

**THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 10, 2019
From Pastor's Desk**

An unlikely thread links the authors of our readings for today. Isaiah, Paul, and Peter who are called to be disciples in today's readings: all three pronounce themselves 'unworthy'! We would call Isaiah, Paul, and Peter saints and prophets, but each sees himself first as a sinner. Do you remember Pope Francis' first interview as Pope? When asked to describe himself, he called himself a 'sinner.'

We are called to be disciples of Jesus. It is not enough to believe; we are asked to take up our crosses and follow the Master. We are challenged to make sacrifices. We are challenged to be the face of Jesus to those whom we meet. As we listen to our Scripture readings for this Sunday, let us realize that even though we too are unworthy, God still calls us to be disciples. As we gather around the Eucharistic Table, the Altar of Sacrifice, let us offer up our lives, unworthy as they may be, to look for ways that we can better live out our Faith.

The Gospel is meant to challenge us to be better people. We are often called to face uncomfortable issues. While we sooner would want to avoid them, it is in these challenges that we become the disciples Jesus desires us to be.

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****

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi
4PM Saturday (February 16) - Edward P. Lubinsky (Mary Ann & Family)

4PM Saturday February 23—People of the Parish
Masses at St. Stephen

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 (February 24) Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Veronica McGovern (Sue Shober)

Sunday, February 3 Attendance

68 at St. Stephen; 44 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 17: Fuel & Heat

February 24: Cemetery Upkeep

March 3: Building Fund

Thank you for your generosity! Collection for 2/3: Weekly and Cash \$1,715.00; Building Fund \$310.00. 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 February 3 Cemetery \$364.00	-----
Needed to Date (32nd week)	\$92,430.72
Collected to Date (32nd week)	\$86,469.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(5,961.47)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

February 10
 Karen Kuperavage/Mary Ann Lubinsky
February 17
 Maureen Challenger/Ed Tray



Sunday, February 10
 Taylor Lazarchick
COPIES WILL BE IN THE SACRISTY

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 10 — Father Reiley
February 17 — Father Bill
February 24 — Msgr. Handges
March 3 — Father Connolly

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The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On February 2, the Church celebrated Mary and Joseph presenting the month and a half old Jesus to the priest Simeon in the Temple. This was to welcome Jesus to His Jewish Faith very similar to our Baptism.

This feast is also called "Candlemas" as it occurs 40 days after Jesus' birth and the "Light of the World" is presented in the Temple. It is Catholic custom to bless candles on this day that are used in our Liturgies and to also bless candles for home usage. Blessed candles should be part of every Catholic Household along with a crucifix, holy water, and a Bible. Blessed candles are to be burned in the home during family prayer, a visit from the priest with the Blessed Sacrament (unless the person is on oxygen or alone), a time of anxiety such as a bad storm or the safe return home of a family member.

Blessed Candles can be found in the rear table of St. Clare of Assisi Church or can be purchased at the rectory. The suggested offering is \$3.00 per box of two.

Please Note: Change in this Week's Mass Schedule at St. Clare of Assisi—NO MASS from Monday to Wednesday. Mass on Thursday will be at 6PM.

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 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.

Mass Book/Hymnal Memorials

Kreydt, Louise In Memory of Joseph J. Kreydt

Christmas Flower Memorial Corrections

Stencovage, Carol — In Memory of Charles Stencovage

Vigoda, Bernard & Janine — In Memory of Ruby/Perna Families and Vigoda/Legutko Families

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE! 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 non-profit 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." It is NOT a program for Victims of Abuse. If one has been abused by a priest or anyone working for the Church, please contact the Victims' Assistance Coordinator at 800-791-9209. Discussions will take place during the six weeks of Lent on **Wednesday evening in St. Clare of Assisi from 6:30-8:30PM beginning March 13.** Watch for more information, including how to sign up, soon. Fr. Bill requests that participants in the Healing Our Church program read two small books prior to sessions beginning – **Why I Am Catholic (And You Should Be Too)** by Brandon Vogt and **Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ** by Edward Sri.

Lenten Morning Bible Study & Evening Faith Formation

After some discussion with a number of parishioners, the Healing Our Church sessions will be held on the Wednesday evenings of Lent to enable our ever popular Lenten faith series. This year we will reflect upon Dr. Edward Sri's work **No Greater Love: A Walk through Christ's Passion**. We will explore questions such as:

- What was Jesus going through at each moment?
- How did the Old Testament foretell of Christ's death?
- Why did Christ die for us? What did it accomplish?
- What was the meaning behind of the tearing of the temple veil, the crowning with thorns, and other events during Christ's Passion?
- What do the cryptic last words of Jesus mean?

Cost of the book is \$15.00. Please contact the rectory to register whereas we have enough books for all participants.

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 at St. Patrick's
- May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
- May 18 St. Clare of Assisi Chinese Auction
- May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion

Are You Looking to Do a Corporal Work of Mercy?

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to visit the imprisoned. Help is needed at the Frackville State Correctional Institute on Thursday afternoons leading the inmates in the praying of the rosary and the chaplet of Divine Mercy. One would have a staff member escort who will remain with you the entire time. For more information contact Gloria Upanavage 570-386-2724. One may accompany Gloria to observe her performing this ministry.

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.

St. Michael's Homemade Chicken Pot Pie

TAKE OUT ONLY! \$7 per quart. Pickup at Parish Center on Saturday February 16 between 5pm and 6pm. Deadline for orders is Sunday Feb 10th. Call Debbie at 570-544-2070.

St. Michael's Fish or Crab Cake Dinner

Friday March 8, St. Michael the Archangel Church Hall Cafeteria in Minersville, 3:30 – 6PM, Eat-In or Take-Out, ADVANCED TICKET ONLY. NO WALK-INS. Cost \$10 includes haddock or crab cake, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, roll, beverage & dessert. Ticket sales start 2/16 at the church or call Jean at 570-544-6853.

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.

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.

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.

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

World Marriage Day

Today, we celebrate World Marriage Day and National Marriage Week February 7-14. The theme is Marriage: Made For A Reason. It is an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with promoting and defending marriage and the family. Resources and more information for couples can be found at www.allentowndiocese.org/enrich and www.ForYourMarriage.org