

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 26, 2015

Saturday, July 25

4:30PM Joanne Schank Beeler
Marie Mullen

Sunday, July 26

7:30AM Audrey DeFrancesco
9:30AM Rev. James W. Donlon
11:30AM Bill Freas

Monday, July 27

8:15AM Robert & Mary Farmer MacMahon

Tuesday, July 28

8:15AM Rev. James W. Donlon

Wednesday, July 29

8:15AM Robert Preston (3rd Anniversary)

Thursday, July 30

8:15AM Dorothy Welsch

Friday, July 31

8:15AM Matthew Derfler

Saturday, August 1

4:30PM John & Mary Tinneney

Sunday, August 2

7:30AM John & Frances DeFrancesco
9:30AM Angelo R. Bello (55th Anniversary)
11:30AM Ivo Salvi

*Keep Them
in your
Prayers*



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, Rita Van Buskirk, Joan Nasielski, Stephen Greene, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Alfred Zisk, Cynthia Allen, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Dorothy E. Lawler, Denise Kavanaugh

Pray for the Deceased: Charles Henik Jr. & Maryanne Farley



Pray for the Military

Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, 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, Tech Sgt Eric Zweiback

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

7/25 4:30 Msgr. Owens
7/26 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Heron

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

Prepare for next Sunday

Scripture
Exodus 16:2 – 4, 12 – 15
Ephesians 4:17,
John 6:24 – 35

Reflection

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sending down the daily manna upon the whole Israelite community, the Lord said to Moses, "I will test them to see whether they follow my instructions or not." Similarly, when Jesus reveals to the crowd that is "the bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world," he instructs them that they are to "work for the food that endures for eternal life." And that work consists in believing in the one God sent. This means no longer living in the futility of our minds. It means putting away "the old self of your former way of life" and being renewed, putting on "the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth."

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." Classes are the first Tuesday of each month. The next class will be **Tuesday, August 4 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.

BAPTISM: You may now schedule a Baptism on line- go to the web site www.stmatthewparish.com click on Baptism form. Once the form is submitted we will contact you within 3 days to let you know if the date you requested is available.

MARRIAGE: There is also a form to request a wedding for registered parishioners on the web site. www.stmatthewparish.com. We will contact you within 3 days to confirm your request.

Religious Education News

Children's Liturgy will be suspended for the summer months of July and August. Leisure time is important. Part of leisure is to pray! Bring the children to Mass every Sunday for some leisurely grace! Children's liturgy will resume in September.

ATTENTION PARENTS: REGISTER OR RENEW NOW FOR PREP/CCD CLASSES FOR THIS FALL. IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO ORDER TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS AND WE NEED A COUNT. If your child enters First Grade in 2015, go online to St. Matthew website and click on the link to register and mail in your payment or electronically submit it as you would your contribution. Classes are 6:30 – 7:45pm Monday evenings September thru March. Tuition fee: one child \$110.00, two children \$165.00, three or more \$195.00. Classes will be held again at Early Childhood School and SS Cosmas and Damian Hall. Any questions please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 ext6.

We Celebrate the Sacraments

St. Matthews will celebrate the sacraments of First Penance on March 14, 2016, and First Eucharist on April 30, 2016.

SUMMER BOOK CLUB:



Do you enjoy reading novels? Does Summer give you a bit more free time? Allow yourself some leisure! **August 11** - North of Hope at **7 PM** parish meeting room off the rectory parking area. For more detail consult the posters by the doors of the church. To register contact Msgr. Owens voice mail: 610-828-0424 ext 112 or stmatt2014@gmail.com"



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 **Tuesday, August 11th at 7PM.**

Sharing our time and our company, we knit/crochet shawls which are distributed to parishioners and community members as an expression of remembrance and support; a visible sign of God's comforting embrace. Come learn a new skill (the stitches are very simple), the basic pattern, and select from a wide variety of donated yarn. Work at home or join us for meetings. 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 acaoc@verizon.net "God has no hands but ours to do His work and show His Love."- St. Teresa of Avila

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL food bank is in need of: tuna fish, boxes of mashed potatoes, stew, canned fruits, peanut butter and jelly.

Summer Tutor: Any students going into grades 1st to 4th who would like to refresh their math and reading skills please contact Sabrina Smerecki. Rate: \$20 per hour. bebesmerecki@verizon.net (484)-802-3974.

Property Evaluation and Planning Update

July 1, 2015

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

Dear Archbishop Chaput,

In July 2014, the parishes of St. Gertrude in West Conshohocken, St. Mary, SS Cosmas and Damian and St. Matthew were merged as the newly formed St. Matthew Parish in Conshohocken. The clergy and parishioners of Saint Matthew Parish have sought to join the people and legacy of our former parishes in the mission and life of our merged parish.

We are proud of our faith and parish. Our Pastoral Council and Finance Committee are committed to unifying the traditions and crafting a long range vision for the common good and future generations of the wider Conshohocken community. Just to name a few examples:

- the traditional procession and festival held on the feast of SS Cosmas and Damian
- Blessing of Bread at Thanksgiving with the children reciting Grace before meals in the native tongues of the parish
- the Children's Advent Tree Lighting and Christmas Pageant
- outdoor Procession on Palm Sunday
- Easter Dinner celebrating Cuisines of Poland, Italy and Ireland
- Masses on Memorial Day both at St. Benedict Cemetery (formerly St. Mary parish) and St. Matthew Cemetery
- Pentecost procession concluding with a dove release

Our pastoral plan conforms with the financial realities of our parish. We currently own and maintain thirteen parish buildings and three modest parking lots. The Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils have met in recent months to evaluate the current use and future of our buildings and the financial health of our parish. The economic realities, we believe, call for difficult decisions for the future stability of the pastoral ministry of our newly formed parish community.

I have consulted extensively with our parish councils and appreciate their dedication and recommendations. With their support, I am requesting for our parish the relegation to profane but not sordid use of St. Gertrude Church in West Conshohocken. St. Gertrude has served as a worship site for Saint Matthew Parish since July 1, 2014. The church has been used only three times for Masses of Christian Burial. Both Church and Rectory are no longer needed by the parish.

We want to safeguard the financial health and stability of Saint Matthew Parish, reflecting Conshohocken's current cultural and demographic diversity while preserving its past. We are developing a plan for capital improvements to protect the value and condition of the buildings we use, and ensure that we can meet the liturgical and ministerial needs of our parishioners. The newly formed St. Matthew Parish has maintained a positive balance in our operating budget. However, due to financial constraints in the upkeep of unused buildings, the parish is unable to fund capital improvements for several of the buildings we currently use. These constraints are, in fact, currently depleting the positive gains.

We believe the following serious reasons suggest St. Gertrude Church be so relegated and no longer available for divine worship:

1.) St. Gertrude Church began as a mission parish to St. Matthew. Many years ago the perils of crossing the river and the growing community in West Conshohocken permitted the satellite church. Since its inception as a mission parish to St. Matthew it served its purpose well but with its depleting numbers, it is no longer needed by Saint Matthew Parish. St. Gertrude Church is about one mile from Saint Matthew Church. It has not been a great burden for the faithful to come to the parish church to worship; in fact, it has enhanced parish unity. St. Gertrude Church has not had a Pastor in residence since 2002.

2.) Saint Matthew Parish has endeavored to keep St. Gertrude Church functional.

The parish, however, does not have the resources to continue to repair and maintain the church without negatively impacting the ministries, programs and staffing needs of the newly formed parish. In addition, the buildings we currently use for Sunday worship and other ministries are in need of capital improvements that we have had to postpone or cancel. The 9 month cost for maintenance, insurance and utilities for St. Gertrude Church is \$51,164, and these expenses will only continue to rise and create further burden and the delay of needed parish renovations. Twelve members of the Pastoral and Finance Councils also signed the letter as well as the cost breakdown in the previous bulletin.

3.) St. Gertrude Church is on a multi-plot of land also physically attached to the rectory, with a parking lot directly across the street. It would not only be a burden but near impossible in terms of finances, construction feasibility, time, materials, and borough requirements to subdivide or separate the church from the rectory. The burden of maintaining those two buildings increases Saint Matthew's projected annual costs to \$40,000.

4.) The newly formed parish is in the process of making necessary upgrades and extensive repairs to a parish center on the grounds of St. Matthew which will require all of the parish savings and will possibly leave the parish several million in debt. This re-purposing of the former elementary school building will include a Daycare Facility and Early Childhood Center that will be revenue producing with an emphasis on Catholic Religious Education. This is evangelization. The financial burden of repairing and maintaining the St. Gertrude empty buildings has an immediate and adverse impact on the financial and pastoral programs of Saint Matthew Parish. When buildings are empty they lose value. The deterioration of buildings and subsequent loss of value would impact the stability of our parish for future generations. In re-purposing for a vibrant parish center the goal to establish stability to ensure unity would replace the temporary situation which is divisive.

5.) We have seen a steady decline in the use of St. Gertrude Church as a worship site. As mentioned before there have been only three funerals this past year since the merger.

6.) Our parish would continue to maintain a worship site at St. Mary's Church for funerals. This location is less than a mile from the St. Gertrude location.

7.) Saint Gertrude Church building does not have any particular architectural, historical or artistic significance.

The Pastoral and Finance Councils have spent much time evaluating this situation and our options. While there is some sadness, we believe the relegation of St. Gertrude Church is a necessary path before us at this time. We agree with your recent statement:

"We have an excessive amount of buildings for the number of practicing Catholics today. And it's really important that we don't let all our resources go into maintaining unnecessary buildings. We have to make sure the resources are going into preaching the Gospel and new initiatives of evangelization and re-evangelization". *Our Sunday Visitor*, May 31, 2015

We pray that our efforts and requests have been guided by the Holy Spirit for the good of our newly formed parish community and the greater Glory of God.

After prayerful consideration and extensive consultation, we request you consider our request for relegation of St. Gertrude's Church.

Sincerely in Our Lord,
Father Tom Heron

God's Plan for Giving

July 18, 2015

**WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY**

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

\$10,759.50

Electronic giving \$1,006.50 + \$9,753.00 =
\$10,759.50



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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & LECTOR SCHEDULES

are now on line for your convenience. The schedules will still be e-mailed and U.S. mailed for now. Maybe in the future the web site can take the place of mailing. Log on to www.stmatthewparish.com

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: August 11 and September 8. 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).

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 Liturgy for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. 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!

2 Kings 4:42-44 Psalm 145 Ephesians 4:1-6 John 6:1-15

Often, people will ask, "Father, what's your favorite story in the Bible? Who's your favorite character?"

Today's Gospel which we just heard is one of my favorites. One of my favorite characters is not a prophet, a patriarch, a king—Jesus, of course, has to be our all-time favorite character in all of Scripture, but, lost in the crowd of people facing Jesus in today's Gospel, is a tiny little boy.

Jesus always took care of people's spiritual needs - forgiving sins, casting out demons, compassionate words of acceptance and comfort. He also took care of their physical needs—healing blindness, leprosy, lameness, deafness. Today, however, He is faced with an all-too-common physical need: hunger.

GOD IS NEAR



TO ALL WHO CALL

A huge crowd of men, women, and children—perhaps close to 10,000—have followed Him to a very isolated place. It's getting late. How to feed them?

The apostles are edgy; so are the people. The stores are closed. It's a long walk home. As far as the disciples are concerned the problem was resources. They didn't have enough. But Jesus knew better. What was facing them was not a resource problem, but a faith problem. Tell the people to sit down, He commands.

Andrew: "There's a small boy here with five barley loaves and two pickled fish."

We are not told what conversation Jesus had with the little boy but we can only guess that He used all His persuasive powers to convince the boy to give up his lunch—never an easy thing for a small boy to do.

But the boy did give up the meager food he had. This little boy is one of the unsung heroes of the Gospel and he offers a challenge to us.

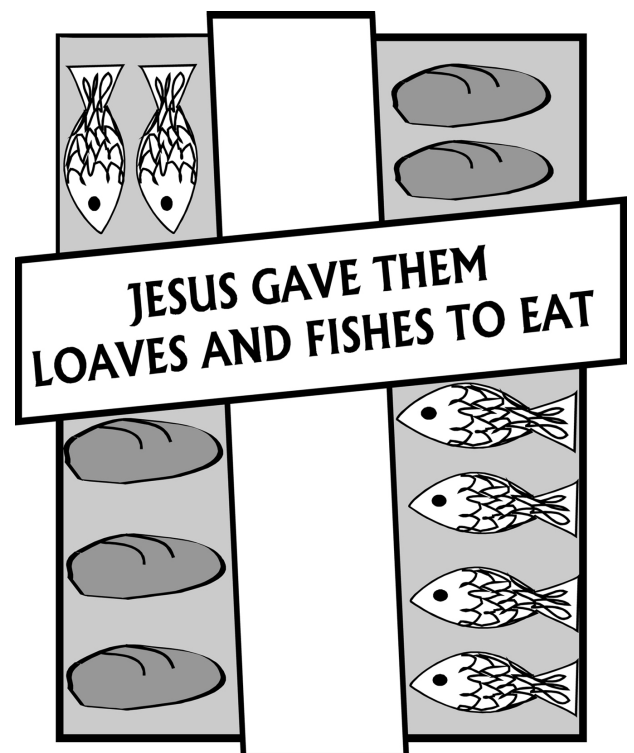
We hear of hunger in Africa and wonder what our few dollars can do. Right here in our own country we read about suffering caused by hurricanes. We hear of earthquakes and tsunamis in various parts of the world. We read about hunger in Darfur; war in the Middle East—what can we do that will make a difference?

On another scale, we are slow to do small things because we look on them as small—like offering a word of sympathy or a helping hand when they would mean so much to those in need of either.

There's a story of a man walking along the beach watching a young boy throwing back into the ocean the jellyfish stranded on the beach. "What are you doing," the man asked the boy. "I'm saving these fish," he replied. "Saving them?" the man said. "But there are thousands of them, millions. What you are doing can't make any difference." The boy said nothing, but as he threw another jellyfish into the water, he murmured under his breath—"It's going to make a heck of a lot of difference to this one."

Like the tiny boy in the Gospel, we must be ready to do the little that is in our power and leave the rest to the Lord who can perform great miracles with our meager offerings. We can never underestimate the value of our small actions.

Jesus wants us to help Him address both the spiritual and physical needs of our brothers and sisters. Deep spiritual longings have brought us to this Eucharist which enables us to better serve our hungry and thirsting world.



End of Bulletin