

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 24, 2019
From Pastor's Desk

Two and half weeks ago, as we began our Lenten journeys, the minister signed us with ashes and said "Repent and believe in the Gospel." It was not a suggestion. It was a command, a command to orient ourselves toward God. Have we followed this command? Are we putting faith into action? It is not too late. Like the fig tree in today's Gospel, the fruitless tree gets a second chance. We are cared for by a patient gardener. We have been given another chance to bear fruit.

Next weekend we begin our parish Lenten mission. We hope you make plans to attend Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at 7PM each evening.

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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 BERTHA CORSON (Bob Corson)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi
4PM Saturday March 30 —People of the Parish
4PM Saturday April 6—People of the Parish
Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (March 24) Third Sunday of Lent
9:30 AM—Joan Albertini (4th Anniv) (Al Albertini)

Sunday (March 31) Fourth Sunday of Lent
9:30 AM—Anna Marie Elo (18th Anniv) (Agnes Gately)

Sunday (April 7) Fifth Sunday of Lent
9:30 AM—Leon Corson (Dorothy Legutko)

Sunday, March 17 Attendance 88 at St. Stephen;
33 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 24: Cemetery Upkeep

March 31: Fuel and Heat

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

Collection for March 17:

Weekly \$2,382.00; Fuel & Heat \$453.00

Catholic Home Missions \$222.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget	
(All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection March 17	\$2,835.00
Cemetery \$61.00	-----
Needed to Date (38th week)	\$109,761.48
Collected to Date (38th week)	\$103,122.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(6,585.77)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

March 24
 Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson

March 31
 Ed Tray/Lisa Gasper



Sunday, March 24
 Aiden Brennan

Sunday, March 31
 Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, April 7
 Jacob Challenger

Sunday, April 14
 Ciara and Charissa Gilbert

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 24 — Father Connolly

March 31 — Father Bill—NOTE: Confessions will be heard at 8:45AM this date and April 14

April 7 — Father Connolly

April 14 — Father Bill—NOTE: Confessions will be heard at 8:45AM this date

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Communion Calls

March has been an extremely busy month for our pastor which prevented him from getting out on Communion Calls. He plans to make calls for both March and April on Thursday, March 28 and Friday, March 29. A phone call will be made prior to his visit.

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

Tuesday, March 26 Stations of the Cross in BOTH Parishes at 6:00PM.

St. Stephen's: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 5:45PM/Stations 6:00PM/Benediction following Stations/Confessions.

St. Clare: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM/Stations 6:00PM lead by parishioners/simple exposition following Stations.

Wednesday, March 27 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 28 A Closer Look at the Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Discussion begins following the 8AM morning Mass. Coffee and Tea are available.

Thursday, March 28 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!

Friday, March 29 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 8AM Mass: 8:30-12:30PM in the daily Mass Chapel.

The Relic of St. John Vianney

St. John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests and confessors. He lived at a time when the Catholic Church was being persecuted and priests did not wish to serve the Catholic Faithful in Ars, France because they were stubborn and the worst of sinners, St. John's bishop had little faith in his priest. This simple man of God changed all of that through prayer, devotion to God, service to his flock, and simple living.

Through the kindness of the Knights of Columbus, the heart relic of St. John Vianney will be in our Church of St. Clare of Assisi to be venerated. The relic will be here on Friday, April 12 beginning at noon. Mark your calendars. More details will follow.

Our Lenten Obligation

The Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence which means Catholics abstain or refrain from eating meat.

Holy Thursday Footwashing

We are looking for parishioners from both parishes willing to volunteer a foot to be washed this Holy Thursday. Please contact the rectory.

Attention Minor Ministers

We are in need of servers, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers to volunteer to assist at the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday services. Please call the rectory with your availability and Fr. Bill will create a schedule so everyone has an opportunity.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament by Your Request!

On the Fridays of Lent, the Blessed Sacrament will be on the St. Clare daily Mass Chapel altar for veneration and prayer from 8:30AM to 12 noon. Remember the Blessed Sacrament should never be publicly exposed where there are NOT adorers present. Will you make a commitment to sit with the Lord for 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 60 minutes?

Because We Are Catholic

Every year our diocese conducts a capital campaign to raise money to support our various ministries to the under privileged, the elderly, those who are mentally and developmentally challenged, the education of our seminarians, our elderly and infirmed priests to name a few. This campaign has been called the Bishop's Annual Appeal however, it is NOT about the bishop! Rather we do what we do "Because We Are Catholic!"

This year our Diocesan Appeal will begin with the Celebration of Mass asking God to bless our efforts to fulfill the Corporal Works of Mercy. Bishop Schlert will offer Mass on Monday, April 8 at 6PM in St. Ambrose, Schuylkill Haven. We are all invited! After Mass there will be a light social in the parish center. Hope you join us!

Upcoming Events for Our Parishes

March 31-April 2 Parish Mission

April 8 Bishop's Mass at St. Ambrose to begin the Diocesan Appeal 6PM

April 12 Visitation of the Relic of St. John Vianney to St. Clare of Assisi

April 30 Confirmation-4:30PM 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

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.

Protecting God's Children Workshop

Nativity BVM High School, Wednesday March 27, 6-9PM. Please call 570-622-8110 to register.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Veneration of the First Class Relic of St. Pauline Visintainer

takes place on the last Monday of each month at 5PM in Our Lady's Chapel of St. Patrick Church, 319 Mahantongo St., Pottsville. The next Mass will be at 5PM on Monday, March 25.

Lenten Stations of the Cross and Soup Supper Friday, April 28, 2019

During the Holy Season of Lent, St. Michael the Archangel's Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to join us for a free meal consisting of a simple but delicious Soup and bread supper followed by Stations of the Cross in the Parish Center Cafeteria. Soup Supper is from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. At 6:00 PM, we will pray the Stations of the Cross. Please feel free to bring a neighbor or friend to share in a "Poor Man's Supper" and to journey with Christ in the Stations of the Cross. We look forward to having each of you participate in this Lenten event to draw us closer to Our Crucified Lord.

Sister Catherine Therese Brennan, SSJ and St. Michael's Vincentians. Please enter the building by way of the back entrance on Lewis Street. Parking lot available near the back of the building.

BREAKFAST BUFFET

Sponsored by St. Nicholas Holy Name Society, Sunday, March 24th at St. Nicholas Hall, Rte. 901, Primrose, 7:30AM-11:30AM. Adults: \$9.00; children under 12 FREE.

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.allentowndioocese.org/cfw-spirituality Questions, email cfw@allentowndioocese.org or call Susan Teaford at 610-207-5763.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

During Lent, make special sacrifices for each other daily and WATCH YOUR LOVE GROW! Keep your love growing by attending a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.

Homemade Easter Candy

Butter Cream, Coconut Cream or Peanut Butter Eggs - \$10 per box. *Sorry, no mixed boxes.* Proceeds benefit St. Patrick Parish - All orders are due by April 2nd. To place an order call the parish office 570-622-1802 ext 1 Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm or Fri 8am-12pm. Candy may be picked up in our Parish Center during the Palm Sunday Weekend Bake Sale April 13th from 1-6pm or Sunday April 14th from 8am to 12:30pm

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions

On Sunday, April 28, 2019 Divine Mercy Parish, Shenandoah, will be holding its fifth annual Divine Mercy Devotions at 3:00 PM at Divine Mercy Parish, 224 West Cherry St. These devotions will consist of: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Mid-afternoon Prayers from the Divine Office, Various Prayers and Readings, Homily, Periods of Reflection, Hymns, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction. **Please note that the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will not be celebrated.** We are strongly encouraging all participants to celebrate in their own parishes the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.