

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 31, 2019
From Pastor's Desk

It has long been a custom of mine when on retreat that one day I arise before the dawn to watch the sun rise. At first it is dark and cold and the question I ask is "Why am I doing this? I got out of a warm bed to shiver!" But what an awesome experience of God to see the sun peek over the horizon and watch the color of the sky change from inky black to pastel colors before becoming sky blue. In each of the readings for this Sunday, a new day has dawned! From our Hebrew ancestors, they celebrate the first Passover in the Promised Land. They are no longer slaves but free! God's Chosen People! Our epistle from Paul's second letter to the Church at Corinth speaks of Jesus being the dawn of the new creation and our Gospel is the familiar yet ever powerful Parable of the Prodigal Son.

This Sunday and next Sunday the focus of each Gospel passage is on the infinite mercy of God. No matter how sinful, how terrible, how heartbreaking the actions of the prodigal son and the adulterous woman are, God's compassion is stronger. Each of

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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 JEAN THOMAS (Jean Marie Thomas)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday April 6—Ronald Pavlick (Anne Pavlick)

4PM Saturday April 13 —Joseph & Joan Krynock (Children)

Masses at St. Stephen

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 (April 14) Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:30 AM—Edward Gately (36th Anniv) (Agnes Gately)

Sunday, March 24 Attendance 75 at St. Stephen; 51 at St. Clare

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 31: Fuel and Heat

April 7: Building Fund

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

Collection for March 24:

Weekly \$2,169.00

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 Cemetery \$306.00 | ----- |
| Needed to Date (39th week) | \$112,649.94 |
| Collected to Date (39th week) | \$105,291.25 |
| Over/(Under) Budget | \$(7,358.69) |

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

March 31
Ed Tray/Lisa Gasper

April 7
Judy Johnson/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, March 31
Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, April 7
Jacob Challenger

Sunday, April 14
Ciara and Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, April 21
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 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

April 21 Easter Sunday — Father Bill

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their lives has a new beginning! Our Catholic Faith believes and lives the greatest act of mercy ever: Jesus dying on the cross for our salvation! And with His obedience to the Father comes a SON RISE!

This Sunday we begin our St. Clare Lenten mission. We hope you make plans to attend. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday at 7PM each evening.

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

THE LENTEN MISSION AT ST. CLARE OF ASSISI BEGINS SUNDAY AT 7PM. CONFESSIONS AT 6:15pm.

Sunday, March 31

Our St. Clare Mission begins today with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM.

Confessions from 6:15-6:45PM

Stations of the Cross at 7PM

Monday, April 1

Day 2 of our Parish Mission with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM

Confessions from 6:15-6:45PM

The Celebration of Mass at 7PM

Tuesday, April 2

Day 3 of our Parish Mission with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM

Confessions from 6:15-6:45PM

The Celebration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick at 7PM

Wednesday, April 3 Healing Our Church faith sharing group in the daily Mass chapel from 6:30-8PM.

Wednesday, April 3 PREP Living Stations of the Cross at St. Stephen Church at 6PM.

Thursday, April 4 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, April 4 Parish Adult Faith Formation begins in the daily Mass chapel. Starting time is 6:30PM to 8PM. Our topic this year is a study program that examines Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross.

Friday, April 5 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM till Noon in the daily Mass chapel.

Tuesday, April 9 Stations of the Cross in St. Clare of Assisi at 6:00PM.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 4PM with Stations & Benediction at 6PM. Confessions will follow Stations.

Wednesday, April 10 Healing Our Church faith-sharing group in the St. Clare daily Mass Chapel from 6:30PM to 8PM.

Thursday, April 11 A Closer Look at the Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Discussion begins following the 8AM morning Mass. Coffee and Tea are available.

Thursday, April 11 Parish Adult Faith Formation begins in the daily Mass chapel. Starting time is 6:30PM to 8PM. Our topic this year is a study program that examines Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross.

Friday, April 12 Visitation of the Relic of St. John Vianney's Incorrupt Heart

NO 8AM Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon by Bishop Schlert

1:30-5:30PM Novena prayer at the beginning of every half hour followed by Veneration of the Relic by the Faithful. Confessions from 1:30-6PM.

5:45PM Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

6PM Stations of the Cross

7PM Evening Prayer of the Church led by Bishop Schlert

Please see the bulletin insert about how you can help with this once-in-a-lifetime event.

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 still 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 this week with your availability and Fr. Bill will create a schedule so everyone has an opportunity.

Our Lenten Obligation

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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE INCLUDED IN THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN. PLEASE SAVE.

St. Stephen Easter Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 10 years old will be held on Palm Sunday, April 14, at 10:45 am on St. Stephen's upper parking lot. Please sign up at the front entry of the church or RSVP to saintstephen2@verizon.net or (570) 622-6600.

Easter Flower Memorials

If anyone would like to memorialize Easter Flowers or other church Easter decorations by making a \$10 donation, please write on the envelope with your donation the name of the person to be memorialized and your name. Please have the memorial to the collection basket or rectory by Tuesday, April 16 for the published list available on April 21. Memorials received after April 16 will be listed in a later bulletin.

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?

Upcoming Events for Our Parishes

March 31-April 2 Parish Mission
Apr 3 PREP Living Stations at St. Stephen at 6PM
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 14 Easter Egg Hunt 10:45AM at St. Stephen's
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

"Saint Katharine Drexel: The Holy Heiress"

A 30-minute documentary on the life and work of Saint Katharine Drexel, will air at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30th, on 6ABC. The program is a special presentation of 6ABC's FYI Philly. Encore presentations of the documentary will air at 1:00 p.m. and midnight on Sunday, March 31st.

Healing Mass

Fr. James Blount, Spiritual Director, Confessor, and Charismatic is set to be at St. Thomas More church, 1040 Flexer Ave., Allentown on Thursday, May 16. A Healing Mass will start at 6 p.m. Fr. Blount is a spiritual Advisor to the Flame of Love Movement of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the United States. His teachings depict his deep love for the Eucharist and his devotion to both Jesus and Mary.

Pierogi Sale at St. Clare of Assisi Church

Our Lenten homemade pierogi sales continue every Friday during Lent with the last sale date being Wednesday, 4/17. Cost is \$7.50 per dozen for cooked with butter & onions, cooked with butter only, or uncooked frozen. Orders must be placed by Wednesday for pickup on Fridays in the church basement (11 am – 2 pm). To order, please call 429-0863, 429-0343, or 429-1942.

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.

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!

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.