



# First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

## Saturday, November 28

4:30PM Ernest Allen

## Sunday, November 29

7:30AM Gus De Lucus

9:30AM Harvey & Gertrude Keenan  
Charles & Annie Maher

11:30AM Linda Rodenbaugh

## Monday, November 30

8:15AM Audrey DeFrancesco

## Tuesday, December 1

8:15AM Audrey DeFrancesco

## Wednesday, December 2

8:15AM William J. McElaney

## Thursday, December 3

8:15AM Dorothy Lawler

## Friday, December 4

8:15AM Josephine Knasiak

## Saturday, December 5

4:30PM Martin Brady

## Sunday, December 6

7:30AM Joseph Sperenza

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

11:30AM Thomas Smith

James E. Gavin, Jr.

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, Bozena Orzechowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczak, 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, Lee Vonseldeneck.



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

### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

11/28 4:30 Msgr. Owens

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



## Christmas Mass Schedule

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

### Prepare for Next Sunday

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

Baruch 5:1 – 9 Philippians: 1:4 – 6, 8 – 11 Luke 3:1-6  
All these names – Pontius Pilate, Herod, Annas and Caiaphas – belong in the passion of Christ. So then why do we hear them now? To remind us of the reason for his birth: “Jesus Christ was born to die on the cross” (St. Leo the Great). The winding road that Christ makes straight is the way to Calvary. United to Jesus we want to “advance secure in the glory of God... with his mercy and justice for company.” He leads us “in joy by the light of his glory.” The “affection of Christ Jesus” cries out to you this Advent: “You are remembered by God! Take off your robe of mourning and misery. God will bring you back and bear such you aloft in love!”



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



**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, December 1<sup>st</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 [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com) or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.

**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

**ST. MATTHEW SENIOR GROUP:**

Our next meeting will be held on **December 16 at 12:30pm**, at the convent. We will have a short business meeting and lunch. All Seniors are welcome, please come and join us.

**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.

**GOLDEN AGE CLUB** of St Mary's News: 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).

**REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:**

Dear Friends,

"O come O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel".

The season of Advent contains within it an explicit "hopefulness". Our God is personal. To save us from our sins he is born a child. The liturgy would suggest that we slow down and ponder what it means for us that Jesus walks by our side as our companion. Be in awe of God's closeness to you. In quieting down our senses in Advent the joy of Christmas day is more palpable – that our lives have made a real difference in the lives of others is cause for rejoicing. There is every reason for the Christian to be optimistic.

There are those who say that Christianity is on the wane. Too many are nominal Christians, baptized but now made dull, by the secularism. Fr. Richard Rohr uses the image of a car driving through the Lincoln Tunnel with its windows down. We breathe in toxicity of materialism and pass out behind the wheel before we even notice the strange and deadly smell. The opposite is true. Drink in the water (of baptism) and never thirst again.

The joy of Christmas is found in the deeply personal God revealed in sacred Scripture. Our God is not "the force" that animates Star Wars. A force is not a person. The child born of Mary in Bethlehem, by example, shows us the way to be fully human and bound for heaven. Just take it to heart! The message is not dull, nor are they who believe it. On December 8 when we begin the year-long Jubilee of Mercy, we should feel delighted by the generosity of God and if we are not delighted to find out why.

I've recently received this meditation based on Psalm 139:13: it is written as a word from God to you on your birthday. If taken seriously, Christians ought to be ecstatic (joy bubbling over):

"Do you know that the very thought of you fills me with joy? From the moment of your conception, I put a lot of thought to who you were going to be: the shape of your eyes, the tone of your voice, your personality, your talents and your dreams. I could never keep my eyes off of you, even when you could not see me. I wept when you wept, and I took great pride in every one of your successes and triumphs. All these years, I have loved you and treasured you.

"That's right. I've been with you all along. None of your thoughts, fears or desires escapes me – the good, the noble, the selfish, and the prideful. I was near to you when you were confused and brokenhearted. I see goodness and beauty within you, even when you do not see it within yourself. I look at you with the same wonder and awe that you have when you look up at the stars in the sky at night. I have created you, but I marvel at the way you are using all the gifts I have given you. I marvel even more at the future I have in store for you. I cannot wait for the day when you are able to join me in my heavenly home. May this be a year when you and I grow closer together?"

With love, I am God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessings, Monsignor Tom Owens

([stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com))



## God's Plan for Giving

November 22, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR OFFERTORY  
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**These numbers are not available due to an early Bulletin deadline.**

**Second Collection on December 5 & 6 is for the 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)



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.



### Calling All Young Adults at St. Matthews!

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? Sarah Burchell and Chris Farley are starting a Young Adults Group and would love for you to join!

If you have any questions, feel free to email Sarah at [svarga27@yahoo.com](mailto:svarga27@yahoo.com) or Chris at [farleyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:farleyfilms@gmail.com) and Joe Boccella.



**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. For Information contact Alice O'Connor [acaoc@verizon.net](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)



**OPLATEK:** will be available starting the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent **Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> & Nov 29<sup>th</sup>** on the table in back of the Church, and at the

Rectory. Donation \$2.00



Live the

## JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY!

Encounter the life-changing mercy of God during this holy year by making a commitment to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy each day from Dec 8-Nov 20, 2016. Watch how God brings powerful grace and blessing to you and your loved ones! Learn more at [archphila.org/mercy](http://archphila.org/mercy).



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 will be placed around the church on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

### Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School's Annual Craft Show located at 3040 Walton Rd, Ply Mtg is going to



take place on **December 5th from 9-4 and December 6th from 8-2.** Voted BEST OF MONTCO, this year's Craft

Show is sure to be a fun shopping event for the whole family. Free Admission to shop over 100 crafters, try your luck at our fabulous Raffles and enjoy breakfast or lunch from our delicious kitchen. We look forward to seeing you there.

### SENIOR LUNCHEON: Join the Community Center at the



Fel for the Holiday Senior Luncheon on **Monday, December 14th!** This is a free event for community members, and will be held from 12pm to 2pm. To register for the Holiday Luncheon, call the Community Center at 610-828-3266.

## 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 First 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!*

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

**“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy” (barethosin).**

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year. Secular society begins the new year according to the calendar on January first, but the sacred society of the Church begins the new year today.

How I yearn for the whole world to celebrate a do-nothing Advent and then have a nothing but Christ Christmas.

Advent is an empty season- the quiet, still season when we refuse to be preoccupied with anything but the coming of Jesus. It is important to keep Advent as still and uncluttered as possible so that we will be awake and ready when Jesus comes. Advent cautions us against flirting with the fierce and fiery mystery of Jesus' becoming man, of Jesus' dwelling in our midst.

Joy is the characteristic Advent virtue. We are joyful during Advent because we experience the best of the past, present and future, all gathered together in an explosive moment of ecstasy. A calm faithful expectancy reigns in the Scriptures proclaimed in this holy season of child-like wonder, and of hope in each of our hearts.

The spiritual life begins by waking up to the love and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The advice of today's Gospel is clear and simple - stay awake, be alert, be attentive, be on guard, be vigilant to the many times and many ways God comes to visit us. I am reminded of the story of the father who one morning knocks on his son's bedroom door and says, "Jamie, wake up!" Jamie answers, "I don't want to get up." The father impatiently shouts, "Get up, you have to go to school." Jamie says, "I don't want to go to school." "Why not?" asks the father. "Three reasons," says Jamie. "First, because it's so dull; second, because the kids tease me; and third, I hate it." And the father says, "Well, I am going to give you three reasons why

you **must** go to school. First, because it is your duty; second because you are forty-five years old; and third, because you are the principal!"

Advent invites us to our ancestral roots and hopes. Advent invites us to dream of universal peace and gentle trust. Advent invites us to rejoice in a spirit who will rest upon us and renew us, especially those parts that seem dead and betrayed or cut off. Advent invites us to recapture a child-like wonder at the mysteries of life; to ponder the things that really matter.

Advent is the season of the secret: the secret of the growth of Christ, of Divine Love growing in silence. It is a time to wait in the darkness of faith. We shall not see Christ's radiance in our lives yet. His light is still hidden in our darkness. Nevertheless, we must believe that He is growing in our lives.

Let us pray that our eyes will be watchful and our hearts expectant during this holy season of preparation for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus - who will dispel the coldness and darkness of our lives with the light and warmth of His love.

*Time is too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice,  
but for those who love, time is eternity.*

**“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy” (barethosin).** The literal sense of that Greek verb is “to be weighted down.” What causes this heaviness of heart? WORRY! What is the antidote to such numbness and drowsiness of heart? **“Be watchful” (agrypneite).**

The readings today are full of strength. They console us with covenant love and communal encouragement before the full truth of the Gospel is revealed. Raise your head and straighten your weak knees. Be courageous and make a new beginning.

**ADVENT DISPOSITIONS: AWAKE, STILL, EMPTY, HOPEFUL, JOYFUL, SECRET, FULL OF GRACE, PREGNANT WITH CHRIST**



End of Bulletin