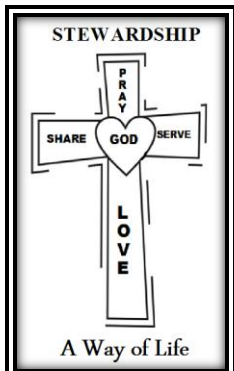


**THE FEAST OF
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD,
JANUARY 13, 2019**



SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, today's Scriptures invite us to be confident in and mindful of the presence of the divine in our midst. // In the First Reading, the prophet urges personified Jerusalem to shout out from its place on the mountain-top, "Here is your God," because its people's long exile in Babylon is about to come to an end. Note that God is depicted as a shepherd carrying the lambs in the fold of his garment, close to his heart (Hebrew *cheq*, meaning "at breast"), and carefully leading the nursing ewes (Hebrew *ul*, meaning "to give suck") as they make their way to God's holy city. // Today's Gospel juxtaposes John the Baptist with Jesus in a most remarkable scene. The crowds were listening to John, who was preaching a baptism of repentance, and were eager to learn whether he might be the messiah. Yet John tells them that he is only the messenger. Someone greater was coming, he said, one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The scene quickly shifts to the crowd, who had participated in John's ritual of repentance and to one in their midst who is manifest to the world through a heavenly voice and a descending Holy Spirit as God's beloved Son. // The Second Reading invites us to reflect on our Christian Baptism, which the author describes as a "bath of rebirth" and a "renewal by the Holy Spirit." He reminds us that it was given to us as a grace (Greek *charis*, meaning "kindness" or "gift"), not because we earned it, but because God is merciful, generous, and loving.



"John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...'" (Luke 3:16)
The Catholic Catechism states that "Jesus' immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God's will." In other words, as baptized

Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,716; Utilities: \$453 (328 Parishioners attended Sunday Mass). Thank You! Expenses: \$5,455.93 (Salaries, Equipment Repair, Utilities, Insurance, Candles, Oil). **Please pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass regularly and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH
MINERSVILLE, PA**

www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org

Rectory Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Phone: (570) 544-2211 Fax: (570) 544-2317 E-Mail: ssk1905@verizon.net

SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST WELCOMES ALL

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, ethnicity, etc.; you are Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved and Respected at Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR: Sr. Meg Cole (610-332-0442 x2019)
VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Wendy S. Krisak (Direct:1-800-791-9209)

WEEKDAY MASS AT 8:00 AM (unless indicated otherwise)

- MON – Adolph and Eileen Poslosky by Daughter, Alicia
 - TUE – Intentions of Katherine Chelak and Parents by Alica
 - WED – Intentions of Rebekah, Mildred and Melvin Mateo by Alicia
 - THU – Julia Rhoads by Niece, Carol
 - FRI – Aldona Butler by Edward
 - SAT – 4:00 PM – Fritz and Jean Doran by Ellen Doran and Family
 - SUN – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners
10:30 AM – Andrew and Anna Ofsharick by Theresa and Frank Grigalonis
- WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING MASSES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

LITURGICAL MEMORANDUM: In light of the heightened cases of influenza being reported in our five-county area and the change in the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Influenza Status from "sporadic" to "wide-spread", His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, directs that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice be suspended beginning with the Vigil and Sunday Masses on the weekend of 12-13 January 2019. This suspension will be in effect until further notice when the incidence of influenza subsides in our region. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (Cf. Mt 3:16-17)

THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 – ORIENTATION: This Feast proclaims a *theophany*, a revelation and manifestation of the divine Sonship of Jesus by his anointing and appointment to his Messianic office. It is the feast that proclaims the **BAPTISM** that elevates believers to the status of sons and daughters of God. **THE RITE OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER** will be celebrated in commemoration of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River by St. John the Baptist. **Pastoral Note: Today officially ends the Christmas Season.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM

FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): Jesus told us to ask the Harvest Master to send laborers into his harvest. May the prayers of our participating families bear fruit. **JOE AND JOANN AUCKER (8:30 AM)** will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up for March and April in Church vestibule.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: In today's gospel Jesus was publicly **AFFIRMED** by his Father: "You are my beloved son, with you I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed **AFFIRMATION** and so do our children.

CHRISTMAS SEASON CHARITIES: 1) **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY:** We need ALL TYPES OF **CANNED TUNA AND FISH** to feed the needy of our area. Call 570-544-2739. **Volunteers, especially men, are needed for God's Bountiful Table.** 2) **ANNUAL MINERSVILLE AREA HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:** Donations, both monetary and non-perishable goods, can be made in care of: Ed Butler, 529 Lytle Street, Minersville. Call Ed (570-449-2739) for more information. **Helping the disadvantaged is truly the spirit of the season! THANK YOU!**

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: The war on the unborn is never-ending. In the first century it was stated: The difference between the way of life and the way of death is great. Therefore, do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant. In 1973 America decriminalized abortion and perfected the methods of killing the unborn. Pray to end abortion and euthanasia.

CHRISTMAS SEASON VOTIVES: (1) **SANCTUARY:** Special Intention by Alicia Poslosky. (2) **ALTARS: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** IMO Julia Rhoads by Niece, Carol; Special Intention by Alicia; Special Intention by Helen and CoCo; IMO Donald and Aldona Butler by Edward. **DIVINE MERCY:** Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; For the Health of Billy Wasser by Family; In Thanksgiving by Katherine Chelak. (3) **BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention; IMO Joseph Dallago by Family. **ST. ANTHONY:** For the Health of Martha Wasser by Mary Ann, Brian, and Neil Sokola. **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention. **ST. BARBARA:** Happy Birthday Mom, Barbara Stabinsky, by Sons, Matthew and Kevin; Happy Birthday, Baba, Barbara Stabinsky, by Grandchildren, Julia and Andrew. **Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) for votives.**

FOOD PREPARATION: 9:30 AM, Parish Center. Help us prepare potatoes.

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE: School tours, presentations, and displays will begin at 1:00 PM. Members of the entire Nativity community will be available to answer your questions. No pre-registration is required. All are welcome! Call the school (570-622-8110) or e-mail jldaubert@nativitybvm.net with any questions.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:00 AM, Parish Center. Help us make PIEROGI.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 – ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 1) 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Good Shepherd Building 2) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 3) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 4) Our Coordinator of Religious Education is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

ALZHEIMER'S CARE GIVER SUPPORT GROUP: 6:00 PM, Providence Place, Pottsville. Program is free. Light refreshments served. Contact Ashley Vigoda (570-628-6950), Program Director, for more information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE: 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17 – "SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT "CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL: Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:45 AM. MAKE CONFESSION REGULARLY IN THIS NEW YEAR!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:30 PM. BEGIN THE NEW YEAR BY GOING TO CONFESSION!

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JANUARY 20 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): JACK HUDOCK (8:30 AM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). We need volunteers for March and April! THANK YOU!

SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE: (1) PARISH MAINTENANCE: Your contribution will help defray the cost of improvements for all Parish Buildings and Grounds. (2) Please catch up with any missed envelopes. Consistent support helps your church meet its financial obligations! Catch up deadline for 2018 envelopes is January 31, 2019.

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

	OFF. PROC.	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	SERVERS
SAT 4:00 PM	Doran Family	Nicole Forney	Theresa Kroznuski	Eades Family
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Linda Butensky	Rosalie Novack	Jordan Berdanier
				Eric Andruchek
10:30 AM	Ofsharick Family	Mary Ann Harrison	Jamie Kuehn	Bella Kuehn
				Gabriel Kuehn

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JANUARY 26, 27 – DIOCESAN COLLECTION: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: Today, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC). Funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people here at home and abroad. Today please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief. **Use the CRS Envelope found in your box.**

JANUARY 27 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:30 AM, Parish Center. Help us prepare potatoes.

JANUARY 27 – ASSUMPTION BVM OPEN HOUSE : 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Faculty members, administration, available to answer questions.

Registrations for the 2019-2020 school year have started. All are welcome! Call 570-622-0106 for information and tours anytime.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHUYLKILL COUNCIL 431 - FREE THROW SHOOTING CONTEST: Registration begins 4:00 PM.

Nativity BVM High School. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (Birth certificate required for proof of age.) are invited to participate. An awards ceremony and pizza party will follow at the high school right after the contest. Call 570-617-1714 or 570-622-3960 for more information.

JANUARY 28 – FOOD PREPARATION: 9:00 AM, Parish Center. Help us make PIEROGI.

JANUARY 29 – SUPER BOWL PARTY PACKAGE: Tickets cost \$10 each. Winning ticket will receive: 50 inch TV, Gift Cards to Tony's Market, Craft Haus, and Write Craft. **DRAWING IS TODAY!** Call Vince Genovese (570-544-4149) for tickets. Benefits Minersville Public Library.

FEBRUARY 13 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: The Parish St. Vincent De Paul Society prepares and serves a walk-in meal from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fr. Anthony J. Ricipito Annex for those who are in need. **Delivered meals are available for people with disabilities ONLY.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484).

FEBRUARY 14 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' ADVENTURES! YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR RESERVATION! JULIE(570-544-5231), MILLIE(570-628-5413).

MAY 13-17, 2019 – CAPE COD AND BOSTON: 5 days, 4 nights, \$659 per person, double occupancy includes: 4 Nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, National Shrine of Divine Mercy, evening of entertainment, Tours of Provincetown, Chatham, Boston and Quincy Market, Plymouth and Plymouth Rock, Historic Sandwich, Hyannis area, including Kennedy Memorial and Main Street, Hyannis Harbor Cruise with view of Kennedy Compound, Cape Cod Canal visitor's center, Foxwoods Casino, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, All taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation.

2018 CHURCH CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS: Should you need one, kindly call the Rectory (570-544-2211).

2019 ADULT AND CHILDREN CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES: All remaining 2019 ADULT and CHILDREN envelopes can be found in the Church vestibule Please take yours and help us deliver those of our shut-in (homebound) parishioners. If there are any concerns, please call 570-544-2211.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS: We gratefully acknowledge your kindness and generosity which allowed us to decorate our church so beautifully during the Christmas Holidays (Unless otherwise noted each donation was \$10): IMO M/M Dante Cola, Raymond Cola by Jeanine Cola (\$20); IMO Deceased members of Andruchek and Ferenchick Families by M/M Eric Andruchek (\$20); Intentions of M/M John Andruchek; IMO M/M David Appleby, M/M Daniel Connelly by Mary Jane Appleby; IMO James Carey, Thomas W. Barr by M/M Michael Barr (\$20); IMO William A. Barton, Charles Pukas, Deceased of Plesnarski and Barton Families by Diane Barton; IMO Anthony Wolinsky, Stanley Walinsky, Mary Pinkus, Marilyn Williams by Catherine Bosack; IMO Stiney and Anna Gober by M/M Jason Clark; IMO Joseph Dallago by Family; Intentions of Bill Dallago; IMO Robert Joseph Domlesky, Lewis and Alice Graver by Carolyn Domlesky; IMO Fritz Doran, Jean Doran, Deceased of Doran and Calderone Families by Ellen Doran; IMO Gerald Malusky, Joseph and Alberta Malusky, Helen, George and Vince Kalochie, Victor Droskinis, Eleanore Long, Dianne Gardner by Helen and Charles Droskinis (\$40); IMO Pop Pop and Grammy Lescavage by Dominique and Michael Dudash (\$20); Intentions of Amy Eades Family; IMO John and Elaine Butcavage by Jane and Vince Earlosky; Intentions of Eichenberg Family; IMO Joseph A. Fabiani, Shirley A. Reed, Frank C. Reed, Robert W. Reed by M/M Vincent Fabiani; IMO Leo and Catherine Campion, Burton and Eleanore Forney, Msgr. James McHale, Rev. William Onushko, Rev. John Bambrick by Nicole and Lisa Forney (\$20); IMO Stanley Graf, Jr., Josephine and Stanley Graf, Sr., Phyllis and James McNamara by Barbara, Mary Beth, Evelyn and Maureen (\$20); IMO John J. Sabadish, Frank Kralick, Annie Sabadish by Mary Ann Harrison (\$20); IMO M/M George Bossick, Leona and Sophie Botzick, David Homa by Marilyn, Kim and Jared Homa (\$25); IMO Anna Holley, Alice Serafin by Lucinda Liddick (\$20); IMO Trusky and Klotunowitch Families by Deborah Klotunowitch (\$20); IMO M/M John and Rose Kukta by M/M John L. Kukta; IMO Land Family by Jim and Rose Land; Health and God's Blessings for Jean Lauck by Carol A. Lauck; IMO Francis and Helen O'Connor by Daughter, Mollie and Family; IMO William and Josephine Laudeman by Son, William, Jr. and Family; IMO Leister, Pytko and Stewart Families by Dolores Leister and Family; Intentions of Michelle and Bernie Lescavage; IMO William Lesky by Wife, Betty; IMO Joseph and Sophie Stock by Michelle Lewandowski; IMO Walter Logan and Family, Mr. John Karpovich and Son, M/M Joseph Powlick and Family, Anna Carroll by M/M Joseph Logan; IMO Ann Marie Hydock, James Lopez, Sr., Joe Certo, Sr., Anna Kirkauskas by M/M James Lopez, Sr. (\$40); IMO John Magic, Kanapitsky Family, Elizabeth Horan by Mildred Magic; IMO Daniel Polansky, Vince and Ruth Murphy, Pat and Mary McGovern, Joseph McGovern by Thomas and Carol McGovern; IMO Al and Margaret Melewsky by Albert Melewsky; IMO M/M Albert Gavalis, William Stock, Jr., M/M Michael Mickoseff and Sons, Estelle Savage by M/M John Mickoseff and Family (\$40); Intentions of Larry Murphy; IMO Joseph Nawrocki, Josephine Smith, Frederick Smith by Barbara Nawrocki and Family; IMO Francis and Helen O'Connor by Daughter, Helene (\$20); IMO M/M Joseph Gauntlett, M/M Andrew Palokas, Eugene Gauntlett, Stanley Palokas by Palokas Family; IMO John S. Butcavage, Elaine Butcavage by Kara Perzel; IMO Alex and Catherine Pegarski by M/M Anthony Phillips; IMO George and Caroline Haney, Stanley and Dorothy Plesnarski by Toni and Bob Plesnarski (\$20). (T.B.C.)