



Mass Intentions for the Week

April 19, 2015

Saturday, April 18

4:30PM Teresa Hine Currier

Sunday, April 19

7:30AM John Gutwald

9:30AM Mary & Joseph Radatti

11:30AM Joseph Fritz

Monday, April 20

8:15AM Michael & Michele Matsko

Tuesday, April 21

8:15AM Dec'd members of Daniel Scarsfone Family

Wednesday, April 22

8:15AM Yolanda Esposto-Novti

Thursday, April 23

8:15AM Louis & Edward Hanger

Friday, April 24

8:15AM Anthony Aquilante, Sr.

Saturday, April 25

4:30PM Edward Namiotkiewicz

Sunday, April 26

7:30AM Michael & Anna Brown

9:30AM Anthony, Louise, Francis, & Dorothy Zinni

11:30AM Nancy Clemens 13th Anniversary



Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Rev. Msgr. Robert

Grudowski, Florence Zapien, Luke Birkhead, Rose Kiger, Erik Kozlowski, Edmund Opielski, Bozena Orzechowski, Marlene Salkowski, Ed Wachowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Ken Waszena, Charles Streibig, Theresa McGrath, Kylie Reiff, John McCann, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Brother James Riley, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, Anne Gallagher, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Carol Tinneny, Rita Van Buskirk, Joan Nasielski, Stephen Greene, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Alfred Zisk, Cynthia Allen, Matthew Waters, Vince Ruggiero, Rylan Borys.



**Thomas Donikowski &
John R. Gallen (Fr. Tom's
Uncle Jack)**

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, PFC Paul Waszena, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Staats, Col. Shawn McGinley, 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, PFC Thomas Mazzochetti, Staff Sgt. Michael Alfonse, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen.



CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

4/18 4:30 Fr. Heron

4/19 7:30 Fr. Curry 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. Ames

4/25 4:30 Fr. Ames

4/26 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Curry

Pre-Jordan Instructions (Sacrament of Baptism)

The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend "Pre-Jordan Instructions." (It was in the Jordan River that Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist.) These instructions are important information about having your child Baptized. Parents may attend these instructions anytime during the course of the pregnancy. Please notify the rectory of your intention to attend. The next class will be Tuesday, May 5 at 7PM. You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. Please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register for the class. Baptisms are held the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month after the 11:30AM Mass. **(Both parents are expected to attend the class).**

MASS BOOK 2016: On **Wednesday, April 29th** announced Masses will be available for the 2016 year. To make it convenient for you we suggest coming to the rectory on **Wednesday, April 29th at 9:30AM – 2PM**, or you may call the rectory with your request (610-828-0424) #4 for the office or email stmatthewrectory@verizon.net

St. Matthew's Seniors Group will meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 12:30pm at the convent. Speaker, lunch (\$5), and conversation, we always enjoy meeting new people, so please join us!

ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB:

Meets every Thursday of the month at St. Mary's Church Hall. Three dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM
Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM
Dues for members due 2015 is \$10.00 for the year.

GOLDEN AGE CLUB of St Mary's News: Casino Trips are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **May 12 & June 9.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Please call Joe (610-825-4596).



First Holy Communion will be celebrated April 25th at 11 am. Let us Rejoice and Be Glad!

The Final First Holy Communion Session is April 20th in St. Matthews Church 6:30-7:30pm

Confirmation Class of 2015!

The Confirmation Get Together was very nice. If you were unable to attend the DVD is available in the rectory Mon-Thurs 9-4 and after Mass on Sunday.

Let us remember! The celebration of the Eucharist is the summit of our identity as the People of God. We are transformed into the Body of Christ. Attendance at Sunday Mass is vital to the life of the community at St. Matthews. We must encourage a "sacramental culture"! Hope to see you there...Every Sunday!

PREP/CCD REGISTRATION: Renew your registration for PREP/CCD for next year! It is time to begin to form the classes for next year. If you are already registered simply fill out a renewal form to save your place for next year. Renewal forms are available in the vestibules of the church or the rectory. If your son or daughter will be beginning First Grade in 2015, go online to St. Matthew's website and click on the link to register and mail in your payment. Tuition fees will not change from last year and they may be electronically submitted. Classes are conducted Monday evenings from 6:30-7:45pm September thru March. Any questions please call the rectory at 610 828-0424 ext 6.

Liturgy of the Word for Children takes place every Sunday at the 9:30AM Mass. All children are invited from the altar to the sacristy to share in a child-like presentation of the Readings of the Day.

They return after the Prayer of the Faithful. Parents are permitted to accompany younger children. Help is needed to instruct the children. If interested contact stmatthewrectory@verizon.net

St. Matthew Prayer Shawl Ministry: We most 'warmly' invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St. Vincent DePaul room the 2nd Tuesday of the month May 12. If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know-or make one yourself for someone special to you. For Information contact Alice O'Connor at 610-828-5992 or acaoc@verizon.net "God has no hands but ours to do His work and show His Love."

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL food pantry is in need of: tuna fish, applesauce, tomatoes, tomato sauce cans or jars, pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, boxes of mashed potatoes, stew, Manwich, Sloppy Joes, canned soups, fruits, baked beans.



Reflections from my Rocking Chair

On the Friday before Easter Action News signed off its broadcast with best wishes to those celebrating that day as Good Friday or, for those of the Jewish faith, the start of Passover. The Cross and the Star of David were placed next to each other on the Friday portion of the 7day forecast.

There is something about that moment for which we should be grateful and proud. It is not that these two religions are the same, nor even of equal value, but that women and men of both traditions are equally respectful of each other's right to profess and freely practice their religious convictions. It is said that God loves freedom more than obedience. That is not to say God does not love obedience. He does but only when freely given. God wants us to praise Him, not because He needs it, but because we do.

50 years ago the second Vatican Council promulgated a decree on religious freedom that embodied the principle expressed above. The Bishops of the United States played a leading role in expressing this conviction that all should have the right to worship freely in the manner they choose. It was a decree subject to intense debate because it required bishops in some countries to surrender privileges granted in the civil law to the Catholic Church. Our American experience of the First Amendment to the Constitution has given us deeper insight than others into the proper relationship between the practice of religion and a well ordered civic society. Government, the First Amendment tells us, should not prevent the free exercise of religion nor establish as favored any one particular Creed.

I think it fair to state that terrorism leads the list of those dark forces that threaten our attempts to live in peace as a community of nations, though I do concede that there is a sad list of "wannabees". With terrorist threat at a fever pitch it is paramount that we remain reasonable. While many terrorists claim to be Muslim, we must keep in the mind's eye (or better in the mind's heart) that the vast majority of Muslims are also horrified by what they see happening. We who are Catholic Irish-Americans should be particularly sensitive to this. IRA bombings in the 70's, 80's and 90's were terroristic but NOT happening because they were Irish or Catholic.

There is a significant number of Americans of Muslim descent who are free to practice their Islamic faith alongside churches and synagogues. Muslim Americans are as enthusiastic about the American experience as the rest of us. Any religion that in any way shares the truth of God deserves respect. A country like Turkey organizes itself in the same manner; with a Muslim majority worshipping Allah alongside ancient Christian churches and synagogues. There are other countries where Islamic law is the civil law, a country like Saudi Arabia comes to mind; where no practice of other religions is permitted. These countries too abhor the terror but have much to learn about religious liberty.

Principles of religious freedom in a way diminish the awesome beauty of Christianity. We continue to profess that the truth revealed by God "subsists in the Catholic Church" while existing in some measure in all sincere religious expression. Blessings upon you, Msgr. Tom Owens (comments welcome: stmat2014@gmail.com or 610-828-0424 x121)

God's Plan for Giving

APRIL 12, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND: \$15,383.17

Electronic giving \$859.89 + \$14,523.28 = \$15,383.17



ELECTRONIC GIVING: We invite you to consider our new **electronic giving program** as a way to automate your regular weekly or monthly offerings. **Parish Giving** is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak at deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net to register www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

A Baby's Breath: Please come and enjoy a Spring morning on Saturday, April 18, 2015 for A Baby's Breath Crisis Pregnancy Center's Run for Life 2015 at the Norristown Farm Park. 2500 Upper Farm Road, Norristown, PA. One Mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 9AM and 5K Run/Walk starts at 9:30AM. The Run for Life benefits our Jeffersonville Center serving moms and their babies for 15 years! Please register online at www.ababysbreath.org. For more info, please contact Dorothy Swedkowski, Race Director at 610-316-6281.

Travel to Ireland: Travel this summer to Southern Ireland with Fr. Curry July 21 - August 1, 2015. For more information contact Fr. Curry at 610-519-8693 or frscurry@gmail.com.

Andrew Lanutti Post: Full service kitchen, bar, C/A, great for Christenings, Communions, Confirmations, birthday, family reunions, small weddings, holiday parties, funeral luncheons & any social event. Open for rent 365 days a year. Call Lou at 484-919-0612.

Register early for the World Meeting of Families! Early registration pricing for the World Meeting of Families *ends April 30*. Register your family today! The Basic Package is the most affordable pricing option (\$125/adult; \$95/child for a 4-day ticket until April 30). Visit the website to learn more and register: WorldMeeting2015.org.



St. Joseph Villa - Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday - May 7, 2015 – 1:30 pm – 6:30 pm! The American Red Cross depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to

perform its mission. The past three blood drives produced between 32 and 38 blood products. Our 2015 goal includes 50 Sign-Up donors and 34 blood donations. To sign on to donate: Please call the Villa Volunteer Office at 215-248-7844 and leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached. You may also email hartf@stjosephvilla.org. Sister Frances Hart, SSJ

College Counselor Position:

Merion Mercy Academy seeks to fill the position of College Counselor. The counselor's position is full-time and assists students and parents with the college process. Priority will be given to candidates with experience as a college counselor and/or experience working in a selective college admission office, with a minimum of three years of experience post Bachelor's degree. A job description is available at www.merion-mercy.com. Please submit a resume to Mary Ann Danovich, Vice Principal for Academic Affairs, madanovich@merion-mercy.com by April 20th.

English Department: Merion Mercy Academy, an independent, all girls Catholic High School sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has one opening for a full time position in the English department teaching literature and writing for the 2015-2016 school year. Degree and certification required. Experience preferred. Please submit a resume to Mary Ann Danovich, Vice Principal for Academic Affairs, madanovich@merion-mercy.com by April 20th.

Mothers of Children with Disabilities Retreat: Monday, May 4, 2015 at Malvern Retreat House, Bishop Timothy Senior will direct a retreat for mothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. To register or for more information please contact Malvern Retreat House at 610-644-0400, malvernretreat.com or Sr. Kathleen Schipani at 215-587-3330, or sr.kschipani@archphila.org.

March for Marriage - April 25, 2015

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Life and Family is sending buses from four locations in the Archdiocese to the Marriage March in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 25, 2015. For more information about the schedule, bus locations, and registration, visit PhillyCatholicLife.org.

BISHOP KENRICK REUNION:

Bishop Kenrick's class of 1979 is having an informal reunion, 7PM on Saturday, April 25th, at Reeds in Blue Bell. For more information call Lisa Pecharo Connelly at 610-761-9280.

LITTLE FLOWER 75th ANNIVERSARY:

Little Flower Alums, Family and Friends come celebrate the school's 75th Anniversary on Sunday, April 26th 1 – 5 pm for an Open House and Rededication of the school to St. Therese.

Recognized



in the breaking of the bread

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord Jesus,
Welcome!*

I rejoice in your presence with the Saint Matthew faith worshipping community as we participate in the Divine Liturgy for the 3RD Sunday of Easter.

We are blessed by your desire to give thanks to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both parishioners and guests.

May you be renewed in mind, heart and spirit through the Word and Eucharist we share. Thanks for joining us!

Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19 Psalm 4 1 John 2:1-5a Luke 24:35-48

The mood swings of the disciples in the days immediately following Jesus' death are on display in our Gospels for all to see - and perhaps experience.

Fear mixed with terror was the mood when, locked in an upper room, immediately after the crucifixion, Jesus appeared to them. His greeting was "Shalom!" They thought they were seeing a ghost. We can appreciate that, can we not? If we saw someone walking around three days after we buried Him, we would be a little startled, uncomfortable, and afraid.

But the mood soon switched to joy. Amazement and joy replaced terror and fear. The news of Jesus' appearances to Mary Magdalen, to Peter and the Beloved Disciple was news beyond all their hope and expectations. We can just hear the disciples saying "This is just too good to be true." But it was true! They spoke with the Risen Jesus, ate with Him, spent days listening to Him. They were indeed overwhelmed with joy!

But there is yet another mood that all too many today have when it comes to accepting the truth that Christ is risen. It is one of cautious apprehension that if I really accept this truth, it might require a change in the way I live my life.

Many are in a rut and are content to stay there. The last thing they want is change. They are terrified to even ponder the idea that Jesus really did rise from the dead—that the Gospel story really is true - because if they accept that, then they can no longer be content with a half-hearted commitment to Christ.

Those first disciples went from terrified fear to amazement and joy and they were changed forever. They enlisted in a cause. They gave their all in sharing the Good News.

The two disciples we heard about in today's Gospel went through the same mood swings that the Twelve Apostles did.

We meet them as they turn their backs on the holy city, Jerusalem, where their hopes died with Jesus on Golgotha. They were returning home to Emmaus, despondent at all the things that had happened in the city of their hope—until a stranger caught up with them, a stranger they did not recognize so caught up were they in themselves and their loss. It was only later that they recognized that the stranger was the risen Lord who had just celebrated Eucharist with them. It was then that they realized that their hearts were alive and burning as Jesus spoke to them on that road about all that Sacred Scripture had said of the Messiah. The result was that they turned back to Jerusalem to share with the others the experience that changed their lives forever.

There are far too many among us who are on that road to Emmaus, turning their backs on the Church where Jesus is still risen in the breaking of the Bread which we call Eucharist.

Many of you might know the name Malcolm Muggeridge—a highly intelligent man, a foreign correspondent, editor of a magazine, television personality in England.

Late in his life he realized that he was like those two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. Finally he came to his senses and became a Christian.

He frequently told all who would listen how he felt like a stranger in the world. He explained what that feeling was like. In the Second World War while serving in Africa he heard a superior use the phrase "displaced person"—a very good definition of himself as he came to see that life is not about carnal things, or success, but is about eternity rather than time. He said that he came to realize that he didn't really belong here but was simply staying here.

He came to realize that Christ is real; that Christ is alive. As a result, he discovered to his amazement that a new life, far superior to his old life, was now a possibility for him. He turned back from Emmaus, never to return again.

There really is no joy in half-hearted faith. Religion can make many of our contemporaries miserable because all they see is the very human side of the Church. It is our duty to turn them back from their journey to Emmaus which leads only to despair, unaware of all that is possible for them in the life that Christ gives.

This is the Christ that wants to make our lives a miracle, He wants to help us make a radical change in our lives.

It was Soren Kierkegaard who said that we marvel that Genesis tells us that God created the world out of nothing; but the Gospel tells us that God does something far more miraculous when He makes saints out of sinners. That's what He did for His disciples and that's what He can do for each of us.



**The Word
Fulfilled!**

End of Bulletin