

## January 10, 2016

### Saturday, January 9

4:30PM Michael Tobin

### Sunday, January 10

7:30AM Michael Tobin

9:30AM Joseph Fritz

11:30AM J. S. Felix

### Monday, January 11

8:15AM Phyllis Kopecky

### Tuesday, January 12

8:15AM David A. Elmo

### Wednesday, January 13

8:15AM Rose Chrostowski

### Thursday, January 14

8:15AM Mary Quinn DeLayo

### Friday, January 15

8:15AM Nicholas Falcone

### Saturday, January 16

4:30PM Carol Tinneney

### Sunday, January 17

7:30AM Bernard J. Murray III

9:30AM Dec'd Members of Matthew & Mary O'Connor

11:30AM Michael Tobin

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, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszcak, 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, Denise Kavanaugh, Ralph Manappello, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Madge Swift, Theresa Swetkowski, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Carolyn Hogan, Rick Ales.

**Deceased:** Joseph Kelly, Anna May Wildrick

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



### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

1/9 4:30 Fr. Ryan

1/10 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

1/16 4:30 Fr. Genovese

1/17 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Heron

1/23 4:30 Fr. Genovese

1/24 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

1/30 4:30 Fr. Ryan

1/31 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 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 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](http://www.stmatthewparish.com) or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.

**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)



**St. Matthew Book Club:** Our book selections are works of fiction with a "Christian twist". On **January 13** we will discuss the novel *Atonement* by Ian McEwan; on February 24 the novel selected is *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 ([smatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:smatt2014@gmail.com)). If you need assistance in purchasing books, Monsignor will do that for you through amazon.com.

### Parish Retreat: Save the date

All are invited to participate in a Parish Lenten Retreat with Father Dennis O'Donnell, February 20 -23, 2016. Details to follow.

## PREP

Classes resumed January 4<sup>th</sup>.  
There will be **NO PREP/CCD**  
**January 18.**

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 22<sup>ND</sup> IS CHANGED TO FEB 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:45PM IN SS COSMAS & DAMIAN CHURCH.**

New Year's day is known for the Mummers parade, College Bowl games and resolutions. In a faith context allow me to suggest a few resolutions for 2016:

*FAST FROM COMPLAINING AND FEAST ON PRAISE AND GRATITUDE.*

*FAST FROM HARSH JUDGMENTS AND FEAST ON KINDNESS.*

*FAST FROM WORRY AND FEAST ON WONDER.*

*FAST FROM DISCOURAGEMENT AND FEAST ON HOPE.*

*FAST FROM BITTERNESS AND FEAST ON FORGIVENESS.*

*FAST FROM PETTINESS AND FEAST ON PATIENCE.*

*FAST FROM GLOOM AND FEAST ON BEAUTY.*

*FAST FROM JEALOUSY AND FEAST ON TRUST.*

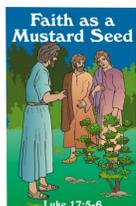
*FAST FROM GOSSIP AND FEAST ON SILENCE.*

*FAST FROM SIN AND FEAST ON GRACE.*



**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, January 12 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](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)



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

Please join the new young adult group of St. Matthews --*The Mustard Seeds*-- as we come together to support Cradles to Crayons on **Tuesday, January 12th** here in Conshohocken! Registration is limited to 25 people, so please reserve your spot today!

Email Chris Farley at [farleyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:farleyfilms@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending you can register via Facebook.

On **January 26, 2016** we will have a Holy Hour with Deacon Joe Carr at 7PM in Church.

Join our Facebook group The Mustard Seeds for updates!

## REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR:

Dear Friends:

As we turn the calendar to January, 2016, we become for a few moments particularly aware of the passage of time. Perhaps personally we move from one decade to another but every year we certainly move one year away from the year we were born. Sometimes I think the revelry on New Year's Eve is a distraction to mask over the anxiety that sometimes accompanies aging. Two factors impact on me this New Year's celebration; my ongoing experience of living with multiple sclerosis, and the early retirement from "pastoring" it triggered, and the fact that I am now two years past my sixty-fifth birthday, operating in the unfamiliar world of pensions, Medicare and the wonderful world of senior discounts. (Sadly, I have yet to be "carded" when asking for a senior citizen movie ticket.)

As in every stage of life one's conversation with God ought to be influenced by one's circumstances. I recently read an article by Father Gerald Fagin SJ (The Way, January 2004) identifying in his work as a spiritual director the thoughts and feelings that often come to a person in "the later years". For those of you in this category, do any of his comments resonate with you as they did with me? The author describes what he calls "the characteristics of spirituality in the later years". (1) There is more past than future. We must contend with fewer realistic choices in the future and come to terms with the fact that some things will have to be left undone. (2) Aging brings the experience of physical diminishment and a deeper realization of our own mortality. (3) In the light of faith old age emerges as a rich time of life – time for interior growth and a time to harvest the gifts of my past life. (4) Old age fosters a deeper sense of gratitude for the gifts received in life, things we might have taken for granted earlier on. (5) There is the danger of devaluing what we have accomplished, wondering, "What difference have I made during my time on earth?" (6) The later years afford us an opportunity for a deeper sense of gratitude for gifts received. People that have graced my life and talents that enabled meaningful work can more deeply be appreciated. (7) The later years are a time to let go of past hurts and to seek reconciliation with people that matter. (8) The later years are a time also to be at peace with the decisions and actions that we cannot change. (9) The later years are also a time to say "yes" again. We decide anew to be faithful, now with a deeper awareness of what that fidelity entails. In the later years we gain a deeper understanding of God's patience. We now know that we can begin again and again, no matter how many times we sin.

As we begin to decline physically ("I can't hit that golf ball as far as I once did." "My knees ache". "Why did I come into this room?" "What was that guy's name?"), it is most important we pray for the grace of humility and be willing to ask for help when things seem too burdensome. Faithful in prayer we gain a certain wisdom – a humble recognition that in the end we will be saved by God's fidelity, not our own. So, relax and enjoy! Father Fagin closes his article with a prayer:

Lord, be with me as I grow old. Lead me, guide me and draw me ever closer to you for only there in the closeness is peace and the assurance of life eternal." Msgr. Owens ([stammatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stammatt2014@gmail.com))

## God's Plan for Giving

January 3, 2015

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR OFFERTORY

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$23,986.03**

Electronic giving \$ 6,366.03 + \$17,620.00 = \$23,986.03

**Christmas Collection: \$24,448.00**



**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)

**FOOD CUPBOARD WILL BE OPEN EVERY WEEK STARTING IN JANUARY ON FRIDAYS AT 1PM.**

**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](mailto: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](http://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>



Please join us for coffee and dessert on **Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** 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, but please contact Judy at [JAKukowski@verizon.net](mailto:JAKukowski@verizon.net) if you have any questions.

**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](http://www.msacad.org/practicetest)



Dear Father Heron,  
The Women of Dawn's Place are deeply grateful to the members of Saint Matthew Parish for your generous

response to our needs. Your gift of \$2,492.00, in gift cards and donations, will help us continue our residential program for women who have been exploited. It will also assist those women who have resided in Dawn's Place and have reintegrated into society but still have ongoing needs in their healing process. I hope you will consider the Women of Dawn's place in future charitable endeavors.

I wish you and all the members of St. Matthew Parish, every blessing of the New Year.

Yours truly,  
Sr. Terry Shields, mshr  
President, Dawn's Place

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

January meeting will take place on **January 20<sup>th</sup>**, in the convent at 12:30pm. We will have a short business meeting, lunch (\$5), a speaker from BJ's offering us a senior discount membership. Also, Membership dues (\$10) will be collected for 2016.

**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. Dues for members due 2015 is \$10.00 for the year.

**Casino Trips:** are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **January 12 & February 9**. 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. Call Joe (610-825-4596).

**ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE:** The annual March For Life in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for Friday, **Jan. 22**. Epiphany of Our Lord Parish will be providing a bus for transportation. Cost per adult is \$20. Cost per student (elementary, high school, or college) is \$5. To sign up or questions, contact Bernie Toth at 610-279-2788

**MOTHER BONIFACE SPIRITUALITY CENTER:**

3501 Solly Avenue in northeast Philadelphia is offering **Evenings of Study & Reflection on Pope Francis' Encyclical, "Laudato Si"**. These will be held on Tuesday evenings of **January 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Come Join us for these evenings of study regarding Pope Francis' call to each of us in the Church and in the world to recognize the urgency of our environmental challenges and to embark on a new path that bring with it a new hope for our future.

Presenter: Sr. Theresa Ahern, MSBT has served her Community in various ministries including religious education and retreat work, as well as serving on the MSBT Peace and Justice Committee for many years. Free will offering.

Questions/Registration 267-350-1830.

## 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 Baptism of the Lord. 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!*

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-38 Luke 3:15-16.21-22

The first time I heard the name of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face (to give her whole title); also known as Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, was when I lay in the maternity ward of Bellevue Hospital in New York. Bellevue is the largest hospital in the world, and doctors from all over the world come there. If you are poor, you can have free hospital care. At that time, if you could pay anything, there was a flat rate for having a baby--thirty dollars for a ten-day stay, in a long ward with about sixty beds. I was so fortunate as to have a bed next to the window looking out over the East River so that I could see the sun rise in the morning and light up the turgid water and make gay the little tugs and the long tankers that went by the window. When there was fog it seemed as though the world ended outside my window, and the sound of fog horns haunted the day and night.

As a matter of fact, my world did end at the window those ten days that I was in the hospital, because I was supremely happy. If I had written the greatest book, composed the greatest symphony, painted the most beautiful painting or carved the most exquisite figure, I could not have felt more the exalted creator that I did when they placed my child in my arms. To think that this thing of beauty, sighing gently in my arms, reaching her little mouth for my breast, clutching at me with her tiny hands, had come from my flesh, was my own child! Such a great feeling of happiness and joy filled me that I was hungry for someone to thank, to love, even to worship, for so great a good that had been bestowed upon me. That tiny child was not enough to contain my love, nor could the father, though my heart was warm with love for both. --Flannery O'Connor

### Identity

1. I am my authorities
2. I am my needs
3. I am my relationships
4. I am my self
5. I am made in the image and likeness of God--  
Baptismal identity--to plunge into the Paschal  
Mystery of Christ

Baptism enables us to participate in the original plan of creation. **"I HAVE MADE YOU IN MY IMAGE (SELEM) AFTER MY LIKENESS .....(DEMUTH) GOD LOOKED AT**

**EVERYTHING HE HAD MADE, AND HE FOUND IT VERY GOOD.** The rest of the bible is an attempt to convince us of that first revealed truth.

Today's feast celebrates Jesus' plunge into the murky waters of the Jordan river. These waters symbolize chaos to the Jews. When Jesus became man he took on our experience of chaos and darkness. But Jesus didn't stay long in the waters of chaos and darkness. He stepped directly out of the water into a new life of dedication to the will of his Father and to teaching and healing the people.

When we were baptized we received two great gifts. First, we were held in the hands of God who adopted us, that is, we were given to the world. In what sense? The ritual, aside from water, uses oil and light. The oil is a symbol of protection against the forces of evil. To be anointed is to be precious, chosen, special in God's eyes. The candle lit for us at Baptism is a sign that Christ's light shall shine through us into the shadows of a hurting world.

Secondly, we received the power of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah says that the chosen one will not trample the defenseless and already wounded, but will faithfully bring forth justice, opening the eyes of the blind and freeing prisoners from their cells. The Holy Spirit's power given to us is power not to hurt or dominate, but to heal and free.

Today's feast brings the Christmas cycle to its solemn conclusion. The new birth of the eternal word of God within us in faith, hoped for in Advent, celebrated in Christmas becomes effective in our renewed understanding of baptism. We are a new creation. We can transform our dark, cold and broken world by faithfully living out our baptismal identity. Renewing the face of the earth, living fully in the image and likeness of Christ, and announcing the good news of peace and justice is what our baptismal identity is all about. We experience the love of the Trinity uplifting us from fear and apathy, enabling us to stand up strong and speak out clearly and compassionately to the forces of sin and evil in our world. The salvific work of Jesus goes on through the commitment of each one of us.

In this Flannery O'Connor story, "The River", the preacher raises the little boy over his head and says, "You count, never be the same again!"

I love the story of Martin Luther who, on those dark and discouraging days that we all have, would say to himself over and over, "I am baptized. I am baptized." He affirmed that whatever was happening to him at that moment, he was a child of God.



"Christians are called to become what they are by their Baptism: children of the Father, members of the Son, Temples of the Holy Spirit, partners in the life of the Blessed Trinity."

-John Saward

End of Bulletin