

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
March 10, 2019
From Pastor's Desk

Always on the First Sunday of Lent we hear Jesus being tempted by the devil during the forty days he spent in the desert. We too are beginning a forty-day period during which we are challenged to repent and reorient ourselves toward God. We face temptations every day that distract us from following the Lord or lead us away from God.

Probably next to Joseph Ratzinger (aka Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) this century's greatest Catholic theologian/thinker was a German Jesuit priest by the name of Karl Rahner. Fr. Rahner described Original Sin as a "fundamental option" of every human being. We all have the fundamental option to choose to walk towards God or away from God. Literally to walk away from God is turning our backs on Him. Usually when we turn our backs on someone we love it is because we were tempted away by another. The devil is the "Master of Lies" as St. Ignatius of Loyola calls him.

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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 EDWARD P. LUBINSKY (18th Anniv)

(Mary Ann & Family)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday March 16 —People of the Parish

4PM Saturday March 23 —People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

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)

Sunday (March 24) Third Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM—Joan Albertini (4th Anniv) (Al Albertini)

**Sunday, March 3 Attendance 77 at St. Stephen;
44 at St. Clare**

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

**March 10: Catholic Home Missions Please place
all other envelopes in the 1st Collection**

March 17: Fuel & Heat

March 24: Cemetery Upkeep

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

Weekly \$3,150.00; Building Fund \$273.00

**(Thank you to the parishioner who paid six
months in a lump sum)**

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget	
(All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection March 3	\$3,423.00
Cemetery	-----
Needed to Date (35th week)	\$103,984.56
Collected to Date (36th week)	\$98,219.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(5,765.31)

**LECTORS AND
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

March 10

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger

March 17

Karen Kuperavage/Ed Tray

March 24

Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson



Sunday, March 10

Ciara Gilbert and Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, March 17

Emily Gasper

Sunday, March 24

Aiden Brennan

**Sanctuary Candles are available In
Memory Of or In Honor Of or Spe-
cial Intentions. The cost is \$15 for
the 7-day candle. Call the rectory if
you would like to schedule a can-
dle 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 10 — Father Bill**

March 17 — Msgr. Handges

March 24 — Father Connolly

March 31 — Father Bill

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The devil tempts each of us with things that appeal to us. These temptations we think we can hide from others but as Jesus says in the Gospel everything will be brought to light!

Yes, another Lent is here! We can complain about fasting and abstinence. We can ignore them and live our lives without the Discipline of Lent prescribed by the Church. We cannot take the time to examine our lives and introspect the roots of our sins – fail to pull the weeds out by the roots. We can allow the temptations of the devil to influence and lead us away from God. OR, we can take up our crosses daily and follow Jesus who came to reorient us towards God.

OPINION



This was a great political cartoon published in the March 3, 2019 Sunday edition of the Pottsville Republican. It says it all – the devil will not sleep until he finds the Achilles Heel of EVERYONE. When we realize that Evil exists then we can win the battle!

Pray for our Holy Father he is our Commander in Chief. Pray for our Bishops, they are the Generals to lead God's earthly army. Pray for our Priests, they are our Captains and Lieutenants who lead us the Troops. Have stronger devotion to the Eucharist for this is our STANDARD that we hail and follow. Pray for the intercession of the Blessed Mother, she is "Our Lady of Victory"

Changes in this Week's Mass Schedule

This 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.

Communion Calls

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

Protecting God's Children Workshop Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 PM at St. John XXIII in Tamaqua. Call 570-668-1211.

For anyone who volunteers or is interested in volunteering for PREP, Vacation Bible School or any other event where children are present.

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

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 reposition 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.

Friday, March 15, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM to 12 noon in the Chapel.

WORK IN OUR SCHOOLS!

Join the Diocese of Allentown Catholic Schools at a Regional Career Fair on Sunday, March 24, 2019 to learn about how you can work in our schools! Come to either the Berks/Schuylkill County Career Expo at Berks Catholic High School 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or the Lehigh/Northampton/Carbon Career Expo at Bethlehem Catholic High School 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Holy Week

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

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

1 Ministers of the Eucharist/4 Ministers of the Cup/3 Altar Servers

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

Readers for the Passion
3 Male Readers 3 Female Readers
Maureen Challenger—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

Easter Sunday (April 21) 9:30 Mass

2 altar servers, 1 lector, 2 EM

Pierogi Sale at St. Clare of Assisi Church

Our pierogi sales continue! Order some by calling 429-0863, 429-0343, or 429-1942. Pickups are on Fridays from 11 am till 2 pm. Only \$7.50 a dozen for these yummy treats! This is one of our most successful fund raisers! Besides ordering some, you can also donate some ingredients (flour, sour cream, butter, onions, potatoes, cheese) or come help out Monday nights at 6 pm or Wednesday mornings at 9 am.

Help Needed with Pierogies

Potato Peelers are needed on Monday evenings at 6PM. Please bring your 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.

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.

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

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.