

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 19, 2019
From Pastor's Desk**

It's been nearly a month since Easter Sunday, but there's a reason that we celebrate this event for so long. The Resurrection changes everything! A whole new world has been opened up to us. No wonder God says, "Behold, I make all things new," in the vision from Revelation that we hear proclaimed today. Key to this new world is the new commandment Jesus proclaims in the Gospel: love one another! With love for one another, wonderful things, miraculous things can happen.

Today we also celebrate our Parish's First Holy Communion celebration where fifteen will receive their First Holy Communion. The Holy Eucharist is an integral part of the Paschal Mystery – Jesus' Suffering, Death, and Resurrection. Jesus feeds us with His Body & Blood; the Bread of Life! This means that because of Jesus' Resurrection from the Dead, His divinity has transformed our lives into a new creation. The Eucharist transforms us to obtain eternal life with God the Father in heaven. The Eucharist is our "bread for the journey" until our

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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.

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 JOSEPH J. KREYDT (Louise Kreydt)
St. Stephen Masses at St. Clare of Assisi
4PM Saturday

May 18 — In Honor of St. Lucy for the Health of Flavia McGovern

May 25 — People of the Parish

Masses at St. Stephen

Sunday, May 19—Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Sunday, May 26—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30AM— Bertha Corson and James Corson (Bob Corson)

Sunday, June 2—Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30AM— Carl Leibel (Family)

Sunday, May 12 Attendance at St. Stephen 95

At St. Clare of Assisi 38

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

May 19: Fuel & Heat

May 26: Cemetery Upkeep

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

Collection for May 5:

Weekly \$2,126.00 ; Building Fund \$25.00

SUNDAY COLLECTION

2016-2017 Budget	\$170,800.00
2018/2019 Budget	
(All Funds)	\$150,200.00
Amount Needed Weekly	\$2,888.46
Collection May 5	\$2,151.00
Cemetery \$	-----
Needed to Date (46th week)	\$132,869.16
Collected to Date (46th week)	\$123,765.25
Over/(Under) Budget	\$(9,103.81)

LECTORS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

May 19

Maureen Challenger/Judy Johnson

May 26

Ed Tray/Lisa Gasper



Sunday, May 19

Ciara Gilbert and Charissa Gilbert

Sunday, May 26

Aiden Brennan

June 2

Annabella Chaklos

Sunday, June 9

Jacob Challenger

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 19 — Father Connolly

May 26 — Father Bill

June 2 — Father Connolly

June 9 — Msgr. Handges

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physical death which is the catalyst to our eternal life. The reception of First Holy Communion is not a social thing; but rather it is an experience of grace for each new recipient of Holy Eucharist. They need to learn this and we need to teach them.

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 29 and St. Stephen May 22). THIS WEEK'S ROSARY

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.

The Rosary at St. Stephen's

Weather-permitting the rosary will be prayed by the Madonna della Strata statue on the side of the church at 7PM. Please bring your beads and a lawn chair. In event of inclement weather, the rosary will be prayed in church.

Other Celebrations to Mary

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.

Memorial Day

For this Memorial Day Remembrance Mass, we invite you to bring a picture of a loved one who served in the defense of our great nation. Please make sure the picture is marked with who it is and to whom it belongs so it may be returned. If the picture is framed, please leave it in the frame. We need the picture by Thursday, May 23.

New Sidewalks Coming

New sidewalks will be installed in front of the church and the front steps repaired over the summer.

Upcoming Parish Events

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

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.

Changes in the Mass Schedule

Monday, May 27 is Memorial Day, a national holiday to recall the sacrifices made by those brave men and women who served and are currently serving in our military. Mass will be offered at 9AM in St. Clare of Assisi Church. **The Office will be closed.**

There will be no Mass on Tuesday, May 28.

See the special Memorial Day announcement below.

Thursday, May 30 is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven, a holy day of obligation. Mass will be offered at 8AM at St. Stephen's and at 6:30PM in St. Clare of Assisi.

Keeping You Informed

As one drives by the old school to Sunday Mass, one will notice that all first floor windows have been boarded, all doors locked with chains & padlocks, and No Trespassing signs prominently displayed. Sadly the school was broken into again! With the posting of No Trespassing signs if those entering the building are caught, they can be arrested. We have enough to worry about pertaining to maintaining our parish than senseless vandalism that depletes our small bank account.

U.S. BISHOPS DIALOGUE WITH VICTIMS AT D.C. MEETING

A small group of victim-survivors of clergy sexual abuse gathered with bishops, clergy, victim advocates and others for a daylong event on the sex abuse crisis in the Catholic Church. One participant said she hoped the event at the Catholic University of America "was the beginning of [a lot more conversation](#) between leadership and survivors." **Among the dozen bishops attending the gathering was Bishop Schlert.**

POPE ISSUES WORLD NORMS ON BISHOP ACCOUNTABILITY

Pope Francis has revised and clarified norms and procedures for [holding bishops and religious superiors accountable](#) in protecting minors as well as in protecting members of religious orders and seminarians from abuse. The new instrument is meant to help bishops and religious leaders around the world clearly understand church law. The new document establishes a clearer set of procedures for reporting suspected abuse, carrying out initial investigations and protecting victims and whistleblowers.

BISHOP SCHLERT MEETS IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

On Monday, May 13, Bishop Schlert met with 150 Catholics from Schuylkill County who participated in the Healing Our Church Program during Lent. The Program was hosted by our parish of St. Clare. It was a time of prayerful reflections and one hour and 45 minutes of Bishop Schlert answering questions about the Clerical Sex Abuse crisis. These questions included what has happened in our diocese in the past, where credibly accused priests are today, how much money has been spent regarding this matter, the new compensation program for victims, what is being done to prevent this in the future, and the role he played in our diocese regarding this matter when he served as Vicar General. Despite the topic, it was helpful and informative to know how our diocese has responded, is responding now, and will respond in the future to protect our children.

Graduates Mass

We would like to honor our graduates from college, high school, and junior high. We ask any graduate who wishes to participate in this special Liturgy for you to contact the rectory by May 29 to make proper plans. We also ask that graduates dress in a respectable manner (please no shorts or tee shirts).

Cemetery Clean-Up

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

2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA).

We are grateful to all who pledged their support this weekend to the 2019 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL. Your gift will allow our diocese to meet the many and varied needs of the people of this diocese. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. If you did not take the opportunity to make your gift, you may do so at any time over the next few weeks by placing your pledge form in the collection basket or visiting the Appeal website at [FaithHopeCharity-Gives.org](#). Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to those who have made a pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Making a six-month pledge to the Appeal allows you to maximize the amount that you may give by making monthly payments. For example, a \$120 gift to the Appeal may be setup with six \$20 installments. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. Your generosity funds the annual budget for important Diocesan ministries in our area. You can make your gift online at [FaithHopeCharityGives.org](#).

Silver Ribbon Month Event

Senator Dave Argall will host an Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Prevention program on Wednesday, May 29 at the Schuylkill Haven Senior Community Center, 340 Haven St., Schuylkill Haven from 8-9AM. The program will present ways that ill-willed people (contractors, bank scams, lottery scams, telemarketers) will scam our seniors out of their life savings. The program is open to the elderly and anyone who is concerned for their well-being. RSVP 570-773-0891.

Diocesan Assignment

Fr. Eric Tolentino will become the chaplain to the two State Correctional Institutions, the Federal Prison, the County Prison, and nursing home ministry in the County. Fr. Tolentino will reside with Fr. Bill but is not connected to either St. Stephen's or St. Clare of Assisi as it pertains to ministry.

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.**