



## Second Sunday of Advent

**December 6, 2015**

**Saturday, December 5**

4:30PM Martin Brady

**Sunday, December 6**

7:30AM Joseph Speranza

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

11:30AM Thomas Smith

James E. Gavin, Jr.

**Monday, December 7 Vigil**

8:15AM Mark Ambler

7:00PM Margaret Mary Harley

**Tuesday, December 8 Immaculate Conception**

8:15AM Joseph & Helen Schank

12 Noon Concenzio Puglielli

**Wednesday, December 9**

8:15AM Barbara A. Snear

**Thursday, December 10**

8:15AM Dominic Pavlik, Jr.

**Friday, December 11**

8:15AM Jim Lazzaro

**Saturday, December 12**

4:30PM Jane Graham

**Sunday, December 13**

7:30AM Nora Tiernan

9:30AM Rev. William Benonis

11:30AM Jack & Ann Crowphers

Pray for the Sick

Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Florence Zapien, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczyk, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Theresa McGrath, Kylie Reiff, 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, 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, Denise Kavanaugh, Greg Falcone, Ralph Manappello, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath

Deceased: **Richard Tornetta & Walter Donikowski**

Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, 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, Tech Sgt Eric Zweiback

Land of the Free



Because of the Brave

### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

12/5 4:30 Fr. Ryan

12/6 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr Heron 11:30 Fr. Mostardi

12/12 4:30 Msgr. Owens

12/13 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. Heron

12/19 4:30 Fr. Heron

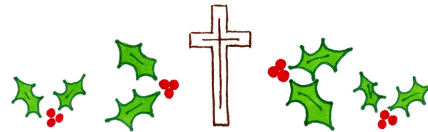
12/20 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr.Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

12/24 4:00 Fr. Heron 7:00 Msgr. Owens

12/25 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Genovese 11:30 Msgr. Owens

12/26 4:30 Fr. Genovese

12/27 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr.Genovese



## Christmas Mass Schedule

**Confession**, Monday, December 21

7PM

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

Vigils: 4 PM and 7 PM

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

7:30 AM --- 9:30 AM --- 11:30 AM

### NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2016

8:15 AM and 12 Noon

**Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of obligation. Mass schedule: **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass 7PM. Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:15AM & 12 Noon.**



**Pre-Jordan Instructions:** 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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. **The next class will be Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in church.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com) or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.



Due to flu season we will discontinue consumption of the precious Blood during the months of December, January & February. We will resume in March.

Thank you so much to all who participated in the Grace Before Meals Celebration at Mass on Thanksgiving morning. All in church were quite impressed with your presentation of Grace in all the different languages. The singing of Johnny Appleseed was a joyful expression of gratitude.

**PREP/CCD** is in need of a few willing **volunteers to sub** for when a catechist has to be absent. A lesson plan would be provided. Please contact Mary Kay at the rectory. 610-828-0424 press 6.



**FAMILIES OF ST MATTHEW PARISH THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH ARE INVITED TO LEAD**

**...AN ADVENT TREE LIGHTING SERVICE, SATURDAY DECEMBER 19** at the closing of 4:30PM Mass.

**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.**

ALL the Children of the parish, from the tiniest to the tallest will present the true meaning of Christmas...and wish for the whitest and brightest Christmas by blessing and lighting the Nativity and the Tree on Fayette Street.

(All Candidates preparing for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation should attend the Advent Tree Lighting Service.)



**PARENTS BE ADVISED:**

DECEMBER 7 ALL CLASSES REPORT TO ST. MATTHEWS CHURCH 6:30PM FOR MASS AT 7PM.

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> LAST CLASS BEFORE CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> ADVENT TREE LIGHTING

**Prepare for Next Sunday**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015**

Zephaniah 3:14 – 18a Philippians 4:4 – 7 Luke 3:10 – 18

When people come to John the Baptist asking, "What should we do?" He gives them the most reasonable, commonsense reply. He says in effect, "Live reality. God is asking you to be faithful to the ordinary circumstances of your life. He will make himself evident there." And with that advice, "the people were filled with expectation, asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ." All because John made them attentive to their own hearts in a way that neglected nothing of their humanity. They can exult with all their heart because now they can trust that the desires of their heart are not illusions. They have no anxiety, for the Lord is as near as the next moment and whatever it brings.

**REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:**

*Dear Friends, A Christmas Meditation: My Gift to You*

*The Blessed Mother Like the Air We Breathe* – Gerald Manley Hopkins SJ

*This air, which, by life's law,  
My lung must draw and draw  
Now but to breathe its praise.*

*Minds me in many ways  
Of her who not only Gave God's infinity  
Dwindled to infancy  
Welcome in womb and breast,  
Birth, milk and all the rest  
But mothers each new grace  
That does now reach our race-  
Mary Immaculate,  
Merely a woman, yet  
Whose presence, power is  
Great as no goddess's  
Was deemed, dreamed; who  
This one work has to do –  
Let all God's glory through.*

*Of her flesh he took flesh:  
He does take fresh and fresh,  
Though much the mystery how,  
Not flesh but spirit now  
And makes, O marvelous!  
New Nazareths in us,  
Where she shall yet conceive  
Him morning, noon, and eve;  
New Bethlehem, and he born  
There, evening, noon, and morn –  
Bethlehem or Nazareth,  
Men here may draw like breath  
More Christ and baffle death;  
Who, born so, comes to be  
New self and nobler me  
In each one and each one  
More makes, when all is done,  
Both God's and Mary's Son,  
Again look overhead  
How air is azured  
Merry Christmas, Msgr. Tom Owens*

**ST. MATTHEW SENIOR GROUP:** Our next meeting is on December 16th at 12:30 in the convent. We are going to have a Pot Luck Lunch and a Pollyanna. Please let us know if you have not signed up yet what you will be sharing for the luncheon. Any questions/suggestions call Pat Hanna at 610-272-3610 or Kitty McNally at 610-825-9291.

**ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB:** Meets every Thursday 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.

**Casino Trips:** are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **December 8 & January 12.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11<sup>th</sup> & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Please call Joe (610-825-4596).

# God's Plan for Giving

November 29, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR OFFERTORY  
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$11,272.00**

Electronic giving \$1,276 + \$9,996 = \$11,272.00

**Second Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious.**

## ELECTRONIC GIVING:



**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 STUDENTS EXCEL:

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

### Archbishop Carroll High School:

First Honors: **Emily L. Wittig**

Second Honors: **Mark A. Boccella**

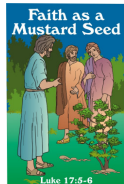
**Congratulations!**



**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, December 8 at 7PM.**

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. Contact Alice O'Connor [acaoc@verizon.net](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)

## St. Matthew's Young Adult Group, The Mustard Seeds,



would like to invite all ages 22-35 for an Advent Social/Service Project on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30 pm. Bring your own wine and favorite cheese to share while we gather for an Advent reflection and then write Christmas cards for the shut-ins of our parish.

We hope to see you there! Email Sarah

Burchell at [sburchell821@gmail.com](mailto:sburchell821@gmail.com) or Chris Farley at [farleyfilm@gmail.com](mailto:farleyfilm@gmail.com) with any questions. Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!

**OPLATEK:** (Polish Christmas Wafers) are available on the tables in back of Church & at the Rectory. Donation \$2.00



All are invited to a Christmas themed dinner social featuring Polish & Italian Christmas Eve foods.

**Saturday, December 12,  
2015 @ 1:00 pm in St. Mary's  
Hall. Cost: \$15.00 Adult,**

**\$7.00 children, Under 6 free.**

For tickets contact:

Felicia Jemionek Rzeznik 610-825-9027

Gloria Mastrocola 610-828-3014

Leah Hepler 610-834-8538 [stmaryconshy@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryconshy@gmail.com)

In order to know how much food to prepare, please purchase tickets by **Tuesday, Dec 8.** Thank you.



Archdiocese  
of  
Philadelphia

Statement of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. Regarding Education Tax Credits Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement

Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) are vital programs that assist many thousands of needy children. They do it by enabling Pennsylvania businesses to donate to qualified scholarship organizations. Donor companies then receive a tax credit, within specified limits, against their Pennsylvania tax liability. The resulting scholarships benefit children whose families meet certain low income criteria. Unfortunately, the Department of Community and Economic Development is currently unwilling to issue authorizations to firms ready to make contributions to qualified scholarship organizations. The real world result that flows from the refusal to issue contribution authorizations is to prevent companies from gaining the approvals they urgently need in order to make contributions and secure the resulting tax credits required for the current calendar year. This creates a very serious problem. If these contributions are *not* made, then scholarships will not be available for thousands of students who attend Catholic and many other private schools. In the case of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, this immediately builds pressure for school closures as early as next year, because the EITC and OSTC scholarships are vital to parents' ability to afford their children's education. This situation is time sensitive, because the end of the year rapidly approaches. The administrative details of the programs require authorizations for companies and actual contributions to the scholarship organizations *before year end.*

I ask Catholics and all persons who support good educational options for the poor to contact Governor Wolf today via this website – <https://governor.pa.gov/contact/> — and to ask for his support in issuing these authorizations.



This year during Advent we will be collecting for Dawn's Place in place of our Cradle of Giving. Dawn's Place is a residential program located in Philadelphia for women who have been exploited and abused; a ministry very close to Pope Francis' heart. If you could donate gift cards for the women it would provide a dignified way for the women to purchase personal things without putting a stress on our limited resources. Gift cards to Target, CVS, Rite Aid, Staples, Walgreens etc. are most useful. Containers are placed around the church. Thanks so much, Sister Terry Shields, mshr, President.



**PRE-CANA:** St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, January 23, 2016** (snow date January 30) from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass at 4:30PM. Cost \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact Deacon Mike Kubiak: 610-828- 0424 X 5 or [deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net)

**Walking with Purpose:** Please join us for coffee and dessert on **Wednesday, December 9th** at St. Matthews Convent (51 E 3rd Ave, Conshohocken, PA 19428) 6:30 – 8:15 PM. Feel free to come alone or bring a friend. We're a very welcoming group. No RSVP necessary, please contact Judy at [JAKukowski@verizon.net](mailto:JAKukowski@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

## 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 Second Sunday of Advent. 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!*

*Baruch 5: 1-9 (6) Psalm 126    Philipians 1:4-6, 8-11    Luke 3: 1-6*

**"MY PRAYER IS THAT YOUR LOVE MAY MORE AND MORE ABOUND, BOTH IN UNDERSTANDING AND WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE, SO THAT WITH CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND BLAMELESS CONDUCT YOU MAY LEARN THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER."**

HAS YOUR LOVE ABOUNDED MORE AND MORE THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE? WHO TAUGHT YOU TO VALUE THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER?

Let's take a look at my experiences with my grandfather, my father and my mother.

For my grandfather three things mattered: that you be generous, modest and not let anyone take advantage of you. For my dad what mattered was that I be his business partner. For my mom what mattered is your Catholic faith and complete trust in God.

Did you ever meet a person who is mirthful? Uproariously funny and hilariously free?

It is a well established truth of life that people who are honest, cheerful and generous are far healthier than people who are suspicious, selfish and hostile. Opening our hearts to God's abundant grace - that's what matters most in this life.

... Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share His wisdom.

**"JERUSALEM, TAKE OFF YOUR ROBE OF MOURNING AND MISERY; PUT ON THE SPLENDOR OF GLORY FROM GOD FOREVER."**

**"THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US; WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY."**

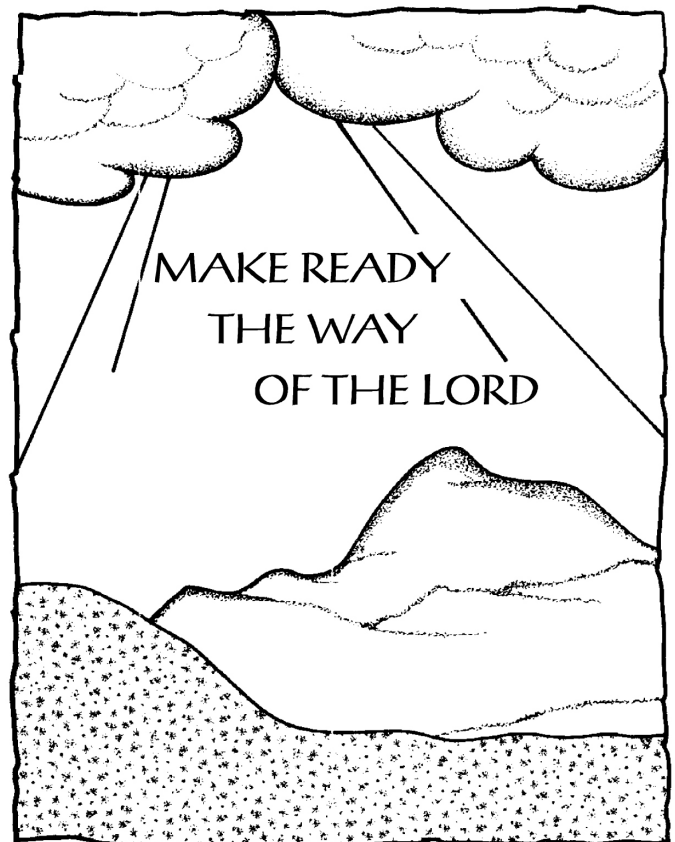
Our readings for this second Sunday of Advent highlight the importance of justice. The book of Baruch is for Jews who live in exile in Babylon and

suffer all the indignities of any minority group. Baruch reminds them that they are special and of great importance. They are the people of Yahweh. When they realize this, then they will be able to conquer hills, valleys and deserts. The justice of God, that is, His generosity and fidelity, is such that the exiles will be gathered once again in the land that the Lord gave them long ago. God's justice and grace will heal the brokenhearted. God is the Lord of all, who rules with justice, mercy and peace. The Lord expects His people to labor for the same things - justice, freedom, mercy and peace. To do so is to know a profound joy. Dorothy Day and Mother Theresa are two people who lived this truth.

Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians prays that the community **"may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God."**

This harvest of justice is one which produces the fruits of love and guides us in seeking **"the things that really matter."**

The towering Advent figure, John the Baptist calls for a baptism of repentance and conversion. There can be no peace and freedom in our lives if we do not open our hearts to God's abundant grace. That's what matters most in this life.



End of Bulletin