



# Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017

## Saturday, December 16

4:30PM Ana Alamar

## Sunday, December 17

7:30AM James Williams

9:30AM John J. Williams Sr.

11:30AM Harvey & Lillian Borzelleca

Devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

## Monday, December 18

8:15AM Audrey DeFrancesco

## Tuesday, December 19

8:15AM Andrew Duggan

Brendan Grey (7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

## Wednesday, December 20

8:15AM Hanna Masterson

## Thursday, December 21

8:15AM Joseph DeSantis (5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

## Friday, December 22

8:15AM Marguerite Gallagher

## Saturday, December 23

4:30PM Charles Lare

Julia Bowes Page

## Sunday, December 24

7:30AM St. Matthew Parishioners

9:30AM St. Matthew Parishioners

11:30AM St. Matthew Parishioners

## Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Vigil

4:00PM Martin Brady

7:00PM Mary McGuinn

### Pray for the Sick:

Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, 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, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Kylie Reiff, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita VanBuskirk, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Jessica Jara, 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, Derek Dean, Baby Noah Marchetti, James Simpson, Roseann Sirianni Lare, Theresa Steinhauser, Rachel Minnick, Mark Hogan, Gregory Mazzochetti, Teresa Sensinger, Theresa Rozecki, Minnie Olearsky, Sal Spera, Veronica Lilick, Jessie Bonkowski, Marlin McCarthy, Angeline Williams, Grace McCracken, Joe Lipinski, Jack Ashton Sr., David Foults, David Smerecki Sr., Gina Hauserman, A Blind Woman, Debbie Adams, Joe Januzelli, Owen Reichner, Patty Tomczak



Stella Dolewa & Laura Jean Lukens



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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ryan D'Ambrosio, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Eraina D'Ambrosio, Lt. Col Jeffrey Matthew

### CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE

12/16 4:30 Fr. Heron

12/17 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Msgr. Owens 11:30 Fr. McKeaney

12/23 4:30 Fr. Heron

12/24 7:30 Fr. McKeaney 9:30 Msgr. Ricci 11:30 Msgr. Owens

### Advent Penance Service, Wednesday, December 20



### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM – Church – Fr. Heron

4:00 PM – Hall – Fr. McKeaney

7:00PM – Church – Msgr. Owens

### Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

7:30 AM – Fr. McKeaney

9:30 AM – Msgr. Ricci

11:30 AM – Msgr. Owens

### Prepare for next Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017

Samuel 7:1 – 5, 8 – 16 Romans 16:25 – 27 Luke 1:26 – 38

When “the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages” gets manifested to Mary, the Virgin believes it because it corresponds to what her perfect human heart is yearning for. God will continue to be with us wherever we go – but now in the flesh. What God had long ago promised would come true through her ‘yes’.

### Prepare for the Solemnity of the Birth of Jesus

Isaiah 2:7 – 10 Hebrews 1:1 – 6 John 1: 1 – 18 or Luke 2:1 – 14

“God’s sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. Exactly the same sign has meaning to us ... God’s sign is simplicity ... God’s sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby – defenseless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with His strength. He takes away our fear of His greatness. He asked for our love: so he makes himself a child. He wants nothing other from us than our love, through which we spontaneously learn to enter into His feelings, His thoughts, and His will – we learn to live with him and to practice with him that humility of renunciation that belongs to the very essence of love. God made himself small so that we could understand him, welcome him, and love him ... Christmas has become the feast of gifts God has given himself to us. Let us allow our heart, our soul, and our mind to be touched by this fact!” (Pope Benedict XVI)



**CCD/PREP  
FAMILIES OF ST  
MATTHEW PARISH  
THE CHILDREN OF  
THE PARISH ARE  
INVITED TO LEAD  
...AN ADVENT TREE**

**LIGHTING SERVICE, SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 23** at the closing of 4:30PM Mass.  
**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO  
PARTICIPATE.**

ALL the Children of the parish, from the tiniest to the tallest will present the true meaning of Christmas...and wish for the whitest and brightest Christmas by blessing and lighting the Nativity and the Tree on Fayette Street. (All Candidates preparing for First Eucharist, First Reconciliation, should attend the Advent Tree Lighting Service.)



Prayer  
Shawl  
Ministry

**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, **January 9** 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](mailto:acaoc@verizon.net)



**ST MATTHEW'S SENIORS  
GROUP**

Our next meeting will be held on **December 20** at 12:30 in the school hall. We are going to have a Pot Luck Lunch and a Pollyanna. Please let us know if

you have not signed up yet what you will be sharing for the luncheon. Any questions or suggestions please call Pat Hanna at 610-272-3610 or Kitty McNally at 610-825-9291.



**YOUNG ADULTS**

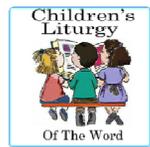
St. Matthew's Conshohocken Young Adult group aims to provide fellowship through social, spiritual and service opportunities for those in their 20s and 30s and the young at heart. To sign up for events and more please join the St Matthew Conshohocken Young Adult Facebook group. If you have any questions, 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).

"The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20) For many, the line between having their need for shelter met and being homeless is a thin one. Next Spring, the Young Adults of Saint Matthew plan to team up with Habitat for Humanity in a home build project in Bridgeport. There is no experience required, no minimum hours of building, no minimum monetary donation. If you are interested in joining the team, please reach out to Tony. The team is open to adults of all ages.



St. Matthew Parish is offering a one day pre-Cana program on **Saturday, March 3, 2018** from 8:30am – 4 pm followed by Mass at 4:30PM. Cost \$200 per couple. Couples from all parishes are welcomed. Contact Helene at [hclegg100@aol.com](mailto:hclegg100@aol.com) to register

for the class.



**LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN** is held 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. E-mail [stmatthewrectory@verizon.net](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>



Tuesday of each month. **The next class is January 9 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)

Starting on January 6, 2018 there will be an 8:15 AM Mass every first Saturday of the month.

**2017 Catholic Charities Appeal Goal Achievement Congratulations** to St. Matthew community on exceeding your Catholic Charities Appeal Parish Goal and raising over \$29,000 to date! We express our gratitude for your continued generosity. By meeting your goal, you have shared in the collective efforts of the Catholic Church in **"Giving Hope to All."** Your kindness will support tens of thousands of people through countless organizations and ministries throughout the greater Philadelphia area.



December 10, 2017

WE ARE VERY  
GRATEFUL FOR  
YOUR  
OFFERTORY  
GIFTS LAST  
WEEKEND:

**ST. MATTHEW  
SPAGHETTI DINNER  
SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2018  
2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
IN THE PARISH CENTER HALL  
BYOB**

**PRICE – \$10.00 - ADULTS  
CHILDREN 4 to 12 - \$5.00**

**Under 4 Free**

**CALL Parish Center to order tickets. Or  
email [hclegg100@aol.com](mailto:hclegg100@aol.com)  
(610-828-0424)**

**Put Payment in marked envelope in  
Collection Basket or stop in parish  
center.**

Electronic giving \$1,863.00 + \$13,368.00 = **\$15,231.00**

**TWO-YEAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE ST.  
MATTHEW CHURCH IN PREPARATION OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Masonry restoration of Steeple  
& Outside of Church ..... \$592,513.00  
Total..... \$592,513.00**



**ELECTRONIC GIVING: Parish Giving** is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. to register [www.parishgiving.org](http://www.parishgiving.org) or [www.stmatthewparish.com](http://www.stmatthewparish.com)

**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: **January 9 & February 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).

**CROSS THE LIGHT:** Encounter Christ anew through The Cross and the Light Passion Play in Lent 2018. The Cross and the Light is an international, critically acclaimed musical and video surround experience of the greatest love story of all time. "The Cross and the Light opens the floodgates of God's mercy and love... You can't deliver the Good News of Jesus in a more dynamic and sensational way in our present time! All ages will be drawn to Jesus and His unconditional love for each and every person." Don't miss this opportunity to experience the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ. To watch videos, see performance schedule and to purchase tickets online go to [www.crossandlight.com/stjohnbosco](http://www.crossandlight.com/stjohnbosco) or contact 267-803-9930. **PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:** St. John Bosco in Hatboro, PA March 8, 2018 10 am & 7 pm March 9, 2018 at 10 am & 7 pm March 10, 2018 at 1 pm & 7 pm

**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 the history department from April 9 until June 9, 2017. Courses to be taught are AP US History, Honors Topics in US History, Topics in US History, and Modern World History. Qualified applicants with teaching experience and a degree in history are asked to submit their resumes and PA clearances to Anne Casavecchia at [acasavecchia@gmahs.org](mailto:acasavecchia@gmahs.org) by January 13, 2018.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL:** Pastoral Council will meet Tuesday, January 16 at 7PM in the Parish Center Conference Room. Next meeting **February 20.**



**Saint Genevieve Parish** is seeking to hire a part time rectory cook to grocery shop and prepare dinners for our priests 3-4 nights per week, days and hours flexible.

Approximately 12-15 hrs. weekly. Availability to serve an occasional rectory staff lunch and cook special occasion dinners a plus. Experienced men or women interested in working in a friendly parish team environment should send resume with introductory letter to Fr. Mulligan at [rectory@stgensparish.com](mailto:rectory@stgensparish.com).

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:**

**Greeters:** Door greeters work in conjunction with the ushers as ministers of hospitality. Their commitment involves greeting parishioners and guests as they enter the church to celebrate the Eucharist or participate in other spiritual events. Only a few minutes of time are needed before and after Mass.

**Ushers:** The goal of the ushers is to exemplify and extend the hospitality of the St. Matthew community. They greet parishioners and guest upon arrival at church, assist with seating, tend to any special needs, collect the offertory collection, assure the orderly movement of the congregation during communion and distribute the parish bulletin at the end of the liturgy.

**If you are interested in these ministries, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or the Parish center mailbox.**

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Parish Organization Volunteer Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

### LUMEN CHRISTI

*Faith gives us great light, but it does not remove all the darkness. That is why faith requires some night vision.*

*Imagine yourself standing in a field and in your right hand is a golden thread and at the end of the thread is a swan pulling you upward. In your left hand you have a rusty chain and at the end of the rusty chain is a nasty dog pulling you in the other direction. You are standing there being stretched in both directions. People who hate themselves and are trying to flee themselves mistakenly let go of the rusty chain. Yet, holding on to both is what it means to be an incarnate Christian. That's what it means to be a biblical believer. To put the two together. To hold them in healthy tension. So many have been told to get rid of the nasty dog and fly off with the swan. Swan people are unreal. Perhaps they are "holy," but if that is holiness, who needs it? There is nothing attractive to swan people. One can also get entrapped by the nasty dog and nasty dog people are enslaved. They are angry, mean, sullen, cynical, bitter people. The challenge is to learn to teach the swan and the dog to kiss, to become friends. They hold you in a creative tension. The dog has just as much to do with your holiness as the swan. The dog represents the dark side of your personality. That darkness is dangerous only to the degree you (we) are out of touch with it, when we project it onto others or when we hide it, cover it up, bury it alive. It is the dark side of our personalities that contains the seeds of an un-lived life. The seeds of compassion, patience, forgiveness are found there. The real issues of the spiritual journey are born there. It is only when we decide to let go and abandon the false self that conversion occurs. Now, one is ready to be taught by Jesus. He teaches us His way, that is, the way of vulnerable love.*

*If we fail to die to the false self we become a victim of what we deny. (Confession means to speak the full self, the true self, the weeds and wheat of our souls.) Jesus loves us so much that He even uses sin in our favor. We believe that we reach God by getting rid of our sins. We don't get rid of them. We bring our sinfulness to the Lord and He transfers our weakness into strength, our darkness into light, our sinfulness into grace. We become touched sinners. We are now able to name our demons rightly. And that is called the gift of discernment.*



## Reflections from my Rocking Chair

Dear friends,

*I hope this is not mistaken for a sports column but I feel compelled to share with you Carson Wentz's twitter from last Sunday night. Who does not know by now – fan or unfan – that the Eagles quarterback was seriously injured and will be out for the season. Makes you want to subscribe to my sports blog, doesn't it? His one "twit" (Isn't that what it is called?) read this way: "NFC East champs! So proud of the resiliency of this team. Such a special group of men. And I greatly appreciate all the prayers! I know my God is a powerful one with a perfect plan. Time to just lean in to him and trust whatever the circumstances! #Proverbs 3:5 – 6"*

*His thanks for "all the prayers" is, from what I've read about him, a sincere and heartfelt appreciation. He is seemingly a deeply devout Christian, unafraid to let himself be known as such. He listens to sacred music in his car as he drives to the Eagles complex in South Philadelphia. He's respectful of his teammates and deeply committed to his craft. I will leave that part of his life for others to judge but I do feel that my poor commitment to the gospel of Christ gives me some standing in maintaining that while Carson is a good football quarterback, he is a better Christian. He doesn't seem to be a demonstrative young man but his witness to Christian convictions runs deep.*

*I imagine his serious injury may be the first of his football career and it may weigh heavily upon him. His youthful self-confidence has yet to be tested by infirmity, a condition now painfully obvious to him. So what does he do! "Time to just lean in to him (God) and trust whatever circumstances!" What? No stamping your feet! No protestations, "My God, what have you done to me?" "I've been faithful so what has that gotten me!" He has none of that in him. He offers what I think is a rather profound insight, "I know my God is a powerful one with a perfect plan." You have to be a friend of God to know that in a heartfelt way.*

*How can he say that with any sense of credibility? Was Adolf Hitler part of God's "perfect plan"? Is it part of God's perfect plan that hurricanes and fires end lives (on earth) and homes? People with a palpable sense of heaven understand what is profoundly mysterious in God – human suffering. Heaven and the loss of heaven are the divine plan's perfection. That is why it is essential that Jesus die on the Cross, to make sense out of what seemingly appears to be sense-less-ness. In heaven the greatest tragedies here on earth find their remedy.*

*Even in the mystery of the birth of Christ and its profoundly gentle narrative, there is a strain of violence; Herod and his murder of the innocents. Mysteriously enough, this too is part of God's perfect plan. And while sports is sports, we can tease out some insight into God from our parable of the young quarterback Christian. So, let's "lean in".*

*Blessings, as we wait for our Christmas drama.*

Monsignor Owens

[stmatt2014@gmail.com](mailto:stmatt2014@gmail.com)



End of Bulletin