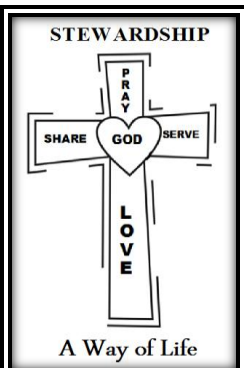


**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 31, 2019**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin—Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behavior in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behavior. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean. // The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke—more so than any of the others—has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalized; in other words, the “lost” of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honor. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about—being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any “sinner” who returns to God.



“No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.” (Joshua 5:12) Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased.

Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$3,134; Parish Maintenance: \$452 (Attendance: 316 Parishioners). Thanks! Expenses: \$3,195.69 (Salaries, Utilities, Liturgical/Maint. Supplies, Equip. Contracts, Taxes, Altar Bread). **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 – Intentions of Adele Grabusky (100th Birthday) by Daughter, Mary

TUE – Elizabeth Burns by Family

WED – John Logan (Birthday) by Joe and Rita

THU – Mary and George Dean, Daughter Betty, and Granddaughter Mary Roshanon by Frank and Theresa Grigalonis

FRI – Living and Deceased Members of Parish Memorial Society

SAT – 4:00 PM – Melissa Beadle by Ken and Maryann Eichenberg

SUN – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

10:30 AM – Jill Kuehn by Kuehn Family

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: May Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross, take unto Himself: **CARL KISKO**, who died Saturday, March 23, and whose funeral service was Thursday, March 28. May Mary, Mother of Divine Mercy, comfort Carl's family and friends.

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THE WEEKLY CALENDAR Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast. (Cf. Is 66:10-11)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 31 – 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. **HELENE O'CONNOR** will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up in the Church vestibule.

LENTEN CHARITIES: 1) **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY:** Your donation of **ALL TYPES OF CANNED FISH** 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 KUMBA** – We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good? Visit csrricebowl.org for more. Our Parish's **CRSRB contribution: Third Sunday of Lent: \$644.12.** 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:** Thirty crosses are left. Please select one and 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: We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving / understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: Abortion is the only event that liberals/progressives find too violent or obscene to show on TV. This is not because they are squeamish or sensitive. It is because if people knew what abortion really looks like, it would destroy their pretense that abortion is a civilized answer to the problem of what to do about unwanted babies. Please take this challenge: go online and view an actual surgical abortion. It is truly a life changing experience. If people would see an abortion, people would end abortion. **BE PRO-LIFE!**

LENTEN VOTIVES: (1) **SANCTUARY:** IMO Stiney and Mary Skavinsky 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; Special Intention. **DIVINE MERCY:** Special Intention. **ALTAR OF SACRIFICE:** In loving memory of my deceased relatives, friends, and benefactors by Father Leo; In loving thanksgiving for all the beautiful dogs God entrusted to my care throughout the years by Father Leo. (3) **BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention. **ST. FRANCIS:** Special Intention. **ST. ANNE:** IMO Thomas and Leona Donlen by Family. **REREDOS NICHE:** Special Intention. Call 570-544-2211 to memorialize votives.

MONDAY, APRIL 1 –LENTEN FOOD SALE PREPARATION: Prepare vegetables for soups (All times 9:00 AM in our Parish Center); Also, Wednesday - Make halushki; Thursday – Make bleenie batter. VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME! WE NEED DELIVERY DRIVERS!

EASTER VISITATION OF THE SICK: Beginning this week until completed. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) to have someone added to our sick-list.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2 – 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, APRIL 3 – LENTEN DEVOTIONS: 1) 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!

THURSDAY, APRIL 4 – “SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT” CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL: Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join.

SIGN UP FOR “HEALING OUR CHURCH” DISCUSSION GROUPS: At Bishop Schlert’s request, each Parish in the Diocese is conducting small group discussions to 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, 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).**

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 – 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!
EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR: Immediately following today’s 8:00 AM Mass, there will be Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. Come and pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life from our Parish and Diocese.

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!

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER: Soup Supper is from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM; Stations at 6:00 PM. St. Michael the Archangel Church Parish Center Cafeteria. Feel free to bring a neighbor or friend to share in a “Poor Man’s Supper” and to journey with Christ in the Stations of the Cross. Sponsored by the St. Michael the Archangel St. Vincent de Paul Society.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:00 PM. **WHEN DID YOU LAST GO TO CONFESSION?**

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. Schlert 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.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, APRIL 7 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM. Repent!

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): ROSE KUEHN will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). Please sign up in the Church vestibule.

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. HELP US WITH: 1) A \$25 DONATION TO PURCHASE HAMS. 2) Non-perishable Grocery Items (canned goods, paper products, household cleaning items, etc.) which can be dropped off in the boxes in the Church Vestibule during the week. 3) Donations of home baked goods and other desserts for our dessert Table. (They can be brought to the cafeteria starting at 11:00 AM.) 4) By volunteering your time and talent to work. (Students can obtain service hours by volunteering.) THANKS! Call Theresa Schoffstall (570-544-4316) or Tina Souchak (570-544-3370).

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

SECOND COLLECTION: (1) UTILITIES: Your donation will help pay for light, water, sewer, heating tapes, and the maintenance of all parish heating units, etc.. (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 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Eichenberg Family	Nicole Forney	Deacon Henninger	Eades Family
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Jack Hudock	Deacon Henninger	Eric Andruczek
10:30 AM	Kuehn Family	Mary Ann Harrison	Deacon Henninger	Jordan Berdanier Kaitlyn Koury Nolan Plesnarski

*******COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!*******

APRIL 8 – 2019 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL KICK-OFF: 6:00 PM Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred A. Schlert, St. Ambrose Church. Light fare and refreshments served after Mass. **All parishioners are invited to attend!** RSVP by e-mail to baa@allentowndiocese.org or call 800-831-4443. Thank you for all you do for our Diocesan Bishop’s Annual Appeal!

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. Ricapito 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 12 – HEART OF A PRIEST: RELIC PILGRIMAGE OF SAINT JOHN VIANNEY’S INCORRUPT HEART: St. Clare of Assisi Church. 12:00 Noon, Mass celebrated by Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown; 1:30 PM, Novena to St. John Vianney and Veneration of the Relic every half-hour; 5:45 PM, Recitation of the Rosary, praying for priests through St. John Vianney’s intercession, with Rev. Adam C. Sedar, Secretary for Clergy; 6:00 PM, Stations of the Cross with Rev. Msgr. David L. James, Vicar General; 7:00 PM, Solemn Vespers with Bishop Schlert. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

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 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM TODAY IN THE PARISH CENTER! Date and time, tentative!

APRIL 25 – CONFIRMATION: Bishop Alfred A. Schlert 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!)*

2018 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: \$13,373 was collected. Thank you for your kind generosity! We are down a few hundred dollars; however, there are less people. **Less people have given more!** Thank you for caring about your Parish! **You are good people!** Sorry we forgot to tell you!