



5th Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2016

Saturday, March 12

4:30PM Florence & Francis Bowe

Sunday, March 13

7:30AM Landon Vargas

9:30AM Bernardo & Nicolina Novi

11:30AM Lorraine G. Sirianni
Concetta Smith

Monday, March 14

8:15AM J. Alan & Mary Moore
Robert R. Reimer (1st Anniversary)

Tuesday, March 15

8:15AM Ded's members of the Dugan Family

Wednesday, March 16

8:15AM Martin Brady

Thursday, March 17

8:15AM Mary Maloney (34th Anniversary)
Damian Crowley

Friday, March 18

8:15AM William J. Keenan

Saturday, March 19

4:30PM Kathy Lewandowski

Sunday, March 20

7:30AM Mary Garbacz

9:30AM Robert Leister

11:30AM Harry A. Connor

Miracles OF LENT 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, 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, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Charles Lare, Rita Borkowski, Joanne Kalacinski, Marie DiMedio.



Marie Manning, Marie Golas, St. Regina Joseph Doyle



Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Staats, Col. Shawn McGinley, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 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

3/12 4:30 Msgr. Owens
3/13 7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron
3/19 4:30 Fr. Ryan
3/20 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Ryan
3/26 7PM Easter Vigil Msgr. Owens
3/27 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Heron

Prepare for Next Sunday

Passion Sunday – March 20, 2016

Isaiah 50:4 – 7Philippians 2:6 – 11 Luke 22:14 – 23:56

“Only when someone values love more highly than life, that is, only where someone is ready to put life second to love, for the sake of love, can love be stronger and more than death. If it is to be more than death it must first be more than mere life. Jesus’s total love for men and women which leads him to the cross, is perfected in total stepping over to the Father and therein becomes stronger than death, because in this it is at the same time total “being held” by him” (Pope Benedict XVI).



**Stations of the Cross:
Every Friday during Lent at 7PM.**

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



Parishioners are invited to an Easter Dinner, Saturday April 2, 1 pm. Adult \$20.

Children \$7.00; under 6, Free. St. Mary’s Hall; Elm and Oak St. Conshohocken. **Tickets must be purchased by Monday, March 28.** No tickets can be purchased at the door.

Contact: *Felicia Rzeznik* 610-825-9027

David Swedkowski 610-630-0865

Leah Hepler 616-834-8538

Religious Education

PREP

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

March 14th- Celebration of First Penance/Reconciliation with RCIA 6:30 in St. Matthew Church. The entire family is welcome. Do Not Report to PREP.

March 14th – PREP will pray the Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm. Please report directly to SS Cosmas and Damian Church. Pick up and dismissal will be from St. Cosmas and Damian church that Monday evening. All are invited to pray with the children. Deacon Joe Carr and the Youth Group will lead.

NO PREP CLASSES HELD MARCH 21ST HOLY WEEK. ALL ARE INVITED TO CONFESSIONS AT ST. MATTHEWS AT 7PM.

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.

Archbishop Carroll High School:

Second Honors: **Mark A. Boccella...Congratulations!**

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, April 5 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.



For the observance of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy St. Matthew Church will have Eucharistic Adoration on **Saturday, March 19th from 10AM to 1PM.** The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) will be available from 10AM to 1PM also. Closing with **Benediction at 1PM.**



The Mustard Seeds are having its next event on Friday **March 18th.** Please join us for Stations of the Cross in the church at 7pm and then we will have a potluck dinner together in the convent afterwards. Please bring a dish to share and remember to make it meat free since it's Friday! We hope to see you there! Join our Face Book group, The Mustard Seeds, for updates.



SS COSMAS & DAMIAN
Today, Sunday March 13
MASS AT 3 PM
Fr. Genuardi will preside.
All are invited to attend.



The memorial leaves and boulders that were on the walls in SS Cosmas & Damian can be picked up at Mass on March 13th.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD CUPBOARD:

We are in need of cereal, cans of fruit – peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, chunky soups, peanut butter & jelly. Donations can be left in the vestibules of the church. Thank you for your generosity. The food cupboard is open every Friday at 1PM it is located between the church and the convent the second door in the driveway.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: visits Towne Manor East & West, Brandywine Senior Suites, Regina Nursing Home, Powerback Rehabilitation and Suburban Woods every week -- if someone in your family or a friend is in one of these facilities and you would like the St. Vincent Group to stop in and say "hello" please contact Alice O'Connor at 610-828-5992 or acaoc@verizon.net. If you would like to volunteer to help us visit the sick please contact Alice.



Blessing of Easter Food: Please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 press 4 or email Helene at hclegg100@aol.com if you would like to have your Easter Food blessed by the priests or deacons of the parish.

ST. MATTHEW BOOK CLUB:

Fiction with a Christian Twist



Do you enjoy a good story and some fine literature? The Christian "twist" is that some element of the tale involves faith or morals, belief or unbelief, God or no god. This is a good time to join the group. We had just selected three more titles for Wednesdays in April, May and June. On April 13 we will discuss *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan; on May 11, *The Painter of Silence* by Georgina Harding; and *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hagi will be the subject of discussion on June 8. To join contact Monsignor Tom Owens at stmatt2014@gmail.com or 610 – 828 – 0424 ext. 112



2015 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS:

Email stmatthewrectory@verizon.net or call the Parish Office at 610-828-0424 #4 if you are interested in receiving a statement.

God's Plan for Giving

March 6, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:
\$16,892.00

Electronic giving \$2,557.00 + \$14,335.00 = \$16,892.00



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



LIVING STATIONS: All are welcome to join the 8th grade students of Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School as they present the "Living Stations of the Cross." Please join us on either

Tuesday, March 22 at 7PM OR on Wednesday, March 23 at 11AM. Both sessions will be presented at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Walton Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA.

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

March meeting will take place on **March 16**, 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: **April 12 & May 10**. 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).



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, April 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



Boy Scout Troop 140 was chartered in 1928. The Troop has 80 years of service to scouting and the youth of Conshohocken.

We meet Monday nights from 7 to 8:30 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 5th and Harry St., Conshohocken. Any boy interested in joining please stop by and check us out!

Reflections from my rocking chair:



Dear Friends,

When we first think of prayer, or when we first pray, we often first understand it as our talking to God. However, if prayer is a sign of our relationship with God, a God whose love brought us into existence, should not prayer be a two-way relationship and should not what God has to say to us take precedence, first place, over what we might want to say to him. In short, do we consider prayer as an opportunity for God to speak to us? Surely, what God says to us is vastly more important than what we would say to God: God speaks first then we respond.

How does God reveal himself to us? We can hear the voice of God through creation itself – a beautiful sunset or a fierce hurricane. We hear the voice of God as he speaks to us through the sacred Scriptures which we refer to as "the Word of God." Third, we hear God in the authoritative teaching of the church, the living tradition through the centuries of our believing community. Here God offers a living word to address new issues that present themselves in every generation, issues not directly expressed in sacred Scripture. Finally, we hear God by attending to our experience of daily life, and interpreting that experience in the light of our Catholic faith. Here God has a word particularly addressed to every individual that calls out to him.

Paying careful attention to our daily experience, and God's presence in it, is accomplished a powerful way by "praying backward through the day", also known as the Consciousness Examen – not to be confused with an examination of conscience. "Praying backward through the day" goes like this:

1. Invite God's loving presence as you begin to unwind the events of the past day.
2. Call to mind gratefully the goodness and light that entered your life in the days' activities.
3. As your mind slowly wanders back through the day that you have just lived express contrition for thoughts words and actions contrary to the gospel, in short, your sins.
4. Consider what God's grace hopes to accomplish in you in the coming day.

Close with the Lord's Prayer and go to sleep. It's meant to be a gentle prayer, maybe just ten minutes. When in the habit of praying this way you begin to sense God more and more as the events of the day transpire, while they are happening or just after.

Praying backward through the day should not be an exercise in self-reproach or anxiety. Its purpose is to allow you to see yourself more clearly as God sees you, to choose more wisely. We may be more used to a search for sins. Here in this prayer we lead with God's victory in us and in that context observe where we fail to be everything you would like to be in Christ.

Perhaps you remember Red Benson, a radio talk show host who dealt with the political events of the day. He would end each broadcast with this statement: "Prayer doesn't change things. It changes people. And people change things." While I might qualify the first sentence, the overall point is well taken. We become leaven in this world in so far as we are prayerful.

Blessings, Monsignor Owens stlatt2014@gmail.com



A group of volunteers clean our church on Tuesday mornings, after the 8:15AM Mass. If you want to help clean the church please call the rectory at 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office.

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 5th 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!

Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:8-14 John 8:1-11

Today's Gospel is clearly about forgiveness. It's a well-known story that points up all sorts of unfairness in the society of Jesus' day: the stoning of a woman caught in adultery, the double standard between men and women, the death penalty itself. An often asked question that people have pondered for centuries is, "Why does Jesus write in the sand?" It's a powerful image. We don't know if He wrote anything, or if He was simply doodling, spending time as the men pondered their own state of sinfulness. Whether Jesus' marks were writing or not, one by one, the men leave, and in the end, Jesus, Son of God, will not condemn the woman either.

The whole thing was a trap. In today's Gospel, what we first hear is a story of Jesus being tested by His opponents. The Mosaic law prescribes death for the woman caught in adultery. But the law of the Roman occupiers forbids the Jews to enforce capital punishment. The men poised to kill the woman ask Jesus to give a "no-win" opinion. If He agrees with them, the woman will be stoned to death, and, not only will the woman die, but there will be trouble with the often-harsh Romans. If He advises letting her go, He will be violating His own Jewish, Mosaic law. Jesus gives no opinion, but challenges the crowd to look within their own hearts for sin.

Often we are looking for trouble in all of the wrong places. How often we are more concerned with the shortcomings of others rather than our own! As Jesus says elsewhere in the Gospels, we should remove the plank from our own eye before we complain about the speck in someone else's.

Jesus offers for us a model of conflict resolution. Rather than jump into the fray on one side or the other, Jesus finds middle ground. He ultimately sides on behalf of justice, without hurting anyone.

Forgiveness has been called the "heart of the Gospel." But the story has a deeper meaning. If you and I can forgive other people, we are fulfilling the commandment of God to love one another.

That's why the crucifixion is often talked about in terms of the forgiveness of sins. By that forgiveness, even while being executed, Jesus shows the depths of His love for all of us.

When we choose love rather than nursing old grudges, when we seek to forgive rather than wait for someone else to make the first move, we are living the Gospel.

Consider the Prayer of Saint Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned." One could almost think of it as a "circle of forgiveness."

We are forgiven. The real challenge of today's Gospel is the question, "How do you and I forgive?"

Jesus is unequivocally anti-adultery and anti-sin. He is anti-anything that separates us from love of God and neighbor. He is, at the same time, pro-love, pro-forgiveness, pro-mercy. Of the closing scene in today's Gospel, Saint Augustine said: "Only two were left, misery and mercy." Misery and mercy. The adulterous woman and Jesus, face-to-face. Each of us in our misery, face-to-face with the mercy of Jesus. And what does Jesus say to us in our misery? Not the proverbial "misery loves company." Not the Pharisaical "misery needs condemnation." But the messianic response of a Savior: "misery needs mercy."

And the misery of our sin need not be so great as that of the woman in today's Gospel—or of St. Augustine, for that matter—for us to seek the mercy of God's love and forgiveness in Christ. Each time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, we begin with the penitential rite, confessing that we have sinned and are in need of mercy: "Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy." As we approach the Table of the Eucharist, the table of God's mercy and love, remember that we do so only after praying: "Lamb of God, have mercy on us."

In this Eucharist, we are closer than face-to-face with the mercy of God in Christ. We are one with that mercy. The question is—consider it a good Lenten test question—"can we go forth and be that mercy in the world?" So, what do you say?



End of Bulletin