

Mass Intentions for the Week

7th SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 8, 2016

Saturday, May 7

4:30PM Betty & Edward Pruskowski

Sunday, May 8 Happy Mother's Day

7:30AM Joseph Leddy

9:30AM Lena D'Annunzio & Stephen Bussell

11:30AM James Joseph Fritz III (5th Anniversary)
William Freas (1st Anniversary)

Monday, May 9

8:15AM John & Jesse Kolbasowski

Tuesday, May 10

8:15AM Maureen Helwig, Michael & Mary Foley

Wednesday, May 11

8:15AM James & Susan Dugan

Thursday, May 12

8:15AM Helen & Joseph Schank

Friday, May 13

8:15AM Rev. Walter Daly & Esther Timbario

Saturday, May 14

4:30PM Edward P. Lawler (30th Anniv) Margaret Lawler & Mary Lynn Cary

Sunday, May 15

7:30AM Charles & Margaret Williams

9:30AM Rev. James Donlon

11:30AM Stanley Hylinski Sr.



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 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, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Charles Lare, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Margaret Palmer, Sue Stephan, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, Marie Bowman, John Boccella, Felicia Rzeznik, Pat Rowe, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling

Rita Marie Borkowski, John Koniewicz



MASS

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

5/7 4:30 Fr. Genovese
5/8 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron
5/14 4:30 Msgr. Owens
5/15 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Genovese
5/21 4:30 Fr. Genovese
5/22 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Fr. Ryan
5/28 4:30 Fr. Ryan
5/29 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

MEMORIAL DAY MASSES: We will hold our annual Memorial Day Masses on **Monday, May 30** at **St. Benedict cemetery on Colwell Ln at 9AM** and **St. Matthew cemetery on North Lane, at 11AM.** You are invited to attend as we

remember those who died in any war as well as those who are buried in both parish cemeteries. **No 8:15AM Mass on Memorial Day.**

The 2017 Mass Book is open. To make it convenient for you we suggest coming to the rectory or you may call the rectory with your request (610-828-0424) #4 for the office or email stmatthewrectory@verizon.net

MAY 14 & 15 CELEBRATE PENTECOST BY WEARING RED TO CHURCH!



We invite you to **"WEAR RED"** as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the joyful conclusion to the season of Easter. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in unimagined ways, with signs both simple and powerful. As the mural behind

our altar shows, the disciples with Mary were gathered and the Holy Spirit came with immense blessings, bringing new ideas into weary minds, new solutions to impossible problems, new healing for old hurts, new beginnings to a world grown cold and tired. We need the power of the Spirit in our world today. Join with us in prayer and worship on Pentecost. **"WEAR RED"** in solidarity as we welcome the Holy Spirit to rest upon us in St. Matthew Parish once again, to fill us with God's Spirit, to empower us to share God's love with everyone in our community. **Fr. Tom will release a dove at the 9:30 AM Mass.**



“Let us rejoice and be glad.”



We children wish to thank our families and friends who have helped us to prepare for this special day. We ask for your help in remaining close to Jesus by receiving Him often in Eucharist. May God Bless You!

We love you very much!

Patrick Aloia-Ramos

Erin Ashton

Phoebe Balkiewicz

Victor Ballesillo

Thomas Baranowski

Owen Cababe

London Beranza

Axel Carbajal

Hantun Carbajal

Jennifer Cruz De los Santos

Jocelyn Diaz-Cruz

Daniel Dawgiert

Jonathan Dean

Doris DeAngelis

Miguel Dominguez

Alyssa Etzel

Matthew Fazio

Liam Flocco

Bridget Fullerton

Elaina Galleo

Grace Hamilton

Faith Jones

Daniel Krolak

Kieran Lamey

Lucas Latterner

Sean Lindsay

Katie Lumpkin

Kiley MacNeal

Lizbeth Martinez

Daniela Martinez

Joseph Monastero

Samantha Moore

*Raynah O'Connor
Jacob Piersol
Rosalee Rico-Vallejo
Lisa Rockett
Isaac Sampieri
Isabella Sciotto
John Sciotto
Gabriella Skivo
Cody Sutcliffe
Jessica Tracy
Mia VanCoillie
Austin Williams
Ryan Wittig
Mathew Wright
Shane Zakrzewski*



May Crowning of Blessed Mother, Mother's Day May 8, 2016

O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today,

Queen of the Angels and Queen of May

Today, Mother's Day we honor our heavenly Mother, Mary, with a crown of flowers and in so doing honor all that our mother's are to us, for us, and with us.

Oh, grant that thy children on earth be as true....

We thank the following for participating in the ceremony today.

May Queen – **Dee Shank**

Lady in Waiting – **Ellie Matsko**

First Communicants: *Phoebe Balkiewicz, Faith Jones, Ava Latterner, Jessica Tracy, Elaina Galleo*

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) (also known as CCD) will change from Monday evening to Sunday morning. The parents and staff voted this change into being. Beginning Sept. 11, 2016 Classes from Grades 1 – 7 will be held in the Parish Center from 10:25 am – 11:25 am.

Registrations are being accepted now. The online form has been streamlined so you need only fill out a family form and list the names of each child. The fee has NOT changed from last year. One child \$110. Two \$165. Three or more \$195. This provides for all supplies and textbooks. Any concerns or questions contact Miss Mary Kay 610 828-0424 ext. 6 or mckennamaryk@gmail.com.

Calling for believers to volunteer: Come “echo” your faith with the growing number of children in this growing community. With the move to the new parish center we will have more room, which means smaller and more personalized classroom settings and the need for more staff. To be a catechist requires only one thing...a willingness to be a witness and share your faith with the littlest among us. We are also moving to Sunday morning between the Masses, which should be more accommodating for all. Think about it! Please help this program which is the future of our church. Any questions please call Mary Kay 610-828-0424.

God's Plan for Giving

May 1, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:
\$15,350.00

Electronic giving \$1,669.00 + \$13,681.00 = \$15,350.00



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

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.

Pope John Paul II:

1st Honors: **Alyssa G. Garcia**

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, May 10 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



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

The next meeting will take place on **May 18th**, 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: **May 10 & June 14.** 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 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 two more titles for Wednesdays in May and June. 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 - Monsignor Tom Owens at stmat2014@gmail.com or 610 – 828 – 0424 ext. 112

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.



PRE-CANA: St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, July 16, 2016** from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass. 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

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 except in May the class will be the 3rd Monday. **The next class will be Monday, May 16 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 Society meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17th at 7PM in the St. Vincent de Paul Room.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY: The Pro-Life Union is dedicated to building and fostering a Culture of Life by promoting respect for all human life. This critical mission is possible only with your help and support. Your contributions allow the Pro-Life Union to assist women in need, to support pregnancy homes, to provide outreach, prayers, education, alternate services, and public policy activities. The generosity of our parish has always been outstanding and we ask for your support for this important parish event and appeal to the generosity of our parish community. The Respect Life Collection will be held before and after each Mass today.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops/Support for Passage of the Conscience Protection Act

Earlier this week, the USCCB joined 25 other major pro-life, religious, and health care organizations in urging the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Conscience Protection Act of 2016. Signatories include ten medical groups representing tens of thousands of health care professionals who serve patients without violating their conscience. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/joint-letter-to-congress-support-the-conscience-protecton-act-of-2016.cfm>.

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



Happy Mother's Day

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

The Acts of the Apostles tell us much information regarding the growth of the early Church in the days following the resurrection of Jesus. There can be no doubt that the preaching of the Apostles was fearless and that they convinced many of their countrymen and women that Jesus was the true Messiah they had been waiting for.

But before we paint too rosy a picture of the Church's infancy, we have to take note of the fact that there was conflict and hostilities did break out.

Two young men appear in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Both were fervent and religious young men.

Both are eager for the cause of God and the salvation of people. Both were raised by their parents and schooled by their rabbis to be faithful and devoted followers of their Jewish faith.

All things being equal they might have become life-long, firm friends, but the events that brought them together were troublesome and violent.

The first young man was Stephen. He became a follower of Jesus and he was a dynamic, no-holds-barred preacher. Unfortunately, it was his preaching that brought him into conflict with the religious authorities and their understanding of Scripture. They warned Stephen to stop preaching or they would have to take steps to stop him. Stephen would not be intimidated and became troublesome to the religious authorities, who arrested him, held an impromptu trial, and condemned him to death by stoning.

This is when we meet the second young man. His name is Saul—deeply religious, concerned for the purity of his faith. He witnessed the bloody execution of Stephen—he even approved of it.

Nonetheless, Saul's world would soon change. He became a Christian, just like Stephen; he preached the same Gospel message as Stephen, shared his vision about gentiles coming to the faith. He, too, like Stephen, would be martyred because he would not keep silent about his faith in Jesus Christ. Only God knows how much guilt Saul felt for the rest of his life because he stood by and did nothing while each stone landed on Stephen's head and body. What did Saul feel when he heard Stephen's dying words asking God's forgiveness for those who killed him?

This is where today's Gospel comes in. Jesus prays that all will be one, united in faith, held together by their common bond and covenant with God.

So many people today see religion as a principal cause of all the trouble in the world, not as its cure. If only all who believe in God could love one another as Jesus loved us. If only all of us could possess that inner peace that Jesus gave us as His parting gift. If only all would listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit—if only!

It is up to each of us to build bridges with one another and stop building barriers to unity and peace.

All the conferences, all the dialogues among the various Christian denominations, all the attempts to reach an understanding between Christians and Jews, Christians and Muslims, will come to nothing if we do not learn how, day to day, to reach out and love one another. Isn't that what all the corporal and spiritual works of mercy attempt to achieve?

This is Jesus' prayer—that we all will be one. His prayer cannot be answered without our help. It is our grave responsibility to do all we can to have Jesus' prayer answered and realized.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR

Dear friends,

I confess to be a devoted Downton Abbey viewer. So it was with a measure of sadness that I watched the last episode. About halfway through the show I began to realize that there were going to be some "happy endings". While I do appreciate the more intense dramas, where the outcome is unsure, I do like happy endings.

Isabel Crowley triumphed over the greedy kids who were keeping her away from her true love – their father. Daisy, the farmer girl, completes her education and is ready to "move up" in the world. Mrs. Patmore, the cook is bought her little B & B and is becoming fond of the old farmer. Tom Branson returns from the United States to resume running the estate with Lady Mary. Mrs. Hughes and the butler, Mister Carson, finally marry and retire to a cottage on the estate. "It can be", I think to myself, not every situation will resolve itself happily. Mister Barrow – a villain for most of the seasons – is rehabilitated and becomes Mister Carson's successor. Smith and Mister Bates finally throw off the accusations and she gives birth to her 1st child. Lady Grantham is now well respected by her husband and chairwoman of the new hospital board. The weepy Lady Edith finally overcomes all obstacles and begins a publishing career and a happy marriage and reconciliation with Lady Mary, her sister. And, finally, Lady Mary puts aside her claws and marries for love, not position. Even the feisty Dowager shows a more gentle side. That leaves Lord Grantham ready to steer the Abbey into a more modern world, class distinctions falling aside. Amazing! When the final episode ends, everyone is happy. I, the viewer was happy, granted, superficially.

You might fairly ask, "Why the TV review?"

Today is the 7th Sunday of the Easter season – the last Sunday before Pentecost. The liturgy focuses our attention on Jesus risen from the dead; the most earth shattering happy ending in all of human history. Remember the words of the angels in the tomb – a tomb that is empty, "Why are you looking for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised." The joy experienced by the disciples was overwhelming. A life-changer. No matter how deep the despair; no matter how intense the suffering; no matter how tepid the commitment; the Risen Christ assures a happy ending. The spiritual writer, Father Ronald Rolheiser, describes the risen Christ as "the arsonist of the heart". The flame of faith scatters the darkness. And, he writes, "Ultimately, belief in the resurrection asks us to believe that, despite a strong experience to the contrary, reality is gracious, light does triumph over darkness, love over self-interest, justice over oppression, peace over chaos, fulfillment over hunger. Faith in the resurrection is the trust that, in the end, everything is good."

So, for now, Happy Easter.

Monsignor Owens



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