



# MASS INTENTIONS

## May 7, 2017

### Saturday, May 6

4:30PM Betty & Edward Pruskowski  
Marie Golas

### Sunday, May 7

7:30AM Charles & Margaret Williams  
9:30AM Anthony & Louise Zinni & Family  
11:30AM James J. Fritz, III (6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)  
William Freas (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)

### Monday, May 8

8:15AM Maureen Foley Helwig, Michael Foley &  
Mary C. Foley

### Tuesday, May 9

8:15AM Gerardina Boccelli

### Wednesday, May 10

8:15AM Thomas F. McCloskey

### Thursday, May 11

8:15AM Mary Lally

### Friday, May 12

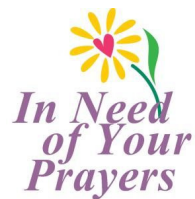
8:15AM Joseph & Helen Schank

### Saturday, May 13

4:30PM Rev. Walter Daly

### Sunday, May 14

7:30AM Charles J. Lare  
9:30AM Walter & Alvera Campi  
11:30AM Robert G. Templeton (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)



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, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, 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, Joe Lotito, 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, Kristen Lafferty, Debbie Miller Hannon, Robert Berk, Emma Forlini, Paul & Family, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, Richard Wolfrom, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauer, John Palmer, Rachel Minnick, Mark Hogan, Gregory Mazzochetti, John Lewis



Return to God

**Kristina Morris**  
**Joseph D'Orazio**

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:** Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108<sup>th</sup> 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 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Michael Bondra, Senior Airman Jacob Shoemaker, Master Sgt. Curt W. Zeiders III, Edward Sobek

### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

5/6 4:30 Msgr. Owens  
5/7 7:30 Fr. McGuinn 9:30 Fr. Ryan 11:30 Fr. Heron  
5/13 4:30 Fr. McGuinn  
5/14 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens  
5/20 4:30 Fr. McGuinn  
5/21 7:30 Msgr. Owens 9:30 Fr. Cooke 11:30 Fr. Ryan  
5/27 4:30 Fr. Ryan  
5/28 7:30 Fr. McGuinn 9:30 Fr. Heron 11:30 Msgr. Owens

### 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 is June 6 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)



St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, May 13, 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](mailto:deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net)



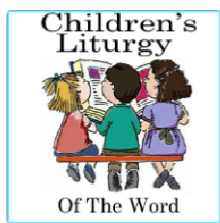
**2018 Mass Book:** The 2018 Mass Book is open. For your convenience, there are Mass Intention forms in the back of church . Follow the instructions on the form and

place in the collection basket or email your request to [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net) or 610-828-0424 X4.

### From the Pastor:

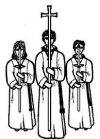
**Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to the families whose children received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year. Thank you to our parish staff and volunteers who prepared our students and planned our liturgical celebrations. May the First Holy Communion children always hunger for Jesus the Bread of Life. May the Confirmation children always be filled with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.**  
**Fr. Tom**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN:



every Sunday at the **9:30AM** Mass. All children (**ages 3 – 9**) 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

siblings. **10 year olds and up are encouraged to become altar servers.**



**ALTAR SERVERS:** Are you 10 years old or older? Do you want to help in the parish? Join the St. Matthew's Altar Servers. Training will begin after 9:30 Mass on Sunday. E-mail [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto:stmatthewrectory@verizon.net).



### Month of May

In honor of Mary we will say the Rosary and have Benediction **every Monday evening in the month of May** at 6:30PM with Deacon Joe Carr. Please join us!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month: **May 9 & June 13**. Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11<sup>th</sup> & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).

**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, May 10 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](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)



## YOUNG ADULTS

Join St. Matthew's Conshohocken Young Adult group focused on social, spiritual, and service. Upcoming events include: May 21 Post Mass Brunch 12:30 PM at Bar Lucca (meet in the back of the church) June 6 Cradles to Crayons and Guppies 6 PM 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](mailto:tony.moral2@gmail.com) or Erin Garrett at [erin.garret@gmail.com](mailto:erin.garret@gmail.com).



**ST MATTHEW'S SENIORS** will meet every third Wednesday of the month. May meeting will take place on **May 17**, in the Parish Community

Center at **12:30pm**. We will have a short business meeting, lunch (\$5). **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY: Mother's Day Weekend



The Respect Life Collection will be held on Mother's Day Weekend before and after each Mass on **May 13-14, 2017**. We will offer red roses and carnations. We ask for your continued support and generosity in this important work. Let us pray and ask Our Lady to bless our nation and the pre-born. Thank you.

## 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 and one for men. To learn more about this opportunity contact Deacon Joe Carr at [rosehigh1@comcast.net](mailto:rosehigh1@comcast.net), Maria DiMarco at 484-888-5368.

## FOOD BANK NEEDS:



Our parish food bank is in need of the following items: tuna fish, cans of fruit, carrots, mixed vegetables, large cans of chunky soups. Items can be placed in the vestibules of the church where our volunteers will pick up and take to the food bank. Thank you for your generosity.

## 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 High School:

First Honors: **Alyssa G. Garcia - Congratulations!**

**Gentle reminder:** Each person must strive to participate fully at the Mass, making it a genuine act of worship of God. Each person must do his best to eliminate as many potential distractions as possible and focus on the Mass.

**Kindly turn off your cell phones and avoid using them during Mass. Thank you!**

## ST. JOSEPH CHURCH SPRING CITY:

Join us in a Mass for those suffering from addiction. All are invited to St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, 3640 Schuylkill Rd, Spring City, PA 19475 on **Saturday, June 3, 2017 12 Noon** the Celebrant will be Rev. Charles O'Hara. Addiction has touched far too many of our loved ones. Join us that we may draw strength from one another in the power of our faith. **"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."** (Philippians 4:13)

**Memorial Day Masses at Cemeteries: NO 8:15AM Mass on Monday, May 29. Masses will be held at St. Benedicts Cemetery at 10 AM and St. Matthew Cemetery at 11 AM.**

# God's Plan for Giving

April 30, 2017

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFERTORY  
GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

**\$12,954.00**

Electronic giving \$1,995.00 + \$10,959.00 = \$12,954.00

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: Catholic Home Missions**



**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)

**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](mailto: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.

**Passage of the Conscience Protection Act (CPA)** continues to be a top legislative priority for the USCCB Committee for Pro Life Activities. It will write into permanent law the core policy of the Weldon Amendment, which protects those who decline to perform, pay for, refer for, or provide coverage for abortion. The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (NCHLA) has an initiative called Human Life Action (HLA) that mobilizes grassroots support for the U.S. Bishops' pro-life legislative agenda. At present, the passage of the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 is the Pro-Life Committee's top legislative priority and a call to action has been issued. HLA is conducting a nationwide program called Take Action Sunday to engage the faithful and in proclaiming the Gospel of Life relative to the legislative process. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will be participating in Take Action Sunday during the weekend of **May 20-21, 2017**. The goal of Take Action Sunday is straightforward. We hope to generate many grassroots messages from the Faithful to Congress urging support for the Conscience Protection Act. Please advocate for passage of this important legislation in defense of life and freedom of conscience through the website [www.HumanLifeAction.org](http://www.HumanLifeAction.org) and send an email to your legislative leaders.

## IHM Nun Run:

Join us on June 3, 2017 for the IHM Nun Run, a 5K run/walk at Villa Maria House of Studies, Immaculata, PA that is across the street from Immaculata University. Start time is 8:30 am. Proceeds benefit Camilla Hall, the retirement home for the aged and infirmed Sisters of IHM. Registration information: [www.ihmnunrun.org](http://www.ihmnunrun.org), May 30<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register. No race day registrations.

## Reflections from my Rocking Chair

Dear Friends,

We are fortunate to live in the northern hemisphere – at least as far as the liturgical calendar is concerned. Passover and Easter fall in the beginning of spring time. The flowering trees and azalea bushes contrasted with the many green plants around us create a marvelous canvas for us to enjoy with the liturgical celebration of Christ Risen. In the southern hemisphere Passover and Easter occur as winter approaches.

When I was a youngster in the late 1950s, one of our family outings (when we were not going to Manayunk where my father was raised) was to take “a ride”. Growing up in Overbrook near St. Charles Seminary that meant a drive through the streets in and around what I now know as route 23. I shouldn't say streets. I should say roads or ways or lanes. This is the same route I take from St. Matthew parish to my family in Delaware County. It's not the fastest way to go but it is the prettiest, especially this time of year. I confess: I still take rides through the roads off 23 enjoying the greenery and the lovely houses arranged precariously on steep hills and forests. There is great truth in the expression “take time to smell the roses”. Even snowy winter takes on a beauty of its own.

As Pope Francis reminds us the earth and its many features deserve our respect for we are the guardians of the garden God has given us. The gospel compels us to share the resources of the earth with all and to preserve its future for our children's children. There is a moral quality – even more a spiritual dimension – to our care for the earth. One would hope that alternative sources of energy will create the jobs that will be lost as our dependence on fossil fuels wane. Profit is not the only measure of progress, hardly even the first consideration. A proper house, clean water, sufficient food and good healthcare must top the list of things that matter most. I imagine that both reasonable profit and the list above can coexist.

*Do you remember a poem entitled “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer?*

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the Earth's sweet flowing breasts;  
A tree that looks at God all day;  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me;  
But only God can make a tree.*

In a sad irony (what could God be thinking) the poet was killed some years later in the second battle of the Marne in World War I. He was shot in “no man's land”, the muddy and bloody earth between Allied and German trenches where no tree could be found.



*There is a choice to be made.*

Blessings, Monsignor Owens

## 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 Divine Liturgy for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter. 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!*

In Christian lore not many parables enjoy the familiarity as does that of the Good Shepherd. It is one of the most enduring pictures of Christ in literature, art and music. And yet the word "shepherd" is almost a foreign term in modern culture. Flocks and shepherds belong to the hinterlands, not in everyday living places.

As today's Gospel opens, Jesus poses as a kind, caring and loving guide, the shepherd who brings his sheep to the sheepfold for the night. Jesus knew how to herd sheep. He has the gatekeeper open the gate, enter through it first, and then call the sheep by name as they come in one by one. In the morning, the gatekeeper opens the gate. The shepherd leaves first, again calling his sheep out. Because they know the sound of his voice they follow wherever he goes. Jesus is very careful to spell out the correct procedures. His listeners also knew that only a thief or robber would bypass these ways.

The Pharisees, however, did not get the point that Jesus was trying to make, so He switched abruptly to another figure of speech, "I am the gate for the sheep." Curious? Maybe not. Could Jesus be the shepherd, the gatekeeper and surprise of surprises, the gate itself, all at the same time? It would help us to understand if we shifted our thinking away from the cowboy notion of rough and ready cattle herding to the more intimate and affectionate shepherd of Jesus' time. Then, the shepherd, the gatekeeper, and the gate could become one.

In the Middle East, the sheepfold was a strong circular wall of stones, on top of which was a barrier of briars. A small opening below allowed only one sheep to pass through at a time. Once the flock was inside, there wasn't a heavy door to slam shut and bolt for the night. Rather, the shepherd himself lay across the opening. Nothing, no one, could get through without dealing first with the shepherd. If anyone wanted to get at the sheep, it was "over the dead body of the shepherd."

We've all at one time or another challenged someone

or has been challenged with the phrase "over my dead body." Today those words take on poignant meaning in the mouth of the Good Shepherd who guards the entrance of the sheepfold. Peter, in the second reading, gives a vivid description of how Christ, as Shepherd, literally challenged the forces of evil saying, "over my dead body." Christ suffered for us. Christ Himself "bore our sins in His Body upon the cross." It is truly over Jesus' dead body that we have become free from sin.

What is more, Christ is the Shepherd who came to save us from the thieves and robbers who never give up looking for ways to enter. Christ is not only the gate to a safe and protected haven, but also the gate leading out to pasture, to new life: "Whoever enters through Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture ... so that [we] might have life and have it more abundantly."

What does this all mean in the sheepfold of our personal lives where there is always the possibility of straying, of being lost, stolen, or even destroyed? How deep is our desire to be in the safety and protection of the sheepfold, with our shepherd putting Himself across the entrance, ready to give His life for me and for all the other sheep?

How have we accepted that dare held out to us to follow in Christ's footsteps, to daily take up our cross and suffer with Him? Do we avoid it at all costs? How often do we turn a deaf ear to that gentle voice of the Good Shepherd, calling us each by name, inviting us into the safety and protection of His powerful love? How, in our everyday life, do we tune in to that voice and associate ourselves with this Shepherd who is now risen and living among us and within us?



END OF BULLETIN