



# MASS INTENTIONS

## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time February 19, 2017

### Saturday, February 18

4:30PM Joseph Speranza

### Sunday, February 19

7:30AM Sr. Regina Joseph

9:30AM Mary Lepera

11:30AM John J. Williams Sr. (4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### Monday, February 20

8:15AM Audrey DeFrancesco

### Tuesday, February 21

8:15AM Joan Nasielski

### Wednesday, February 22

8:15AM Mary C. Moore (35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

### Thursday, February 23

8:15AM Filippo DiClemente

### Friday, February 24

8:15AM Charles Lare

### Saturday, February 25

4:30PM John Fisher

### Sunday, February 26

7:30AM Patricia A. & Paul A. Stanko

9:30AM Andrew Adamcik (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary)

11:30AM Joseph F. Rascioli

*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, 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, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Jack Susskind, Kristen Lafferty, Debbie Miller Hannon, Barbara Laranko, Robert Berk, Irene Barnes, Anna Marie Berry, Emma Forlini, Paul & Family, Edward Clinton, Barbara Clement, John DiDonato, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, Richard Wolfrom, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauser



**Theresa Lacoff, John Burt,  
Joe Botto**

### 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

2/18 4:30 Msgr. Owens

2/19 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. McGuinn

2/25 4:30 Fr. Heron

2/26 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. McGuinn



**Lent begins: Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday** and the start of the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence (no meat is allowed).

**Mass Schedule: 8:15 AM, 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM.**

Ashes will be distributed during the Masses after the Prayer of the Faithful.

### Prepare for next Sunday

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

Sacred Scripture

Isaiah 49: 14 - 15 | Corinthians 4:1 - 5 Matthew 6:24 - 34

Four times in today's gospel Jesus tells us not to worry. He begs us to believe that our "heavenly Father knows" what we need. God's attention to our needs surpasses even the solitude of a mother toward her baby: "Can a mother forget her infant? Even should she forget, I will never forget you." We forget that we will never be forgotten. We give in to anxiety. Yet, worrying will not "add a single moment to your lifespan." What does add length, and depth, and richness to our life is serving our true Master. He "will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts." And in the knowledge of our darkness and doubt, the Father will "much more provide for you."



# LENT

**Wednesday March 22, 2017, 6:30 PM in St. Matthew Parish Center.**

St. Matthew Parish will be having a Lenten Prayer

Service and Poor Person Dinner, which consist of a bowl of soup, bread and a beverage. Please come and join us. Your free will offering for the dinner will be donated to the needy.

# Religious Education

## CCD/PREP Updates

February dates to remember:

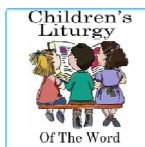
Feb 26 regular Sunday morning class will be held. **Feb. 19 there is NO CCD CLASS!**

**Sacrament Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist on February 27 at 6:30 in St. Matthews church. At least one parent must attend.**

**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).



## 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.

### Pope John Paul II High School:

First Honors: **Alyssa G. Garcia**

**Alyssa is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in her class. Congratulations!**

**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 March 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)



## St. Matthew Book Club

**"Fiction with a Christian twist"**

Now is a good time to join the group. 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 Parish Center, enter in the door across from the Rectory at 7 PM. Please register your interest at [stmat2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmat2014@gmail.com) or call the Parish Office at 610-828-0424



**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, March 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)

## Eagle Scout:

Fr. Heron and all the parishioners congratulate **David Certo** a parishioner, who will receive an Eagle Scout award on Saturday, March 4, 2017. **Congratulations David!** We are proud of you and your Eagle Scout accomplishment.



## YOUNG ADULTS

Join St. Matthew's Conshohocken Young Adult group focused on social, spiritual, and service. Upcoming events include:

**Feb. 21** Cradles to Crayons and El Limon 6 PM

To sign up for these events and more please join the St Matthew Conshohocken Young Adult Facebook group.

If you have any questions, please contact Tony Moral at [tony.moral2@gmail.com](mailto:tony.moral2@gmail.com) or Erin Garrett at [erin.garret@gmail.com](mailto:erin.garret@gmail.com).

## ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

Often times our busy lives keep us from growing closer to our Lord. Prayerfully consider taking time away from your hectic life to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is a lay movement started in the Catholic Church over 50 years ago. Cursillo de Cristianidad means, 'little course' in Christianity. The weekend consists of a series of talks given by clergy and lay people, daily Mass, Adoration and time to just be still. If you are looking for something more...look at Cursillo. Weekends are held twice a year, one for women – September 7-10, 2017, one for men – November 16-20, 2017. To learn more about this opportunity contact Deacon Joe Carr at [rosehigh1@comcast.net](mailto:rosehigh1@comcast.net), Maria DiMarco at 484-888-5368.



**Ladies' Bingo:** Friday, **March 3<sup>rd</sup>** - *Doors open at 6pm - Bingo begins at 7pm* Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School 3040 Walton Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

## God's Plan for Giving

February 12, 2017

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$12,577.00**

Electronic giving \$1,358.00 + \$11,219.00 = \$12,577.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today is for the Care of the Aging and Infirm Priests of the Archdiocese.**



**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'S SENIORS** will meet every **third Wednesday of the month**. March meeting will take place on **March 15**, in the Parish

Community Center at **12:30pm**. We will have a short business meeting, lunch (\$5). **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

### 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: **March 14 & April 11**. 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).

### 9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's Spirituality Conference - March 4



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR MAN UP PHILLY 2017! On **Saturday, March 4, 2017** at St Joseph University Hagan Arena, Catholic men are invited to the 9th Annual Archdiocesan Men's

Spirituality Conference. Speakers include EWTN's Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, inspirational speaker and Kevin Reilly, former Philadelphia Eagle whose career was ended by a rare cancer. Acclaimed Irish tenor, Mark Forrest, will sing during Eucharistic Adoration. Register [manupphilly.com](http://manupphilly.com).

### MOM Heart of the Home Day of Renewal March 18

Registration is OPEN for our 23rd Annual MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal

**March 18, 2017** • 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center, West Chester. Calling moms of all ages and types: new moms, seasoned moms, grandmothers, step-mothers. Even if you're not a mom, you are still welcome! Continue your Lenten season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers Lisa Mladinich and Eleanor Farzetta. See our registration form for all details at [www.mom-heartofthehome.org/events.html](http://www.mom-heartofthehome.org/events.html) or call 484-798-7368 or 610-384-4933 for more information.

### Some thoughts for a good Lent:

- Ash Wednesday is March 1<sup>st</sup> and ashes will be distributed after the "Prayer of the Faithful" at each Mass; the Masses are 8:15 AM, Noon and 7:00 PM;
- coming to Mass each day and receiving Holy Communion;
- going to the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7 PM
- putting money away from your Wednesday evening meal for the poor;
- Special collection on Ash Wednesday to feed the poor.



**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).



**The Knights of Columbus** would like to thank everyone who purchased hoagies for the Super Bowl. The amount of \$600.00 will be donated to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Colonial Neighbor Council.



### Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent

Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a FREE email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. You will get short

inspirational videos and practical tips from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Sign up for FREE at: [BestLentEver.com/Lent](http://BestLentEver.com/Lent)

**WHATS COOKING?** Sacred Heart Rectory (Bridgeport, Montgomery County) is looking for a dinner cook for Monday through Thursday. At least three years cooking experience is necessary. Food shopping and kitchen cleaning are included as responsibilities. If interested, please call Ed Scott at Sacred Heart Rectory, 610-275-1750, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday for additional information.

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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!**

The words of God to Moses in our first reading, "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy," have about them a kind of unreality. When we hear holiness-talk, we usually think of far-away places and people with strange lifestyles. We are much more at home with the lifestyle of the "rich and famous." Holiness is one of those topics which tend to numb the mind and blur the vision of the best-intentioned among us. Holiness is for the priest, nun, monk or saint, but not for me. I am just an average Christian trying to make spiritual ends meet. Holiness-talk leaves most of us more frustrated than inspired. It is not the finished product—holiness—but the process that intrigues us. We want to know how one reaches that goal. How can we become holy?

There is a wonderful story told about the Indian religious leader, Gandhi. A mother brought her daughter to Gandhi in hopes that he could curb her love for sweets. He told them to return to him in a week. When they returned, Gandhi was asked by the mother why she had to wait a week. He replied, "Until one week ago I, myself, was very fond of sweets." Gandhi couldn't preach control if he himself lacked self-discipline.

These wise words and actions of Gandhi offer us a keen insight into holiness. Holiness requires effort. There is no magic quick-fix on the road to heaven. There is no substitute for mortification, prayer and self-discipline. There is a need to read the Scriptures, the Church Fathers, and the inspiring writings of men and women outstanding in faith.

But we need to be clear about holiness: it is not something exterior that we have to win. Rather, holiness is the process by which we liberate the Spirit that lives within each of us.

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians: "Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Holiness is not something we put on like a coat or a hat. Holiness is

living in the image of the One who lovingly fashioned us. We need to be cautious of any promise about holiness which offers sainthood without the cross. The Spirit that lives within each of us comes from the Savior who died for our sins and rose. Holiness and discipleship are a daily journey to Calvary.

What specifically does this mean? Holiness means to let the divine essence of love shine through us. This is not some "other-worldly" mysticism which removes us from our everyday lives. Quite the contrary! Holiness as love active in us empowers a new way of life and living. What is this new way? The selections from Leviticus and Matthew agree: holiness is a complete change of heart in our relationship with others. Holiness becomes believable to the extent that we live lives of love.

The words of our Gospel reading end with Jesus saying, "In a word, you must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect." These words are not a call to endless frustration and despair, but to a daily taking up and carrying of our Cross. We are perfected by love and doing our best to love. Leviticus calls for forgiveness and love of the neighbor. The Sermon on the Mount goes even further: "Love your enemies, pray for your persecutors." This is very specific, this-worldly and challenging. Just think of the person last week who made your life uncomfortable. Just think of the enemy with whom you want to even the score. Now, if you really want to be holy, forgive and pray for them. Moreover, do not seek revenge, but give of yourself or your resources to them when they ask.

Can we have such a holiness? Yes! Why? Again St. Paul: "All these are yours, and you are Christ's and Christ is God's."



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