

Mass

INTENTIONS

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31, 2016

Saturday, January 30

4:30PM James Dougherty Sr.

Sunday, January 31

7:30AM Ann Marie Clark

9:30AM Carol A. Tinneny

Theresa Kelly

11:30AM Teresa Flocco

Monday, February 1

8:15AM Patricia Dallas

Tuesday, February 2

8:15AM Rebecca Melvin

Wednesday, February 3

8:15AM Claire M. Hoban

Thursday, February 4

8:15AM Bernard J. Murray III

Friday, February 5

8:15AM Andrew Evans

Saturday, February 6

4:30PM James Graham

Sunday, February 7

7:30AM Rose Geiger

9:30AM In Thanksgiving of Sophie Sukalski on her 100th Birthday

11:30AM Michael, Tony & William A. Moore 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, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Rosalie 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, Cynthia Allen, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Theresa Swetkowski, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Carolyn Hogan, Rick Ales, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong.



Return to God

Deceased: Madeline M. Swift, Ralph Manoppello, Charles J. Rath, Sr., Dorothy Rath, Teresa L. Bello, James Pete Love, Lorraine Charlesworth



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, LCPL Thomas Mazzochetti, Staff Sgt. Michael Alfonse, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen, Michael Bondra.

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

1/30 4:30 Fr. Ryan

1/31 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

Lent begins: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 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).



The Masses on Ash Wednesday are:

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

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

save the date

Parish Retreat:

All are invited to participate in a Parish Lenten Retreat with Father Dennis O'Donnell, **February 20 - 23, 2016**. The theme of the retreat is Jesus, the Face of God's Mercy. Time to be determined.



Every Friday during Lent at 7PM starting February 12, 19, 26 March 4, 11, 18

holy week

Monday, March 21 – 7PM Penance Service

Holy Thursday, March 24 – 7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, March 25 – 8:15AM Prayer Svc

Good Friday, March 25 – 3PM

Holy Saturday, March 26 – 8:15AM Prayer Svc

Holy Saturday, March 26 – 7PM Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 27 – 7:30 – 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Religious Education

PREP

PREP Classes resume February 1 at 6:30. Parents if you have not already responded, please return the letter with your response this week with your children. Thanks so much. (The letter was sent home and emailed concerning moving Prep time.)

Should inclement weather approach we will notify KYW and send out an email blast. Closing number is 1395, also posted on website.

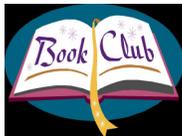
Parents of children receiving First Penance and First Holy Communion:

CHANGE IN PARENT SACRAMENT MEETING. THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEB 22ND IS CHANGED TO FEB 29TH AT 6:45PM IN SS COSMAS & DAMIAN CHURCH.



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 1st Tuesday of each month. **The next class will be Tuesday, February 2 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 or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.



St. Matthew Book Club: Our book selections are works of fiction with a "Christian twist". On **February 24** we will discuss the novel *This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden; and on

March 23 the discussion will center on *The Heart of the Matter* by Graham Greene. New members are welcome as we begin the year 2016. To register contact Msgr. Owens (stmatt2014@gmail.com). If you need assistance in purchasing books, Monsignor will do that for you through amazon.com.



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

Please join the new young adult group of St. Matthews Join our Facebook group **The Mustard Seeds** for updates!



A group of volunteers keep our church in good order. If anyone has some free time on Tuesday mornings, after the 8:15AM Mass for about two hours once a month to help clean the church please call the rectory at 610-828-0424.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Dear friends,

February 10 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season. This is a time when the church invites us to be penitential, having the courage to acknowledge our sinfulness. In the gospel the woman who washes the feet of Jesus with her tears becomes a deeply committed lover of Christ. Jesus observes that her great sin was instrumental in her being a great lover. Saint Augustine reminds us in his *Confessions* that even our sins are useful in that they create within us a painfulness which turns us toward Christ for healing. So, to be penitential is a great gift.

As a preparation for this Lent, I offer you an examination of conscience in keeping with the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Keep in mind our working definition of the word "mercy": Mercy is the path love takes when it encounters misery. These are the "works" that better dispose us to be friends with Jesus. Examine your life through the prism of these Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy:



Corporal Works of Mercy
to feed the hungry
to give drink to the thirsty
to clothe the naked
to welcome the stranger
to heal the sick
to visit the imprisoned
to bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy
to counsel the doubtful
to instruct the ignorant
to admonish the sinner
to comfort the afflicted
to forgive offenses
to bear patiently with those who do us ill
to pray for the living and the dead.

Consider prayerfully how you give witness, or could give witness, to these spiritual exercises which has as their goal a deeper understanding of the faith. In dedicating yourself for the good of the other, as you are very good, is the deepest meaning of love. We know what it means to exercise the body. Lent is an opportunity to exercise the soul better preparing it for Heaven. Let's get ready.

Blessings,

Monsignor Tom Owens (stmatt2014@gmail.com)



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, February 9 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

God's Plan for Giving

January 24, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

\$3,997.00

Electronic giving \$2,029 + \$1,968 = \$3,997.00

Special Collection: Today is for Storm Relief

Storm Relief: In response to the major storms and severe flooding that have hit the South and Midwest regions of our country, and hearing that similar storm patterns might well continue in these and other parts of the country, the USCCB has asked that we take up a collection to help address humanitarian and Church needs caused by the severe weather.



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 to register www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

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

February meeting will take place on **February 17**, in the convent at 12:30pm. Also, Membership dues (\$10) will be collected for 2016. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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 2016 is \$10.00 for the year.

Casino Trips: are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **February 9 & March 8**. Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).

Part-Time Job Opportunity - Housekeeping Position

A part-time (19 hours a week) position is available at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Responsibilities include washing, ironing and general cleaning of residence rooms. Interested parties should contact Randy Rushton, 610-785-6239, or e-mail rrushton@scs.edu. Pastor's reference requested.

22nd Annual MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal



Registration is OPEN! 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! Start your Lenten

season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers Renee Eells and Kathi Clapham. **February 13, 2016 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center, West Chester. See our registration form for all details at www.mom-heartofthehome.org/events.html or call 484-798-7368. MOM registration form: <http://www.phillyevang.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Feb-13-MOM-Heart-of-Home.pdf>

VALENTINE'S DAY

RENEWAL OF VOWS: As part of our Valentine tradition we will have "renewal of vows," during all of the Masses on February 13th & 14th.

Mount Saint Joseph Academy

The Mount, a catholic college preparatory school for girls, invites all interested 7th grade girls to register for The **Pre-HSPT** to be given on **Saturday, March 19, 2016 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

The Pre-HSPT is a 7th grade edition of the actual Scholarship/Entrance Exam given to eighth grade applicants. Registration is available **online only**. You will receive registration confirmation via email.

Register at: www.msacad.org/practicetest

Art Show 2016 at Malvern Retreat House

More than 100 of the region's best artists are preparing their works for Art Show 2016 at Malvern Retreat House. This year the juried fine art show will be held from Wednesday, February 3 to Sunday, February 7 and will include a special focus on glass art, along with art forms ranging from painting and photography to jewelry and sculpture. Overall, more than 2000 fine art pieces will be for sale. The event will include a complimentary wine and cheese social on Thursday, February 4 from 5pm-8pm when attendees can meet the artists. Regular show hours are 10am-7pm on Wednesday through Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sunday. There is no admission fee. The event will be held in the beautiful McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center that can be accessed through Malvern Retreat House's Entrance B at 315 S. Warren Avenue in Malvern, PA. For more information, visit malvernretreat.com/artshow or call 610-644-0400. All proceeds from the show benefit Malvern Retreat House.

THE FOOD CUPBOARD WILL BE OPEN EVERY FRIDAY AT 1PM. THE FOOD CUPBOARD IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND CONVENT THE SECOND DOOR IN THE DRIVEWAY.

SPAGHETTI DINNER:

February 13, 2016 from 3:30 to 7:30PM at George Clay Fire Company, 426 Ford St., West Conshohocken, PA (610) 828-6161
Adults \$10 – Seniors (55 over) \$8.00 – Children ages 4-12 \$5.00. Under 3 Free with paying adult.
Eat in or Take out.

Valentine Retreat Workshop for all married couples



Discover what makes your husband or wife feel "in love" and enjoy a refreshingly positive proactive approach to put the fun and delight into marriage for the sake of the whole church. February 13-14, 2016 at St Monica's Berwyn or February 27-28, 2016 at St Thomas of Villanova For more information or to register on line visit www.livinginlove.org or call 610-640-4105.

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 Psalm 71 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Luke 4:21-30

Today is homecoming day for Jesus. He returns to the synagogue where His prayer life was nurtured. He stood before the people He knew all His life, read from the book of the prophet Isaiah and preached His first homily. You and I would have expected the townspeople to say: *"Didn't He turn out well? We can be proud of Him! Who would have guessed He would become such a good preacher?"* Instead, Jesus encounters strong resentment. *"Who does He think He is? We know Him. We know His family. He is putting on airs. He is a nobody, a carpenter's son. He cannot be the Messiah."* Why did they reject Him? Jesus challenged their sense of being special, unique and superior to other peoples because they were the chosen people. Jesus reminded them that God loves all people, not just the people of Israel.

There are times when we all try to silence and get rid of whatever we find difficult or challenging. Few people like to hear the truth when it is uncomfortable or when it challenges our ideas, perceptions and lifestyles. We even try to stifle the voice of God. We say: *"God cannot possibly be speaking to me in the ordinary events of life, through ordinary people, family and friends."* But guess what? God *does* speak to us in the ordinary circumstances of life, through ordinary people, family members and friends. Not only that, we are called to be witnesses, yes, prophets, in the very ordinariness of our lives, in our relationships, in our homes, in our places of work. We may even have to face hostility and rejection for standing up for what we know to be right. All it takes for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing, to remain silent.

Envy is the one deadly sin to which no one readily confesses. It seems to be the nastiest, the most grim, the meanest - sneering, sly, vicious. The face of Envy is never lovely. It is never even faintly pleasant. There is no gratification for Envy, nothing it can ever enjoy. The jealous eyes of Envy are always turned aside from what it thinks is superior to it.

Our gospel reading from St. Luke shows envy at work. Jesus has just finished reading from Isaiah. He gave a brief homily. The response of the congregation: *"All who were present spoke favorably of Him; they marveled at the appealing discourse which came from His lips."* What more could the religious leader want? The congregation seems to have really responded to the message. All seems well. But not so fast. The ugly head of envy begins to raise its head. *"Is not this Joseph's Son?"* Isn't this a carpenter's Son who has no formal training or proper education? Isn't this just a common laborer who has not studied under any of the great rabbis or scribes? Why should the people be so responsive to Him and not to us?

The dynamics of envy are in high gear. The strategy of envy is simple: put Jesus down and then we can be back on top. The capital sin of envy evidences itself in the eyes. The eyes narrow and there is no joy to be found. They are dull and never sparkle or dance.

If all the sins are loveless, Envy's eyes are peculiarly so. They seem to find nothing to love in the world, not in the whole of creation, not in anyone else, not even when they are turned up to what is lovely. Envy has no song. It is riddled with fear. This gnawing fear that, if someone else gains something, it must be losing something. . . .(it) must mean its own lessening. . . .

God blesses each of us with His grace and gives us a special work to do. There are no ungifted human beings. Unfortunately, there are people who never come to realize just how gifted they are.

If you could ask God one question, what would it be? One-third of the people said if they had an audience with God, they would ask why they were put here on earth. In other words, what is their purpose in life? Would that be your question?

This passage, applied to your life and mine, tells us that we have a purpose in life, too. You are not an accident. You were made and "set apart" for a very important task: to glorify God and reflect His image to others. Does that mean you have to go into the ministry? No. Does that mean you have to give up your job and spend all your time in prayer and Bible study? Hardly. Maybe you glorify God through your position as a father, a special education teacher, a stockbroker, a data entry clerk, or a mechanic.

A little boy came home from church looking visibly upset. His mother asked what was wrong.
"We learned a stupid song in Sunday School today."
"What was the song?" the mother asked.
"It says Jesus wants us to be His sunbeam."
"What's stupid about that?" said the mother.
"Because," the little boy fumed, "I don't want to be a sunbeam. I want to be a truck driver."

Don't buy into the idea that serving God is an either/or situation. You can be a truck driver and be Jesus' sunbeam at the same time. No matter where you are in life, you have a holy and awesome purpose for living. Never forget that.



End of Bulletin