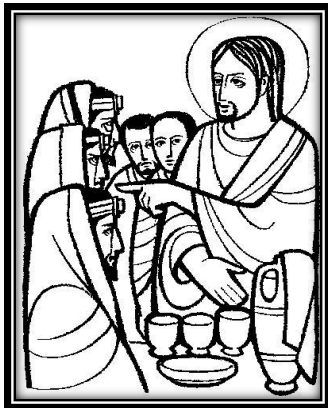
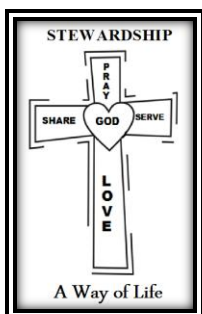


**THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**



**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?:** More importantly, why should we observe the law? Is it so that we don't go to jail or get a speeding ticket? That would not be the answer of Jesus, or the answer from the book of Deuteronomy or the Psalm of today's liturgy. The law is a gift of God, and its purpose is to bring us fulfillment. The most serious consequence of breaking the law is not that we get caught and punished, but rather that we are moving away from the fullness of life and joy that God offers us. // That is why the spirit of the law is so important to Jesus and why he can say that even though the Pharisees follow all the prescriptions of the law, they may not in fact be seeing the spirit of the law and so are missing the offer of life that God is giving them. The external observance is to help train our souls. If we observe the law of God and embrace it with our hearts, then we are well on our way to being the complete person that Christ calls us to be.

**PURE WORSHIP OF GOD IS WORSHIP FROM OUR HEARTS:** In this controversy story the hypocritical Pharisees and scribes who oppose Jesus serve as negative models for what it means to follow the true way and will of God in order to worship God authentically. Their hypocrisy warns us that our cherished religious traditions and customs, which are merely human precepts, can nullify the very word of God they are meant to supplement and support, if they serve our own selfish aims rather than God's plan. But by powerfully reaffirming God's word over human tradition, Jesus invites us to allow the original, genuine and clear word of God to purify the excesses that our various religious, social and cultural human traditions, customs and practices have introduced into our attempt to live authentic human lives through a genuine and sincere worship of God. Through his new and authoritative teaching Jesus draws us away from a superfluous preoccupation with unessential external concerns in our worship of God, and calls us rather to cultivate a clean and open "heart" within our inner selves in order to facilitate a proper and wholesome relationship not only with God but with our fellow human beings. Jesus alerts us to our need to contend with and overcome the horribly wicked and destructive "defilement" of thoughts and actions that can emerge from the human heart, not only of others but of ourselves.



**"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." (JAMES 1:22)** It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship. The hard part is living it! What do you do to live God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your

financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for? Last Week You Contributed: Sunday: \$2,777; Parish Maintenance: \$482; Expenses: \$3,679.54 (Salaries, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, Maint. Supplies, Equip. Maint.). Thanks to those who attended mass (255 out of 861 parishioners). **Pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass and receive the Sacraments!**

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

[www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org](http://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](mailto: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 – Raymond Balulis by Family
- TUE – Fr. David Liebner by The Dudash Family
- WED – Steve and Mary Chicora by Niece
- THU – Living and Deceased Family, Friends and Benefactors by Father Leo
- FRI – Living and Deceased Members of Parish Memorial Society
- SAT – 4:00 PM – Stella Pytko (6<sup>th</sup> Annv) by Son, George and Daughter, Joanne
- SUN – 8:30 AM (Recited) – Living and Deceased Parishioners  
10:30 AM – Marge Homa by Mary Ann Sokola

**2018  
Bishop's  
Annual  
Appeal**  
Faith-Hope-Charity

**\$20,525 has been donated by 155 parishioners (32.36% of our 478 households). Thanks to everyone who has contributed! The greater our participation rate, the more we demonstrate that we are a Parish that cares! Your contribution allows our diocese to tend to the needs of the disadvantaged in its five counties. EVERY GIFT COUNTS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL! Make your gift anytime by placing your pledge form in the Sunday collection basket, dropping it off at the Rectory, or by using the Appeal's Donation site at [FaithHopeCharityGives.org](http://FaithHopeCharityGives.org).**

**THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you. (Cf. Ps 86 (85): 3-5)**

**THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 2 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** May Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, bestow His life-giving love on REID JOSEPH PLESNARSKI, son of Raymond and Angelina Plesnarski, who will be Baptized after today's 10:30 AM Mass. **GOD BLESS REID JOSEPH'S FAMILY!**

**MISSION APPEAL COLLECTION: WE WELCOME REV. AVITUS KAZI SIRIWA FROM THE APOSTLES OF JESUS WHO WILL SPEAK AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES ON BEHALF OF THE MISSION NEEDS OF HIS DIOCESE. PLEASE BE GENEROUS IN TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION.**

**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. Thanks to THERESA AND FRANK GRIGALONIS (4:00 PM) for hosting the FPC for vocations. Sign up for November in Church.

**FAMILY PERSPECTIVE:** In today's gospel Jesus warns "what comes from within can defile" a person. Families need to worry about "outside influences" but also about "inside influences." The values our children carry for a life time are learned at home. Habits of the Hearth are the most powerful influences on a child. That's the good news! That can also be the bad news!

**FRATERNAL CHARITY: ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: We need all types of CEREAL for our SVDP Society's outreach and God's Bountiful Table. Call 570-544-2739 to volunteer.**

**PRO-LIFE REFLECTION:** Abortion is capital punishment without due process. The unborn child is condemned to death with state approval, but without benefit of trial, judge, or jury. How long will we, a nation professing equal justice under the law, continue to tolerate this mockery of justice? Pray to end abortion. Join pro-life today!

**VOTIVES: (1) SANCTUARY:** IMO Marian Jones by Sokola Family. **(2) ALTARS:** BVM: IMO Margaret Homa by Son, Matthew; IMO Joseph Dallago by Family; Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Aldona and Donald Butler by Edward. **DIVINE MERCY:** Living and Deceased Family, Friends, and Benefactors by Father Leo; IMO Stephen and Lillian Sninsky; For the intentions of Tessie Balulis by Father Leo; For the Intentions of M/M Joseph Skibiell, Sr. by Father Leo. **(3) BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH:** Special Intention. **ST. LUCY:** Special intention by Father Leo. **ST. ANNE:** Special Intention by D.L. **SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II:** Special Intention. **ST. ANTHONY:** For the intentions of Stella Gottschall by Father Leo. **Call 570-544-2211 for Vigils.**

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS:** 10:30 AM Mass. Better late than never! All school age children are invited to bring their backpacks, which they use to carry their books and lunches to school, for a special back-to-school blessing.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 – LABOR DAY:** (1) Parish Office is closed today. (2) Please attend today's 8:00 AM Mass to pray for continued economic recovery and gainful employment for all those in need. (3) Enjoy the last summer holiday!

**CASTLE GREEN GROTTO ANNUAL LABOR DAY MASS:** 10:00 AM, 950 Valley Road, Minersville/Heckscherville Highway. Refreshments will be served after Mass. Plenty of parking. Bring your lawn chairs. Call Mary Anne (570-544-3658) for info.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 – ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:** 1) Classes resume September 11. 2) 2018-2019 REGISTRATION: Cost: First Child \$65.00; Second Child \$50.00; Third Child \$40.00; Fourth Child Free. **A late fee of \$10.00 per family is now in effect!** 3) MASS ATTENDANCE CARDS: are in the Church Vestibule. They are used all year long! Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; see that they receive Confession regularly! 4) **We are in need of caring persons to be teacher's aides.** Contact our Coordinator of Religious Education, Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – DEVOTIONS TO ST. PEREGRINE:** 8:00 AM Mass. St. Peregrine, help cancer patients and caregivers!

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 – “SOUNDS OF THE SPIRIT” CONTEMPORARY CHOIR REHEARSAL:** Call Greg (570-544-2355) to join.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 7:45 AM.

**EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR:** Following today's 8:00 AM Mass, there will be Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction. Pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life from our Parish and Diocese, and also for the victims of Clerical abuse!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 3:30 PM.

**SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI CHURCH ANNUAL FOOD FAIRE AND FLEA MARKET:** 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Homemade foods, eat-in or take-out, baked goods, lottery boards, crafts, religious items. Free admission. Call 570-429-1637 for more information.

**THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 9 –SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 8:00 AM, 10:15 AM.

**THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC):** LINDA ROTHERMEL (8:30 AM) will host the FPC this week. Call 570-399-5056 or sign-up in the Church Vestibule. We need volunteers for November and December!

**SPECIAL VOLUNTARY DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTION: MARY'S SHELTER:** Mary's Shelter was founded as a viable alternative to abortion by women and men who believe that every living person, including the unborn, are children of one Heavenly Father who creates all in his infinite goodness and wisdom. Support Mary's Shelter by placing the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary's Shelter Envelope found in your Sunday Envelope Box in the SECOND COLLECTION.

**CYO BASKETBALL:** Open to St. Matthew students in grades 3-8 (first and second graders MAY be eligible if necessary) Parochial school enrollment or religious education classes along with weekly mass attendance is required for eligibility. **You and your children's' participation is necessary to keep our parish youth organization functioning!** Please call Jodi (570-640-9015) or email jmk827@hotmail.com to register. No registration fee. **Deadline is today!**

**ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' WILDWOOD BUS TRIP MEETING:** 1:30 PM in Church.

**SECOND COLLECTION ENVELOPE:** (1) **INSURANCE:** Your contribution will help us pay the insurance premiums for our Parish Buildings. (2) **Please catch up with any missed envelopes.** Consistent and generous support helps your church meet its financial obligations and better serve you! **THANK YOU!**

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**MINISTERS AT MASS FOR 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 4:00 PM	Pytko Family	Raina Land	Deacon Henninger	Osborne Family
SUN 8:30 AM	Parishioners	Sr. Mary Jane	Maria Bartush	Schwalm Family
10:30 AM	Homa Family	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Kuehn Family

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

**SEPTEMBER 10 – OFFICE OF SENIOR SERVICES' ATLANTIC CITY RESORTS CASINO BUS TRIP: BENEFITS SPECIAL NEEDS FUND!** Cost \$35; Rebate \$25. Departs Quandels Lot 8:00 AM; Departs Atlantic City 6:00 PM. Call 570-544-523 or 570-628-5413.

**SEPTEMBER 11 – DIOCESAN RED, WHITE, AND BLUE MASS:** All Police, Firefighters, First Responders, Legal Professionals, Health Care Workers, and their Families are invited to join Bishop Alfred A. Schlert as he celebrates the First Red, White and Blue Mass 6:30 PM at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena. Please wear your uniforms.

**SEPTEMBER 12 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE:** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 available for people with disabilities ONLY.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484).

**SEPTEMBER 13 – MONTHLY ROSARY:** 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month.

**SEPTEMBER 15 – ST. PATRICK PARISH 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF OUTING:** Registration begins 9:00 AM; shot gun start at 10:00 AM. Mountain Valley Golf Course, Barnesville. \$75 per person includes: greens and cart fees, luncheon, on course refreshments. Plenty of prizes and contests. Call Dave Donlin (570-573-1841) to register or for more information.

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**SEPTEMBER 16 – BASKET RAFFLE:** Doors open 9:30 AM; Auction starts 2:00 PM, Parish Center. Shop and Drop Saturday, September 15, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Food will be available for purchase both days: Beef Barbeque sandwich/chips; Pulled Pork sandwich/chips; and Potato Kugel (Babka). Pierogi (already cooked but frozen) will be available for purchase \$7/dozen. A list of basket options has been posted on the bulletin board in the back of the Church. Call Arlene Quesada (570-385-0248 or 570-640-4730) if you need any help and for information regarding your gifts and donations. Baskets can also be dropped off at the Rectory from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. Your participation in the past has been outstanding! We hope that it will continue this year! **THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**  
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**SEPTEMBER 16, 17, 18 – ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST ANNUAL 40 HOURS DEVOTIONS: Vigil (\$5 each) and Floral Memorializations (\$10 each) are needed and can be made by contacting the Rectory (570-544-2211). We would appreciate your help in adorning our Church's Altars with Vigils and Flowers during this special time when Jesus is present on our Altar.**

**SEPTEMBER 29 – 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SPIRITUALITY DAY:** 9:15 AM to 1:00 PM, St. Michael the Archangel Parish. Cost \$10. Mini-retreat day with theme: "Who Are We; What Shall We Do?". Presenter: Rev. Eric J. Gruber, Pastor, St. John Fisher Church, Catasauqua. Pre-registration required by calling Jean (570-544-6853).

**OCTOBER 1 – DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN FIRST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT:** Saucon Valley Country Club. Proceeds benefit Seminarian and Catholic School Education. Contact Michele Mullikin (610-871-5200 x2282 or mmullikin@allentowndioocese.org) for info.

**OCTOBER 7 – NATIONAL PIEROGI DAY:** More information is upcoming.

**NOVEMBER 20 – THANKSGIVING FOOD SALE:** More information to follow.

**DECEMBER 19 – HOLIDAY KIELBASA AND PIEROGI SALE:** Details coming soon.

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

**SEPTEMBER 17, OCTOBER 15, NOVEMBER 19: MOHEGAN SUN CASINO:** Cost \$25; Rebate \$30. Leaves R&J 8:00 AM; Leaves Minersville Quandel's 8:30 AM; Departs Casino 4:00 PM.

**SEPTEMBER 24 – 27, 2018 – WILDWOOD ITALIAN STYLE: A TOUCH OF ITALY AT THE JERSEY SHORE:** \$439 per person, 4 days, 3 nights. Package includes: 3 nights motel, 3 full breakfasts, 3 dinners including one dinner at Pasta Pesto Italian Restaurant, one \$20 meal voucher at an AC Casino, one special Italian buffet dinner at Duffinetti's Restaurant with entertainment, visit to an Atlantic City Casino with bonus package, visit to Smithville Village, visit to Cape May, visit to Wildwood's Boardwalk, Tasting Tour of Cape May Winery. Baggage handling, hotel taxes, and meal gratuities included.

**DECEMBER 10 – SANDS-BETHLEHEM CASINO:** Cost \$25. More information to follow.

**SUMMER FOOD FEST 50/50 WINNER:** Tom Schaeffer (ticket # 5749) won the prize of \$1332.00. He graciously donated \$300 back to the fundraiser! Thank you to Tom for his generosity, and thank you to everyone else who made this fundraiser successful!