

# 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

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning ~ <http://stjosephctr.com/>



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

**December 29, 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've heard priests tell stories about Jesus' childhood, the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. Anne that aren't in the Bible. Where do these stories come from?*

The Bible as we know it—a definitive collection of sacred texts as the word of God— came together in the fourth and fifth centuries. The same God that inspired authors to record his divine word also inspired the books of the Bible to be collected during the first centuries of Christianity. As such, the Bible itself is formed by tradition. Ancient texts, other than those officially accepted as fulfilling revelation (like Scripture), existed in the Church's early centuries. These are known as noncanonical sources. Many of the stories you hear, especially about the people you mention, come from those sources.

In the Church's infancy, people were eager to hear as much as they could about Jesus and his family. In response, many stories about Jesus' childhood and family members were collected in a variety of written accounts—including the *Protoevangelium*, or gospel of James from the year 145 (not to be confused with the New Testament's Letter of James). Although they weren't included in the canon of the Bible, they became sources for stories passed from generation to generation that were accepted as a part of our tradition. For example, information about Mary's parents, including their names, Joachim and Anne, were derived from noncanonical texts. These sources may add color and flavor to our faith and devotion. But ultimately, everything we need for salvation is revealed in the Scriptures.

—The Redemptorists

**Monday, December 30, 2019**  
**NO MASS SCHEDULED**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019**  
**6PM at St. Clare of Assisi - People of the Parish**

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**9:30AM at St. Stephen - People of the Parish**

**Thursday, January 2, 2020**  
**NO MASS SCHEDULED**

**Friday, January 3, 2020 First Friday (Main Church)**  
**8AM People of the Parish**

**Saturday, January 4, 2020 First Saturday (Main Church)**  
**8AM People of the Parish**

**4PM St. Clare Vigil Mass for Sunday—George & Gerard Rizzardi**  
**St. Stephen Intention—LaVonne Dodd**

**Sunday, January 5, 2020 Epiphany of the Lord**  
**8:30AM Walter Lipinsky**  
**9:30AM at St. Stephen—William Kalymun, Jr.**  
**10:30AM Frances Matlock**

#### **From the Pastor's Desk**

“Our society seems intent on destroying the family. Marriage is threatened by the plagues of divorce, relativism, and secularization. Same-sex and “de facto” unions have undermined the meaning of marriage, calling into question its very purpose. In fact, divorce is not only common, but it is expected in almost half of today’s marriages. Many children are raised without discipline, and their potential is dashed by abuse or neglect.

But there are examples throughout history of how strong families have formed the true foundation of society. These families have provided correction to society by bringing up new generations of leaders and saints. Think of St. Thomas More, the martyr who lived a life of heroic virtue and who, even after the death of his first wife, taught his children to know and love their faith. Think of the Martins, St. Therese of Lisieux’s family, who also suffered the

loss of their mother but went on to lead lives of sanctity.

There are hundreds of other examples. Marriage and family can work. They can provide an opportunity to grow in holiness, strengthen the culture in which we live, overcome the greatest obstacles, and succeed. But the example of the Holy Family best teaches us how to build our own little “Nazareth” and raise saints to serve God and the world.”  
(Catholic Answers: “**What Your Family Can Learn from the Holy Family**” by Mike Sullivan 12/1/2006)

Today we observe during our Christmas Season, the Feast of the Holy Family. One might think that the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is too remote, too special, too perfect, too holy to be an effective model for our families. But just like our families, they too enjoyed times of great joy but also suffered through great hardships. The delight of a newborn baby was accompanied by the fear that led them to flee to a foreign land. It is possible to have holy families today as long as they work at keeping the Faith.



A unique painting of the Holy Family that includes Jesus’ Grandparents and Mary’s parents, St. Anne & St. Joachim.

**Please join us on Sunday, January 5, at 5pm at St. Stephen Church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament along with prayers of**

**gratitude, joy and sorrow over the 172 years of our parish's existence.  
A light reception will follow in St. Clare of Assisi Church Basement.**

### **Prayer to the Holy Family by Pope Francis**

**J**esus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may the approaching Synod of Bishops  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.*

### **Sanctuary Candle Intentions**

**St. Clare—In Memory of Emil Schultz requested  
by Alice & Elmer Lazar.**

**St. Stephen—In Memory of Andrew, Isabel and  
Geraldine Palokas requested by Victoria Oettl.**

### **Second Collections**

**St. Clare of Assisi: This week will be for the  
Building Fund (Team 2). January 5 will be for  
Heat & Energy (Team 3).**

**St. Stephen: This week will be for Fuel & Heat.  
January 5 will be for the Building Fund.**

### **New Year's Holy Days & Holidays**

To enable Fr. Bill and our staff to enjoy the holy  
days and holiday...

The rectory office will be closed for the New Year's  
holiday and the Solemnity of Mary holy day  
December 31 at 12 noon through January 3. The  
office will reopen on Monday, January 6.  
There will be Mass on Friday, January 3 and  
Saturday, January 4 for First Friday and First  
Saturday at 8AM in the main church to appreciate  
the Christmas decorations.

### **Our Gratitude**

We wish to thank the following parishioners from  
St. Clare who helped decorate the parish for  
Christmas: Diane Thorn, Tony Klazas Sr., Paul  
Jones, Joe Melincavage, Joe Corby Sr., Andrea &  
John Gutsie, John Baruka, John Ebling, Anne  
Bridget McCormick, Greg Zelinsky, Phil Grabish,  
Shawn Garrity, and the one who makes all things  
possible – Jack Ketner. Thank you!

We also wish to thank Mrs. Marylou Woznisky,  
Mrs. Jennifer Buletza, and Mrs. Erica Smith for  
their help in coordinating the Christmas pageant as  
they do for us every year. Great job! Thank you,  
ladies!

### **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 Celebrant Schedule**

December 29 Father Bill  
January 5 Father Connolly  
January 12 Father Bill

### **Remembrance Service Sunday, January 5, 2020**

**On Sunday, January 5, at 5pm, we will have  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament along with  
prayers of gratitude, joy and sorrow over the 172  
years of our parish's existence.**

**A light reception will follow in St. Clare of Assisi  
Church Basement.**

## The Greatest Gift of Christmas

Now that it has made the paper, our St. Clare parishioner, Shawn Daubert, recently gave the gift of life by donating one of his kidneys to help a neighbor—A tremendous Christmas gift both given and received. We are blessed to have parishioners like Shawn, his wife Stacey and daughter, Gemma.

### Solemnity of Mary, January 1

Eve 12/31 St. Clare 6pm	Servers Need 1	Lector Need 1	EMs Cathy Farone Marie Balulis Need 1
Day 1/1 St. Stephen	Need 1	Need 1	MAL Need 1

### Upcoming Events

January 5 Remembrance Service at 5PM at St. Stephen Church

March 14 First Penance

March 22-24 Parish Lenten Mission “The 10 Commandments”

April 29 Confirmation at St. John the Baptist

May 17 First Communion at St. Clare

Collections and Attendance Reports for 12/22/19 were unavailable by publisher deadline. They will appear in next week’s bulletin.



**Homeschool Families** of the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a First Friday gathering on Thursday, January 2 at St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, 2700 St. Albans Dr., Reading. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00pm 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@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org))

### The Green and Gold Booster Club

**Sponsoring a Surf & Turf Bingo on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at Nativity BVM High School. Doors open at 11:30, Bingo at 1PM. Cost is \$20.00 Refreshments available. Call Diane @570-294-0551.**

### Open House and 2020-2021 Registration at Nativity BVM High School

Sunday, January 12. School tours, presentations and displays begin at 1PM. Contact the school at 570-622-8110 or [jldaubert@nativitybvm.net](mailto:jldaubert@nativitybvm.net) with any questions.

**All You Can Eat Homemade Spaghetti Dinner** Sponsored by St. Patrick Church, Sunday, January 5, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at St. Patrick Parish Center, 319 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville. Eat in or Take out. Adults: \$8; Children: \$3.50.

### From Xavier University:

#### The Work of Christmas Begins

When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ’s light to the world.

- by Michael Dougherty, a variation on [Howard Thurman](#)’s ‘When the Song of the Angels is Stilled’

### Also From Xavier University:

## **A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year**

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no", "not yet", or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting

fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you remind us we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

In Jesus' name,

*- Debbie McDaniel*

**METTAM**  
**BROTHERS** Since 1885  
**LUMBER COMPANY**  
 ~ Since 1885 ~

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

**570-429-0770**

20 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street · St. Clair

**Schlitz-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](http://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](http://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**  
**B L U E O U T B U L L Y I N G**  
*United Together In The Fight Against Bullying ...*  
*Don't Just Teach Kindness ... BE KINDNESS!*  
**www.MallorysArmy.org**  
 (973) 440-8657 · [info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto: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

**SHOP AND SAVE**  
**LOCALLY!**

Please support  
 our local  
 businesses.

Get coupons  
 and special deals  
 for businesses  
 near you.

*Just scan this code  
 with your mobile  
 phone:*  
 or visit:  
[www.TheCommunityCoupon.com](http://www.TheCommunityCoupon.com)



**Advertise Here**  
**CALL**  
**1-800-364-0684 X106**

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