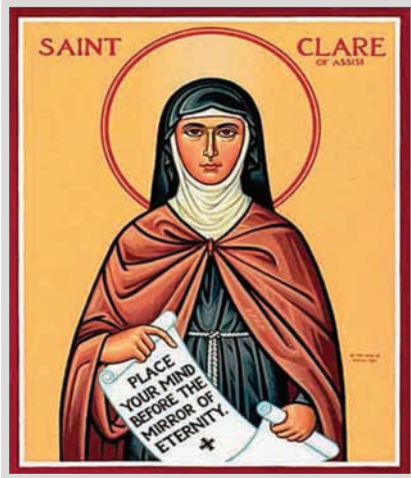


THE PARISH FAMILY OF SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI & SAINT STEPHEN

PASTOR

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



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



The Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2020

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,

What does holy water do, and why is it near the entrance to the church?

Blessed water is a sacramental—a sign of spiritual effects and favors from God. The Church admonishes us to use sacramentals, like holy water, crucifixes, and rosaries, with reverence and respect. Water is full of mystery. Although material, it can express something spiritual. It cleanses us from filth and impurities; therefore, water is a symbol of interior cleansing and purifying. It also symbolizes life. The scarcity of water in many regions, including the Holy Land, gives it special value. What's more, water is necessary for the existence of all plants, animals, and people.

In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist baptized with water as an outward sign of inner sorrow for personal sins. In the sacrament of baptism instituted by Christ, we are washed completely and born again of water and the Spirit. Water here symbolizes the grace of God washing away our sins, purifying our souls, and giving us new life in Christ.

The custom of placing a holy water font near the church doors is quite old. As you enter a Catholic church, making the sign of the cross with holy water reminds you of your baptism and of cleansing yourself before you approach God's presence. As you leave, bless yourself again and recall that baptism has marked you for eternal life. When we bless ourselves with holy water, we do it "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

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

Monday, January 13, 2020
NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
8AM Anna Rehnert

Wednesday, January 15, 2020
8AM Kenny Jocken

Thursday, January 16, 2020
****6PM Robert Petrozino**

Friday, January 17, 2020
8AM Anne Marie DiCello

Saturday, January 18, 2020 Vigil Mass for Sunday
4PM Kathleen Feeney

Sunday, January 19, 2020 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30AM Dorothy Kaunas
10:30AM Sissy Kelly

From the Pastor's Desk

Before Jesus began preaching, teaching, and healing throughout Galilee and Judea, He came to His cousin, John, to be baptized. The Spirit of God descended upon Him and God's voice called out, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." As Catholic Christians, baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to carry on Jesus' Mission. Let us consider how God calls us to put our Faith into action. May God be well pleased. This Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ends our Church's celebration of Christmas and begins Ordinary Time in our Liturgical Year. Our Scripture Readings will reflect a new beginning for Jesus as He departs from the carpenter's shop taking leave of His Mother, Mary, and embarks upon His public ministry – to preach, teach, and heal. He leaves many comfortable things behind to seek out accomplishing the Father's Will.

Second Collections

St. Clare of Assisi: This week will be for the Building Fund (Team 4). Next week will be for Heat & Energy (Team 1).

St. Stephen: This week will be for Cemetery Upkeep.



In this unique depiction of the Baptism of Jesus painted in 1987 by Lorenzo Scott and hung in the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. Mr. Scott is a Southern Baptist housepainter who creates paintings and evangelistic church fliers based on Old Master canvases he has studied in reproduction and in museums from New York to his home in Atlanta. He often chooses episodes from the lives of Christ and Mary and frequently shows biblical figures as African Americans to reinforce the personal relationship with God that he advocates. Mr. Scott painted Saint John the Baptist (clothed in red) and one of the angels as black people, linking the faith of Scott's Afro-American community to John's mission to "prepare the way for the Lord" (Matthew 3:3). The beam of light symbolizes the Holy Spirit, which descended "like a dove" upon Christ (Matthew 3:16). St. Joseph the figure garbed in black and standing behind Jesus indicates that Joseph has already died but still is very prevalent in the Messiah's life. Symbolically also depicted is the Blessed Mother and St. Elizabeth.

Sanctuary Candle Intentions

St. Clare--In Memory of Kathleen Feeney requested by Family. St. Stephen—In Memory of Charles Zimmerman requested by Family.

Changes in this Week's Mass Schedule

This Thursday, January 16, Mass will be offered at 6PM instead of 8AM. Following Mass the Saints Peter & Paul time capsule will be opened.

From the Bishop's Desk

As flu season is now upon us, the Bishop asks us to refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace and receiving Holy Communion from the Cup communally until Holy Week. Please remember frequent handwashing with soap & hot water, use of tissues (properly disposed – not left in pews), coughing into one's arm, and when sick not coming to church stops contagion.

Bible Study Resumes

Our weekly Sunday Mass Scripture review will be held this coming Thursday following the 8AM Mass.

Help Requested to Perform a Corporal Work of Mercy

One of our parishioners has an adult-aged son in Geisinger Hospital, Danville. This son is currently in serious condition. This elderly man has no way to visit his son in the hospital. If there are parishioners willing to drive this gentleman to Danville, please contact the rectory.

More Corporal Works of Mercy

With the closure of St. Stephen's there might be some parishioners who reside in Port Carbon in need of a ride to Church. Might there be some folks willing to occasionally give someone a ride? Would those in need of a ride give the rectory a call in case we can work something out?

In the event someone cannot make it to Mass due to a transportation problem, would you like Fr. Bill or a Eucharistic Ministers to bring you Holy Communion? Please let us know?

Attention Former Parishioners of Saints Peter & Paul (& other interested folk)

With the recent sale of Saints Peter & Paul, the cornerstone needed to be removed. If anyone would like to witness the opening of the time capsule in the cornerstone, join us on next Thursday, January 16 at 6:30PM in St. Clare of Assisi Hall following Mass at 6PM.

The Privileges & Responsibilities of Baptized Catholics

The Privileges (from an article by Father Van Sloun, pastor of St. Bartholomew in Wayzata, MN)

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, and it has powerful and long-lasting effects. It changes the spiritual character of a person forever, and the mark of transformation is so permanent that it is indelible; it can never be erased. What follows is a concise list of nine of the most important effects and benefits of the sacrament of baptism.

The gateway sacrament. Baptism is the first of the sacraments. It is the beginning and the foundation of the Christian life of faith, and it provides access to the other sacraments.

Sacramental grace. The grace of baptism is a rebirth in Christ, opens a channel of blessing from God to the believer, grants a share of God's divine life, delivers spiritual energy and power, provides nourishment and enables growth in virtue and holiness.

The gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to a person through baptism. The Holy Spirit is the ongoing indwelling presence of God, which makes the person a temple of the Holy Spirit and assures the constant companionship of God for the entire duration of the journey of life. The Holy Spirit offers inspiration, enlightenment and guidance, as well as the courage, strength and motivation to live according to God's ways.

A child of God. Baptism makes a person an adopted son or daughter of God. Baptism consecrates a person to God. God owns the baptized person, and the person belongs to God. With this realization there is an ever-growing deep longing to know, love, obey, and serve God.

Church membership. Baptism grants admission into the body of Christ, the Church, the army of light, a spiritual family in which the other members become one's brothers and sisters in Christ. It establishes a bond of fellowship with the community of believers and full partnership with the communion of saints of the living. The pilgrimage to God is not to be walked alone, but with the help and companionship of other disciples.

Spiritual status. The baptized person is elevated as priest, prophet and king: a person who prays alone and worships with the Church, praying both for one's self and on behalf of others; lives a good and holy life and calls others to greater holiness; and enjoys royal status before God, and who honors God as supreme, submits to God's authority and obeys God's law and will.

Forgiveness. Baptism is a spiritual cleansing. All sins, both original sin and personal sin, are washed away and forgiven, and purified. The person is in the state of grace. Liberation from sin gives the freedom and fosters the desire to conform one's life to Jesus and his gospel.

Apostolic zeal. Baptism makes a person a laborer in Christ's vineyard and a minister of the Church, one who proclaims the gospel to others in deed and word; gives strong and bold witness; assists in liturgical roles; teaches and shares the faith; serves one's neighbors, particularly the poor and disadvantaged; is a good steward of time, talent and treasure; seeks, speaks and defends the truth; works for justice and peace; and upholds the common good.

Salvation. Baptism clothes a person with immortality, gives a person a share in the redemption that Christ won on the Cross, and makes salvation, eternal life and everlasting glory with God in heaven possible. It unites a person to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul explained that those who are baptized in Christ are baptized into his death (Rom 6:3), and that, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

The Responsibilities

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of

evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged.

A Practicing Catholic follows the Precepts of the Church. The Precepts of the Catholic Church are a description of the **absolute minimum** actions required of Catholics regarding the Church.

The Church uses these precepts to remind us that Christian life requires a commitment to prayer and active participation in the liturgy and sacraments. If we fall below this bare-minimum level, we can't rightly consider ourselves to be in full communion with the Catholic Church.

Each of these precepts of the Catholic Church is a requirement. Together with the Ten Commandments, they represent the minimum level of moral living. Intentional violation of the precepts or the Commandments is a *grave matter*, meaning a mortal sin.

The Precepts Are:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year and every time a mortal sin is committed.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall follow the marital laws of the Church.
6. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church and the Parish through one's time, talent, and treasure.
7. You shall be encouraging and of assistance to one's parish priest.
8. To serve as a godparent, sponsor, or witness to a marriage, one must be an active and practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist).

Excerpts from The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium) are a 2013 apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis on "the church's primary mission of evangelization in the modern world."

Pierogi School Starting Soon



We are in need of butter, eggs, sour cream, flour, and help! Stay tuned for updates.

Upcoming Events

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

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	12/29/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 3,102
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 346
Total Plate	\$ 3,448
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 120,183
YTD Budget to now	\$ 118,500
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 1,683
Other Collections	
Building Fund	\$ 1,049
Christmas	\$ 780
Candles	\$ 180

Sunday Mass Attendance	1/5/2020
4 PM (28 St. Stephen)	231
8:30 AM	120
9:30 AM (At St. Stephen)	65
10:30 AM	245

ST. STEPHEN WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	12/29/19
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,627
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 26
Total Plate	\$ 2,232
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 2,308
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 58,624
YTD Budget to now	\$ 60,002
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (1,378)
Other Collections	
Cemetery Upkeep	\$ 203

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	1/5/2020
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 4,223
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 272
Total Plate	\$ 4,495
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 4,558
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 124,678
YTD Budget to now	\$ 123,058
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ 1,620
Other Collections	
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,172
Heat & Energy	\$ 1,315
Candles	\$ 169

ST. STEPHEN WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT	1/5/2020
Contributions - Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,809
Contributions - Other Sunday Giving (loose)	\$ 43
Total Plate	\$ 1,852
Needed to meet Church Budget	\$ 2,308
Total Contributions 7/1/19 to now	\$ 62,152
YTD Budget to now	\$ 64,618
Total Over (Under) Budget	\$ (2,466)
Other Collections	
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 574
Building Fund	\$ 231

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