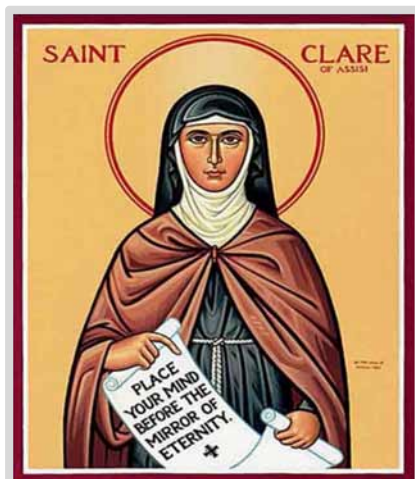


THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

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



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Saint Clair, PA 17970

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Websites

stclareassisi.weebly.com
saintstephen2.weebly.com

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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,

An intellectual friend told me that she loves the great dogmas of Advent. I smiled and agreed, but I don't have the faintest idea what she meant!

Dogma refers to Church teachings defined by an ecumenical council, including the pope, or by the pope alone acting as head of the Church. The magisterium, the Church's teaching authority, tells us these must-be-believed truths have been divinely revealed to us. During Advent, we celebrate two dogmas: the immaculate conception of Mary, which we honor tomorrow, and the Incarnation, which includes the birth of Christ that we prepare for now.

Both dogmas speak of God's extraordinary connection with humanity. God specially gifted Mary because of her role in becoming the Mother of God. Mary, from the instant of her conception, was free from original sin. Her closeness to Jesus was established from the earliest moments of her existence.

The dogma of the Incarnation is defined simply by St. John. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). During the year, we first celebrate the Incarnation on March 25, at the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Scripture and Tradition hold that Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb when she accepted God's will by answering yes to the angel's announcement that she would bear the "Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the result of that Incarnation, Jesus' birth.

Dogmas can sometimes seem disconnected from our lives. The customs of Advent put an everyday face on the book definitions and remind us that God lives in our midst.

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications

Monday, December 9, 2019
8AM at Immaculate Conception Church—
Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Tuesday, December 10, 2019
8AM Charles & Mary Schlottman

Wednesday, December 11, 2019
8AM Joanne Fowler and the Deceased Members
of the Murtin Family

Thursday, December 12, 2019
8AM Betty Lou Swartchick

Friday, December 13, 2019
8AM Joan Brennan

4PM December 14, 2019
St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—
Edward J. Moran, Jr.
St. Stephen Intention—Anna Corson

Sunday, December 15, 2019 Second Sunday of
Advent
8:30AM Edward & Elizabeth Didjunas
9:30AM at St. Stephen—
Joseph & Betty Shapella
10:30AM Deceased Members of the Rufus
Family

From the Pastor's Desk

Peace and Harmony! Last Sunday, Isaiah inspired us with a vision of peace, when swords are beaten into plowshares. Today Isaiah speaks of a state of harmony, when a lamb can lie down with a wolf. St. Paul encourages the early Church in Rome to think in harmony with one another. While in our Gospel, John the Baptist calls for repentance so that all may bear good fruit. As we listen to our scripture readings for this Second Sunday of Advent, let us imagine the harmony we can create when all of us ready ourselves for Jesus' coming.

Sanctuary Candle Intentions

St. Clare—In Memory of Eleanor Ryan
(Anonymous).

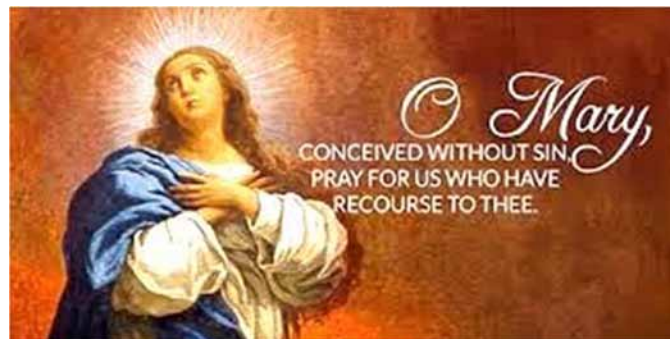
St. Stephen—In Memory of John & Anna
Rehnert requested by Mary Ann and Family.

We Baptized

Ryver Grace Filiac, the daughter of Kyle Filiac and Jessica Mennig. Welcome to the joys and mysteries of our faith.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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.



Second Collections

St. Clare of Assisi: This week will be for the Diocesan Retired Religious Fund (Team 3). Please place all other parish envelopes in the First Collection. December 15 will be for Heat & Energy (Team 4).

St. Stephen: This week's will be for Cemetery Maintenance. December 15 will be for Diocesan Retired Religious Fund. Please place all other parish envelopes in the First Collection.

Bible Study to Prepare for Sunday Readings

Our Advent reflection series begins Thursday, December 12 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS HELP STILL NEEDED—Please call the rectory during business hours.

Date	Servers	Lectors	EMs
12/24 4PM	Need 1 Server	Covered	Covered
12/24 6PM	Covered	Need 2 Children Lectors	Need 3 EMs
12/24 8PM	Need 1 Server	Need 1 Lector	Need 2 EMs
12/25 9AM	Need 2 Servers	Need 1 Lector	Covered
1/1 10:30AM	Need 2 Servers	Need 1 Lector	Need 1 EM

St. Clare Parish Work Parties

- Saturday, December 14: decorating the rectory and exterior for Christmas, bring up wreathes and trees from storage
- Sunday, December 22: setting up Christmas figurines in manger and arranging of flowers

Children’s Christmas Pageant & Choir Practices

Children’s Choir practice is between the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses (usually around 9:30) and it will be –12/8 12/15 AND 12/22. We will be singing at the 6:00 Mass Christmas Eve.

St. Stephen News

St. Stephen Advent 50-50 Drawing – this Sunday, December 8 following 9:30 Mass.

We will decorate our church for Christmas on Saturday, December 21 beginning at 9AM. Please come out to help us decorate.

There will be a Dine Out at The Crimson House on Sunday, December 22, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM to benefit St. Stephen Parish. From 2:00-4:00, there will be a Christmas sing along featuring our own Mary Burns playing piano. Take a break from the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle and enjoy brunch and some holiday music.

The Friends of St Stephen is coordinating an event to visit and sing carols for homebound parishioners or any others who would like to be visited. The date is Saturday, December 28, beginning at noon. Any parish youth or adult wishing to carol is welcome to join in. Sign-up sheets will be available at both church entrances, or you can call or text Joe at 570-449-1960.

Thank You for the Donations of Turkeys

Once again the congregation and friends of Holy Apostles opened their doors to feed a Thanksgiving feast to the elderly, the lonely, the underemployed, and the

unemployed. Twenty (20) turkeys were roasted to culinary perfection to feed anyone in the community. Thirteen (13) of those turkeys were donated by our parishioners of both parishes to assist in this ecumenical venture. To those who donated – THANK YOU! Next year perhaps our parish can donate all 20 turkeys to aid the cause.

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.

**ICC All You Can Eat Breakfast
This Sunday, December 8, 8AM-11:30AM at
ICC Social Hall. Adults \$7, Children \$3.**

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	11/24/19
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	11/24/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 2,078
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 43
Total Plate	\$ 2,121
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 2,308
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 50,424
YTD Budget to now	\$ 50,770
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (346.00)
Other Collections	
Cemetery	\$ 304

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	12/1/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 4,507
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 318
Total Plate	\$ 4,825
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 102,330
YTD Budget to now	\$ 100,269
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 2,061
Other Collections	
Candles	\$ 119

ST. STEPHEN WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	12/1/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,952
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 14
Total Plate	\$ 1,966
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 2,308
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 52,390
YTD Budget to now	\$ 53,078
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (688.00)
Building Fund	\$ 192

Sunday Mass Attendance – Week of November 24, 2019

4PM: 205 people (34 from St. Stephen)
8:30AM 160 people
9:30AM 85 people
10:30AM 133 people

Sunday Mass Attendance – Week of December 1, 2019

4PM: 216 people (49 from St. Stephen)
8:30AM 85 people
9:30AM 38 people
10:30AM 89 people

St. Stephen Celebrant Schedule

December 15 Father Connolly
December 22 Father Bill
December 29 Father Bill

Upcoming Events

December 8 St. Stephen 50/50 Drawing
December 14 St. Clare Parish Work Party

December 21 St. Stephen Work Party to decorate the church starting at 9AM

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

Got Oplatki?

Oplatki are thin wafers of unleaven bread baked between two plates engraved with Nativity scenes. Derived from a Latin word meaning ‘sacred bread,’ the sharing of oplatki with family before Christmas Eve dinner is a non-sacramental foreshadowing of the sacramental Eucharistic meal to follow with the family attending Christmas Mass.

The message behind this Polish custom is one of love and family unity.

Christmas Wafers are available in the rear of the churches and the rectory for a donation of \$3.00 per pack of 4 wafers.

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.)

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.

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.

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI MEMORIALS

In Memory of Helenann Zelonis

\$25 Robert & Gail Jones

In Memory of Robert Panchari

\$20 Dale, Mary, & Matthew Miller

\$20 Joanne Romig

\$25 William & Donna Rhoads

ST. STEPHEN MEMORIALS

In Memory of Donald J. Burns

\$30 Bordonaro Family

In Memory of Catherine V. Boran, RN

\$50 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Russell

\$50 Bruce & Marianne Lord

\$10 Cathy, Will, & Abigail Cruz

\$100 Abby Laychock & James Manzick

\$20 Marcella Siemanis and Susan & Bill Schuttler & Family

\$50 David & Christine Ambrose

\$150 Lehigh Valley Health Network-Schuylkill – Surgical Services Department

\$20 Mr. & Mrs. David Kayes & Family

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC NEWS

POPE RETURNS RELIC OF JESUS' CRIB TO HOLY LAND

Pope Francis gave a small fragment of Jesus' crib back to Catholics in the Holy Land. Experts from the Vatican Museums extracted a small fragment from the relic of what has been venerated as Jesus' manger. The relic, given to the Vatican in the seventh century, has been kept in a chapel under the basilica's main altar. Pope Francis gave the relic fragment to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which oversees the churches and shrines associated with the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus.

IN LETTER, POPE ASKS CATHOLICS TO SET UP NATIVITY SET

A Nativity scene is a simple reminder of something astonishing: God became human to reveal the greatness of his love "by smiling and opening his arms to all," Pope Francis said in a letter on the meaning and importance of setting up Christmas cribs. "The Christmas creche speaks to us of the love of God," the pope wrote in his letter, signed in Greccio, Italy, where St. Francis of Assisi set up the first Nativity scene in 1223.

NEW CHRISTMAS MOVIE IS RELEASED ON DVD

"Buttons: A Christmas Tale," was released on DVD December 3, just in time for the Christmas holidays. The musical film tells the interconnected stories of two orphans who overcome heartbreak and adversity at Christmas time, thanks to the watchful care and timely help of a pair of guardian angels, played by Hollywood legends Dick Van Dyke and Angela Lansbury.



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