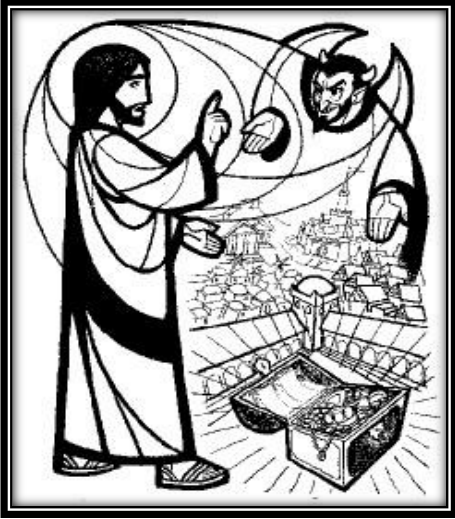
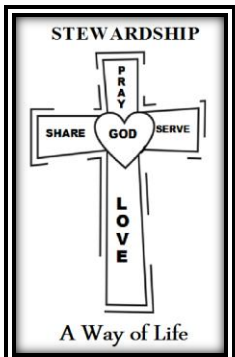


**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 10, 2019**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer, and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided. // The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus—he experienced doubt, uncertainty, and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasize the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.



"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." (Deuteronomy 26:10) This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is leftover?

Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,863; Utilities: \$461; Ash Wednesday: \$408 (Attendance: Sunday: 276 Parishioners; Ash Wednesday: 157). Thank You! Expenses: \$5,115. 18 (Salaries, Utilities, Oil, Insurance, Taxes). **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 – Frances Sumoski by Daughter, Bertha Warcola
- TUE – Msgr. John S. Baruch (Estate)
- WED – Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
- THU – Intentions of John Poslosky by Sister, Alicia
- FRI – Amelia Czwarac by Edward Butler
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Pat Wiscount by Nieces and Nephews
- SUN – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners
10:30 AM – Anna Kolenick (Annv) by Leo and Sharon Kolenick

PASTORAL NOTE: The following Mass dates are open: May 1, 29, 30, 31, June 3, 4, 5, 30. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211).

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 10 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM. Make Confession a regular part of your life!

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. EDWARD J. RUTECKI (8:30 AM) will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up for June in Church vestibule.

LENTEN CHARITIES: 1) **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY:** Your donation of **ALL TYPES OF PASTA** will allow the SVDP Society to aid the needy of our area. Volunteer to help our SVDP Society Out-reach and God's Bountiful Table. Call Edward Butler at 570-544-2739 to volunteer. 2) **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER NORMA** – In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother, supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit csrricebowl.org for more. 3) **MARY'S SHELTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN:** All bottles for Lenten Sacrifice have been taken and are due by April 28, Divine Mercy Sunday. Proceeds benefit pregnant, homeless young women and their children at Mary's Shelter, Reading and Bethlehem. THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT MOTHERS IN NEED! 4) **SISTERS' LENTEN GIVING TREE:** Select a cross and please donate the suggested item for the benefit of retired women religious who have given their lives to God in service to His church. RETURNS DUE PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Jesus "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships. Spend this Lent in your "wilderness" with God's work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: Even if abortion were made easy or painless for everyone, it wouldn't change the bottom-line problem that abortion kills children. It is destroying our future generations! Join pro-life today!

LENTEN VOTIVES: (1) **SANCTUARY:** IMO Frances Sumoski by Daughter, Bertha Warcola. (Sanctuary Vigil open dates: June 30, July 7, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25, September 1, 8, 15, 29, October 6, November 24, December 8) (2) **ALTARS:** **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Donald and Aldona Butler by Edward. **DIVINE MERCY:** Special Intention for Kathy. (3) **BEFORE:** **ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention. **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention. **ST. ANNE:** IMO Thomas and Leona Donlen by Family. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) for votives.

NEW TEEN MINISTRY FOR SCHUYLKILL COUNTY: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, Sunday's through March 24. St. Clare Parish Hall. *Schuylkill Catholic Young Church* is the new Schuylkill County regional youth ministry of the Diocese of Allentown. Teens are invited to participate in the upcoming "Alpha" series, which includes free dinner. Have questions about faith? Want to discuss the meaning of life, Jesus, spirituality and so much more? Want to plug into a community? Dinner; watch an ALPHA video, and have small group discussion each night in a fun and engaging way for youth. RSVP to Annie Sarlo: annie@allentowndiocese.org.

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT HOMEMADE SPAGHETTI DINNER: 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM, St. Patrick. Cost: Adults \$8; Children \$3.50. Eat-in or take-out. Call 570-622-1802.

MONDAY, MARCH 11 – BIBLE STUDY CLASS: 2:00 PM, Parish Center. Discussing Liturgy for Sunday, March 17: Gn 15: 5-12; Phil 3: 17-4:1 or 3:20-4; Lk 9:28b-36. All are welcome! Call Arlene (570-385-0248).

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 – 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 CRE is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 – LENTEN DEVOTIONS: EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR AND CONFESSIONS FOLLOWED BY STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION: Exposition and Confessions begin at 4:00 PM. Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM. Do something for God this Lent: Spend some time with your Eucharistic Lord!

Lenten Pastoral Letter

My dearest Brothers and Sisters in Christ, "Today we find ourselves before a manifestation of brazen, aggressive, and destructive evil. Behind and within, there is the spirit of evil, which in its pride and arrogance considers itself the lord of the world and thinks that it has triumphed." // These words, spoken by the Holy Father at the closing of the recent Vatican Meeting on the Protection of Minors, is a clear call to battle the evil of sexual abuse of minors. "Battle" is not too strong a word when describing the effort and courage needed to confront the Evil One. In fact, in the *Prayer to Saint Michael* that we say after Mass in our Diocese, we ask him to "defend us in battle." And so we place ourselves under the protection of this Archangel to keep us safe as we struggle with the devil, who was even so arrogant as to tempt Our Lord in the desert (Luke 4:1-13). // Even though the Holy Father's words were a universal call to confront the evil of child sexual abuse, his words are also very appropriate for us personally as we begin the discipline of Lent. In our own lives we see the "brazen, aggressive, and destructive" workings of our individual, personal sins. // During the holy season of Lent, we approach our loving Father with humility, asking Him to forgive our sins, and, through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving/good works, stir up in us the virtue to combat such an arrogant adversary. The Church, meaning all of us who make up the Church, is in a pitched battle with Satan against the depth and breadth of sexual abuse. Through the courage of victim-survivors, light is being shone into the darkness where this sin exists. Satan abhors the light of truth, so he will fight back strenuously. Hence, our need to be even stronger by repenting of our sins and ridding ourselves of them through sacramental Confession. // In a particular way throughout our Diocese, we have the opportunity to participate in the Healing Our Church program. In these sessions, we can reflect and pray with Scripture to acknowledge the evil that has been done using Holy Orders as a means for diabolical acts. We also can experience the solace and healing of the Holy Spirit that comes from joining our family of faith to remind ourselves that the holiness of the Church – founded by Christ – is our greatest weapon against evil. Only Satan's cunning work could take the Church, his greatest enemy, and weaken it through some of the very people who were called to serve the People of God. The Evil One has done masterful work, but he has already failed in his task. Our Lord promised that the power of hell would not prevail against His Church (Matthew 16:18). We live at a time when those words require us to have a great deal of faith as we see our Church besieged by such horrendous acts of personal sin. // This Lent, through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving/good works, we can repent of our personal and collective sins and re-invigorate our spirits that have been so weighed down these past months. Jesus remains with His Church, the Holy Spirit guides us, and Satan will not prevail. // Wishing you the graces and spiritual growth of a holy Lent, and with my prayers and gratitude for your steadfastness in the Faith, I am, Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert.

SIGN UP FOR "HEALING OUR CHURCH" DISCUSSION GROUPS:

Bishop Schlert has requested that each Parish in the Diocese conduct small group discussions to prayerfully reflect on Scripture, on the abuse crisis, and on our journey forward as true followers of Christ. Therefore, in keeping with this goal, St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish and St. Michael the Archangel Parish are recruiting parishioners to attend these discussion sessions during the six weeks of Lent. Much planning and rearranging of schedules have been made to accommodate our groups as much as possible. The sessions will be held in the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Meeting Room on the following dates: **Wednesday, March 13, 6:00 PM; Thursday, March 21, 6:30 PM; Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 PM; Thursday, April 4, 6:30 PM; Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM; Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 PM.** You are invited to attend any or all sessions which your schedule will permit. We are counting on your willingness to join us in this endeavor. **A Sign-up sheet is on the table in the vestibule of the Church.** Please consider becoming part of our discussion groups and bring a friend. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Catherine Therese (570-544-4741). Thank you and may the Holy Spirit guide us and direct us in the path of Easter peace and joy!

GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Fr. Anthony J.

Ricapito Annex (570-544-6484).

LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES: 12:00 Noon, Luther Ridge, Pottsville.

Speaker: Ashley Securda, Esq., Williamson, Friedberg and Jones. Topic: The importance of estate planning. Call Stacie (570-621-7200) to RSVP.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:45 AM.

Prepare spiritually for Easter by making a good Confession!

DAY OF ABSTINENCE: All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from eating meat today and every Friday of Lent. *You are encouraged to do some Voluntary fasting today as well!*

BAKED FISH DINNER: Pick up from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the church hall at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 131 N. Beech Street, Mount Carmel, PA. Dinner includes baked haddock, our own Pyrohy, homemade coleslaw, green beans, and roll and butter. **Advance sale tickets and take out only.** Tickets are \$10 per person and must be purchased by Monday, March 11, 2019. Contact the rectory office at 570-339-0650 for tickets. Tickets also available in the church vestibule before Divine Liturgies

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LENTEN DINNERS: Russell Building. New England Clam Chowder, Salad Bar, Macaroni and Cheese, or Baked or Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Homemade Dessert, Beverage, and your choice of Fish or Crab Cake. \$8 to \$17. 570-622-5470.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:30 PM. **WHEN DID YOU LAST GO TO CONFESSION?**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 17 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM. Repent!

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): LINDA ROTHERMEL (8:30 AM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). We also need volunteers for June. Please sign up in the Church vestibule.

SECOND COLLECTION: (1) **GENERAL REPAIR:** Your contribution will help defray the cost of general maintenance. (2) **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' RICE BOWL:** Please place your Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl envelope in the Second Collection all Lenten Sundays including Easter Sunday. All other Parish and Diocesan envelopes should be placed in the First Collection. Thank you! (3) **Please help your parish by catching up with any missed envelopes. THANK YOU!**

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Wiscount Family	Michael Novack	Deacon Henninger	Olivia Osborne Erica Osborne
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Sr. Mary Jane Dunleavy	Deacon Henninger	Scott Schwalm Connor Schwalm
10:30 AM	Kolenick Family	Theresa Kroznuski	Deacon Henninger	Kieran Plesnarski Jude Plesnarski

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 – LENTEN FOOD SALE: Parish Center. Eat-in or take-out: 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM. PLEASE VOLUNTEER A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PARISH! HELP IS NEEDED TO FRY BLEENIES, COOK PIEROGI, SERVE CUSTOMERS, PACK ORDERS, DELIVER BUSINESS ORDERS AND CLEAN UP. Your donation of home baked goods would be appreciated for our dessert table and can be brought to the Parish Center (570-544-5485) between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. LAST SALE: APRIL 5. HOPE TO SEE YOU! THANKS!

APRIL 7 – ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST HAM BINGO: Doors open 11:00 AM; Bingo starts 1:00 PM, Good Shepherd Building Cafeteria. Tickets \$5.00. 20 games, specials and raffles! Food and beverages will be available. Call Theresa Schoffstall (570-544-4316) or Tina Souchak (570-544-3370). PLEASE HELP WITH A \$25 DONATION TO PURCHASE HAMS. Non-perishable Grocery Items (canned goods, paper products, household cleaning items, etc.) are needed and can be dropped off in the boxes in the Church Vestibule. Volunteer workers are also needed!

APRIL 14 – ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' CAPE COD BUS TRIP MEETING: 1:30 PM in our Church.

APRIL 25 – CONFIRMATION: Bishop Alfred A. Schlert will Confirm the Confirmation Candidates of the Parishes of Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont, St. Matthew the Evangelist and St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville at 4:30 PM in our Church.

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

MARCH 18 – SANDS-BETHLEHEM CASINO: Cost \$25; Rebate \$35. Leaves Minersville Quandel's 8:15 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:30 AM.

APRIL 15, MAY 6, JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUGUST 19, SEPTEMBER 16, OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 9 – MOHEGAN SUN CASINO: Cost \$25; Rebate \$30. Leaves Minersville Quandel's 8:30 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:00 AM.

MAY 13-17 – 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.

JUNE 10 – ATLANTIC CITY RESORTS CASINO BUS TRIP: Cost \$35; Rebate \$25. Departs Quandel's Lot 8:00 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:15 AM; Departs Atlantic City 6:00 PM. *(By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea, you and me, how happy we can be!)*