

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2019
From Pastor's Desk**

Easter Sunday was two weeks ago now, but Easter Time extends for fifty days, giving us a lengthy period to fully celebrate all the ways in which God brings new life into the world. As trees bud and flowers bloom, as days grow long and the weather warms, we glory in the new life emerging around us. As it is written in the opening antiphon for today's Mass. "Cry out with joy to God, all the earth." Alleluia!

Our Blessed Mother is the Queen of May. Just as Mary brought new life into the world by her giving birth to the Son of God, we are reminded of our new life in Christ by His resurrection. During the month of May, we will honor our Blessed Lady in a variety of ways and numerous occasions.

(Continued on Page 3)

**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****

St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi
4PM Saturday May 4 — Rita Matsko
4PM Saturday May 11 — People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday May 5—Third Sunday of Easter/First Holy Communion

9:30 AM—Anna Corson (Dorothy Legutko)

Sunday, May 12—Fourth Sunday of Easter/ Mother’s Day

9:30AM—All Mothers

Sunday, May 19—Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30AM— Joseph J. Kreydt (6th Anniv) (Louise Kreydt)

Sunday, April 28 Attendance at St. Stephen 74

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

May 5: Building Fund

May 12: Cemetery Upkeep

May 19: Fuel & Heat

May 26: Cemetery

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

Collection for April 28:

Weekly \$2,392.00.00; Cemetery \$245.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget (All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection April 28	\$2,392.00
Cemetery \$245.00	-----
Needed to Date (44th week)	\$127,092.24
Collected to Date (44th week)	\$118,076.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(9,015.99)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

May 5

Lisa Gasper/Maureen Challenger

May 12

Lisa Gasper/Ed Tray

May 19

Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson



Sunday, May 5

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, May 12

Jacob Challenger

Sunday, May 19

Ciara Gilbert and Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, May 26

We need a Server!

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.

May 5 — Father Bill (First Communion)

May 12 — Unknown at this time

May 19 — Father Connolly

May 26 — Father Bill

Wednesday May Devotions

We will attempt to conduct outdoor recitation of the Mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesday evenings at 7PM in the designated locations. In the event of inclement weather, the rosary will be prayed in church (St. Clare May 8, 15, 29 and St. Stephen May 22).

May 8 the praying of the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary in Queen of the Universe Cemetery on the Blessed Mother plaza. Please bring a lawn chair.

May 15 the praying of the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary through the eyes of St. Francis & St. Clare of Assisi in the church.

May 22 at St. Stephen's Grotto before the Statue of Madonna Della Strada

May 29 Candlelight Rosary for Mary Undoer of Knots at St. Clare of Assisi Grotto at 7PM followed by ice cream social

Other Celebrations to Mary

Our First Communion Class will crown Mary as Queen of May as part of the reception of First Holy Communion at the 10:30AM Mass on May 19.

Mary Undoer of Knots

As has become our custom over the last few years, the trellis for ribbons will be erected in the Our Lady of Fatima Grotto. Ribbons with the prayer may be found in the basket in the rear of church. Please write your intention on the ribbon and attach it to the trellis. Keep the prayer and recite it daily throughout the month of May to have the Blessed Mother help undo the knots in one's life.

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA).

This weekend we kickoff the BAA. I am so grateful for your continued generosity to this important diocesan fundraising initiative. The Bishop's Annual Appeal funds the annual budget that offers vital services like Catholic Charities, care for our retired and infirmed priests, education of Seminarians and Deacons, Catholic schools and support for our centers for special learning. I encourage you to join me in making your gift to the BAA and support these important ministries. Together we will make a difference in the lives of many people. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. To make your gift, please return the pledge form that you will receive in the mail or visit the Appeal's website at Faith-HopeCharityGives.org or call the Appeal Office at 1-800-831-4443.

ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast

This Sunday, May 5, 8-11:30AM at Immaculate Conception Hall. \$7.50 adults, \$3.00 children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

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.

High School Musicals

For almost 10 years, Fr. Bill and a group of his friends attempt to transverse the County to view as many high school musicals as possible. This year due to many other commitments they were able to get to only four. However, NBVM production of NEWSIES was on their hit list and they were not disappointed!

Congratulations to parishioners Jacob Challenger and Hallie Yordy on a fabulous performance. It was like seeing it on Broadway again! See you at the Majestic Showcase.

Upcoming Parish Events

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

Cemetery Clean-Up

We ask lot owners to clear off all Easter decorations from the graves.

Sunday Masses in May & June

Unless it affects us in a direct way, we still overlook the scarcity of priests. With our pastor having the responsibility of shepherding "two" fully operational parishes by himself, it would be extremely difficult to offer Masses in both churches without the help of our retired priests or those serving in specialized ministries in the Diocese. We are grateful to Msgr. Handges, Fr. Connolly, Fr. Reiley and Fr. Brensinger for their kindness over the last three years. Please continue to pray for them and encourage them. They do not have to do what they do.

With that being said, May and June are very busy months and a number of weekends in the next eight weeks will find our pastor saying three Sunday Masses in two locations in a very narrow time frame.

This means no homily at either 8:30 or 9:30 Masses and no opportunity for him to greet the parishioners at the conclusion of Mass. It also means the probability of the 9:30 and 10:30 Masses beginning 5-10 minutes late. Please be patient and realize what our priests do for you!

Lastly, DO NOT BLOCK WHERE OUR PASTOR PARKS HIS VEHICLE OR TAKE HIS PARKING PLACE!!!!

Come to Mass a few minutes earlier and obtain a parking place that does not interfere with Father Bill. Doing so will result in Mass starting later than just 5 minutes because he has to find a parking space and walk a distance to church.

Parochial Concerns

We have not published any "how the parish is doing" statements in a while because every time we attempt to inform the parish on verifiable matters of concern some parishioners complain "it is too much depressing news" and others just pick up and disappear! And yet there are always those who say "nobody ever told us how bad things really are!"

Well let's start off with some good news...

1. Thank you to the group of parishioners who organized the annual children's Easter egg hunt. The kids enjoyed it. We are very happy the Easter bunny was able to join us.
2. Thank you to the parishioners who participated in the combined Holy Week services and those who kept vigil at St. Stephen's beautiful repository on Holy Thursday. We are grateful for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus for their presence.
3. Thank you to the parishioners who decorated the church for the Easter Triduum.
4. Thank you to the choir for the beautiful Easter Sunday Mass.
5. Thank you to the retired priests who help me provide Sunday Mass for the parish. Did you pray for them?
6. Thank you for faithful parishioners who still attend Mass at St. Stephen's.
7. Despite the fact that there are no parish savings left, financially we are holding our own and are current with our creditors. We just are unable to sustain any major expenses.
8. Over the summer the front sidewalks will be replaced with new concrete.
9. Presently it appears that St. Stephen's Church will live to see its 172nd year of worship. We have kept the doors open and the lights lit for four (4) years; yet no one remembers this, is grateful, or says thank you.

10. Under Good News/Bad News:

First the good news – we had a potential buyer for the school (but I did not say a word either for high hopes or for some parishioners' anxiety)

The bad news – they decided not to buy the building. We are in need of a new roof on the school, of which we cannot afford.

More bad news – our insurance company recommends demolition of the school but guess what we don't have the money for that either.

OK the truth you do not wish to hear. This time last year 9:30AM Mass attendance was 141 people. This past Sunday at the 9:30AM Mass there were only 74 people. In fact the average weekly attendance, including St. Clare parishioners, is 85.

Congratulations to our First Communicants

**Gino Joy
Maci McGeoy
Brady Sverchek
Emma Womer
Connor Womer**



Knights of Columbus Sub Sale/ Fundraiser

Date: May 23rd, 2019, pickup at St. Clare of Assisi Parish Hall times to be determined

Varieties of Subs: Ham and Cheese or Italian (Onions, Tomatoes, Lettuce to be separately wrapped with subs), **Cost:** \$7.00

Members of Knights of Columbus will be selling tickets before Weekend Masses or to place orders please Call (570)617-1578.