

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



## 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 2015

### Saturday, May 2

4:30PM Betty & Edward Pruskowski  
Lana & Jim Craven

### Sunday, May 3

7:30AM Mary Jane Bowe  
9:30AM Ann & Sam Minnick  
11:30AM Elizabeth & Robert Janifer

### Monday, May 4

8:15AM Sr. Joan Melley

### Tuesday, May 5

8:15AM Concetta D'Ippolito

### Wednesday, May 6

8:15AM Betty Pruskowski (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

### Thursday, May 7

8:15AM Sr. Regina Michael

### Friday, May 8

8:15AM Frank Charlesworth

### Saturday, May 9

4:30PM Anthony, Louise, Francis & Dorothy Zinni

### Sunday, May 10

7:30AM Florence M. Bowe  
9:30AM William & Mary Maher  
11:30AM Anna Kovach  
Alice Wisniewski



### Pray for the Sick:

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 Blaszczyk, 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 Tinneney, 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, Bill Freas, Susan Minnick, Linda Rodenbaugh.



### Pray for the Deceased:

Nicholas Ferraioli & Mildred Hooker

**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, 108<sup>th</sup> 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 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen.



### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

5/2 4:30 Fr. Heron  
5/3 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Curry 11:30 Fr. Ames  
5/9 4:30 Fr. Ryan  
5/10 7:30 Fr. Ames 9:30 Fr. Curry 11:30 Msgr. Owens  
5/16 4:30 Msgr. Owens  
5/17 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Curry 11:30 Fr. Ames  
5/23 4:30 Fr. Ames  
5/24 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Ryan  
5/30 4:30 Fr. Heron  
5/31 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

**THE 6PM YOUNG ADULT EVENING MASS IS CANCELLED UNTIL AFTER THE POPE'S VISIT.**

### 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." 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.

**MASS BOOK 2016:** The 2016 Mass Book is open. To make it convenient for you we suggest coming to the rectory or you may call the rectory with your request (610-828-0424) #4 for the office or email [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net)

### SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH RECEPTION:



On May 17<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the 100 years of service that the Sisters of St. Joseph have given to our parish community. The Sisters will be leaving us in June. If you would like to write a farewell message or a fond memory of the Sisters a basket has been placed in the back of the church for your convenience. Paper, pens and envelopes are provided. We will gather all your well wishes and present them to the Sisters the day of the reception. Thank you so much.

**PICTURES:** If you have any pictures at home or plan to take pictures during Mass or at the reception we would like to have a copy of your pictures if you are willing to send them electronically or by drop box. We would like to make a lasting memory for the Sister's with pictures of the people who love them. Send to [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net)

*"Let us rejoice and be glad."*



*The following children received Our Risen Lord in First Holy Communion at St. Philip Neri Church*

*May 2, 2015*

*Arionna Carmona  
Charlotte Gale  
Graciene Gale*

**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.

**The First Communion and Confirmation videos can be picked up at the rectory after Mass on Sunday or during the week Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the rectory.**

**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 and older siblings are encouraged to accompany younger children. Help is needed to instruct the children. If interested contact [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net)

**ST. MATTHEW STUDENTS EXCEL:** Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students on the Third Quarter Report. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence. **Congratulations to:**  
**Pope John Paul II:** First Honors: **Alyssa G. Garcia**  
**Roman Catholic High School:** Second Honors: **Stephen Zakrzewski**

**RESPECT LIFE:** Mother's Day Weekend: The Pro-Life Union is dedicated to building a Culture of Life by promoting respect for all human life. This critical mission is possible only with your help and support. Your contributions allow for outreach and prayers for mothers in need and for education, alternate services, and public policy activities. The generosity of our parish has always been outstanding, and as such, please be as generous as possible so we can achieve the best collection ever! As our Pro-Life Committee prepares for Respect Life Sunday, to be held Mother's Day weekend, we ask your support for this important parish event and appeal to the generosity of our parish community. **The Respect Life Collection will be held before and after each Mass on May 9 - 10, 2015. We will offer red roses and carnations.** Let us pray and ask Our Lady to bless our nation and the weakest among us. Thank you.



**PRE-CANA:** St. Matthew's Parish is now offering Marriage Preparation Sessions (Pre-Cana). We are offering a one day program on **Saturday, June 27, 2015 from 8:30 AM – 4 PM.** The cost is \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak: 610-828-0424 X5 or [deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net)

**FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING:** The next Finance Council meeting will be **Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 6 PM to 6:45 PM in the Rectory.**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:** The next Pastoral Council meeting will be **Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 7 PM – 8:15 PM in the Rectory.**

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net) "God has no hands but ours to do His work and show His Love."



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** food bank 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.

# God's Plan for Giving

APRIL 26, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND: \$12,692.35

Electronic giving \$772.35 + \$11,920 = \$12,692.35

## Second Collection: Catholic Home Missions



**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](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net) to register [www.parishgiving.org](http://www.parishgiving.org) or [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com)

**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).



## ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB PICNIC:

The Picnic is on June 16, 2015 at Mermaid Lake from 11 AM to 7 PM. \$10 for members. \$17.00 for non-members. You must have a ticket to attend the picnic.

**Angled parking** is available in the parking lot of St. Matt's school building located on Harry Street, the gate is open for your convenience.

**OPUS DEI:** An Evening of Recollection for men will be offered on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at St. Matthew Parish from 7-9PM. The schedule includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, the opportunity to go to Confession, a 30 minute meditation lead by a priest and a short talk given by a lay person. The focus is on practical ways to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer and work. All meetings will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. For more info contact [deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net).

**Andrew Lanutti Post:** Full service kitchen, bar, C/A, great for Christenings, Communion, 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.

## REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Dear friends,

With the arrival of spring comes activity in our gardens. I turn over my column to Sister Marie Lucey OSF writing on behalf of the Franciscan Action Network:

Although he was a carpenter by trade, Jesus was familiar with the work of farmers and vine growers. He references wheat, corn, fig trees, mustard seeds, and vineyards. He knows that productive vines need pruning, and, of course, if a branch is separated from the vine it withers and dies. Recently, I brought my geranium pots up from their winter slumber in the basement. It was time to cut away the dead leaves and prune the green stalks down close to the soil. Now it's time to feed, water, and watch for growth. One or two plants may not survive, but they deserve a chance after giving so much pleasure last year.



Pruning can mean severe cutting. After winter frosts, rosebushes are dramatically cut back. The pruner cannot be timid if he or she wants abundant roses to bloom. Perhaps it's pruning time spiritually also. We can be choked by busyness, by self-centeredness, by continual new demands on time and energy. We can feel helpless and discouraged by global violent conflicts, attacks on poor and migrant people, the rape of the earth, congressional quagmires. Pruning for the sake of abundant life may not always involve cutting. Perhaps it can mean carving out spaces for contemplation, for reconnecting our vine, Jesus. In this "pruning" we get in touch with our hearts and remember, gratefully, that "God is greater than our hearts and knows everything" (1 John 3:20) - our failures, frustrations, feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. In his First letter, John reminds us that we are "beloved," and "if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God, because we keep God's commandments." That is, to believe in Jesus and love one another. In this way, we remain in Jesus and Jesus remains in us, branches and vine, bringing forth much fruit. May we move into pruning time without fear of timidity, but with confidence in God because "our hearts do not condemn us."

*The work of the Franciscan Action Network can be seen at [news@franciscanaction.org](mailto:news@franciscanaction.org)*

A postscript on my part: the approach of summer has our thoughts turning to vacation. During vacation we intend to enjoy recreation time. It's the word "recreation" that's full of spiritual meaning. Recreation can be hyphenated as re-creation. With the help of Jesus and some time for reflection at the shore or in the mountains, we allow God's gift of nature to create within us again the joy of being God's child. One example of nature speaking to me of God comes early in the morning down by the ocean. Put your chair down and watch the rising sun as the light moves across the water like crystals directly to you. God's love is a light that dispels darkness. Remarkably, the person 100 yards down from you sitting on the beach sees the light that comes from the sun dancing across the ocean directly at THEM. It's wonderful. He loves us all and God loves us individually. Be sure your vacation is recreation and allows for re-creation. Blessings, Msgr. Owens

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 9:26-31 Psalm 22 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8

We've all heard the expressions: once an alcoholic, always an alcoholic; once a thief, always a thief; once a liar, always a liar.

According to the wisdom of the world, these expressions are right; they warn us that flawed patterns of behavior come from flawed patterns of character. And we all know that inner character does not easily change, if at all.

Worldly wisdom warns us to mark people's failures well, because they inevitably return to the surface again and again.

But God disagrees with this worldly wisdom because it dismisses the great hope and the great possibilities of God's redemptive grace in our lives. In God's view, none of us is fixed permanently in place, always fastened to our sins and failures. God's power to forgive and to transform us from sinner to saint is simply greater than our ability to fail. We have to remember another expression: Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future.

That captures the life of Saint Paul.

He was the great apostle who had a brilliant mind, a combative spirit, a zeal for spreading the Gospel to any Jew or any Gentile who would listen. His missionary journeys took him over 8,000 miles across two continents to establish churches.

He was martyred for his faith. After Jesus, no single figure casts a longer shadow across the history of the Church than Paul.

But Paul had a past that was not so saintly. He himself tells us that he was the chief of all sinners. He had been a Pharisee and was so zealous to protect his Jewish religion that he became the chief persecutor of the followers of this new religious movement that claimed Jesus was the Messiah.

All of that changed when Paul, on the road to Damascus, had a vision of Jesus. The power of Jesus' grace

transformed Paul. That grace changed Paul into the person God always knew he could be. And Paul argued that if the grace of God could change him, it can change us also.

Initially Paul had a difficult time convincing the Christian community that he really had changed. How could they trust him? He, who once pursued them and who once dragged women, men and children to a prison, overseeing their punishment, even to death?

Often when a sinner becomes a saint, they have to have someone who will dare to vouch for them. For Paul, that one person was Barnabas.

With great courage and personal risk, Barnabas staked his reputation on the power and possibility of God's grace in Paul's life. And as a result, Paul walked across the slender bridge of Barnabas' trust and hope into the history of the Church as a saint.

It takes just one person to believe in you, to speak the hope that calls you forward past your failures and to risk standing by you when others pull back.

We might never have heard of Paul if it were not for Barnabas. He was that one person in Paul's life who believed the leopard could change its spots that a sinner could become a saint.

What about us? Is there a Barnabas in our lives who believed in us when no one else did? Who gave us a chance, took a risk for us? We should thank them this week.

Better yet, let's pray that we all become that Barnabas for at least one potential Paul.

Maybe the potential Paul is a family member, a fellow worker, a neighbor, a good friend—someone everyone else has given up on, someone who hears the constant accusation, "You'll never make anything of yourself—once a sinner always a sinner."

In God's eyes there are no hopeless cases.

The addicted can be set free from drugs.  
The criminal can be cured of his ways.  
The abuser can turn away from violence.  
The racist can be set free from hate.  
The alienated can be welcomed back.

Liberation and recovery may be difficult, time-consuming and discouraging, but God holds out the promise of change for everyone who is open to it.

We can make a difference in their lives. We can be their Barnabas and help them see what God's transforming grace can do for them.



End of Bulletin