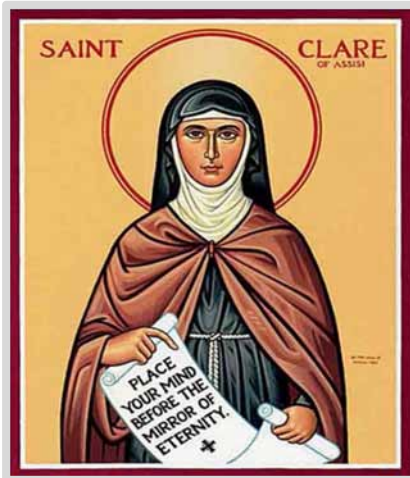


THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

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



250 E. Hancock St.
Saint Clair, PA 17970

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Rectory Phone.....570-429-0701
St. Stephen Phone.....570-622-6600
Office Fax.....570-429-0630
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Websites

stclareassisi.weebly.com
saintstephen2.weebly.com

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 17, 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

+++++

Dear Padre,

I have a hard time accepting that my money for the Sunday collection may be used to compensate victims of clerical sexual abuse. Do I have to keep giving to my local parish, only to see my money pay for a sex scandal?

The money you give runs your parish and provides assistance to the poor, both locally and throughout your diocese. Scripture mentions the disciples offering money to meet the needs of the poor. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities" (CCC 2043). Similarly, canon law reminds us that we are "obliged to promote social justice...and to help the poor," both signs of Christian charity (Canon 222).

While you give for the needs of your parish, it appears that these lawsuits create a real concern for you. For the most part, awards for lawsuits are paid from two main sources: insurance and the sale of unused property, such as office space, bishops' homes, and seminaries.

While we are pained by the revelations of clerical abuse, we must also understand the victims' need for healing. Money won't end their pain, but it may help a survivor who needs psychological counseling or someone who has difficulty working due to trauma. This is a devastating time in their lives, but the Church will continue to offer hope and claim its responsibility.

—Fr. John K. Schmidt, CSSR

Monday, November 18, 2019

8AM Elizabeth Donlin

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Thursday, November 21, 2019

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Friday, November 22, 2019

8AM Charles & Mary Schlottman

Saturday, November 23, 2019

4PM St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—The

Zulich Family

St. Stephen Intention—Angeline Deramo

Sunday, November 24, 2019 Our Lord Jesus

Christ, King of the Universe

8:30AM Deacon John & Betty Pogash

9:30AM at St. Stephen—Sonny Shipe & Kathy

Bambrick

10:30AM Loretta Grubbs

From the Pastor's Desk

As we look over the past 5-10 years, we have heard of school shootings, terroristic attacks against innocent people in churches, synagogues, mosques, malls, concerts, and movie theatres. We are facing the threat of global warming, depletion of natural resources, an increasing intensity of weather-related events, and extinction of flora and fauna. We are also witnessing a more violent society as well as a valueless society. Put these and myriads of other physical, sociological, psychological, and emotional events and the world we live in becomes an unfriendly place. What will the future hold in store for our children's children?

Our readings for this 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time offer a grim picture of the future for those without faith. While the prophet Malachi in our first reading speaks of fire consuming the earth, he also goes on to say that healing and justice will come as well. Sadly, many of our families, friends, and neighbors have given up their Faith. But we have chosen to embrace the Cross of Christ, and in doing so we have opted for the path that leads us to everlasting

life with God. Yes things around us look bad, ugly, evil, and hopeless; BUT keep your eyes fixed on the coming of the Lord at the end of the Ages. Hold firm and wait for the Lord!

A Word of Caution to Our Senior Citizens

As your pastor who serves on the Schuylkill County Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, I need to warn you about trusting strangers especially those who might appear that they are down on their luck. Many of these people are scam artists looking to try to take your money; or, worse, find out where you live so that they can rob you.

Please do not tell strangers where you live, please do not open your door to strangers; please do not give money to people on the street or in the mall who you think need assistance. There are many social agencies and our local police department to determine someone who is really in need.

Sanctuary Candle Intention

St. Clare—In Memory of Anna Wargo requested by Rosellen Frantz

St. Stephen—In Memory of Joseph J. Kreydt requested by Louise Kreydt

Second Collections

St. Clare of Assisi: November 17 will be for Heat & Energy (Team 4). November 24 will be for Local Poverty Relief (Diocesan), (Team 1). Please place all other parish envelopes in the First Collection.

St. Stephen: This week's will be for for Local Poverty Relief (Diocesan). Please place all other parish envelopes in the First Collection.. Next week's will be for Cemetery Upkeep.

Changes in this Week's Mass Schedule

November was an unusual busy month for our pastor. He is grateful for your patience and understanding. This Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be the last of his classes for the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds program which he has been attending since last February. Fr. Bill is enthused about what he has learned and hopes that in the months and year to come, much of this learning will be put to good use. Our goal is to build a stronger

community of Faith as opposed to just a Sunday obligation.

The Mass Schedule for this week is as follows:
Monday, November 18 Mass at 8AM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – NO MASS
Friday, November 22 Mass at 8AM

Thanksgiving Schedule & Important Notations

Parish Mass: Join us to give thanks to God for our blessings on Thanksgiving morning at 9AM in the St. Clare of Assisi. We are in need of a lector, server, and 1 Eucharistic Minister.

Rectory Office Hours: The rectory will be closed Thanksgiving Day and on Friday, November 29.

Friday, November 29: There will be NO MASS; however, there will be Mass offered at Schuylkill Center at 2:30PM that day.

The Celebration of Advent

In the four weeks of Advent, we attempt to make tangible some of our spiritual preparations for Christmas.

St. Nicholas Shoes

Saturday, November 30/Sunday, December 1: We ask our children to bring one of their shoes to church this weekend (marked with one's name). Friday, December 6 is the Feast of St. Nicholas, a great saint who became Santa Claus. For every shoe placed in front of the altar 11/30 & 12/1, the child will find treats from St. Nicholas in their shoe on December 7 & 8.

Welcome the Season

At 6PM on the First Sunday of Advent evening, December 1, join us in a solemn celebration of Advent



Vespers featuring Tammy Wapinsky and some of her students. The service will feature the Divine Office using Gregorian Chant to sing the psalter (psalms). The service will also

include the solemn lighting of the Advent Wreath and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed

Sacrament will be on the altar at 5PM. Confessions will also be heard from 5-6PM and following Vespers.

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.

By Request: There will also be a Children’s Meal offered. Mac & Cheese and chicken fingers for \$6.00.

Advanced Sale Tickets Only! Our goal is to sell 150 tickets or better. We are in need of help for this fund raiser to be another success – food prep, hall set-up, Saturday morning heating food, table servers, takeout station, and clean up. Please see the volunteer insert in this bulletin or the chart in the rear of church.

Attention Bakers! We need cakes, cookies, and pies to serve at the dinner. Would you please help us out with desert?

There will also be a 50/50 and a raffle.



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.

Celebration of Immaculate Conception (A Holy Day BUT NOT an Obligation this year)

Due to December 8 falling on a Sunday this year, the Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Advent

instead of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We will observe the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 9 with Mass at 8AM in the former Immaculate Conception Church. Because the holy day falls on a Monday the obligation to attend Mass that day is removed.

Parish Work Parties

- 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

PREP Thanksgiving Prayer Service

On Wednesday, November 20 children are to Report to St. Stephen’s Church, NOT Nativity. Our PREP children will gather for a Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 6PM in St. Stephen’s Church. Each child is asked to bring a canned food item or a nonperishable food item to the prayer service. The food stuff will be donated to the Catholic Charities Schuylkill County office to help the needy. Parents are asked to stay for the prayer service as children will be dismissed at the conclusion of the prayer service.

PREP Confessions Before Christmas

On Wednesday, December 4, Grades 3-8 will report to St. Clare of Assisi Church at 6PM for Confessions. There will be a couple of priests to make confessions going quickly. Parents are asked to stay (and consider making your own confession for Christmas) as your child can depart as soon as their confession is heard. Grades K through 2, will have the evening off.

PREP Information

Our 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, in addition to time changes or cancellations. We follow the policy that if the local school districts (St. Clair and Pottsville areas close or have early dismissal -- There is NO PREP. If inclement weather is predicted before or during PREP, please consult the website in case of cancellation.)

How is the Building Fund Used?

Every month we take a second collection for the Building Fund. The Building Fund is a designated fund which we set aside for the expense of large projects. For instance, four years ago the Building Fund covered the cost of replacing the church roof. Now money from this collection will be applied to the upgrading of the church lights. This project is costing approximately \$23,000.00 giving us better fixtures, new wiring, and cost efficient lighting. We do this to try to avoid special campaigns so your monthly contributions or donations in memory of a special person are appreciated. In the very near future, we must replace the carpeting in church and painting the church’s interior.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	11/3/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 4,723
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 317
Total Plate	\$ 5,040
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 83,680
YTD Budget to now	\$ 82,038
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 1,642
Other Collections	
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,604
All Saints	\$ 844
Candles	\$ 130

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	11/10/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 4,097
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 351
Total Plate	\$ 4,448
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 88,128
YTD Budget to now	\$ 86,596
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 1,532
Other Collections	
Building Fund	\$ 1,261
Candles	\$ 124

Sunday Mass Attendance	11/10/2019
4 PM (St. Stephen 36)	207
8:30 AM	160
9:30 AM (At St. Stephen)	80
10:30 AM	145

Upcoming Events

November 20 PREP Thanksgiving Prayer Service at St. Stephen Church
December 4 PREP Confessions
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 Celebrant Schedule

November 17 Father Bill
 November 24 Msgr. Handges

Nativity’s Green Wave Volleyball Team Advances State Semifinals

Nativity’s Girls Volleyball under the mentorship of veteran Coach Jenn Daubert defeated Lititz Christian Academy last Saturday. Our best wishes to our parishes’ parishioners – Kierstyn Strausser, Brianna Honish and McKenna Burke and their fellow team mates—during these exciting times in their high school days.

Congratulations to Crimson Tide Football Squad
 Pottsville’s Crimson Tide Football defeated Bethlehem Catholic last weekend to advance to D-11 Finals. Our best wishes to parishioners Ken Wolff and Colin Blankenhorn. Pottsville will face Allentown Central Catholic.

Prayers for “6”

We ask for your healing prayers for North Schuylkill quarterback, Jayden Leiby #6 who was seriously injured while making a tackle on October 28.

Upcoming Thanksgiving Day Dinners

Holy Apostles Episcopal Church Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner

If you wish to donate a turkey to help the cause, it is important to call the rectory prior to your purchase. We do not want to have more turkeys than what can be used. If we receive turkeys now they can be frozen; closer to Thanksgiving they must be thawed. We need 9 more turkeys.

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

Knights of Columbus Thanksgiving Dinner

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.

Diocesan Men’s Conference Saturday, November 23

Saturday, November 23 at DeSales University, join Bishop Schlert, Fr. Jim Greenfield (president of DeSales), Sam Guzman (editor of the Catholic Gentleman), Gus Lloyd (radio host of Seize the Day), and Dr. Ralph Martin (Catholic author) for **Standing Firm in Faith**. Registration information can be found in the rear of the Church.

Chosen, Blessed, Shared Endowment for the Care of Retired Priests

In your mail you will be receiving from the diocese information about the Annual Campaign for the Care of our Retired and Infirm Priests of the diocese who have served faithfully in our parishes. Please be generous to this campaign.

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St. Clare of Assisi

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Knights of Columbus, St. Clair

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