

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
March 3, 2019
From Pastor's Desk

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 6 with the distribution of ashes. Ash Wednesday IS NOT a holy day of obligation but many Catholics treat it as one by their participation at one of the Masses offered that day. The minister when she/he signs an individual with ashes that day will utter the command: "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel." This Lent does not come to torment us or condemn us but rather to provide just another opportunity to behold God's mercy in the midst of personal sinful life. We can do better if we wear the sign of the cross of ashes intentionally, reverentially, and purposely. Jesus points out that when we overlook our own faults, not only are we ourselves left deficient, but our judgmental outlook distorts our view of others.

We will observe the following Mass schedule with distribution of ashes at 8AM in St. Clare of Assisi, 6PM in St. Clare of Assisi, (Please Note our parish PREP children will attend this Mass with us). Mass at St. Stephen's will be at 5PM.

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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****

FOR THE HEALTH OF WALTER SPONHOUSE, Jr. (Loretta Sponhouse)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday March 9—People of the Parish

4PM Saturday March 16 —People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (March 3) Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Sunday (March 10) First Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Richard Thomas (Claire Brady)

Sunday (March 17) Second Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—James & Margaret Collins (Leibel Family)

NOTE For Reception of Holy Communion by the choir:

To make it more convenient for the choir to receive Holy Communion and also to avoid the Eucharistic Minister standing alone with the Blessed Sacrament, the EM with the Blessed Sacrament will greet the choir at the bottom of the choir loft steps to give Holy Communion. Father Bill encourages parishioners to feel at home and be able to socialize for a few minutes after Mass before leaving the church.

Sunday, February 24 Attendance

89 at St. Stephen; 44 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 10: Catholic Home Missions

March 17: Fuel & Heat

Initial Offering is to help defray the costs of printing and mailing offering envelopes

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget (All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection February 24 Cemetery \$434.00	-----
Needed to Date (35th week)	\$101,096.10
Collected to Date (35th week)	\$94,796.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(6,326.85)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

March 3

Judy Johnson/Lisa Gasper

March 10

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger

March 17

Karen Kuperavage/Ed Tray



Sunday, March 3

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, March 10

Clara Gilbert and Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, March 17

Emily Gasper

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,
March 3 — Father Connolly**

**March 10 — Father Bill
March 17 — Msgr. Handges**

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Ash Wednesday, March 6

We will observe the following Mass schedule with distribution of ashes at 8AM in St. Clare of Assisi, 5PM at St. Stephen, 6PM in St. Clare of Assisi (Please Note our parish PREP children will attend this Mass with us). We are in need of Volunteers -- a lector and 2 Eucharistic Ministers for each of the Masses. Please call the rectory.

Changes in Next Week's Mass Schedule

Next week Father Bill must be at the Chancery on Monday March 11 for Council of Priests at 11AM, Tuesday March 12 for the canonical vote for those to be ordained deacons and priests at 10AM, and Thursday March 14 is Personnel Board at 10AM to consider clergy appointments. Mass on Tuesday March 12 and Thursday March 14 will be at 7:45AM to enable Fr. Bill to be in Allentown for the start of the 10AM meetings.

An Important PREP Message from Mr. Dowd, Mrs. Frie, Mrs. Lisa Gasper, and Mrs. Murray

As one might be aware many of the ice storms that beset us were on the Wednesdays of January and February. As we prepare this bulletin to go to Press, the possibility of another ice storm looms on Wednesday's horizon. With PREP only meeting once a week, we are already way behind in the presentation of class materials. Our biggest concern however is for our Sacramental preparations for First Penance, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. In order for our children to receive these Sacraments they need to be prepared. **Attention Parents & Guardians of our Second Grade First Penance Class, there will be a special practice on Sunday, March 10 in St. Clare Church, 2-4PM.**

Saturday, March 16, First Penance at 10AM

celebrated with our Second Grade parishioners from St. Clare and St. Stephen in St. Clare of Assisi. Following First Penance, the ladies of the parish will serve a lunch for the children and their families in the hall.

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A Special Thank You

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank all who made and donated "soup," all those who purchased it to benefit Nativity BVM High School, all those who helped. Thank you and God Bless.

Our Lenten Obligation

Ash Wednesday is a Day of Strict Fast and Abstinence. The Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. See the insert of Lenten regulations and keep it on your refrigerator.

2019 Lenten Schedule

The second insert is the complete Lenten Schedule. Please keep for reference.

Communion Calls

Will be made the week of March 11. A phone call will be made prior to the visit.

Holy Week

As our custom, we are looking for volunteers to sign up for Masses and Devotions. Please Call the Rectory to sign up. A special schedule will be made to accommodate as many ministers as possible.

Holy Thursday (April 18 @7PM) – from St. Clare & St. Stephen

2 Lectors/3 Ministers of the Eucharist/4 Ministers of the Cup/4 Altar Servers

Good Friday (April 19@3PM) – from St. Clare & St. Stephen

Readers for the Passion
4 Male Readers & 4 Female Readers
1 Lector for Old Testament & New Testament
2 Eucharistic Ministers
3 Altar Servers

Easter Vigil (April 20@8PM) – from St. Clare & St. Stephen

Mark & Millie Scarbinsky – lectors
4 altar servers
3 Eucharistic Ministers
Easter Sunday (April 21)
2 altar servers, 1 lector, 3 EM

Pierogi Sale at St. Clare of Assisi Church will begin on Wednesday, March 6, (Ash Wednesday) but will *not* be held on Friday March 8. Advance orders only. Order by 3/4 for Ash Wednesday. Order by any Wednesday for the following Friday for the remainder of Lent, except for Good Friday. Last pick up day will be Wednesday, April 17. Call 429-0863, 429-0343, or 429-1942 to order. Pickup time is 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Cost is \$7.50 per dozen for cooked with butter & onions, cooked with butter only, or uncooked frozen.

Help Needed with Pierogies

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

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

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.

Lent in Our Parishes of St. Clare of Assisi & St. Stephen

Monday, March 4 begins Lent in the Byzantine Catholic Tradition. Fr. Bill will preach the opening of Lenten Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified in St. Mary's Byzantine Church, 621 West Mahanoy Ave., Mahanoy City, (Fr. Jim's Church). You are welcome to pray in the rich Tradition of the Eastern Rite Catholic Church. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy begins at 6:30PM.

Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday Masses w/ Distribution of Ashes. Masses at St. Clare – 8AM and 6PM. Mass at St. Stephen 5PM. Day of Strict Fast and Abstinence.

Thursday, March 7, A Closer Look at the Readings for the First Sunday of Lent. Discussion begins following the 8AM morning Mass. Coffee and Tea are available.

Thursday, March 7 Parish Adult Faith Formation begins in the daily Mass chapel. Starting time is 6:30PM to 8PM. Our topic this year is **No Greater Love: A Walk through Christ's Passion**, a study program that examines Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross. All are welcome! Cost of materials is \$15.

Tuesday, March 12, Stations of the Cross in BOTH Parishes at 6:30PM. St. Stephen's: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:45PM/ Stations 6:30PM/Benediction following Stations/Confessions.

St. Clare: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM/ Stations 6:30PM lead by parishioners/simple response following Stations.

Wednesday, March 13, Healing Our Church faith-sharing group in the St. Clare daily Mass Chapel from 6:30PM to 8PM. Cost of materials \$15. All are welcome.

Thursday, March 14, A Closer Look at the Readings for the Second Sunday of Lent. Discussion begins following the **7:45AM** Mass. Coffee and Tea are available.

Thursday, March 14, Parish Adult Faith Formation begins in the daily Mass chapel. Starting time is 6:30PM to 8PM. Our topic this year is **No Greater Love: A Walk through Christ's Passion**, a study program that examines Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross. All are welcome! Cost of materials is \$15.

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 call Jean at 570-544-6853.

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 Krisak. 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.

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN HOSTING LENTEN EVENT

The Commission for Women invite all women to "Breakfast with the Bishop" event on Saturday, April 6, 2019 beginning with daily Mass at 8 AM at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown followed by Recitation of the Rosary, Breakfast and a Lenten Reflection by Bishop Schlert. Please join us as we gather together during this season of Lent for Prayer and Fellowship. To register, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality. Questions, email cfw@allentowndiocese.org or call Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763.