

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 19, 2015

Saturday, July 18

4:30PM James M. Bowe Sr.

Sunday, July 19

7:30AM Charles & Elizabeth Kelley
(60th Wedding Anniversary)

9:30AM Martin Brady

11:30AM Bill Minnick

Monday, July 20

8:15AM John R. Kopecky

Tuesday, July 21

8:15AM Francis VanBuskirk

Wednesday, July 22

8:15AM William Gallagher

Thursday, July 23

8:15AM Dorothy Leslie

Friday, July 24

8:15AM Theresa Helen Welhaf

Saturday, July 25

4:30PM Joanne Schank Beeler

Sunday, July 26

7:30AM Audrey DeFrancesco

9:30AM Rev. James W. Donlon

11:30AM Bill Freas

*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 Blaszczyk, 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, Matthew Waters, Vince Ruggiero, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Matt McNamee.



Pray for the Deceased: June Zummo & Carol Tinneney

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

7/18 4:30 Fr. Heron
7/19 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens
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.

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.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS and 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

Summer Tutor:

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

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



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

Property Evaluation and Planning Update

Aside from the financial and building information shared, there are other factors that must be taken into consideration as we make decisions about the future of our parish buildings.

Deterioration of Buildings

St. Matthew parish does not have the money to make necessary capital improvements to all of our properties. The average monthly upkeep (reported last week) is becoming an increasingly serious drain on our resources. The longer the buildings remain empty, the more the buildings will deteriorate. As the buildings deteriorate, so does their value. That loss of value impacts our ability to sell at the best price.

Revenue Generation

Currently, upkeep on SS Cosmas and Damian Church and rectory is costing \$2,497.00 monthly. At present, we are pursuing a lease/sale agreement with the Coptic Church. This is now in the hands of the Moderator of the Curia, Msgr. Kutys, who will present to the Archbishop for a final decision. This agreement entails a shared use of the property until the repurposing of the school building at St. Matthew's is available for PREP/CCD use.

Research is being conducted for the properties of the Convent, St. Mary's Church and Rectory.

On July 1, 2015 a letter of relegation was sent to Archbishop Chaput for St. Gertrude Church. This is the first step to the sale of that property. Archbishop Chaput responded July 10, 2015. He has passed the request to Msgr. Measure who will develop a canonical response for the Archbishop.

Over the next few weeks: Copy of letter sent to Archbishop Chaput, Explanation of Coptic Christian Church, Values Driving Our Decisions, Progress on Repurposing of school building on St. Matthew property.

PARISHIONER IN NEED: of a portable wheelchair. If you have one to donate or have one reasonably priced, please call Rita at 610-834-8691.



God's Plan for Giving

July 12, 2015

**WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:
\$12,925.50**

Electronic giving \$1,331.50 + \$11,594.00 = \$12,925.50



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

June 26, 2015

**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP CHARLES J.
CHAPUT, O.F.M. CAP.**

**REGARDING SUPREME COURT RULING ON SAME
SEX MARRIAGE**

"The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision on marriage is not a surprise. The surprise will come as ordinary people begin to experience, firsthand and painfully, the impact of today's action on everything they thought they knew about marriage, family life, our laws and our social institutions. The mistakes of the court change nothing about the nature of men and women, and the truth of God's Word. The task now for believers is to form our own families even more deeply in the love of God, and to rebuild a healthy marriage culture, one marriage at a time, from the debris of today's decision."

+Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

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).

SHORT TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHING POSITION:

 Merion Mercy Academy, an independent, all girls Catholic High School sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a short term substitute position in English for a few weeks at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Qualified applicants with an English degree and teaching experience are asked to submit a cover letter and resume by Tuesday, July 28, 2015 Send to: Miss Mary Ann Danovich at madanovich@merion-mercy.com.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Dear friends,

As everyone knows, the Holy Father is coming to Philadelphia in September. In his short time as Pope he has gained the attention of so many – Catholics and beyond. The media has made us very aware of the simplicity of his lifestyle. "Take only one tunic..." is a word from God that he has taken to heart. His papal name – Francis – makes clear his intention to continue his walk with Lady Poverty. His preaching and teaching will more than likely introduce some level of tension. St. Francis was welcome when he first began his begging. Later his community of brothers exploded in number. But even these newly zealous Franciscans had difficulty accepting his example of evangelical poverty. While still alive he was voted out of the office of Father General and became Father Founder. He was admired but found difficult to imitate. They tried and still do.

You gain a clear picture of the Pope's Franciscan disposition by the simple way he lives, though he remains a faithful son of St. Ignatius "finding God in all things". He has a critical eye (in the good sense of the term) reflecting on the circumstances of the day. Consider this passage from his exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, "The culture of prosperity deadens us; we are thrilled if the market offers us something new to purchase; and in the meantime all those lives stunted for lack of opportunity seem a mere spectacle; they fail to move us." Pope Francis voices his concern that we have created idols to worship – no longer the ancient golden calf in the book of Exodus, but instead "an idolatry of money". He warns of the dictatorship of "an impersonal economy lacking a truly human purpose." Consider in the present moment the danger of a collapsed economy in Greece and the Pope's observation two years ago, "Debt and the accumulation of interest also make it difficult for countries to realize the potential of their own economies and keep citizens from enjoying their real purchasing power." He warns of a financial system which rules rather than serves. Can you imagine what the "titans of industry" will think when the Holy Father again quotes St. John Chrysostom, "Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs." Radical. It's not "the left" that's truly radical. It's the Christian. Will the Pope quote St. John to the Congress? Fasten your seatbelts! Every Pope since Paul VI – save Pope John Paul I – has spoken to the United Nations. No Pontiff (from the Latin, pontifex = bridge builder) has ever spoken to a joint session of Congress. (The bible-belt congresspersons will sit low in their chairs.) Full of joy he will speak with a prophetic tone.

Since we were children we were told by parents and others not to play with fire. We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that historically, as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, a formula for social unrest and violence emerges. We are the "Catholic" Church, (read "universal".) Pope Francis speaks for the poor, those on the fringe who need a voice. He speaks for the southern hemisphere, for South America, for Africa, for Asia. He has made Cardinals all throughout these regions. He might prove to be unsettling. So be it! Jeremiah got run out of town and Jesus was crucified. This weekend I saw a commercial for an organization that feeds children in Africa. The narrator started with "don't look away". I did want to look away. Malnourished children are difficult to look at. Thank God it's not our children. Wait, maybe they are Radical. Blessings, Msgr. Tom Owens (stmat2014@gmail.com)

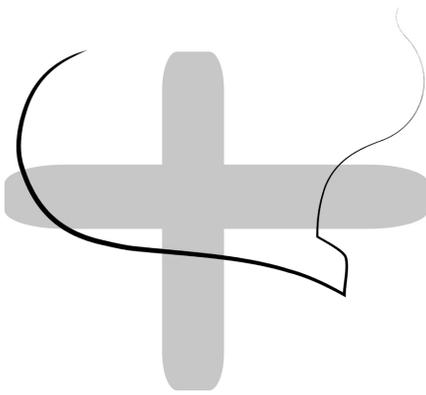


Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

*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 16th 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!

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Psalm 23 Ephesians 2:13-18 Mark 6:30-34



There Few scenes in the Gospel are more moving, more touching than today's reading from the evangelist Mark. Jesus and the Apostles are exhausted. They try to get away

from the clamoring crowds for a rest. They could not even find time to eat since the people kept coming and going in such great numbers. So Jesus says, 'let's go off to an out-of-the-way place – a place of prayer and much-needed rest.' There is an important message here for us and it is this: our Lord believed in taking time off. He knew that the Book of Genesis tells us that God worked six days and rested on the seventh. God wants us to be holy as He is holy. Jesus wants us to imitate Him in helping those in need; in giving comfort to those who are grieving; in doing what we can to help the sick. But also He wants us to have balance in our lives.

We know that God created day and night. The day was for working, the night was for resting. Nowadays we are not content with that arrangement. Our stores are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. There is no balance in the lives of those who are busy all the time.



Some people work all day and go to clubs all night. There they hope to find something, someone, with whom they can establish a

relationship only to discover others who are as lonely as themselves. There is something missing in their lives and they think they will find it in nightclubs.

A famous Aesop's fable sums up this lifestyle very well. Aesop was playing games with young children when a man laughed at him for wasting his time in such silly activity. So Aesop picked up a satchel that had a bow and arrow in it. He took out the bow, loosened its string, and put it on the ground. "Tell me," he said to the man laughing at him, "what is the meaning of the unstrung bow?" The man had no idea so Aesop explained, "If you keep the string taut it will eventually break. But if you loosen it once in a while it will be more fit for use when you want it." Aesop is talking about balance. As followers of Jesus it is important for us to realize that our Lord advocated balance in life. Our Christian faith urges us to be active, to take up our cross, to lay down our lives, to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of the Gospel. But it is possible to live an unbalanced Christian life. Jesus never meant for us to be so involved in doing good that we neglect our need for leisure, for rest, for family, for friends.

One great need we all have is to spend spousal time in prayer with God. If we do not attend to this need, our lives will come apart. Spending time in spousal prayer does not necessarily mean being physically present in church. Some people are physically present but their minds are elsewhere. They have all kinds of thoughts running through their heads – the fight they had with their wife, their husband, their children, a troubling situation at work, a passion for softball. They are looking at their watches to see what time it is. Some people get annoyed if the Mass is too long. Some people are not at rest with the Lord. They are thinking only of themselves. What God is asking is that we come to church to refresh our spirits. Shut the world and its problems out and focus attention on God's presence in our lives. Jesus wants us to build into our lives a natural rhythm of work and worship, of being with people and finding a place of solitude. And above all, being with Him on the Lord's Day to restore body, mind, heart, and soul.



Peace in Jesus

End of Bulletin