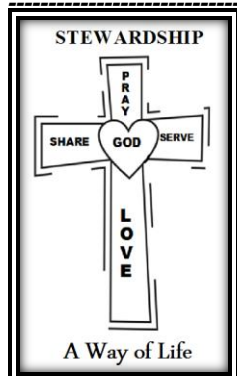


**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 24, 2019**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the “sin” of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that “bad things only happen to bad people.” The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action—obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions—then one was fulfilling one’s duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must “repent”. For 1st Century Jews, the word “repent” had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply “being sorry,” to repent meant to completely turn life around—both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction. // To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to “repent” that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.



“He said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.’” (Luke 13:7) We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has

*given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts and return with increase. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,831.85; General Repair: \$341 (Attendance: 286 Parishioners). Thanks! Expenses: \$6,910.72 (Salaries, Utilities, Propane, Oil, Equip. Contracts, Taxes, Altar Bread). **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 – In honor of Millie Magic (90th Birthday) by Family
- TUE – Deceased of M/M Andrew and Anna Paclawski Family by Alicia Poslosky
- WED – Michael and Catherine Gober and Granddaughter, Beverly by Katherine Chelak
- THU – Scott Dewire by Family
- FRI – Intentions of Gene and Carol Maley by Alicia Poslosky
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Robert and Ann Huntzinger by Grandchildren, Anya and Kyle
- SUN – 8:30 AM – Stiney and Mary Skavinsky by Family
10:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 24 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

8:00 AM and 10:15 AM. Make Confession a part of your Lenten devotions!

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

LENTE CHARITIES: 1) ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: Your donation of ALL TYPES OF HAMBURGER HELPER 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 DHATHCROOS FAMILY** – The Dhathcroos family returned home, after fleeing violence in their country, to build a prosperous farm and become a vital contributor to their community. How can you assist refugees in your community to rebuild their lives? How can you support refugees worldwide who are fleeing violence in their country? Visit csrricebowl.org for more. Our Parish’s CSRFB contribution: Second Sunday of Lent: \$558.83. 3) **MARY’S SHELTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN:** All bottles were 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. THANKS FOR CARING ABOUT MOTHERS IN NEED! 4) **SISTERS’ LENTEN GIVING TREE:** Select a remaining 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: The owner of the fig tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don’t live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don’t cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: In the 1800’s, black people were considered “non-persons”. During World War II, Jews were considered by the Nazi’s to be “inferior beings.” Both of these injustices were totally wrong, just as today it is wrong to consider the unborn baby as a non- person. We must stop abortion-our future as a nation depends on it. Join pro-life today!

LENTE VOTIVES: (1) SANCTUARY: In Honor of Millie Magic (90th Birthday) by Family. (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; IMO Helen Pytko (20th Annv) by Family; Special Intention. **DIVINE MERCY:** In honor of Mildred Magic (90th Birthday) by Friend, Father Leo. (3) **BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention (2). **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention. **ST. ANNE:** IMO Thomas and Leona Donlen by Family. **REREDOS NICHE:** Special Intention. **SACRED HEART:** For the repose of the soul of Ernest Zambo by Ginny Knorr; For health and consolation of Mary Zambo by Ginny Knorr. Call 570-544-2211.

NEW TEEN MINISTRY FOR SCHUYLKILL COUNTY: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 25 – APRIL VISITATION OF THE SICK: Beginning today until completed. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) to have someone added to our sick-list.

BIBLE STUDY CLASS: 2:00 PM, Parish Center. Discussing Liturgy for Sunday, March 31: Jos 5:9a; 10-12; 2 Cor 5: 17-21; Lk 15: 1-3; 11-32. All are invited! Call Arlene (570-385-0248) for more information.

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS: 5:00 PM, Our Lady’s Chapel of St. Patrick Church, Pottsville. Veneration of a First-Class Relic of Saint Pauline Visintainer, Patron Saint of Diabetics, to follow. Call 570-622-1802 for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26 – 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).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 – LENTEN DEVOTIONS: 1) **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND BENEDICTION: 10:00, at the Gardens at York Terrace, Pottsville.** 2) **EUCCHARISTIC 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!**

GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Fr. Anthony J. Ricipito Annex (570-544-6484).

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Nativity BVM High School. Call 570-622-8110 to register.

SIGN UP FOR "HEALING OUR CHURCH" DISCUSSION GROUPS: At Bishop Schlerl's request, each Parish in the Diocese is conducting small group discussions to reflect prayerfully reflect on Scripture, the abuse crisis, and our journey forward as true followers of Christ. In keeping with this goal, our Parish and St. Michael the Archangel Parish are continuing to recruit parishioners to attend these discussion sessions. They will be held in the St. Michael the Archangel Parish Meeting Room on: **Today, 7:00 PM; Thursday, April 4, 6:30 PM; Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 PM; Wednesday, April 17, 6:30 PM.** You can attend as many sessions as you wish. Please become a part of our discussion group and bring a friend. **For late registrations call 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!

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 – "SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT" CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL: Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 – 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!

BASKET SOCIAL: 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM today, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Sunday. St. Mary's Parish Center, Catasauqua. Tickets on sale at door. You do not have to be present to win. Benefits St. Mary's CCD Program. (610)-264-0332, 264-9383.

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 31 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM. Repent!

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): HELENE O'CONNOR 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) There is no second collection envelope for today. (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 FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Huntzinger Family	Al Boris	Barbara Sincavage	Olivia Osborne Erica Osborne
SUN 8:30 AM	Skavinsky Family	Elaine Stine	Jack Ruscavage	Scott Schwalm Connor Schwalm
10:30 AM	Parishioners	Sharon Kolenick	Marian Rhoads	Kieran Plesnarski Jude Plesnarski

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 – LAST 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. HOPE TO SEE YOU! THANKS!

APRIL 6 – BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP: 8:00 AM, Parish Center of the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. A special Lenten morning with Bishop Alfred A. Schlerl beginning with daily Mass followed by Recitation of the Rosary, Breakfast, and a Lenten Reflection. Cost \$12. Hosted by the Diocese of Allentown Commission for Women. To register visit www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality. Call Susan (610-207-5763) or e-mail cfw@allentowndiocese.org with any questions.

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 7 – COMMUNITY CONFESSIONS: 3:30 PM, St. Matthew the Evangelist Church. Prepare spiritually for Easter by making a good Confession! Four Priests should be available.

APRIL 10 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: Every other Wednesday, 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 also available for people with disabilities.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484) every other Wednesday.

APRIL 11 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month. Please join us!

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

APRIL 17 – HOMEMADE EASTER KIELBASA SALE: \$8.00 per 2 pound frozen link. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) ASAP to order. PICK-UP IS 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM TODAY IN THE PARISH CENTER! Date and time, tentative!

APRIL 25 – CONFIRMATION: Bishop Alfred A. Schlerl will administer Confirmation to the 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). 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!)*

THE EDWARD T. MALESKAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND: Former members of the former Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Minersville, can request a tuition aid/scholarship application for the 2019-2020 school year for Catholic elementary and high school students and Catholic or secular college students. Contact the trustee, Rev. Msgr. Daniel J. Yenushosky, at djyen1977@gmail.com.

See Parish website for more detailed information.