a \$250 donation toward the purchase of additional books.

### **Healing Our Church Discussion Groups Coming in Lent**

Catholics throughout the Diocese of Allentown are invited to attend small-group discussions, moderated by fellow parishioners, and designed to encourage reflection and conversation about the clergy abuse crisis. *Healing Our Church* is a program from RENEW International, a Catholic nonprofit organization. Bishop Alfred Schlert has called the parish-based small-group discussions "an opportunity for all of us to prayerfully reflect on scripture, on the abuse crisis, and on our path forward as a Roman Catholic Family of Faith." Discussions will take place during the six weeks of Lent on Thursday evening in St. Clare of Assisi from 6:30-8:30PM. Watch for more information, including how to sign up, soon. In addition to the discussion materials from RENEW, Fr. Bill has two small books for participants to read which might be helpful.

### **Nativity Green & Gold Designer Purse Bingo**

Sunday, Feb 10. Cost is \$25. Doors open at 11:30, Bingo at 1PM. Also a BYOB if interested. Questions, call Diane at 570-294-0551.

### **2018 Contribution Statements**

The statements were mailed this past week to those who requested them last year. If you did not receive yours, please call the rectory during business hours.

### **Something Exciting for our Parish Teens**

Throughout the months of February and March our parish is hosting the Alpha Program for Catholic Teens from among the parishes of Schuylkill County. The Alpha Program allows teens to explore the important questions of life and to grow in our Catholic Faith. We are grateful to Briar Riegel, Caitlyn Corby, Michael Durant and Jacob Challenger for representing our parishes of St. Clare and St. Stephen.

The evening runs from 6-8PM and includes a wonderful dinner for the high school participants. The program is FREE and the cost of the dinners is covered by Schuylkill County parishes and their pastors (St. Ambrose, St. Michael the Archangel, Most Blessed Trinity, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Stephen). Meeting nights are February 10, February 17, February 24, March 3, March 10, and March 24.

There is still time for our high school parishioners to join us. Please let Fr. Bill know. A special Thank You goes out to Kathy Wigoda for lending us decorations for the Alpha Program.

### **ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast**

Today, Sunday, February 3, 8-11:30AM at ICC Hall. \$7 adults, \$3 children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

Did you know that many Catholics keep their Christmas decorations and Nativity scenes out until February 2nd, the Presentation of Our Lord?

**Did you know** that thousands flock to France each year in search of physical, spiritual, and emotional healing, and that there are recent medically inexplicable cases of healing? We celebrate this as a Church on February 11th, with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes!

**Did you know** that in the month of February, the Church celebrates the feast of a chair and a Sudanese woman who was sold into slavery dozens of times?

During this month of February, we invite you and your family to dive into the richness of the liturgical year. The traditional feasts and fasts provide a beautiful rhythm for life in our busy, modern world. Not sure where to start? Click over to CatholicAllYear.com where Kendra lays out some practical starting points for busy families! May God bless all families in the Diocese of Allentown!

## Mass Book/Hymnal Memorials

Albert & Linda Baldinger IMO Charles & Rose Mazloom

Brady, Timothy & Claire IMO Jean M. Thomas and Richard W. Thomas

Buzalko, Anne Marie & Stephen IMO Francis Lubinsky

Corson, Robert IMO Bertha Corson and James Corson

Everdale, Joanne IMO Wade Loved Ones

Legutko, Dorothy IMO M/M Leon Corson; Edward Legutko; M/M Sylvester Legutko; Doreen Legutko; M/M Hugh Stancavage; Debbie Stancavage

Lorence, Paul & Clare IMO Georgine Strausser; Mary Schoenfelder; Charles Zimmerman, Paul F. Lorence; M/M Kipling Strausser

Lubinsky, Mary Ann & Family IMO Edward P. Lubinsky

Mallow, James IMO Theresa Mallow and Frank Mallow

Shober, Susan IMO Veronica McGovern

Zimmerman, Ann IMO Charles Zimmerman

## 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 during business hours.

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

- March 16 First Penance
- March 31-April 2 St. Clare Parish Mission
- April 30—Confirmation
- May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
- May 18 St. Clare of Assisi Chinese Auction
- May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion

## Pierogie-ochial School At St. Clare

It comes around quicker and quicker every year! We will be starting on Monday, February 4 at 6PM with potato peelers and on Wednesday, February 6 for dough makers and pinchers.

Donations of sour cream, butter, eggs, and of course monetary donations are always graciously accepted.

We are in need of NEW workers. We do have fun and there is always lots of laughing.

The Sale of Lenten Pierogies is a vital and necessary fund raiser for St. Clare. Without it we cannot make ends meet. Your help is most welcome and most needed.

## Don't miss out! Get your Catholic Charities GALA RAFFLE TICKETS!

First Prize: An evening in Manhattan!

Includes 2 tickets to "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD" on Broadway, dinner for two at Sardi's restaurant and roundtrip limo service.

*(Provided by Joseph Benincasa, President, The Actor's Fund; and Corporate Limousine)*

Second prize: Apple iPad Pro valued at \$1,000!

*(Provided by Gary Iacocca, Yocco's)*

Third prize: Pair of tickets to a 2019 Musikfest show of your choice at the Sands Steel Stage, admission for 2 to The Oasis bar, and parking at the Sands Steel Stage lot. Also included: 2 Musikfest Mugs, official 2019 Musikfest poster, one-year Silver ArtsQuest membership and \$100 in food and beverage tickets which can be used anywhere throughout the festival during 2019. *(Provided by ArtsQuest)* Ticket cost: \$10 each or 3 for \$20.

Contact Sister Janice Marie Johnson (Gala Committee Member) at 610-871-5200, ext. 2280 to purchase.

**Spiritual Training: Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving** – The Diocesan Commission for Men is offering a men's Lenten morning of reflection on Saturday, **March 9, 2019**, at the **Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena** in Allentown. Refreshments will be offered beginning at 8:30 AM in the Parish Activity Center. Presentations by the **Most Reverend Alfred A Schlert** and **Rev. Bernard Ezaki** will begin in the Cathedral at 9:15 AM, ending by 11:30 AM. The Sacrament of Confession will be offered as well. To register for this free offering visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality)