

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 20, 2016

Saturday, March 19

4:30PM Kathy Lewandowski

Sunday, March 20

7:30AM Mary Garbacz

9:30AM Robert Leister

11:30AM Harry A. Connor

Monday, March 21

8:15AM Bernard J. Murray

Margaret Munley (1st Anniversary)

Tuesday, March 22

8:15AM Joseph Pacifico

Wednesday, March 23

8:15AM Cecelia Lare

Thursday, March 24 Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:15AM No Mass

7:00PM St. Matthew Parishioners Living & Dec'd

Friday, March 25 Good Friday

8:15AM Prayer Service

3:00PM Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, March 26 Easter Vigil

8:15AM Prayer Service

7:00PM St. Matthew Parishioners Living & Dec'd

Sunday, March 27 Easter

7:30AM Landon Vargus

9:30AM Josephine & Matthew Szumicki

11:30AM Sunny Maria Flocco

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 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 VanBuskirk, 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, Margaret Palmer, Sue Stephan.



Joanne Demurat, Timothy Renson, Stanley Sugalski.



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

3/19 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

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

Peter discusses Jesus' life of preaching and healing. Jesus was crucified, and then he rose up and was seen by his chosen witnesses. Peter also mentions the importance of all the disciples bearing witness to what they saw, so that many people would believe in Jesus, and have their sins forgiven through him. Paul asserts that we must pay attention to higher realms rather than earthly concerns. Our life is not yet completely known to us, until Christ appears and we are raised to glory in him. When Mary Magdalene discovered Jesus' tomb was open, she told Simon Peter and another disciple. They ran to the tomb and Peter went inside. He found the burial wrappings on the ground, with the head covering separate from the rest. The other disciple came in and they believed what they saw, although until then they had not understood the Scripture's message of Jesus' resurrection.



Stations of the Cross:

Every Friday during Lent at 7PM.



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

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



St. Matthew Parish Penance Candidates for 2016

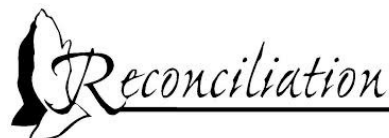
We congratulate our parish children and rejoice with them for the forgiveness they received on March 14, 2016. May they return many times to experience the forgiving love of our heavenly Father. Congratulations to:

1. *Patrick Aloia-Ramos*
2. *Phoebe Balkiewicz*
3. *Thomas Baranowski*
4. *Owen Cababe*
5. *Hantun Carbajal*
6. *Daniel Dawgiert*
7. *Doris DeAngelis*
8. *Alyssa Etzel*
9. *Liam Flocco*
10. *Elaina Galleo*
11. *Faith Jones*
12. *Kieran Lamey*
13. *Brett Leflar*
14. *Sean Lindsay*
15. *Kiley MacNeal*
16. *Lizbeth Martinez Zavala*
17. *Samantha Moore*
18. *Raynah O'Connor*
19. *Lisa Rockett*
20. *Isabella Sciotto*

21. *Gabriella Skivo*
22. *Jessica Tracy*
23. *Austin Williams*
24. *Matthew Wright*
25. *Erin Ashton*
26. *Victor Ballesillo*
27. *London Beranza*
28. *Axel Carbajal*
29. *Jennifer Cruz*
30. *Jonathan Dean*
31. *Jocelyn Diaz-Cruz*
32. *Matthew Fazio*
33. *Bridget Fullerton*
34. *Grace Hamilton*
35. *Daniel Krolak*
36. *Lucas Latterner*
37. *Derek Leflar*
38. *Katie Lumpkin*
39. *Daniela Martinez*
40. *Joseph Monastero*
41. *Jacob Piersol*
42. *Rosalee Rico-Vallejo*
43. *Isaac Sampieri*
44. *John Sciotto*
45. *Cody Sutcliffe*
46. *Mia Van Collie*
47. *Ryan Wittig*
48. *Shane Zakrewski*

RCIA

1. *Betsy Kirkbride*
2. *Derek Leflar*
3. *Alicia Mulholland*
4. *Sabina Fernandez*
5. *Tanya Fernandez*



God's Plan for Giving

March 13, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:
\$12,848.00

Electronic giving \$1,700.00 + \$11,148.00 = \$12,848.00



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.

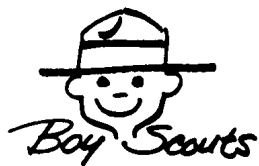
The next meeting will take place on **April 20th**, in the convent at 12:30pm. Also, Membership dues (\$10) will be collected for 2016. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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!



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

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.

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. 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.

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 stmat2014@gmail.com or 610 – 828 – 0424 ext. 112



St. Matthew Cemetery: A recent survey of the cemetery property revealed enough unused land to accommodate 133 burial lots.

This land was originally a tract identified as St. Patrick's Road. It will remain titled as the "St. Patrick Section". For any information on securing one of these lots please contact: Deacon Mike Kubiak at 610-828-0424 or email deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net.

Request for Relegation

February 29, 2016

Dear Archbishop Chaput,

In July 2014, the parishes of St. Gertrude in West Conshohocken, St. Mary's, SS Cosmas and Damian and St. Matthews were merged as the newly formed St. Matthew Parish. The clergy and parishioners of Saint Matthew Parish have sought to join the people and legacy of our former parishes in the mission and life of our merged parish. We are proud of our faith and parish.

Our Pastoral Council and Finance Committee are committed to unifying the traditions and crafting a long range vision for the common good and future generations of the wider Conshohocken community. Just to name a few examples:

- The SS Cosmas and Damian Feast and procession celebrated in September.
- Blessing of Bread at Thanksgiving with the children reciting Grace before meals in the native tongues of the parish.
- The Children's Advent Tree Lighting and Christmas Pageant
- Outdoor Palm Sunday Procession
- Easter Dinner celebrating Cuisines of Poland, Italy and Ireland
- Cemetery Masses on Memorial Day at St. Benedict's and St. Matthew Cemeteries
- Pentecost Procession and Dove Release.

Furthermore statistics suggest a growing parish life: 712 registered parishioners between the ages of 22 and 32, 454 Baptisms in four years at St. Matthews alone. The borough of Conshohocken Council former President, Paul McConnell, provided the following statistics:

45% of the population is between the ages of 18-44(child bearing age). The approval of 1,390 + 300 pending = 1,740 new housing units, which predicts a population growth.

Our pastoral plan conforms with the financial realities of our parish. Currently we requested and received the relegation of St. Gertrude and SS Cosmas and Damian. We are seeking to secure the sale of those properties. The Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils have continued to evaluate the current use and future of our buildings and the financial health of our parish. The economic realities continue to call for difficult decisions for the ministry and stability of the newly formed parish community.

I have sought the consultation of our parish and finance council. I appreciate their input and recommendations. With their support, I am requesting for our parish the relegation to profane but not sordid use of St. Mary's Church. St. Mary's Church has served as a worship site for Saint Matthew Parish since July 1, 2014. The church basement currently is used by about 40 Seniors, The Golden Age Club, who meet every Thursday. There have been ten (10) Masses of Christian Burial from February 1, 2015 through February 18, 2016. The roof, electrical and heating systems are in desperate need of repair to insure the safety of any worship or sacramental gathering. (At the last funeral, the funeral director commented that it was colder in the church than outside.)

On December 15, 2015, with the support of the Pastoral Council, a letter was written to the funeral directors that all funerals at St. Gertrude and SS Cosmas and Damian will be celebrated in St. Matthew Church. As of February 2016 this decision now includes St. Mary's as well.

The Rectory has been empty since June 2015. The Rectory is no longer needed by the parish. St. Mary's is situated in a prime development location in Conshohocken. Income from a sale of the entire property, church, rectory and parking lot, would not only enable us to renovate the St. Matthew school building into a thriving Parish Center, it will also allow us to pursue the ability to expand parking facilities, and make necessary improvements in St. Matthew church for our growing parish.

We want to safeguard the financial health and stability of Saint Matthew Parish, reflecting Conshohocken's current cultural and demographic diversity while preserving its past, facilitate a plan for capital improvements, protect the value

and condition of the buildings we use, and ensure that we can meet the liturgical and ministerial needs of our parishioners. With the merger, our parish inherited \$1.2 million from St. Gertrude.

St. Mary totals of all unrestricted accounts including the Cemetery account (except for the restricted Perpetual Care Account and HOF/VOH funds) was \$164,598. The remaining \$61,550 is for the Perpetual Care of St. Benedict's cemetery. We also assumed a debt of \$342,000 from SS Cosmas and Damian.

St. Matthew has maintained a positive balance in our operating budget. Due to financial constraints, the parish is unable to fund capital improvements for several of the buildings we currently use. These constraints are, in fact, currently depleting the positive gains.

We submit the following serious reasons and recommend St. Mary's Church be relegated in May of 2016 :

St. Mary's is only four blocks from Saint Matthew church. It has not been a great burden for the faithful of St. Mary's to come to St. Matthew church to worship; in fact, it has enhanced parish unity. With the departure of Father McKeane, former pastor of St. Gertrude's until June of 2006, St. Gertrude's was twinned with St. Mary's and Msgr. Grudowski became the pastor of both parishes. This arrangement continued under Msgr. Mesure, who was re-assigned to St. Mathias with the merger of the four parishes in Conshohocken and West Conshohocken.

Saint Matthew Parish has endeavored to keep St. Mary Church functional. The condition of St. Mary will require gutter repair and also repair of water damaged church interior walls at \$11,500, and the electrical box must be replaced for church interior lighting at \$12,000. Furthermore, the roof, steps and sidewalk area need to be replaced at a substantial cost (approximately \$250,000 for the roof and gutters alone). A major cleanout of the Church and Rectory is needed. The parish simply does not have the resources to continue to repair and maintain the church without negatively impacting the ministries, programs and staffing needs of the parish. In addition, the buildings we currently use for Sunday worship and other ministries are in need of capital improvements that we have begun in phases but need continued income to proceed in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

The burden of maintaining this property increases Saint Matthew's projected annual costs to \$70,000. The re-purposing of St. Matthew School begun in phases would resolve many lingering concerns. For example, meeting rooms, office space, conference center, and social hall would enhance the opportunity to unify a still fragmented community. Much needed space would allow the parish religious education program, the early childhood center, and the daycare to grow and thrive.

We have seen a steady decline in the use of St. Mary Church as a worship site. As mentioned before there have been only ten (10) funerals in the last year.

The Pastoral and Finance Councils have spent much time evaluating this situation and our options. While there is some sadness, we believe the relegation of St. Mary Church is a necessary path before us at this time. We agree with your recent statement:

"We have an excessive amount of buildings for the number of practicing Catholics today. And it is really important that we do not let all our resources go into maintain unnecessary buildings. We have to make sure the resources are going into preaching the Gospel, and new initiatives of evangelization and re-evangelization".

Our Sunday Visitor, May 31, 2015

We pray that our efforts and requests have been guided by the Holy Spirit for the good of our newly formed parish community and the greater Glory of God.

After prayerful consideration and extensive consultation, we request you consider our request for relegation of St. Mary Church.

Sincerely in Our Lord,
Rev. J. Thomas Heron

End of Bulletin