

THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

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

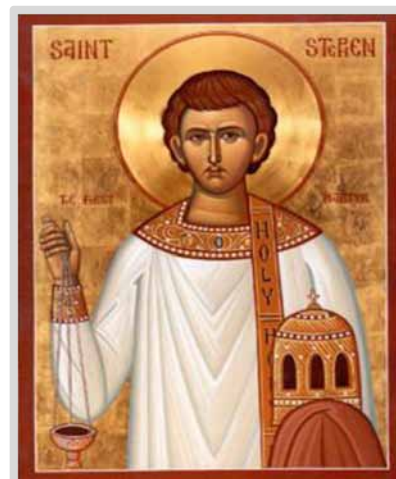


250 E. Hancock St.
Saint Clair, PA 17970

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

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 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,

A eucharistic minister at a parish we were visiting refused my eight-year-old granddaughter Communion from the cup. Her father asked if this was parish policy, and the minister replied, "No, I refuse!" My grandchild receives both species in our home parish. Can a eucharistic minister refuse the Blood of Christ to anyone?

According to the United States Conference of Catholic bishops, "It is the choice of the communicant, not the minister, to receive from the chalice. Children are encouraged to receive Communion under both kinds, provided they are properly instructed and that they are old enough to receive from the chalice" (Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds, 46–47). Children who have reached the age of reason—normally about age seven—are usually advised on this matter of reception by their parents or guardians before they step up to the chalice at Mass. In addition, first-Communion instructions provide adequate preparation on the proper and reverent reception of holy Eucharist.

Essentially, children eligible to receive this sacrament are entitled to participate in the same manner as other members of the ecclesial community. "Sacred ministers cannot deny the sacraments to those who seek them at appropriate times, are properly disposed, and are not prohibited by law from receiving them" (Code of Canon Law, 843). While this canon specifically pertains to ordained ministers, it's applicable for all ministers at the service of the faithful who have a right to receive holy Communion by reason of their baptism.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

Monday, December 2, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
NO MASS SCHEDULED

Wednesday, December 4, 2019
8AM Rose Mihalsky

Thursday, December 5, 2019
8AM Rev. Frederick M. Skotek

Friday, December 6, 2019 First Friday
8AM Mario & Alesandro Alfonsi

Saturday, December 7, 2019 First Saturday
8AM People of the Parish

4PM St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—Maryann Hozella Cholko
St. Stephen Intention—Helen Fredericks

Sunday, December 8, 2019 Second Sunday of Advent
8:30AM William Ryan
9:30AM at St. Stephen—John Walsh
10:30AM Veronica Novack

From the Pastor's Desk

With expectant longing we await the coming of the Lord as the four weeks of Advent dawn upon us. There are so many aspects of our lives; let us take the time to get back to our roots of Faith and spiritually prepare for Christ's Mass of goodness and light.

As a parish family, we begin the Advent Season in grand-style as we invite all our parishioners and friends to attend Solemn Vespers & the Blessing of the Advent Wreath this Sunday evening beginning at 6PM. We welcome back our native daughter, Tammy Wapinsky and some of her vocal students (one of whom is our parishioner Jacob Challenger) to proclaim in song (Latin and English) the psalms of the Bible featuring Gregorian Chant. It will be an enriching and exciting evening. Please join us tonight!

4PM: Blessed Sacrament on Altar for private prayer and meditation

5PM: Confessions

6PM: Advent Vespers Service

7PM: Confessions

Sanctuary Candle Intention

St. Clare—In Memory of Joseph Androsko requested by Joseph Androsko.

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.

Changes in the Mass Schedule

There will be no Mass on Tuesday December 3 and the rectory office will be closed. The Rectory staff and volunteers will be attending an Advent Day of Recollection.

Bible Study to Prepare for Sunday Readings

Our Advent reflection series begins Thursday, December 5 following the 8AM daily Mass. We will meditate what the experience of St. Joseph must have been learning he would be the protector and provider of Mary and Jesus.

Coal Region Ethnic Dinner Saturday December 7, 5-7PM

This weekend is the last weekend to obtain tickets for the parish's 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. **NO TICKET SALES AT DOOR – ONLY ADVANCED SALE!**

Christmas Flower Memorials

If anyone would like to memorialize a poinsettia or assist with other church Christmas decorations by making a \$10 donation, please use the Christmas Flower envelope or write on a plain envelope with your donation the name of the person to be memorialized and your name. Please have the

memorial to the collection basket or rectory by Monday, December 16 for the published list. Memorials received after December 16 will be listed in a later bulletin.

Still in Need of Dinner Help for Next Weekend.

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

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

December Communion Calls

Calls will be made to our sick and shut-ins this week. A Eucharistic Minister will be making the calls, Father Bill will bring Christmas Communion.

First Friday & First Saturday Mass

Masses in honor of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart will be this Friday and Saturday at 8AM.

The Celebration of Advent

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.



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

Collections and Mass Attendance for November 24 were not available due to holiday deadline for the bulletin. They will be published next week.

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.

PREP Confessions Before Christmas

This 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.

Christmas Wafers

Christmas Wafers to be used for those families who celebrate the custom of 'holy supper', may be found in the rectory during business hours. A donation of \$3.00 for a pack of 4 wafers is suggested.

Upcoming Events

December 1 Vesper Service (See Page 1)

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

December 1 Father Connolly

December 8 Father Bill

December 15 Father Connolly

December 22 Father Bill

December 29 Father Bill

Prayers for “6”

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

Our parishioners, Isabella Guido & Taylor Adams are collecting bags of Kitty Litter for the Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA. They can be dropped off at 5 North Nicholas St., Saint Clair or at the shelter in Pine Grove.

Gift Card Calendar Raffle

Assumption BVM School will be sponsoring a gift card calendar raffle during the month of December. The calendars are \$10 each and good for the 31 drawings during the month of January. Calendars can be purchased from any ABVM student or contacting the school. Thank you for supporting ABVM and Catholic School education. All proceeds directly affect the students and the school.



LIVE WEBINAR: How to Draw Young People Back to the Faith with Marcel Lejeune, President and Founder of "Catholic Missionary Disciples," will offer some guidance on the best ways to draw the young people in your life back into the Church, especially newly fallen-away college students. This webinar will be live on **Wednesday, December 4**, at 7:00 PM, free to attend, but pre-registration is required. The event will not be recorded or rebroadcast. Go to allentowndioocese.org/webinars to register.

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

If you have not already received it 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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Starting your Christmas shopping this weekend? Golf weekend for him or shopping spree for her - \$\$\$\$? The gift of a WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER weekend to each other – *PRICELESS!* For information call [610-449-1859](tel:610-449-1859) or www.wwme.org.

Advent Day of Reflection

The Commission for Women hosts an Advent Day of Reflection, Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the McGlenn Conference and Spirituality Center, 460 Bernardine St., Reading PA 19607 (Adjacent to Alvernia University). Be Encouraged as we listen to talks by: Rev. Bernard J. Ezaki, Parochial Vicar, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, Easton and Mr. Matthew J. Kuna, Parish Son of St. Thomas More, Allentown and diocesan seminarian. Pray the Rosary together, participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and enjoy great food & fruitful conversation. Register at www.allentowndioecese.org/cfw-spirituality by December 1. Cost \$20.



Homeschool Families of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on Thursday, December 5 at St. Anne Church, 450 E. Washington Avenue, Bethlehem. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. by Father Kevin Bobbin, Chaplain to the Homeschool Community. Mass will be followed by a period of Adoration and Confessions until 7:00 and then an informal social. Please join us for this opportunity to meet each other as we come together for prayer and fellowship. (Questions: Fr. Bobbin: 610-866-0791x332 or kbobbin@allentowndioecese.org)

St. Andrew Christmas Novena

**Hail and blessed be the hour and moment
in which the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.
In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee,
O my God, to hear my prayer and grant
my desires
through the merits of Our Savior
Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother.
Amen.**

Advent Quiz Part 1

As we begin this holy season of Advent, how many can you get right?

1. _____ is the first season on the Church calendar.

- a) Lent
- b) Advent
- c) Easter
- d) Christmas

2. The readings at Mass for the first weeks of Advent focus on Jesus' second coming and the judgment of the world.

True | False

3. Advent lasts _____ .

- a) for 40 days
- b) until the Christmas sales end
- c) until the groundhog appears
- d) four weeks

4. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive _____ ."

- a) Israel
- b) Pokémon
- c) hostages
- d) prisoners

5. Jesus' cousin's name is _____ .

- a) Joseph
- b) Myron
- c) John the Baptist
- d) George

METTAM
BROTHERS Since 1885
LUMBER COMPANY
~ Since 1885 ~

Lumber · Roofing · Siding
Drywall · Doors · Windows · Paint
Hardware & More ...

570-429-0770

20 North 3rd Street · St. Clair

Schlitzler-Allen-Pugh
Funeral Home
622-7888

6th & West Market Sts, Pottsville
Brian D. Leffler, Owner/Spvr · Angela Mestishen Regnier, FD

St. John Neumann Regional Council 14009
Knights of Columbus, St. Clair

In service to God, Church and Country
MONTHLY MEETING ~ 2ND THURSDAY @ 7PM
229 NORTH MILL STREET · ST. CLAIR
www.stjohnneumanncouncil14009.org



YOUR AD HERE!

Text BVAD to 71441
for more information!



C-WELL OPTICAL

Ray Miske · Optician
Dr. Janine Davis Watkins
Optometrist

109 Pike Street · Port Carbon
570-622-0226

Eye Exams For Any Age!
New Patients Welcome!

TOTAL ACCESSIBILITY LLC
STAIRLIFTS HARMAR · ACORN · BROOKS
Handicapped Ramps · Wheelchair Lifts & Carriers PA 087456

PRIDE Mobility Scooters and Accessories

570-622-7785 · 108 Coal Street · Port Carbon · 570-490-7750

WOMER'S GARAGE

24 Hour Road Service & Towing
Complete Collision & Mechanical Repair
527 Hotel Street · Pottsville
570-628-5415



GOD
BLESS
AMERICA

CatholicMatch
Pennsylvania
CatholicMatch.com/PAsingles

VOTED THE **BEST BANK**
IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY!
CACL
FINANCIAL
1800 W Market St. (570) 628-2400
Pottsville, Pa 17901 CACLFCU.org

ADVERTISE
YOUR BUSINESS IN THIS SPACE

Join the thousands of professionals and businesses
in our network and begin growing sales, driving
new client visits and building client retention
and name recognition.



800-883-4343



Mallory's Army Foundation
BLUE OUT BULLYING
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying ...
Don't Just Teach Kindness ... BE KINDNESS!
www.MallorysArmy.org
(973) 440-8657 · info@mallorysarmy.org
It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text
message: Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.*
*Message and data rates may apply.

READY.GOV
Don't be afraid...Be Ready

Advertise Here
 CALL
1-800-364-0684 X106

PADFIELD
Plumbing · Heating · Cooling
205 S. Second St., St. Clair
429-1234
Fuel Oil · Burner Service

SHOP AND SAVE
LOCALLY!
Just scan this code
with your mobile
phone:
Please support
our local
businesses.
Get coupons
and special deals
for businesses
near you. or visit:
www.TheCommunityCoupon.com