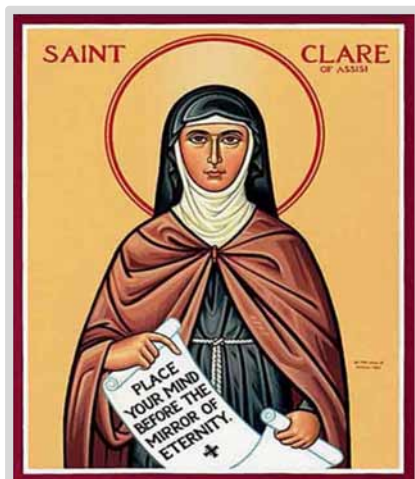


THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

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

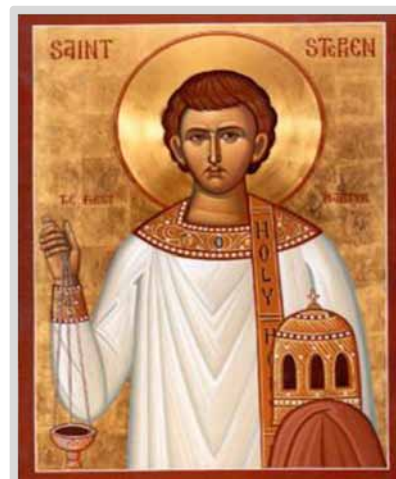


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Saint Clair, PA 17970

Office Phone.....570-429-0370
Rectory Phone.....570-429-0701
St. Stephen Phone.....570-622-6600
Office Fax.....570-429-0630
Assumption BVM School.....570-622-0106
Nativity BVM High School.....570-622-8110
Immaculate Conception Hall.....570-429-0302

Email

scassisi@ptd.net
or
saintstephen2@verizon.net



Websites

stclareassisi.weebly.com
saintstephen2.weebly.com

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 24, 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,

Why was the notion of kingship so important to Jesus and his disciples? Didn't the rulers of the day oppress Israel? You'd think they would have distrusted the Jesus-as-king idea.

Although the idea of kingship is not very important to our modern thinking, it was very important to Israel. In the early years of the Hebrew nation, the population wanted to strengthen itself politically and militarily. The people went to Samuel, their leader, and begged him to appoint a king so that Israel could be the same as other nations (1 Samuel 8:4-5). In response, Samuel appointed Saul as Israel's first king. In Israel, the king became the prime instrument of God. David, the shepherd, was considered Israel's greatest king.

Later, that area came under the harsh domination of foreign powers—the Persians, the Macedonians, and ultimately, Rome. Many of these empires exercised their power by appointing a king, often a foreigner, to rule locally.

Since both the people of Israel and the early Christians understood the notion of kingship and recalled the glory days of David and Solomon, they developed a divinely inspired theology of the king as God's saving instrument. The theme of Jesus as king and prime instrument of God runs through the New Testament, reaching its fullness in Jesus' victory over death and his ascent to power at the right hand of the Father.

In the Gospels, Jesus preaches that the kingdom of God is now in our midst. The good news is that all of us can enter this kingdom (Mark 1:15).

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Monday, November 25, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, November 26, 2019
8AM Gabriel & Concetta DiLazzaris

Wednesday, November 27, 2019
8AM Sylvester McCarthy

Thursday, November 28, 2019 Thanksgiving Day
9AM People of the Parish

Friday, November 29, 2019
****2:30PM At Schuylkill Center**

Saturday, November 30, 2019
4PM St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—Pearl Scheeler
St. Stephen Intention—Verna McDonald

Sunday, December 1, 2019 First Sunday of Advent
8:30AM Deceased Members of the Eagan Family
9:30AM at St. Stephen—John Roberts
10:30AM Joseph Mashack

From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas is still a month away, but you wouldn't know it if you turned on the television or walked into a Department Store. But today we celebrate a very different holy day as we hear proclaimed the end of St. Luke's Gospel. "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom," the criminal executed with Jesus asks (Dismas the Good thief). As we conclude our Church liturgical year with the Solemnity of Christ the King and next weekend begins the holy Season of Advent, let us not become distracted from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations and the blinding glow of Christmas lights. Set your eyes on the King of Glory for He comes to reign with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Sanctuary Candle Intention

St. Clare—In Memory of Loretta Grubbs requested by Shawn, Loreen and Leona

Second Collections

St. Clare of Assisi: November 24 will be for Local Poverty Relief (Diocesan), (Team 1). Please place all other parish envelopes in the First Collection. December 1 will be for Christmas Flowers, (Team 2).

St. Stephen: This week's will be for Cemetery Upkeep. December 1 will be for the Building Fund.

We Baptized

Kohan Robert Karetsky the son of Michael and Megan (Scheeler) Karetsky. Welcome to the joys and mysteries of our Faith.

We Laid to Eternal Rest

Catherine Boran and Patricia Fedorick.

Help Needed!!!!

We need help for the Ethnic Dinner on Saturday December 7 beginning at 9 am in the kitchen. We had scheduled a work party to bring the Christmas trees from ICC and to put up the outside Christmas lights and Nativity Manger for the same day. In light of this, we are moving the Work Party to Saturday 12/14 beginning at 8:30AM. We will need some trucks to bring up the trees. Please help and support your parish on both these days.



The First Thanksgiving in America was a Catholic Mass



According to Kathleen Deagan, the research curator emerita of the Florida Museum of Natural History, the first Thanksgiving was not celebrated in Plymouth Rock, MA but St. Augustine, FL. Instead

of the familiar flat-topped hats of Pilgrim men and kerchiefed covered heads and grey dresses of Pilgrim women, the first Thanksgiving Meal was held 50 years earlier with armored Spanish Conquistadors and Spanish garbed men of the 16th century. Instead of wild turkey and fish with potatoes and corn, the menu was salted pork, yucca, and red wine.

“When the first Spanish settlers disembarked on the sandy beach of St. Augustine on September 8, 1565 to build a settlement, their first act was to celebrate Mass. Fr. Francisco Lopez, the chaplain of the Spanish expedition and the first pastor of St. Augustine, stipulated that the natives of the Timucua tribe to be fed along with the 800 soldiers, sailors, and settlers to the new world. It was the first Thanksgiving and the first Thanksgiving meal in the United States.”

Eucharist means Thanksgiving! Please consider joining us for Mass Thursday at 9AM. September 8 the landing of the Spanish Fleet in Florida is the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is called the Patroness of the Americas.



Thanksgiving Schedule & Important Notations

Parish Mass: Join us to give thanks to God for our blessings on Thanksgiving morning at 9AM at 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, including Jacob Challenger. 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.



Parish Work Parties

- Saturday, December 14: 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.

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 SIGN-UP CHART IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

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

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

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 go 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.)

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.

St. Stephen News

Schuylkill Community Action has programs to help low income individuals and families. The ACCESS card does not permit the purchase of personal hygiene and household products. Our parishioner, Megan Chaklos, is collecting these articles such as toothpaste, deodorant, toilet tissue, household cleaning products, etc., for these people in need. If you would like to help, there is a collection box at the main entrance of the church.

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.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	11/17/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 4,160
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 334
Total Plate	\$ 4,494
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 92,622
YTD Budget to now	\$ 91,154
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 1,468
Other Collections	
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,315
Candles	\$ 116

ST. STEPHEN WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	11/17/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 3,149**
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 71
Total Plate	\$ 3,220
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 2,308
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 48,303
YTD Budget to now	\$ 48,462
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (159.00)
Other Collections	
Fuel & Heat	\$ 661
Candles	\$ 124
Local Poverty Relief	\$ 355

****Thank you for \$1,125 from two parishioners catching up!**

Sunday Mass Attendance	11/17/2019
4 PM (St. Stephen 36)	201
8:30 AM	141
9:30 AM (At St. Stephen)	113
10:30 AM	163

Upcoming Events

December 4 PREP Confessions
December 7 NEW SCA Parish Event!—Ethnic Dinner following 4PM Mass
December 8 St. Stephen 50/50 Drawing
December 14 St. Clare Parish Work Party
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 the Baptist
May 3 First Communion at St. Stephen’s
May 17 First Communion at St. Clare

St. Stephen Celebrant Schedule

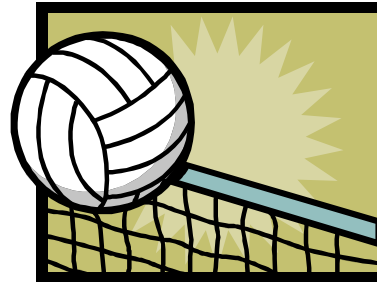
November 24 Msgr. Handges
 December 1 Father Connolly
 December 8 Father Bill
 December 15 Father Connolly
 December 22 Father Bill

Congratulations to Rev. Christopher M. Zelonis

for his victory in defeating his brother priests in the Annual Diocesan Priests’ Bowling Tournament.

Nativity’s Green Wave Volleyball Team at State Finals

Congratulations to Nativity’s Girls Volleyball Team for their outstanding season which took them all the way to the PIAA Class A State Championship match. We are proud of your silver medals! Also, they are ranked third place in the Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association state poll!



Congratulations to Crimson Tide Football Squad, State Champions!

Pottsville’s Crimson Tide Football defeated Allentown Central Catholic this past weekend to win the District 11 Class AAAA Title.



Prayers for “6”

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

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 2 more turkeys. If you wish to donate a 12-14 lb. turkey, **MONDAY IS THE DEADLINE. CALL THE RECTORY BEFORE PURCHASING.**

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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