

THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. William F. Glosser, V.F., M.A., M.Div.



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Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 3, 2019

MASS TIMES

(Please check bulletin for changes)

Tuesday – Friday 8AM (Chapel)

Saturday – 4PM

Sunday- 8:30AM and 10:30AM

St. Stephen – 9:30AM

Holydays – Please check bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:15-3:45PM or call the rectory to schedule an appointment. St. Stephen Parish, please see Priest before Mass.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Prospective parents are expected to attend an instruction session. Please call the parish office to make arrangements and schedule an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made one year in advance to schedule and plan your wedding.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PREP/CCD classes are offered for our public grade school children. Classes are held Wednesday evenings 6PM to 7:30PM.

Parish Registration

Parish registration is recommended for all individual persons and families who worship regularly and who intend to participate actively in the life of our parish by sharing their time, talents and treasure. Registration is necessary for celebrating Marriage and Baptism, as well as for the issuing of Sponsor Certificates.

Director of Religious Education

Thomas Dowd

Parish Religious Education Website

stcstsprep.weebly.com

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Mrs. Wendy S. Krisak, MA, MCC, LPC Direct: 1-800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT 1-610-332-0442, Ext 2019

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Dear Padre,

What does “turn the other cheek” mean? My son got into a fight with a schoolyard bully. I don’t want my son to fight, yet I felt proud that he didn’t back down. What should I tell him?

The phrase “turn the other (cheek)” appears in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:39). Here Jesus proposes a superior moral standard to the law taught by the scribes and Pharisees. It isn’t indifference to evil but avoidance of retaliation. We avoid striking back because we are to be perfect, as God is perfect.

During his trial, Jesus tells Pilate that retaliation would be easy: “If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants [would] be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews” (John 18:36). The passion accounts repeatedly tell of Jesus being roughed up. “They spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying, ‘Prophecy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?’” (Matthew 26:67–68).

Jesus refused to lash back. He absorbed abuse without raising a hand! He even admonished Peter to “put your sword back into its sheath,” after Peter had cut off a slave’s ear. Jesus added: “For all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Matthew 26:52).

Jesus suffered taunts, scourging, blows, and—finally—death to overcome the very evil he was undergoing. His was redemptive suffering. Senseless suffering for its own sake should be avoided or stopped at all costs. Jesus isn’t advocating being a doormat for thoughtless bullies. He is, however, promoting peaceful resistance to aggression as a way of ending the spiral of violence and promoting God’s reign.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSsR

**Monday, November 4, 2019 St. Charles
Borromeo
8AM John Plachko**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019
8AM Theresa Kurchock**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED**

**Thursday, November 7, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED**

**Friday, November 8, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019
4PM St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—Sophia &
Harry Tohill and Jeff Tohill
St. Stephen Intention—Doreen Legutko**

**Sunday, November 10, 2019 Thirty-second
Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30AM Beatrice & Theodore Thorn
9:30AM at St. Stephen—Elizabeth Fidler
10:30AM Catherine Gusley**

From the Pastor's Desk

The word “empathy” has an ethological derivative from an American Indian word meaning to “walk a mile in one’s moccasins.” We have modernized it to popular English by saying to “walk a mile in another person’s shoes.” In other words don’t criticize until you know the life experiences this person is having – don’t be too hasty to judge someone.

Our Gospel for today is the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. The crowd reacts harshly when Jesus announces that He will dine at Zacchaeus’ House this day. Let’s put ourselves in Zacchaeus’ shoes who is so eager to see Jesus that he climbs a tree to see over the crowd. We are told that Zacchaeus is short of stature compared to other Israelites; but maybe Luke uses this to refer to that Zacchaeus falls short on caring for his fellow Israelites by taking his share of the tax money. He is stealing from his own people. Jesus challenges him to climb to a new level to see his shortness in terms of loyalty to his brothers and sisters. The tax collector must climb to the heights for his conversion. Before we are quick to condemn someone for what they do,

let’s be a wee bit empathic and walk in their shoes, the challenge them to reach for the higher good.

Sanctuary Candle

In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Stauffer & Uhrin Families requested by the Uhrin Family.

Second Collections

St. Clare of Assisi: November 3 All Saints Holyday (Team 1). November 3 will be for Heat & Energy (Team 2). November 10 will be for the Building Fund (Team 3).

St. Stephen: This week’s will be for the Building Fund. Next week’s will be for Cemetery Upkeep.

Changes in this Week’s Mass Schedule

Mass at 8AM Monday & Tuesday. No Mass on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday due to Fr. Bill attending the annual Diocesan Theology Convocation for all active priests of the Diocese.

November Communion Calls

Holy Communion will be brought to our sick and shut-ins on Monday, November 4. A phone call will be made prior to Fr. Bill’s and the Eucharistic Minister’s visit.

Tuesday November 5 is Election Day

This Tuesday, Pennsylvanians will head to the polls in a primary election.

Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches,
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns
that confront our city/state/country,
and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful
citizens in our community.
We ask for eyes that are free from blindness
so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters,
one and equal in dignity,
especially those who are victims of abuse and
violence, deceit and poverty.
We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children
unborn and those abandoned,
Men and women oppressed because of race or creed,
religion or gender.
We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing
the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your
Kingdom.

We pray for discernment
so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,

live your love,
and keep in the ways of your truth
as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles
and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and
through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

**ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF
CONFIRMANDI**

Bus Trip to St. Ann's Shrine, Scranton
On Saturday, November 16 our Confirmation Class will be making their Confirmation Retreat at St. Ann's Shrine, Scranton, PA. **Every 8th Grader intending to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in both St. Clare and St. Stephen is expected to attend the retreat along with either a parent, Confirmation sponsor, or a responsible adult (over the age of 18).** The Confirmandi go for **FREE** which also includes lunch. The bus will leave from the Carroll St. Parking lot at 7:15AM. We also wish to invite any interested parishioner who would like to visit the Shrine to join us for the day which includes lunch and Mass. Cost will be \$20. **PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY WITH THE NAME OF THE STUDENT AND THE ADULT**

**With Sincere Gratitude for Jobs Well Done
The Rosary Bunch**



From the feast of Our Lady Undoer of Knots to the last Saturday of October, a group of 15 parishioners met religiously at noon for the recitation of the most holy rosary. On most Saturdays, the weather cooperated to permit us to pray the mysteries of Jesus' life through Mary's eyes outdoors at the Our Lady of Fatima Shrine. What a blessing!

Fall Fest Workers

Wow! Our first "Fall Fest Choose & Win" became a success but only because of the wonderful parishioners who gave of their time and effort to make it so. By Sunday afternoon at 4PM, we had many dead tired people. Despite replenishing the kitchen numerous times, there were a few trips to the store. How about 200lbs of French Fries! Thank you to all who provided us with some of the best prizes ever!

Salt Shed Repairs

Kudos to Joe & Diane Melincavage, Jack Ketner, and Phil Grabish for making repairs to the Salt Shed to get one more year out of it! The roof is tarped due to leaking and the rotted side was replaced.

Parish Work Parties

- Saturday, November 9: cleaning of Immaculate Conception Church
- Saturday, December 7: decorating the rectory and exterior for Christmas, bring up wreaths and trees from storage
- Sunday, December 22: setting up Christmas figurines in manger and arranging of flowers

St. Clare's Next Big Fundraiser



On Saturday, December 7 from 5-7PM, the parish is offering a "Coal Region Ethnic Dinner." The platter will include: a piece of smoked Kowalonek's Kielbasy, Halupkie, Haluskie, and Kugel (a baked bleenie), apple sauce, a beverage, and dessert. All this food for \$12.00 – eat in after Mass or take out. Advanced Sale Tickets on sale now! Our goal is to sell 150 tickets or better.

We are in need of help for this fundraiser to be another success – food prep, hall set-up, Saturday morning heating food, table servers, take-out station, and clean up.



Upcoming Events

November 9 St. Clare Parish Work Party
November 16 Confirmation Retreat
December 7 St. Clare Parish Work Party
December 7 NEW SCA Parish Event!—Ethnic Dinner following 4PM Mass
December 8 St. Stephen 50/50 Drawing
December 22 St. Clare Parish Work Party
March 14 First Penance
March 22-24 Parish Lenten Mission “The 10 Commandments”
April 29 Confirmation at St. John’s
May 3 First Communion at St. Stephen’s
May 17 First Communion at St. Clare

St. Stephen News

St. Stephen Advent 50-50 Drawing – Sun Dec 8 – tickets are on sale now! Sellers are needed – if you are interested in taking tickets to sell, please contact Sue at (570) 449-8985, or see one of our members after Sunday Mass to help make our effort a success.

The Friends of St. Stephen will host a Coffee Social after Mass on Sunday, November 10. We will meet outside the side entrance, weather permitting, or in the vestibule at the rear entrance. Come join us for fellowship and a sample of Sue's pumpkin roll.

Thank you to Friends of St. Stephen for the \$200 profit from the Dine Out at the Crimson House.

Thank you to Ed Donahue for the beautiful flower baskets given in Memory of the Wedding of Liza Muldowney and Edward Donahue, October 22, 1919.

St. Stephen Celebrant Schedule

November 3 Father Connolly
November 10 Father Maletz
November 17 Father Bill

ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast

This Sunday 8-11:30AM, \$7 adults, \$3 for children under 8. Benefits St. Clare of Assisi Parish.

Attention Contractors, Plumbers, Electricians, Exterminators and Handymen

**Also open to interested Professionals and Caregivers!

There will be a FREE seminar on How to Protect Your Elderly Customers from SCAM artists. This will be Thursday, November 14 in St. Clare of Assisi Hall beginning at 6:30PM. A free meal will be provided.

Sunday Collections – Week of October 27, 2019

St. Clare
Plate: \$3,914.00
Heat & Energy: \$1,251.00
Building Fund: \$136.00
Cemetery: \$60.00
Mission Sunday: \$58.00
Candles: \$117.00

St. Stephen
Plate: \$1,713.00
Fuel & Heat: \$301.00
Mission Sunday: \$48.00
Cemetery: \$299.00

Sunday Mass Attendance – Week of October 26, 2019

4PM: 218 people (28 from St. Stephen)
8:30AM 129 people
9:30AM 100 people
10:30AM 148 people

While Father Bill is away

Please pray for Spiritual Communion since we will not have Daily Liturgy. Please also ponder how grateful we should be to have a priest to offer Mass for us as frequently as we do. We are also including reflection on our daily Mass readings for this week to assist your prayer.

LITTLE WHITE GUEST

You have come to my heart, dearest Jesus,
I am holding You close to my breast;
I'm telling You over and over,
You are welcome, Little White Guest.

I love You, I love You, my Jesus,
O please do not think I am bold;
Of course, You must know that I love You,
But I am sure that you like to be told.

I'll whisper, "I love You, my Jesus,"
And ask that we never may part;
I love You, O kind, loving Jesus
And press You still nearer my heart.

And when I shall meet You in Heaven,
My soul then will lean on Your breast;
And You will recall our fond meetings,
When You were my Little White Guest.

Very Important PREP Information

Our Parish Religious Education Program has begun. The program meets every Wednesday from 6-7:30PM at Nativity High School. Visit the PREP website: www.stcstsprep.weebly.com for information about schedules and upcoming events, time changes or cancellations.

Readings for this Week

Wednesday, Nov 06, 2019

Hold things lightly—Today is the middle of National Vocation Awareness Week, a good time for people from all walks of life to consider their calling. At the same time, today's gospel does not soften a hard message that no matter our calling, all disciples should hold lightly to both family and possessions. While the vows and promises priests, sisters, and brothers make involve renunciation of possessions and often mean less family contact, Christians in every walk of life may be required to turn from family and let go of belongings at some point. In your prayer today, consider what sacrifices your life path has required—and what joys it has brought you. TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 13:8-10; Luke 14:25-33 (487). "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Thursday, Nov 07, 2019 Go ahead, be a loser! Even though the U.S. Catholic Church is promoting Vocation Awareness Week—for vocations to the priesthood and religious life—it's also an opportunity for everyone to reflect upon their own vocation in life, to re-examine their larger philosophy of life. While it's true that Jesus uses parables that describe the joy of finding lost things—the shepherd who searches for one of 100 sheep, the woman who scours her home for one of 10 coins—Jesus also says we must lose our life to keep it. Who, me? A martyr? Not necessarily. But in a world that fosters self-centeredness, we can practice acts of self-sacrifice. Some even call it "dying before we die," the "white martyrdom" of saints in heaven—but also the saints who live nearby. TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 14:7-12; Luke 15:1-10 (488). "None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself."

Friday, Nov 08, 2019 Let the Spirit guide you—Jesus promised his disciples that after he left this earth, his Spirit would continue to be with them. Those who believe in Jesus and try to live as he did are the disciples of today. So when we struggle with a problem, face a difficult decision, or are worried about life's events, we too can count on the Spirit of Jesus, God's Holy Spirit, for wisdom and consolation. Any

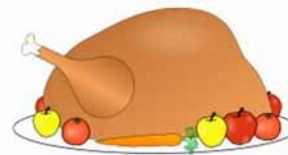
and every day is the time to call on the promised Spirit. Take a moment in quiet prayer today to ask God's Spirit to lead you through the day. TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8 (489). "I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has done through me . . . by the power of God's Spirit."

Saturday, Nov 09, 2019 FEAST OF THE

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA The grace of sacred space It's not every day in the life of the church that we have a feast day for a building. But Saint John Lateran is not about a history set in stone. The feast we celebrate today is a feast of the living church: our life in Jesus the Christ and our life with the whole communion of saints. Because we belong to the Body of Christ, the spaces we gather in are also sacred—be they basilicas or family rooms, soup kitchens or pubs, nature trails or borderlands. In gratitude for this feast, what is one way you can extend sacred space to someone else? TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). "Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body." Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

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Holy Apostles Episcopal Church Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner



Once again our parish of St. Clare of Assisi is helping with Holy Apostles' Thanksgiving Dinner for the members of our local community who

are homebound or have no one to share holiday dinner.

If you wish to donate a 12-14 lb. turkey, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORY BEFORE PURCHASING!

The Schuylkill County Knights of Columbus Councils will be delivering a Turkey Dinner complete with turkey, filling, yams, gravy, vegetable and dessert to all Schuylkill County residents in need on Thanksgiving Day. If you know of a person in need of a meal, or if you are a person in need of a meal, call 570-628-3333, 570-617-5771 or 570-516-9514. If no one answers, leave your Name and Telephone Number and someone will return your call. Deadline to order is November 22 at 5pm.

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