

1st Sunday of Lent

1st Sunday of Lent March 5, 2017

Saturday, March 4

4:30PM Marie Golas

Sunday, March 5

7:30AM Audrey DeFrancesco

9:30AM Bertha Collins Lake & Raymond Collins

11:30AM Rosanne Piergrossi

Monday, March 6

8:15AM In Thanksgiving of Tony DeFrancesco

Tuesday, March 7

8:15AM Lucy & Anthony Lincul

Wednesday, March 8

8:15AM Joan Nasielski

Thursday, March 9

8:15AM Joseph & Helen Schank

Friday, March 10

8:15AM J. Alan Moore & Mary C. Moore

Saturday, March 11

4:30PM Matthew Derfler

Charles J. Lare

Sunday, March 12

7:30AM Anthony Rio

9:30AM Theresa McGrath


11:30AM Marie Manning

Say a Prayer for... 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, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, 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, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, 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, Joanne Kalacinski, Mary DiMedio, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen, John Boccella, Jim Bokoski, Hans Pawling, Margie Burghart, Jack Susskind, Kristen Lafferty, Debbie Miller Hannon, Barbara Laranko, Robert Berk, Irene Barnes, Anna Marie Berry, Emma Forlini, Paul & Family, Edward Clinton, Barbara Clement, John DiDonato, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, Richard Wolfrom, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauser, John Palmer

Return to God  **Robert Perkins, Mary Zadroga, Patrick Ryan**

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY: Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Stats, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Petty Officer George Horning Jr., 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, Corporal Thomas Mazzochetti, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker, Master Sgt. Curt W. Zeiders III.

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE	
3/4	4:30 Fr. McGuinn
3/5	7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Cooke 11:30 Msgr. Owens
3/11	4:30 Fr. Heron
3/12	7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. McGuinn
3/18	4:30 Msgr. Owens
3/19	7:30 Fr. McGuinn 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron
3/25	4:30 Fr. McGuinn
3/26	7:30 Fr. Heron 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Msgr. Owens

 **Stations of the Cross are every Friday during Lent at 7PM in Church.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

holy week

Monday, April 10 – 7PM Penance Service
Holy Thursday, April 13 – 7PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday, April 14 – 8:15AM Prayer Svc
Good Friday, April 14 – 3PM
Holy Saturday, April 15 – 8:15AM Prayer Svc
Holy Saturday, April 15 – 7PM Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday, April 16 – 7:30 – 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Prepare for next Sunday
 2nd Sunday of Lent
 March 12, 2017
 Sacred Scripture
 Genesis 12:1 – 4 II Timothy 1:8 – 10 Matthew 17:1 – 9
 During the Transfiguration, for a moment, Peter, James and John experience ahead of time something that will constitute the happiness of paradise. It was this same grace of a strong experience of God that filled Abram with the conviction to go forth from the land of his kinfolk to a completely unknown land that God himself shows him. We, too, can bear our hardships for the Gospel, because through the grace of the Transfiguration we have been given the strength that comes from God.

Religious Education

CCD/PREP Updates

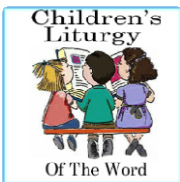
Please continue to keep in your prayers the candidates, their families and sponsors of those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation this April with Bishop Joseph F. Martino. We will confirm 68 disciples of the faith. In March we will celebrate our heavenly Father's favorite daily miracle, his merciful forgiving love in the Sacrament of **Reconciliation** with 39 children of the parish. They will celebrate First Eucharist in April. So much grace! Keep these little ones and their families in your prayers as well.

First Penance Workshop will be held on March 11 from 9-11 AM in Church.

First Penance will be on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6:30PM

First Holy Communion will be on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 11AM

Confirmation will be on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 3PM



takes place every Sunday at the **9:30AM** Mass. All children are invited from the altar to the sacristy to share in a child-like presentation of the Readings of the Day. They return after the Prayer of the Faithful. Parents and older siblings are encouraged to accompany younger children.

ALTAR SERVERS: Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew's Altar Servers. If interested email stmatthewrectory@verizon.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. **The next class is March 7**



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

St. Matthew Book Club: "Fiction with a Christian twist" Now is a good time to join the group. On Wednesday, **March 29** we will gather to discuss *Wheat that Springeth Green* by J. F. Powers. Meetings are held in the Parish Center, enter in the door across from the Rectory at 7 PM. Please register your interest at stmat2014@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 610-828-0424

LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE/POOR PERSON DINNER: Wednesday March 22, 2017, 6:30 PM in St. Matthew Parish Center.



LENT

St. Matthew Parish will be having a Lenten Prayer Service and Poor Person Dinner, which consist of a bowl of soup, bread

and a beverage. Please come and join us. Your free will offering for the dinner will be donated to the needy. Please **RSVP to Helene if you plan to attend at hclegg100@aol.com by March 15th.**

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 **Wednesday, March 8 at 7PM in the SVDP Rm.** 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



YOUNG ADULTS

Join St. Matthew's Conshohocken Young Adult group focused on social, spiritual, and service.

To sign up for events and more please join the St. Matthew Conshohocken Young Adult Facebook group. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Moral at tony.moral2@gmail.com or Erin Garrett at erin.garret@gmail.com.



ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS?

Often times our busy lives keep us from growing closer to our Lord.

Prayerfully consider taking time away from your hectic life to attend a Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo is a lay movement started in the Catholic Church over 50 years ago. Cursillo de Cristianidad means, 'little course' in Christianity. The weekend consists of a series of talks given by clergy and lay people, daily Mass, Adoration and time to just be still. If you are looking for something more...look at Cursillo. Weekends are held twice a year, one for women – **September 7-10, 2017, one for men – November 16-20, 2017.** To learn more about this opportunity contact Deacon Joe Carr at rosehigh1@comcast.net, Maria DiMarco at 484-888-5368.

PRE-CANA:



St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, May 6, 2017** 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

God's Plan for Giving

February 26, 2017

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

\$11,397.00

Electronic giving \$1,921.00 + \$9,476.00 = \$11,397.00

2nd Collection on March 11 & 12 is for Solidarity Fund for the Church in Latin America.



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'S SENIORS will meet every third Wednesday of the month. March meeting will take place on **March 15**, in the Parish Community Center at **12:30pm**. We will have a short business meeting, lunch (\$5). **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.

Casino Trips: scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month: **March 14 & April 11**. Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).



Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a FREE email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. You will get short inspirational

videos and practical tips from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Sign up for FREE at: BestLentEver.com/Lent

THE CATHOLIC STANDARD & TIMES
Newspaper for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The Archdiocese is considering resuming a print publication containing local Church news that would come out every other week. The subscription rate would be \$40 to \$50 annually. If you think you would subscribe to a regular archdiocesan publication, please email the rectory to say you are interested in a print publication at stmatthewrectory@verizon.net

RACHEL & TROY FOUNDATION:

Designer Bag Bingo on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at the Barren Hill Fire House, 647 Germantown Pk, Lafayette Hill, PA. Doors open at 1 PM/ Games start at 2PM.

Tickets \$25 in advance \$30 at the door. Space is limited you need to register early. For more information call Ron Gamza 484-571-8794 or email ronaldgamza@msn.com
Prizes: Designer Bags Michael Kors, Coach, Kate Spade plus, Accessories along with Raffles, 50/50, door prizes and more!

JOB OPPORTUNITY

FULL TIME CHILDCARE ASSISTANT: Conshohocken Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking full time caregivers for infants and toddlers in our newly formed Daycare center. Experience caring for infants and/or toddlers is required. Previous daycare experience is preferred. Candidate must be loving, nurturing, and possess good leadership skills. For more information call Carol Kearney at 610-825-4823 or email cceccdaycare@gmail.com

FULL TIME PRESCHOOL AIDE: Conshohocken Catholic Early Childhood Center is seeking an energetic classroom aide for our PreK Program. Candidate must have previous experience working with young children. Associate Degree or Bachelor's Degree in Education is preferred. For more information call Michelle Borkowski at 610-828-0755.

SHORT TERM MATH TEACHER: Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School, an independent, all-girls Catholic college preparatory school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, has an opening for a short-term substitute position in mathematics from April 24 – June 9, 2017. Courses to be taught are Algebra 2, Intermediate Algebra, and Honors Calculus. Qualified applicants with teaching experience and a degree in mathematics are asked to submit their resume and PA clearances to Cindy DeCandido at careers@gmahs.org by March 24, 2017.

GWYNEDD-MERCY ACADEMY:

Sister Mary Scullion, RSM, co-founder and Executive Director of Project Home, will be speaking at Gwynedd-Mercy Academy Elementary on Tuesday, **March 14 at 7:00 PM** in the school gymnasium. Her topic is A Lenten Reflection: Who is My Neighbor? The public is welcome to attend.

Sanctuary of Healing Day & Evening of Reflection



On Tuesday, **March 28**, Malvern Retreat House will hold both a day and evening of reflection with Jennifer Hubbard, a mother who lost her 6-year old daughter Catherine Violet Hubbard during the Sandy

Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012. Since that tragic day, Jennifer and her husband Matt have turned to their faith in their search for peace. Hear her talk about the healing power of God in the worst of circumstances. Please visit malvernretreat.com or call 610-644-0400 for more information.

The Annual Archdiocesan Mass Honoring the Gifts of Persons with Disabilities, The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers is Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul at 18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., will be the principal celebrant and homilist. There will be a light reception immediately following the Mass. All are Welcome. To RSVP go to www.opdarchphilly.org, or call the Office for Persons with Disabilities at 215-587-3530.

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection



It was around the year 950 B.C. A scribe at King Solomon's court in Jerusalem was writing down the ancient stories of his people, the stories of their ancestors....

The book of Genesis shows us the chaos and destruction that fill every human life because of sin, all the way back to the beginning. Eden was peace and happiness and everlasting life. Sin destroyed all this by introducing death and suffering; sin alienated human beings from their own inner selves, from nature, and from God. But "original sin" is not so much something that happened to two people in a garden way back then, but something that happens to all human beings now. Original sin is original with each new person born into this world. And original sin is original every day, in each of us.

The persistent sinfulness of the human race goes back as far as the human race itself, but it is a sinfulness that touches each of us in some way, and to which each of us contributes to some extent. Original sin is not like an avalanche that crashes down on us; rather, it is like a snowball rolling through the centuries and millennia, growing stronger because of our own sins. We have added to the power of sin in our world through our own sins and failures to live in the power of our baptism. For even though we share the final victory of Christ over sin through our baptism, we still feel the destructive effects of sin in our lives every day. We don't have to look too far for proof of this, do we?

We ALL have been unfaithful to our God in different ways. "All sinned," says St. Paul in the second reading, and he meant ALL. "Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned," we prayed in today's responsorial psalm.

Yes, all have sinned, all except Jesus, that is. But certainly He was tempted, as we hear in the Gospel, just as Adam and Eve were. But Jesus is a new Adam, and unlike the first man and woman, Jesus rejects what is contrary to God's will.

We hear about three temptations in the Gospel, but they all add up to one: Satan tempted Jesus to become a powerful political messiah, and thus forego His saving death as the Suffering Servant of God.

Lent invites us to see how our search for power, wealth, and pleasure can separate us from God, from others, and from ourselves. Lent invites us to reject those ways of thinking and speaking and acting, just as Jesus rejected them. To leave sinfulness behind is to experience the joy of the resurrection into which we were baptized.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR

Dear friends,

Terrorism hopes to create a sense of panic in its targets. In the midst of its chaos there is a temptation to abandon sound reflection. During the Civil War President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus provisions of the civil law – people could be jailed without charges being filed. After Pearl Harbor thousands of citizens of Japanese American descent were forced to leave their homes and live in desert camps for the course of the war. (It was a racist decision: no German-Americans were removed from the East Coast despite the fact that German submarines were just a few miles off our coast.) Today, the global community is engaged in a war on terrorism. Many of these terrorists are Muslim and because we are tempted to panic a terrible generalization is occurring: The terrorists are Muslim, hence, all Muslims are terrorists. If we let that stand as acceptable thinking, the terrorists have won. Their distorted Islamic faith will attract the young Muslim as a recruit in the Holy War against the infidel. Bigotry thrives on ignorance and a better understanding of the true Islamic faith will enable a strong social fabric in our country and around the world. When the Irish Republican Army was conducting terrorist attacks in Northern Ireland, would you want to conclude that all Irish in Northern Ireland are terrorists, or sympathizers? Bigotry tends to repeat itself.

A recent survey conducted by Georgetown University yielded some troubling data. When asked of their impressions of Muslims, three in 10 admitted to having unfavorable views. 14% of Catholics said they have favorable views and 45% have either favorable nor unfavorable views. 11% are unsure. The majority of Catholics correctly identify prayer and fasting as important parts of Muslim life, but also incorrectly believe that Muslims worship prophet Mohammed. Catholics are less likely than most Americans to know a Muslim. Nearly half of Catholics cannot name any similarities between Catholicism and Islam.

In 1999 Pope Saint John Paul II made an historic visit to Morocco, an Islamic state (meaning that Islam and its tenants are the law of the land). He reaches back to the II Vatican Council which encourage dialogue with Muslims, who "together with us adore the one, merciful God" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 841). In the general audience after his trip he remarked, "The church has a high regard for them (Muslims), convinced that their faith in the transcendent God contributes to building a new human family based on the highest aspirations of the human heart." Muslims, Jews and Christians see the person of Abraham as a model of unconditional submission to the decrees of God. All three religions strive to give God "his rightful place in their lives as the origin, teacher, guide and ultimate destiny of all human beings. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, is also devoutly invoked by Muslims, especially in popular piety". The Pope is clear that Christianity is the fullness of God's revelation. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is our unique insight into the very nature of God revealed to us by Jesus. And yet, there is much shared that fosters mutual respect. The Holy Father's words are compelling in this generation as well. He writes, "By walking together on the path of reconciliation and renouncing in humble submission to the divine will any form of violence as a means of resolving differences, the two religions will be able to offer a sign of hope, radiating in the world the wisdom of mercy of that one God who created and governs the human family."

Blessings, Monsignor Tom Owens (stmatt2014@gmail.com)