



Pray for the Deceased: Peter Cieri, Catherine Massaro

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER May 10, 2015

Saturday, May 9

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

Sunday, May 10 *Happy Mother's Day*

7:30AM Florence M. Bowe

9:30AM William & Mary Maher

11:30AM Anna Kovach

Alice Wisniewski

Monday, May 11

8:15AM Dec'd Members Gehringer & Callahan Families
Thomas McCloskey & Frances Johnson

Tuesday, May 12

8:15AM Maureen Helwig & Michael Foley

Wednesday, May 13 Ascension Vigil

8:15AM Rev. Walter Daly

Esther Timbario

7:00PM Stephanie Kaplan

Thursday, May 14

8:15AM Joseph & Helen Schank

Nicole & Anna Mastracola

12 Noon John Gallen

Friday, May 15

8:15AM Susan & Anthony Cappanella

Saturday, May 16

4:30PM Dec'd Members Kelly & Burnatter Families

Sunday, May 17

7:30AM Charles & Margaret Williams

9:30AM Joseph Albanese

11:30AM Robert G. Templeton 8th Anniversary

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, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, 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, Bill Freas, Susan Minnick, Linda Rodenbaugh, Ann Greco.

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

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.

ASCENSION THURSDAY:



Thursday, May 14th is the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord and for us as Catholics is a Holyday of obligation. The Mass Schedule: **Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00 PM; Thursday, May 14 8:15AM and 12:00 Noon.**

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

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH RECEPTION:



On Sunday, May 17th 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

Religious Education News

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.

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



MEMORIAL DAY MASSES: We will hold our annual Memorial Day Masses on **Monday, May 25** at **St. Benedict cemetery on Colwell Ln at 9AM** and **St. Matthew cemetery on North Lane, at 11AM.** You are invited to attend as we remember those who died in any war as well as those who are buried in both parish cemeteries. **No 8:15AM Mass on Memorial Day.**



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, June 2 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.



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.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB: Do you enjoy reading novels? Does Summer give you a bit more free time? Allow yourself some leisure! **NOVELS WITH A CHRISTIAN TWIST** kickoff meeting **June 2 at 7 PM** parish meeting room off the rectory parking area. **June 23** - To Kill a Mockingbird, **July 14** - The Power and the Glory, **August 11** - North of Hope For more detail consult the posters by the doors of the church.



The Respect Life Collection will be held before and after each Mass today. 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



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."



Walking with Purpose is a Catholic women's bible study that meets once a week to discuss Scripture as it relates to our everyday lives. The goal of WWP is to enable women to know Christ through Scripture. If you are at all curious or just interested in meeting an amazing diverse group of women with one thing in common, the love of Christ, please join us on **Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30 PM.** Feel free to come alone or bring a friend, we're a very welcoming group! Please check out the website at <http://walkingwithpurpose.com>. Contact Judy Kukowski at 610-331-2147 or JAKukowski@verizon.net for meeting address and details.

Maintenance/Custodial Position

A full time Maintenance/Custodial position is available at Pope John Paul II High School located in Royersford, PA. The hours for the position are **2:00pm-10:00pm Monday through Friday with occasional weekend work.** Please contact Ron Williams, Maintenance Supervisor, at **484-975-6500 ext. 3060** for further information and details. Please forward resume to the attention of Mr. Ron Williams, 181 Rittenhouse Road, Royersford, PA 19468 or via email at rwilliams@pjphs.org.

God's Plan for Giving

May 3, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND: \$14,965.53
Electronic giving \$678.53 + \$14,287 = \$14,965.53

Catholic Charities Appeal: The Catholic Charities Appeal's overall goal of \$10 million is vital to the efforts of the human service programs in the five county Philadelphia area. Contributing to our parish's individual goal allows you to be an active part of the success of this year's Appeal. **In-Pew Pledge Cards and reply envelopes will be available May 16th & 17th.**



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

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.



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 4th Wednesday of each month. For more info contact 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 ties, funeral luncheons & any social event. Open for rent 365 days a year. Call Lou at 484-919-0612.

Message from our Pastor

The months of May and June are times of change: the news of the Sisters of St. Joseph leaving St. Matthew's Convent after 100 years of service, the news of Fr. Ames being transferred to St. Charles Seminary after 24 years as a resident in the rectory and one year as Parochial Vicar. Last Sunday, Fr. Curry O.S.A. announced he will be leaving for Chicago in July, after less than a year of weekend service to the newly-formed St. Matthew's Parish. Unfortunately, another change occurred last December that also needs to be acknowledged and recognized. Judy Minnick started working at St. Matthew's in 1981. Judy assisted four pastors: Msgr. Simons, Fr. Foster, Fr. Donlon and myself. This was no easy task. Judy had to adjust to the various styles and personalities of four pastors. Imagine that challenge. However, Judy made the necessary adjustments because she never lost focus of her primary task—to keep the parish she loves financially sound and growing. It was for Judy a labor of love, a ministry and not just a job.

Judy possesses many wonderful traits. Her attention to detail, her business savvy and competence, her joyful laughter and her ability to accomplish a lot in a short time. Judy knew almost everyone who came to the rectory or called on the phone. The help, support, advice and compassion Judy showed to countless people during her thirty-one years was a reflection of her faith.

I want to personally thank Judy Minnick for her remarkable years of service to the parish and to me personally.

Sadly, the critical financial situation forced my hand to make the most difficult decision I had to make in 33 years of being a priest. Judy's response to me, "I am willing to volunteer and help St. Matthew's newly formed parish remain vibrant." Thank you for your years of service and your on-going commitment to the parish.

CURSILLO:

Cursillo is a Christian movement within the Roman Catholic Church whose members are committed to having a relationship with Christ by bringing Christ into the everyday moments of their lives. If you are interested in obtaining more information regarding this movement, we invite you to contact Deacon Joe or Lynn Carr at homesppun68@comcast.net This organization meets on a monthly basis September through June at St. Matthew's Church. **Ultreya on Tuesday, June 16th at 7 PM.**

Happy Mother's Day 

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus spoke of Himself as the true vine of which we are the branches. Stay connected to the vine, He said, and you will live a full productive life. In today's Gospel, Jesus takes us deeper into the mystical union each of us can have with Him, a union which enables us to claim Jesus as a friend.

Let's reflect a moment on what we mean by that word "friend." I once met a little girl outside Church. She was carrying a teddy bear almost as big as herself. "Who is that?" I asked. The little girl said, "This is Alfie, my very best friend." "Why is Alfie your best friend?" "Because he always stays and listens to me and he never, ever says don't be silly," she said.

Here we have a little girl's definition of "friend": someone who is always there to listen and never condemns as worthless what we say.

A writer once defined a friend as "the first person who comes in when whole world has gone out." This reminds me of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, Qoheleth, who obviously knew how important it was to have a friend when life was unkind. In Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 the author writes: **"If one falls, he shall be supported by the other; woe to him who is alone, for when he falls, he has none to lift him up."** Close friends are important for our physical and psychological health. We need friends, particularly, when life unkind to us. All this brings us to today's Gospel in which we heard Jesus say: **"I no longer speak of you as slaves; instead I call you friends. As the Father has loved Me so I have loved you. Live on in My love."**

As our friend, Jesus listens. But we have to take the time to speak to Him. As our friend, Jesus is always there when the world deals harshly with us but we cannot run away or throw our arms up in disgust and turn on the one who loves us with personal passion. As our friend, Jesus never condemns as worthless what we say but we have to have the confidence and prayerful trust to speak up and hold an intimate conversation with the one who tells us loud and clear and with great intensity: **"I am your friend!"**

Jesus is intense about something else. He insists that we love one another as He loves us, that is, we are to be friends to one another. The love He speaks about here is not an easy love. As Christians we talk a lot about love. We force this word to do a lot of heavy lifting. It stands for everything from Valentine's Day hearts to the promiscuous love of illicit sex to the marriage love that lasts forever.

The love of which Jesus speaks is strong and demanding. It gets up and works. It visits the sick and lonely. It reaches out to those who are "not quite us", and with whom we might be ashamed to be seen. It is not afraid of the "otherness" of people we do not know, or understand. All too often we find ourselves in the predicament of the comic strip character Linus, *"I love mankind; it's people I can't stand."* That is not what Jesus asks of us. He says, **"Dwell in my love."** To dwell in Christ's love is not just simply sitting by the fire and staying put. Rather it means being busy about the work of our own conversion and then expressing His love in action and in mutual service that calls us to alter our expectations, to change our lives and, if need be, to give our life.

The love we are to have for one another, the love that translates into action and makes us friends to one another is summed up in **1 Corinthians 13: ... love is patient...kind...not jealous...not snobbish...does not put on airs...never rude...self-seeking... not prone to anger...or brood over injuries.**

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR

In his first Angelus after his election, Pope Francis said feeling mercy "changes everything." "This is the best thing we can feel: it changes the world. A little mercy makes the world less cold and more just. We need to understand properly this mercy of God, this merciful Father, who is so patient." In the English edition of the Holy Father's apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, the word "mercy" appears 32 times. In his 2015 Lenten message he writes, "How greatly I desire that all those places where the church is present, especially our parishes and our communities, may become islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference!" I think it's obvious that with recent racial tensions in our country and brutal murders by Islamic terrorists the world at times (most of the time?) can be cold and unjust. The center point in the teachings of Jesus is the Beatitudes, of special note, "Be merciful as your Father is merciful". Mercy is like the oil we use in our car engine. The oil coats the moving pieces of our engine so that they do not burn each other out. Mercy is central to our being fully human allowing for an endless saving grace. Begging forgiveness we can always begin anew, no matter our sin.

Pope Francis has announced an extraordinary Jubilee year in 2016; beginning this year on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8 and closing on the feast of Christ the King at the end of 2016. The focus of the Jubilee is the mercy of God that comes to us from Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Pope writes, "This will be a *Holy Year of Mercy*." Mercy animates our conversion to Christ as we beg forgiveness for our sins. It is a cause for celebration not unlike the banquet that followed the prodigal son's return to his father. It begins, however, with an honest and heartfelt examination of our discipleship in Christ with an eye to its success in the witness of our daily life and/or a sometimes very painful recognition of our failure to be Christ-like. In a recent homily the Pope said, "The way of the Church is to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who asked for it with a sincere heart. The way of the church is precisely to leave her four walls behind and to go out in search of those who are distant, those essentially on the "outskirts" of life; to adopt fully God's own approach; to follow the Master who said: "Those who are well have no need of the physician, but those who are sick? I have come to call, not the righteous but sinners to repentance." The Pope speaks of a "season of mercy". "Love goes beyond justice" is indicative of the Holy Father's understanding of mercy as prophetic – a grace from God that goes beyond giving another what is due to them, rather to be merciful and offer forgiveness to those who do not deserve it. Truth be told we are an example of his mercy, those, that is, who understand the beauty of being forgiven as well as being instruments of God's mercy. On a plane trip returning from Rio de Janeiro the Pope responded to a question put to him by the press corps in the plane, "The church is a mother, and she must travel this path of mercy, and find a form of mercy for all. When the prodigal son returned home, I don't think his father told him, "You, sit down and listen: what did you do with the money?" No! He celebrated! Then, perhaps, when the son was ready to speak ... The church has to do this, when there is someone lost ... Not only wait for them, but go out and find them! This is what mercy is. And I believe that: this time is a kairos of mercy... Holy Father, as the Polish say, "Stolat": live 100 years. Blessings, Msgr. Owens (610-828-0424 X 112 or stmatt2014@gmail.com)



End of Bulletin