



# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**February 14, 2016**

**Saturday, February 13**

4:30PM Juan Korb

**Sunday, February 14 Happy Valentine's Day**

7:30AM John DeMedio

9:30AM John J. Williams Sr. (3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary)

11:30AM Edward Dever

**Monday, February 15**

8:15AM Allyn Evans

**Tuesday, February 16**

8:15AM Michael & Catherine Novi

**Wednesday, February 17**

8:15AM Rachel Geonnotti

**Thursday, February 18**

8:15AM Joe Speranza

**Friday, February 19**

8:15AM Bernard Murray III

**Saturday, February 20**

4:30PM Kathleen Murphy

**Sunday, February 21**

7:30AM Helen Szybiak

9:30AM Carol A. Tinneny

11:30AM Richard Tornetta

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 Blaszczyk, 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, 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, Carolyn Hogan, Rick Ales, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Nora Grzywacz, Charles Lare, Rita Borkowski, Joanne Kalacinski, Marie Golas.

Rita Curran, John Gravinese, Helen Frosty, James Davidson, Theresa Swetkowski, Marcy Wolfington



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, Michael Bondra.

**CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE**

2/13 4:30 Fr. Ryan

2/14 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

2/20 4:30 Msgr. Owens

2/21 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. O'Donnell 11:30 Fr. Ryan

2/27 4:30 Fr. Genovese

2/28 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

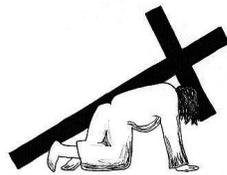
**Prepare for Next Sunday**

2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent February 21, 2016

Genesis 15:5 – 12, 17 – 18 Philippians: 17 – 4:1 Luke 9:28 – 36

As Abram looks up into the night sky and sees the radiant stars, God promises him that his descendants will be just as countless. This moves Abram to put his faith in the Lord. As Peter, James and John look up to the mountaintop and see the transfigured Jesus radiating like a star, they beg for this miracle to never end. God makes a promise: "This is my chosen son." The Father asks us to put our faith in Christ: "Listen to him." For the Transfiguration that we witness is destined to transfigure us: "He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body."

**PARISH RETREAT:** All are invited to participate in a Parish Lenten Retreat. Fr. Dennis O'Donnell will preach at all weekend Masses Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. The retreat will start at 7PM on Sunday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> and end on Tuesday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of the retreat is Jesus, the Face of God's Mercy.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Every Friday during Lent at 7PM on Feb. 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18**



**Monday, March 21 – PM 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

NO PREP Classes on February 15 President's Day.

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:

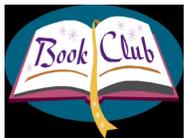
**SACRAMENT MEETING IS FEBRUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:45PM IN SS COSMAS & DAMIAN CHURCH.**



**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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.

**The next class will be Tuesday, March 1 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.



**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. To register contact Msgr. Owens ([stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto: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:** The Mustard Seeds Young Adult Groups next service project is **Saturday, Feb. 20th** from 9am -

12 pm. Meet at St. Gertrude's Church in West Conshohocken. For more information contact Chris Farley [farleyfilms@gmail.com](mailto:farleyfilms@gmail.com) or Sarah Varga [svarga27@yahoo.com](mailto:svarga27@yahoo.com). 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,

Last Wednesday was the beginning of the Lenten season when ashes were imposed on our forehead as a reminder that our best intentions to do good crumble under the weight of our selfishness. For six weeks the great drama unfolds: goodness and evil are in fierce combat within us as they were in Jesus and as they are in the world today. St. Paul writes in second Corinthians, "I do not the good that I wish to do but the evil that I do not intend". Easter is the remedy that God provides for the sinner and for six weeks we celebrate the victory over darkness in the Easter season of new life.



The message running throughout this penitential season of Lent is a call to a life of gospel conversion. The sacred Scripture - taken from the synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) and proclaimed at Mass - speaks of beginning anew, of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving; of conversion; of mutual forgiveness; of hardness of heart; of love of enemies; of the absolute claims of justice and love over ritual. With which of these do you most need God's assistance?

The readings of the final two weeks of Lent are taken from the Gospel of John. The focus shifts from the demands of discipleship to the person of Jesus who, as risen Lord, offers eternal life to all those who believe in him. Christ is presented as the healer, the one who gives life through his confrontation with evil and gathers together all the children of God.

Lent is a penitential season, a somber time when we acknowledge our helplessness. Sometimes things that hurt are good despite what they feel like. Acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving temper the soul. Each uniquely invites us to make primary our appetite for God. We are a bundle of desires, many of them good and some bad. Yet, these desires find their true meaning only when our desire for God is first and foremost. Lent aims at deflating our inflated egos, exposing self-deception about the quality of our lives. By hitting us again and again with demands which we not only fail to obey, but which we come to recognize as being quite beyond us, the grace of the Lenten season is meant to trouble us, to confront our illusions about ourselves. "Remember, you are dust." From this perspective, Lenten penance may be more effective if we fail in our resolutions than if we succeed, for its purpose is not primarily to confirm us in our sense of virtue but to bring home to us our radical need of salvation.

Make a plan. Participate in our parish Lenten retreat (2/20 - 23). Attend Mass during the week whenever possible. Go to the Sacrament of Penance. Play devotional music in your car either to or from work. When food shopping, purchase things for a local food cupboard (we have one at St. Matthew). Fast from a dessert or favorite food, not to lose weight but to discipline one's appetite. Come to Stations of the Cross on Friday evening where his sufferings give new meaning to ours.

Take God seriously this Lent. In dying to self, one is born again to new life - the sweet smell of Easter.

Blessings, Monsignor Owens ([stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com))

## God's Plan for Giving

February 7, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR OFFERTORY

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$13,296.00**

Electronic giving \$1,509.00 + \$11,787.00 = \$13,296.00

**Special Collection:** Feb 20 & 21<sup>st</sup> Amigos de Jesus

**Catholic Charities Appeal:** The parish goal for the 2016 Catholic Charities Appeal is \$26,439. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**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.**

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: **March 8 & April 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. Call Joe (610-825-4596).



**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, March 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. Contact Alice O'Connor [acaoc@verizon.net](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)

### Walking with Purpose

 Please join us for coffee and dessert on Wednesday, **February 17th** at St. Matthews Convent (51 E 3rd Ave, Conshohocken, PA 19428). 6:30 – 8:15 PM. The topic this week is: Reaching Your Child's Heart. 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) or 610-331-2147 if you have any questions.



### 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.

#### **Mt. St. Joseph Academy:**

Second Honors: **Lindsey Hicks**  
**Lillian Kennedy**

#### **Merion Mercy Academy:**

Distinguished Honors: **Gemma C. Del Buono**  
**Congratulations!**

**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.**

### Cultural Heritage Mass - March 19

All are welcome to join Archbishop Chaput for our annual Cultural Heritage Mass! This Mass celebrates the diversity and universality of the Native American, Asian, African, European, Caribbean, and Brazilian Catholic communities in our local church. The Mass is on Saturday, March 19 at the Cathedral. The procession of communities will begin at 1:30 pm. The Mass starts at 2 pm. Contact the Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees at [migrantsandrefugeesphilly.org](http://migrantsandrefugeesphilly.org) or 215-587-3540 for more information.

### Little Sisters of the Poor:

Holy Family Home, a Catholic long-term care facility run by the Little Sisters of the Poor in Philadelphia, is looking for a full-time, experienced grant writer to solicit funds from foundations, corporations, and major donors for the operating and capital needs of the home. Please e-mail resume to [phdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:phdevelopment@littlesistersofthepoor.org)

### Mothers of Children with Disabilities Retreat:

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at Malvern Retreat House, Fr. Dennis O'Donnell will direct a retreat for mothers and grandmothers who are raising children with disabilities and also those who have adult children with disabilities. There will be time to pray, reflect, and chat with other mothers. To register online go to [www.opdarchphilly.com](http://www.opdarchphilly.com). For more information please contact Malvern Retreat House at 610-644-0400 or the Office for Persons with Disabilities at 215-587-3530.

### Chosen Fathers: A Retreat for Fathers of Children with Disabilities:

Saturday, April 30, 2016 at St. Charles Seminary, the Office for Life and Family and the Office for Persons with Disabilities will host a retreat for fathers and grandfathers of children with disabilities. The retreat will be led by Doug Keck, a Chosen Father, who is the president of EWTN and an award winning TV/Radio host. To register online go to [www.opdarchphilly.org](http://www.opdarchphilly.org). For more information call 215-587-3530 or email [mcullinan@archphila.org](mailto:mcullinan@archphila.org).



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent. 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!*

**Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalm 91 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13**

The extraordinary point about the temptations of Jesus is that He was always tempted to do good things but not the best things. When we read of the temptations of Jesus, we are shocked at the good things we refused to do.

He refused to set up the ideal political state and He had the power, the charisma and the leadership potential to do it. He said "No, I will not." Two thousand years later we are still struggling to establish a just political system that reflects Gospel values. Jesus could have set up the ideal political state. He did not.

Jesus also could have established a perfect economic equity in the world. He could have turned stones into bread and fed everyone. He said "no." Two thousand years later a tragically high number of men, women and children are starving. Today we face a terrible hunger and homeless problem. Jesus said no to turning stones into bread. I will not feed the people. This is shocking.

Finally, Jesus was tempted to leap off the parapet of the Temple in Jerusalem and be caught by the angels. This flashy spectacle would appear on the nightly news. Katie Couric, Diane Sawyer, and Brian Williams would all be there reporting the event. The great anguish of two thousand years of doubt would be cured once and for all. Who is God? Who am I?

It would have been so obvious. It would have been visually proven on TV that Jesus is God and we would not have to worry anymore. Imagine Jesus saying, I shall not be tempted to do any of those good things. Instead, by the grace of God the Father and in obedience to him I shall march steadfast into Jerusalem and die like a criminal, in order to give the most necessary, magnificent gift I can give to this world, that is, my absolute, radical, total solidarity with the poverty of the human condition. Now no one will ever be alone again.

This is more important than political justice, than bread on our tables, than a pseudo-certitude on TV. What we desperately need is a Savior who is like us in all things but sin, a savior who is willing to suffer all of life for our sakes.

Lent is the Church's annual 40-day retreat. It is a grace-filled season of repentance. It is a time to strip away the superficiality, pettiness, busyness and noise and discover once again what is really important: Divine love and human love. Lent is a time to check our priorities and determine who or what is primary in our lives. It is a time to worship God more fervently and give him our first fruits, not just the leftovers of our

talent, energy and time.

The desert is the biblical place of purification and transformation. The stark solitude of the desert helps us to deepen our dependence on Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Without the solitude of the desert we risk becoming victims of our society and of our personal illusions. In today's Gospel Jesus enters into the desert. There he was tempted by the devil with the three compulsions of the world: to be relevant/turn stones into bread, to be spectacular/throw yourself down, and to be powerful/rule over all the kingdoms of the earth. Jesus affirmed God as the only source of his identity/You must worship the Lord your God and serve him alone. The desert is the place of the great struggle and the great encounter, that is, the struggle against the compulsions of the false self, and the encounter with the loving God.

Sin is seductive. It masquerades so well that we see goodness rather than insidiousness. Too often we are blind to our motives and ruthless in our pursuit of what we want. In Luke's account of the tempting of Jesus in the desert, the devil packages the lust for power in three different ways, each of which has appeal. Jesus, however, sees beneath the packaging and recognizes what is at stake: his very relationship with God, a relationship in which God has absolute primacy. Unlike Adam and Eve, and unlike us at times, Jesus recognizes that to say "yes" to the devil means nothing less than to betray God.

Fasting is never an end itself; that's why it has so many different outcomes, but all the other outcomes are of no real value if compassion is not enlarged and extended through fasting. Besides fasting from candy or cakes and the like, may I suggest that you:

fast from complaining and feast on gratitude  
fast from worry and feast on wonder  
fast from bitterness and feast on forgiveness  
fast from gloom and feast on beauty  
fast from discouragement and feast on hope  
fast from gossip and feast on silence  
fast from fear and feast on faith  
fast from TV and feast on Scripture  
fast from pettiness and feast on patient tolerance  
fast from sin and feast on virtue

Fasting is good for the soul as well as the body. It serves as a positive penance for spiritual enrichment. Fast from the pleasure principle and feast on the treasure principle.

There are three specific reasons why people in biblical times fasted. The first was repentance. They know how deep sin sinks into their lives. The second reason people fasted was to remember. What happened was tragic, for example, Daniel fasted when he remembered the destruction of Jerusalem. The third reason to fast is to rivet our attention on God. Are you ready to worship God right now? Do you have a sense of his presence?



When we fast, we say that there's more to us than just our appetites. Fasting challenges the addictions of the soul that society says are okay, namely, shopping habits, eating habits and sexual habits.

Fasting helps us to discover the contours of our souls and who we are before God. Jesus expects us to fast. Prayer and fasting are important spiritual practices that help us make important and right decisions in life.

End of Bulletin