

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 17, 2019
From Pastor's Desk**

Today we hear proclaimed Luke's account of the Beatitudes. Luke's version is more challenging than Matthew's, the ones we are most familiar in hearing. Luke's "Blesseds" are immediately followed by "Woes" that are not at all complimentary to those addressed. Some will be blessed and others will be cursed! Those who are cursed are those who turn away from God who provides for all their needs and instead trust in fallible creatures who can provide nothing except false promises.

Jesus turns the world upside down. Those enjoying riches, happiness, and fame will have their worlds crumble because they were self-centered. Those suffering from hunger, poverty, and derision will be rewarded in the end for putting their hope in God alone.

If the Gospel message does not make one uneasy at times or challenges one to become a better person, then one has become complacent and takes God for granted. "Woe to you!"

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)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday February 23—People of the Parish

4PM Saturday March 2 —People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

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 Shoer)

Sunday (March 3) Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM—Lena Shamonsky (Al & Linda Baldinger)

Sunday, February 10 Attendance

113 at St. Stephen; 55 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

February 24: Cemetery Upkeep

March 3: Building Fund

March 10: Cemetery Upkeep

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 10 Cemetery \$382.00	-----
Needed to Date (33rd week)	\$95,319.18
Collected to Date (33rd week)	\$89,317.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(6,001.93)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

February 17

Maureen Challenger/Ed Tray

February 24

Ed Tray/Judy Johnson



Sunday, February 17

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, February 24

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, March 3

Jacob Challenger

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 17 — Father Bill**

**February 24 — Msgr. Handges
March 3 — Father Connolly**

(Continued from Page 1)

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.

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.

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

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 on Thursday evenings. 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.

A Salute to St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen

For the last 35 years, St. Pat's has sponsored a soup kitchen to provide a hot meal to the elderly, unemployed, homeless, and needy of the Greater Pottsville Area. We recognize the many volunteers over those years and the local businesses, organizations, and churches who donate food. Special recognition to our local Knights of Columbus coordinated by Ed Tray, and Maria Pellish, a regular at our daily Masses for preparing meals.

Knights of Columbus Soup Sale A Soup Sale to Benefit Nativity BVM High School will be held on Saturday, February 23rd, 2019 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon at St. Clare of Assisi Parish Hall, Cost: \$8.00 Per Quart, \$4.00 Per Half Quart. We are in need donations of soup, help in selling and distributing the soup in the containers. If you are in need of containers or have any questions, please let me know, John Ebling (570) 617-1578, johnnyebster@gmail.com.

2019 Mass Requests

We are now taking St. Stephen Mass requests for 2019. Please visit the rectory at St. Clare of Assisi or call 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.

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

Pierogie-ochial School Sessions Help Needed!

Potato Peelers are needed on Monday evenings at 6PM at St. Clare of Assisi. Please bring you own potato peeler.

Dough Makers and pinchers are needed on Wednesdays at 9AM.

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

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

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

St. Michael the Archangel 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.

St. John's Church in Pottsville

Annual FRESH BAKED HADDOCK/SALMON or FRESH BAKED LUMP CRAB CAKE DINNERS, Fridays during the Lenten Season from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Russell Building at 9th & Schuylkill Avenue. (no dinner on Good Friday). Full course dinners including New England Clam Chowder, Full Salad Bar, Choice of Macaroni & Cheese, Baked or Mashed Potatoes, Choice of Vegetables, Home-made Dessert, Beverage. (Take outs available). Adults: Baked Haddock / Salmon / Lump Crab Cake \$ 14.00 ; 2 Lump Crab Cakes \$ 17.00; Adult Special: Lump Crab Cake & Choice of Fish \$ 17.00; Children under 12, Baked Fish / Salmon / Lump Crab Cake \$ 8.00.

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.

Prison Ministry

Are you currently volunteering in Catholic Prison Ministry or have a desire to volunteer? Join us on **Saturday, March 23, 2019** for a morning workshop from **8:30 am - NOON** at **St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield**. The morning will begin with Mass at 8:30 am with the workshop to follow in the Parish Center. The workshop will feature talks and discussion designed to assist those in Catholic Prison Ministry. Featured speakers are: Rev. Jason Stokes, Rev. Daniel Basile, Ms. Wendy Kri-sak. To register for this **FREE** workshop, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/prisonministry. Questions may be directed to cle@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900 ext. 2021.