



# Mass Intentions

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time January 22, 2017

### Saturday, January 21

4:30PM Francis Costa

### Sunday, January 22

7:30AM Joseph S. Baranowski

9:30AM Edward J. Smith

11:30AM Margaret & Paul Walters

### Monday, January 23

8:15AM James "Pete" Love

### Tuesday, January 24

8:15AM Mary Vasas

### Wednesday, January 25

8:15AM Luella Beth Bierce

### Thursday, January 26

8:15AM Lorraine Charlesworth (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

### Friday, January 27

8:15AM John F. Schank

### Saturday, January 28

4:30PM James Dougherty Sr.

Richard Alexy

Jack Heron

### Sunday, January 29

7:30AM John Baranowski

9:30AM Ruth Dobry

11:30AM Teresa L. Bello

*Say a Prayer for...* Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita VanBuskirk, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Sue Stephan, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Jack Susskind, Kristen Lafferty, Thomas Waszena, Debbie Miller Hannon, Barbara Laranko, Robert Berk, Irene Barnes, Anna Marie Berry, Emma Forlini, Paul & Family, John Dalton, Edward Clinton, Joseph Januzelli, Barbara Clement, John DiDonato, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, Richard Wolfrom, Peg Schultz, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauser, Edward Pilcicki



**Pray for the deceased: Charles Lare, Michael Brown, Vince Ruggiero**

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:** Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Stats, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108<sup>th</sup> Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, Corporal Thomas Mazzochetti, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker.



### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

1/21 4:30 Fr. McGuinn

1/22 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Msgr. Owens

1/28 4:30 Fr. Ryan

1/29 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. McGuinn 11:30 Fr. Heron



**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 is Tuesday, February 7 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)

### Prepare for next Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pope Benedict XVI noted that the individual Beatitudes are the fruit of Christ looking upon his disciples. "The Beatitudes express the meaning of discipleship ... What the Beatitudes mean cannot be expressed in purely theoretical terms; it is proclaimed in the life and suffering, and in the mysterious joy, of the disciple who gives himself over completely to following the Lord." The Beatitudes demonstrate conclusively how God, in choosing the weak of the world, "shames the strong." Therefore, with great certainty and conviction we, "the humble of the earth," from the stance of our utter nothingness, "seek the Lord." For it is due to him that we are in Christ Jesus – through his gaze on the mountain we become like him.



### St. Matthew Book Club

**"Fiction with a Christian twist"**

Now is a good time to join the group. On Wednesday, **January 25** we will gather to discuss *We Are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas; on Wednesday, **February 22** we will gather to discuss *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead; on Wednesday, **March 29** we will gather to discuss *Wheat that Springeth Green* by J. F. Powers. Meetings are held in the new Parish Center, enter in the door across from the Rectory at 7 PM. Please register your interest at [stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office at 610-828-0424.

Members of St. Mary's Polish American Society will attend Mass at St. Matthew's Church on Sunday, **January 29 at 11:30 AM.** The Society will recite their weekly Novena to Our Lady of Czestochowa immediately after the Mass.

# Religious Education

## CCD

### Confirmation Parent Meeting Monday January 30, 2017 6:30pm St. Matthew Church.

At least one parent must attend this meeting. Necessary information will be distributed for the reception of the sacrament, April 2, 2017 at 3pm. The following will be collected at the meeting:

1. CHOSEN SAINT NAME (one side of 3x 5 card)
2. HEIGHT IN FEET AND INCHES, CONSIDER SHOE/HEEL (other side of 3 x 5 card) cards will be made available at meeting.
3. LETTER TO SPONSOR FROM CANDIDATE. SEALED IN ENVELOPE WITH CANDIDATE AND SPONSOR NAME ON OUTSIDE.
4. LETTER TO FATHER HERON, NO ENVELOPE. SIGNED BY CANDIDATE (Instructions for the letters were in the first handout information)
5. SPONSOR ELIGIBILITY FORM/LETTER IF NECESSARY
6. FEE: \$80.00

First Penance will be on March 13, 2017 at 6:30PM

First Holy Communion will be on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 11AM

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3PM



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.

#### ALTAR SERVERS:

Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew's Altar Servers. If you are interested email [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net).



#### Valentines Babysitting

Looking to enjoy a couple's night? Sign up your children for free babysitting at the Parish Center on **Saturday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> 5-9 PM**, organized by the St. Matt's Young Adults Group. (\$10 donation requested for pizza, snacks, and drinks.) Interested in helping? All volunteers from the Parish welcome. To register or volunteer, email [elyseeasson@gmail.com](mailto:elyseeasson@gmail.com).



Prayer Shawl Ministry

#### 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, February 14 at 7PM in the SVDP Rm.** 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. 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.

**Casino Trips:** scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month: **February 14 & March 14.** Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11<sup>th</sup> & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).



#### St. Matthew's Young Adult Group

**The Mustard Seeds:** Are you age 22-35 and interested in meeting other Catholics your age? Do you yearn for more community? Are you interested in service work? If you have any questions, email Tony Moral [tony.moral2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.moral2@gmail.com) or 215-715-2115. Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!



#### ST MATTHEW'S SENIORS will meet every third Wednesday of the month.

February meeting will take place on **February 15**, in the Parish Community Center at **12:30pm**. We will have a short business meeting, lunch (\$5).

**Also, Membership dues (\$10) will be collected for 2017.**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

#### Busy Young Men's Retreat



The Malvern Retreat House is again conducting a 24 hour retreat experience for men 40 years old and under. It will be held **Friday and Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>**, beginning Friday evening and closing with the 4:30 PM Vigil mass on Saturday. Retreat directors will be Monsignor Joseph T Marino, Rector of the retreat house and Bill Donahee, a layman who has worked in the field of evangelization since 1999. In October, 2000, he was commissioned, along with 11 other lay missionaries, by Pope St. John Paul II to "bring Jesus back to your country." He has given hundreds of talks on the Catholic faith to young people throughout the greater Philadelphia area and beyond. He and his wife, Rebecca, live just outside of Philadelphia PA with their four children. The focus of the retreat will be *Encountering the Divine Physician*. The cost of the retreat is \$125, which includes three meals and an overnight stay. To register, please visit [malvernretreat.com/register](http://malvernretreat.com/register) or call 610 – 644 – 0400 for more information.

# God's Plan for Giving

January 15, 2017

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$14,101.00**

Electronic giving \$2,405 + \$11,696 = \$14,101.00

**Second Collection** today is for Catholic Relief Service



**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)



## Super Bowl Hoagie Sale:

Conshohocken Knights of Columbus Council #1603 is having a hoagie sale on **Saturday, February 4 and Sunday, February 5**. The cost is \$6.50 per hoagie. Orders forms are in the back of the church. **Please pre-order your hoagies this weekend and next weekend.** You can pick up the hoagies after all the Masses on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> make sure you pick up after the requested Mass on your order form. All proceeds will benefit St. Vincent de Paul and Colonial Food Cupboard.



**The Conshohocken Art League**, Mary Wood Park House, 120 E. Fifth Ave. Conshohocken, is forming its 2017

semester of classes as follows:

ADULT DRAWING PAINTING INDEPENDENT

PROJECTS: Tuesday, **February 7**, 9:30 to 11:30 AM

ADULT BASIC DRAWING: Thursday, February 9, 9:30 to 11:30 AM - \$150 for 10 weeks plus \$10 yearly membership fee

YOUTH CLASS – INTRODUCTION TO FINE ART

Ages 9 to 18 (class size limited) - Saturday **February 4**, 10 AM to 12 noon - \$100 for 10 weeks

For all classes, please pre-register at [conshohockenartleague.org](http://conshohockenartleague.org)

You are invited to attend a presentation by artist Stanley Bielen on Sunday, **February 19** at the Mary Wood Park House from 1 to 3 PM. Snow date will be **February 26**.



**All are invited to Ostatki: A Polish Mardi Gras Celebration** to support St. Mary Polish American Society at the TK Club at 500 East Hector Street in Conshohocken on **Sunday**

**February 26th** from Noon to 6 pm. St. Mary Polish American Society is a non-profit organization working to promote Polish heritage and culture in and around Montgomery County, PA. This event will feature Polka music from the Naturalistix Polka Band, Polish food, a full cash bar, a 50/50 drawing, a basket raffle, and baked goods for sale. Tickets are \$10 advance sales, \$15 day of event. Tickets include the price of admission, with food not included. Advance tickets are on sale until Tuesday February 14th. We are also taking advance orders for pączki (Polish doughnuts) and frozen pierogi. For tickets, pączki, and pierogi pre-orders, please email [stmaryconshy@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryconshy@gmail.com) or call Dorothy Swedkowski at [610-630-0861](tel:610-630-0861).

## Reflections from my Rocking Chair

Matthew Kelly in his book, *The Four Signs of A Dynamic Catholic*, offers us an opportunity to make a few New Year's resolutions regarding the practice of our faith. He begins with a few statistics gathered from a large-scale survey of parish life in the United States. This is what he discovered: 6.4% of registered parishioners contribute 80% of the volunteer hours in a parish and 6.8% of registered parishioners donate 80% of the financial contributions made. Roughly 7% of our worshipping communities are fully engaged. He suggests an interesting pastoral approach. If the 7% would direct their enthusiasm for the faith to just one person each – within a certain period of time – this would result in bringing the number of engaged Catholics to 14%, and the 14% another year later would raise the engaged Catholic level to 28%, and so on.

The obvious question then is, what does an engaged Catholic look like? Kelly offers us four signs of a Dynamic Catholic. He writes, "There are four signs on the life-giving spiritual habits that animate their lives. I am convinced that if we work intentionally to help people develop a vibrant spirituality through these four signs, we will see incredible things happen in their lives and in the life of the Church." The four signs are Prayer, Study, Generosity and Evangelization.

The prayerful Catholic experiences God as a personal friend and advisor believing that doing God's will is the only path that leads to lasting happiness. The 7% have a daily commitment to prayer as a daily routine. They also tend to have a structured way of praying. They enter the prayer time with a plan, a daily habit of prayer be it the rosary, a prayerful reading of sacred Scripture or some other format that is fruitful for them.

The 7% are keenly interested in learning from Jesus and studying about him. Highly engaged Catholics read Catholic books, listen to Catholic CDs, watch Catholic DVDs about the faith and tune into Catholic radio or television. They go on retreats more regularly than most Catholics and attend spiritual events and conferences. To know him is to love him! The study of Scripture or church teachings enables the engaged Catholic to help people understand why the church teaches what she teaches.

The Dynamic Catholic is filled with the spirit of generosity, a willingness to be at the service of others. They donate their time and their talents and support the parish financially, often tithing from their resources.

Having experienced the beauty of gospel living, like every other good thing, comes a desire to share it with others. Ironically while evangelization is at the heart of our mission as Christians ("Go and baptize, in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit"), most Catholics do not resonate with the idea and are uncomfortable with the practice of reaching out to unchurched people who they do not know. Pope Saint John Paul II spoke of "the new evangelization". It is now a time for the church's missionary work to focus on those countries that once were converted to Christ but have now fallen into a spiritual stupor.

Take some time to ponder where you stand on these four points and resolve to use the coming Lenten season as a time for renewal and reflection. Blessings,

*Msgr. Tom Owens*



## Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

Isaiah 8:23–9:3 Psalm 27 First Corinthians 1:10-13, 17  
Matthew 4:12-23

*In these weeks that follow the Christmas season, we continue to focus on that light that conquered darkness. And this is precisely the concern and focus that we would wish to have in these dark days of January, when the end of winter is hardly even a distant promise for many of us. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that anguish has fled and darkness has dispelled. Indeed, we who have walked in darkness have now seen a great light!*

*As the people of light, we are vested with tasks and duties that follow from our enlightenment. St. Paul, as he writes to the Corinthians, is explicit in his instructions that we should be united and not divided. If we do not follow St. Paul's command, we are not the people of light referred to in the reading from Isaiah. Instead, we may be those for whom there is both gloom and distress.*

*While we are called to be a people of light, we may choose to be people of darkness instead. Why, you ask, would people make such a foolish choice? What answer to that question is there other than the power of darkness, and the perverse yet persuasive pull of sin? Remember, we begin each Eucharistic liturgy by acknowledging our sins. Acknowledging our sins is the first step to shedding, conquering, repenting of, and reforming from the consequences of sinfulness.*

*Perhaps we might see as among our own gravest sins the casual violation of St. Paul's injunction to the church in every age. Indeed, our insistence to remain divided rather than united is evident throughout textbooks of history. We can examine our hearts and our attitudes, our convictions and our arguments, and even our internet search history, where we will find evidence that we have been far too casual in stating our opinions as if they were divinely inspired or infallible. When we give ourselves and our ideas this kind of authority, we step into dangerous territory, for it invites us to think less of others and what they believe. We may even become so insistent on our own 'rightness' that we come to doubt the teachings of the church, as if its prayers and teachings were just another set of opinions for us to examine and judge.*

*St. Paul calls us to a certain humility, as does the Gospel, as does the church. If we are to be the fishers of people that Jesus has envisioned us to be, we must*

*begin by repenting as He calls us. Then, with open hearts and receptive minds, we can announce the joys we have seen, and point to and reflect the light to which we are called. This is both the dignity and the duty of the baptized children of God, the beloved*

### The people in darkness have seen a great light



*daughters and sons of the Most High.*

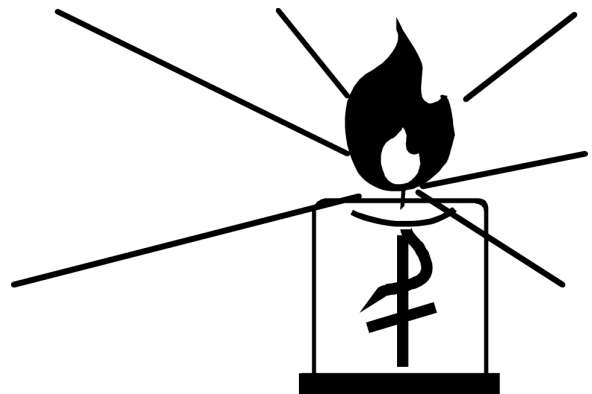
*I heard about a woman who was the director of a drug rehabilitation center. One day a tall, strong man with a baseball bat entered the reception area. He was shouting obscenities and began banging the bat on the desks of the secretaries and admitting personnel.*

*They jumped back and tried to get as far away from him as possible. One ran into the back room and called the police.*

*The woman who directed the center came out and walked right up to the screaming man waving the bat. She ducked under his reach and wrapped her arms around his chest. In a heartfelt voice she repeated over and over again, "Oh, you poor man! Oh, you poor man!" They stood together in that strange embrace for a while, and then the man began to sob. The woman led him to a chair. He slumped into it and waited for the police. He never let go of the baseball bat.*

*I want to know how that woman laces and unlaces her shoes. I find her fascinating. And I suspect she knows what drives Christ.*

*William C. Graham*



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