

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2019

From Pastor's Desk

Today, on the final day of the Octave of Easter, the eight-day celebration of Jesus' resurrection, we give praise and thanks for God's mercy. Scripture is replete with examples of divine mercy, foremost among them Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Truly, as we hear repeated in the responsorial psalm today, "God's mercy endures forever!"

Mercy is defined as 1.) Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm. 2.) An event to be grateful for, especially because its occurrence prevents something unpleasant or provides relief from suffering. 3.) A journey or a mission performed out of a desire to relieve suffering motivated by compassion (with great love).

In today's Gospel, Jesus commissions the disciples, sending them out as His Father sent Him. We recall Jesus' command of our Lenten journey "If you wish to follow me, you must take up your cross, and follow me daily." God showed us mercy for our sinfulness through the compassion of Jesus on the cross; we too as followers of Jesus are baptized (sent) to relieve the suffering of others by the compassion of our sacrifices.

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.

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 VINCENT GATELY (Agnes Gately)

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi

4PM Saturday April 27 — People of the Parish

4PM Saturday April 27 — Rita Matsko (Edward Krull)

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday (April 28) Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 AM—Vincent Gately (Agnes Gately)

Sunday (May 5) Third Sunday of Easter

First Holy Communion

9:30 AM—Anna Corson (Dorothy Legutko)

Sunday, April 21 Attendance at St. Stephen

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

April 28: Cemetery Upkeep

May 5: Building Fund

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

Collection for April 21:

Weekly \$1,536.00; Easter Sunday \$3,163.00;

Fuel & Heat \$251.00; Holy Thursday \$163.00;

Good Friday \$70.00; Initial Offering \$15.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget	
(All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection April 21	\$1,787.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (43rd week)	\$124,203.78
Collected to Date (43rd week)	\$115,684.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(8,519.53)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

April 28

Ed Tray/Lisa Gasper

May 5

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger



Sunday, April 28

Aiden Brennan

Sunday, May 5

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, May 12

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, May 19

Ciara Gilbert 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.

April 28 — Father Connolly

May 5 — Father Bill (First Communion)

May 12 — Msgr. Handges

Cemetery Clean-Up

We ask lot owners to clear your family grave sites of **any and all** decorations immediately to enable our cemetery crews to prepare the cemetery for Mothers' Day and Memorial Day. Anything not removed from the graves we will assume is to be discarded.

Grave restoration will also be done at this time of those who passed away during the late Fall and Winter months. These graves will be raked and additional top soil added to compensate for settling of the earth. Graves will be seeded when the weather begins to warm. Please Note: It takes at least 3-4 months after burial for the ground to settle on a grave. If the ground was frozen, it could take an additional month or two. It might also take multiple seedings to get grass to grow dependent upon the weather.

Important Confirmation Announcement

There will be a mandatory Confirmation practice on Sunday, April 28 at 5pm. This practice will be held at the St. Patrick's Church in Pottsville. This practice is for the **Confirmation candidate and the sponsor.** If a sponsor cannot make it, please have a substitute adult stand in for him or her so that they can relay the information to the sponsor. ALL candidates should make every effort to be at this practice. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Dowd immediately.

First Communion Practice Wednesday May 1 at 5PM in church.

Thank You

Rich DeWitt and Carol Stencovage for decorating our church so beautifully. They change our church altar cloths and decorations every season.

Nativity BVM High School Chinese Auction

The 16th Annual Chinese Auction for will be the weekend of May 4 & 5. Please support our local Catholic High School.

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. List will be published next weekend.

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, and 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!"

Upcoming Parish Events

April 30 Confirmation-4:30PM at St. Patrick's
May 5 St. Stephen First Holy Communion
May 19 St. Clare First Holy Communion
June 3 Nativity BVM Baccalaureate
June 4 Nativity Graduation
June 5 Assumption BVM 8th Grade Graduation
June 7 Pottsville Area High School Graduation

Parish Religious Education Preparation (PREP) News

Please note, the Confirmation class is expected to be at practice today, **Sunday, April 28 in St. Patrick's at 5PM.** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 30 in St. Patrick's at 4:30PM.

Our appreciation to our dedicated catechists and volunteers who gave up every Wednesday from late August to April. Thank you to Mr. Dowd for his great coordination.

Nativity BVM High School Theatre Department

Don't forget Nativity BVM High School production of "Newsies" today at 2PM. Based on the real-life Newsboy Strike of 1899, this Disney musical tells the story of Jack Kelly, a rebellious newsboy who dreams of a life as an artist away from the big city. After publishing giant Joseph Pulitzer raises newspaper prices at the newsboys' expense, Kelly and his fellow **newsies** take action.

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, Midafternoon 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.

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.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

The 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 Street, Pottsville. The next Mss will be at 5pm on Monday, April 29th.

Silver Ribbon Month

May is Silver Ribbon Month for respect for seniors and awareness of elder abuse in our society. Here in our parish we are grateful for the many contributions of our senior parishioners through their time, talent and treasure. Please remember to pray for them and thank them for laying such a wonderful foundation for our parish.

Elder abuse takes many forms in physical abuse, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, self neglect, and financial exploitation. The last two are the most reported. Pertaining to financial abuse in recent years millions of dollars have been stolen from residents of Schuylkill County by caregivers, family, and neighbors. Self neglect is a form of abuse when the individual lives alone and has no one to care for them. They neglect themselves by living in unsanitary conditions, fail to take their medication, keep regular doctor's appointments and neglect themselves of nourishment, heat in the winter and extreme temperatures in the summer. Self neglect becomes the awareness of us as Catholic Christians to look after our elderly neighbors. Any form of elder abuse should be reported to our County Office of Senior Services at 570-622-3103. All phone calls are kept confidential.

In the rear of the church is a basket of small silver lapel ribbons. We encourage you to take and wear one to remind us for "no other reason" that one day we will all be old.

