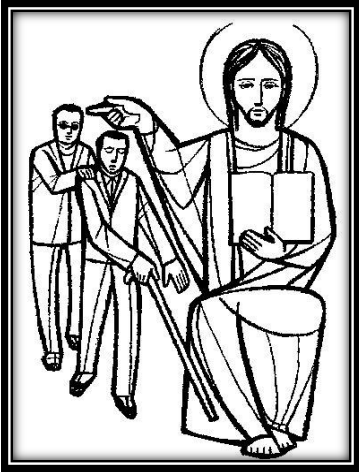
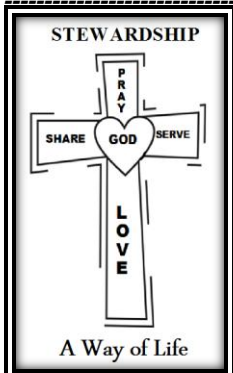


**THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
MARCH 3, 2019**



GOSPEL REFLECTION: In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbor's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticized because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an over-arching view of the world or a meta-narrative—an underlying "big picture" story for life. On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practicing in a particular field of endeavor cannot be lightly dismissed as "that's just your opinion." Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion—frequently in the name of "balanced" discussion. For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal, and religious authority. While it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and story telling lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.



"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: \$3,003; Parish Maintenance: \$511 (279 Parishioners attended Sunday Mass). Thank You! Expenses: \$12,145.98 (Salaries, Utilities, OIL, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, Office Supplies, Repair Work). **Please pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass regularly and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

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**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 – Melvin Conway by Daughter, Phyllis Rada and Family

TUE – Tim Stine (Annv) by Family

WED – Walter Logan (Birthday) by Joe and Rita Logan

12:00 Noon – Living and Deceased Parishioners

6:00 PM – Patricia Consugar by Eugene Maley

THU – Lorraine and Joseph Cygan by Family

FRI – Vicky Trusky by Katherine Chelak

SAT – 4:00 PM – Elaine Butcavage by Paul Schenk and Cindy Motsney

SUN – 8:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

10:30 AM – K. Sumoski, Rosalie and John Pscybysh by Skibiell Family

PASTORAL NOTE: The following Mass dates are open: April 15, 17, 29, 30, May 1, 28, 29, 30, 31, June 3, 4, 5, 30. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211).

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (*Matthew 6: 24*)

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, MARCH 3 – 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. GENE AND JEAN WALACAVAGE (10: 30 AM) will host the FPC for vocations this week. Sign up for May 19th and June in Church.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL INCLUDING BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS:

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds programs, such as religious education, seminary formation, and lay ministry training, to build vibrant faith communities right here in the USA. **Please be generous!** www.usccb.org/homemissions. **KINDLY USE THE HOME MISSION ENVELOPE FOUND IN YOUR ENVELOPE BOXES DATED MARCH 10 TODAY!**

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Today Jesus tells us: "Why do you seek the speck in someone else's eye but miss the log in your own eye?" It's always easier to try to change someone else than face the things in ourselves which need change. What a waste of time for we can't change anyone but ourselves.

FRATERNAL CHARITIES: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: We need ALL TYPES OF NON-PERISHABLE BABY FOOD to feed the needy of our area. Call 570-544-2739. **Volunteers, especially men, are needed for God's Bountiful Table.**

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: Since legalizing abortion in 1973 the incidence of child abuse has soared at an alarming rate. Abortion weakens the social taboo against hurting the helpless and diminishes the value of life. If you don't believe it, just watch the news. Abortions are 100% fatal to the baby and it's never the baby's "choice". The abortion business makes a killing by getting away with murder! Lord, deliver us from the darkness of abortion and euthanasia.

MARY'S SHELTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN: Bottles for Lenten Sacrifice will be distributed after Masses today by our Confirmation Class. Returns 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! PLEASE TAKE A BOTTLE!

VOTIVES: (1) SANCTUARY: IMO Lorraine and Joseph Cygan 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: Intentions of Stella Gottschall by Friend, Father Leo; Intentions of Kitty Bosack by Friend, Father Leo 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 4 – BIBLE STUDY CLASS: CANCELLED DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER FORECAST. WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR 2:00 PM, MARCH 11, IN OUR PARISH CENTER (GOD WILLING!). Call Arlene (570-385-0248) for more information. All are welcome!

MONDAY, MARCH 4 – LENTEN FOOD SALES PREPARATION: All times 9:00 AM in our Parish Center: Prepare vegetables for soups; Also, Tuesday – Make halushki; Thursday – Make bleenie batter. PLEASE VOLUNTEER! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED – ESPECIALLY DELIVERY DRIVERS!

TUESDAY, MARCH 5 – 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).

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 – LENT BEGINS: Blessed ashes will be distributed within 8:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 6:00 PM Mass. **PASTORAL NOTE:** (1) Today is a day of **STRICT FAST** (one full meal is permitted for everyone between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive) AND **ABSTINENCE** (all who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat). (2) **DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE:** After 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and their caregivers! (4) **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS:** 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Next week they will be followed by Stations of the Cross. (5) **HUNGERING FOR THE JOURNEY: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' RICE BOWL:** ENCOUNTER LENT– Join our faith community-and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States-in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Your family's CRS Rice Bowl was mailed to you. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor. Visit crsricebowl.org for more information. (5) **LENTEN MAILING:** You should have received this mailing. Please use the materials sent you for a better Lent!

THURSDAY, MARCH 7 – “SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT” CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL: Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join. **RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE:** 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Good Shepherd Cafeteria. **DONATE YOUR BLOOD AND GIVE LIFE!**

FRIDAY, MARCH 8 – 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. NEXT SALES: MARCH 22, APRIL 5. HOPE TO SEE YOU! THANKS!

FISH OR CRAB DINNER: 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM, St. Michael, Minersville. Cost \$10 includes: Haddock or crab, french fries, green beans, coleslaw, roll, beverage and dessert. Eat-in or take-out. Advanced tickets only by calling Jean (570-544-6853).

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 9 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 3:30 PM. **WHEN DID YOU LAST GO TO CONFESSION?**

MEN'S LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION: 8:30 AM, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena (Parish Activity Center), Allentown. Presentations by the Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert and Rev. Bernard Ezaki will begin at 9:15 AM, ending by 11:30 AM. The Sacrament of Confession will be offered as well. To register for this free event visit www.allentowndiocese.org/cfm-spirituality.

SPRING BAZAAR: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, St. Charles Borromeo Parish Hall, Ashland. Bake sale, huge white elephant sale, home-made soups, pigeons, halushki, barbeque, sausages, door prizes, and more!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 10 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.

THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): EDWARD J ,RUTECKI (8: 30 AM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or the Rectory (570-544-2211). We also need volunteers for May 19th and June in church vestibule.

SISTERS' LENTEN GIVING TREE – Will be in place this weekend. 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour! *Spring forward, Fall back!*

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

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Butcavage Family	Nicole Forney	Theresa Kroznuski	Olivia Osborne Erica Osborne
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Abigail Adams	Rosalie Novack	Scott Schwalm Connor Schwalm
10:30 AM	Skibiell Family	Mary Ann Harrison	Deacon Henninger	Kieran Plesnarski Jude Plesnarski

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MARCH 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. Ricapito 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).

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) for information and to RSVP.

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

MARCH 15 – 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

MARCH 21 – SPRING SOUP SALE: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Providence Place, Pottsville. Lobster bisque, potato leek, chili, split pea. \$5 per quart. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimers Association.

APRIL 7 – ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST HAM BINGO: 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!)*