

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH



Parish Office: 460 Reed Street Clairton PA 15025
Phone: 412-233-7870 Fax: 412-233-0742
Office Hours: Mondays - Thursdays 8AM-2PM
CLOSED Fridays
Email: stclaresec@comcast.net
Web Site: www.stclareofassisiparish.com



Mark
9:2-10

February 24/25, 2018 ♦ Second Sunday of Lent

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a Family,
United in the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
Called by Jesus Christ to Grow
in Faith, Love and Prayer
in Harmony with the
Universal Catholic Church

We will achieve our parish mission by worshipping together and working to evangelize, educate and serve each other and the entire community.

PASTOR: Rev. Charles J. Baptiste
STUDENT RESIDENT PRIEST:
Rev. Fortunatus Mugisha
BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathleen Ulmer
SECRETARY: Marie Perticone
MUSIC MINISTRY: Sean Thornton
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Amy Ference
HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: Beverly Mazza
SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR:
Lorraine Carter
ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-800-932-0313
VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE: 1-888-808-1235

MASSES:

Saturday 4:30PM (Sunday Vigil)
Sunday 9:30AM
Weekdays 7:00PM (Monday)
8:00AM (Tuesday thru Friday)

RECONCILIATION:

After Mass on Monday Evenings
& 12:30PM Saturdays and by appointment.

BAPTISMS: Call the Parish Office to schedule a class; then a day and time.

WEDDINGS: Call the Parish Office at least six months in advance.
The Diocese requires each couple to attend a pre-marriage course.

ST. CLARE CEMETERY: Worthington Ave.
For Cemetery information, call Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association at 412-256-9370.



Masses for the Week

February 24/February 25

4:30PM For the Parishioners
9:30AM Sally McBride (Howard McBride II)

MONDAY, February 26 - Lenten Weekday

7:00PM Raymond Urbanek (Family)

TUESDAY, February 27 - Lenten Weekday

8:00AM Special Intention (Peter Speiker)

WEDNESDAY, February 28 - Lenten Weekday

8:00AM Betty Baznik (Anthony & Janice DiLorenzo)

THURSDAY, March 1 - The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:00AM Deceased Members of the Fred Carozzo Family
(James & Linda Martin)

FRIDAY, March 2 - World Day of Prayer

8:00AM John Gori (Family)

SATURDAY, March 3 - St. Katherine Drexel

12:30 PM Reconciliation

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - March 3/4

4:30PM For the Parishioners
9:30AM Potts Family (Dave & Daughters)



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS - February 24/25

Pages 75-77

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - March 3/4

Exodus 20:1-17 – Page 77-78
1 Corinthians 1:22-25 – Page 78-79
John 2:13-25 – Page 79

WEEKEND MINISTERS - March 3/4

4:30PM - Eucharistic Ministers
Lino Ferrari, Ed Razorsek, Br. Raymond Reitmeyer
Lector - Gary Toth
Altar Servers - Elizabeth Boal, Aaron Maricic
Head Usher - Mike DiCarlo
9:30AM - Eucharistic Ministers
Michele Capolupo, Mary Beth Flaugh, Kathy Tachoir
Lector - Kathy Mihal
Altar Servers - Denise Boring, Ron Lomis
Head Usher - Vince Gori

Reflection: Retreat, continued

One of the neat aspects of my retreat was the nearness of a full dose of Mother Nature. She is always near, but we are often caught up in our encapsulated lifestyles, unable to be aware of her beauty, presence and power. The 'Shack' leaves little room for isolation from the reality of what is happening in the Great Outdoors. When it is windy, the breeze blows through the old board walls and some of the windows whistle. The building is full of undressed windows, so all of nature shines through; the brightness of day and the stars and moonlight at night. The sounds of the coyotes sometimes haunt your soul as you hear their mournful calls circling you in the night.

Most mornings, I was awakened by the call of some chattering crows as they plan their day with each other. On some occasions there were visits from a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, along with a variety of birds that enjoyed the suet block just outside the front window. One day, as I got on the quad to go sweep the snow off the solar panels that provide light and power a small refrigerator and charge my phone, I spotted, what I thought was an ultra-light aircraft. They often fly around there. As it got closer, I thought it was a vulture, but then, it didn't have that jerky movement that vultures have. As it got even closer, I noticed a white tail, a little closer and the white head became visible. I have seen these majestic birds over Lake Author and a nearby lake called the Glades, but never here.

My brother Larry tells me that these Bald Eagles along with hawks will often fly over his fields in the winter. I guess these birds have to change their normal ways of making a living as we do when the situation calls. Usually, these birds live closer to those big bodies of water where food is abundant but now, they have to change their normal habits and find another way to thrive. Apparently, when I was riding the quad, I had disturbed the little tunnels the mice, moles and voles had made just under a canopy of grass. This made the field similar to a stocked hunting area. The crows, eagles and hawks were glad to see my noisy quad tear up the beautiful and tranquil snow-covered fields. The sound of the quad meant 'Lunch is served'!

Living with the rhythms of nature sure was a blessing for my soul. Sometimes the expectations

others have of you can be superfluous and unnecessary in the big picture. Living in close proximity to the power and beauty of nature seems to be a reality check to what is really important to life. Nature can help us put life in perspective.

In a sense, the retreat offered words of consolation and hope. From the nature perspective and in the words in each of the books that I was privileged to read, the mantra was, '**Thy Will Be Done**'. With our hearts focused on the Lord's Will and from what nature can teach us, we can have great hope. John the Evangelist treasures us with these words, from (6:38-39); "And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and that I will raise him on the last day."

Sometimes a little time in the woods is the best way to internalize the great gift of God's never-ending presence and love for us. If someone tells you to 'Get Lost', take them up on it and head to the wild places and enjoy the natural gifts that surround you. There is a gift awaiting you—a gift of *Peace*. ~ Fr. Chuck

This Week



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

10:45AM - Counting Team #5
9:15-10:45AM - CCD - Grades K-4 - *Holy Spirit*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

2PM - Liturgy - Arden Court Nursing Home
7-8:15PM - CCD Grades 5-8 - *Holy Spirit*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Golden Opportunity Drawing
6:30PM - Choir Practice
7PM - Fab Five Lottery Drawing

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

2PM - Getting More out of the Mass Series - *SC Church*

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Stations of the Cross: 2PM and 7PM
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: 2:30-7PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Noon - Getting More out of the Mass Series - *SC Church*
12:30PM - Reconciliation

REQUESTS – for – PRAYERS

Our Recently Departed ...

Donna (Cola) Bell (Former Parishioner),

James H. Cain (Uncle of Tina (Sanutelli) Jones and Brother of Former Parishioner, Patricia Trimble)

Anthony DeCarlo (Brother of Frank “Smokey” DeCarlo† and Rose Marchelletta†)

Ruth Pastore (Prominent Clairton Citizen, Councilwoman and Advocate for the Clairton Crime Watch)

Our Sick and Shut-ins ...

Barbara Antrom, Marge Azzari, Fr. Chuck Baptiste, Bill Baznik, Fred Bercik, Eleanor Berggren, Frances Bindas, Caden Boring, Cullen Boring, Carol Burgess, Rich Burgess, Tom Caldwell, Maria Campano, Kathleen Cassady, Genevieve DelVecchio, Anne Donnelly, Sheila Eddy, Rebecca Farabaugh, Meryl Ferrare, Pat Grguric, Stanley Kaska, Off. James Kuzak Jr., Audrey Mihalko, Rev. Peter Murphy, Virginia Perlick, Nancy Razorsek, Ralph Reitmeyer, Betty Rothbauer, Edgar Shandel, Fr. Angelus Shaughnessy, Elizabeth Slivan, Kathleen Slivan, John Sorrentino, Lillian Sorrentino, Rayne Tortorice, Catherine Vukovich

~ and all Names and Intentions listed in our Prayer Request Book

Our Seminarians ...

Mingwei Li from St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Br. David Domanski, OFM Cap

Family members of our parishioners serving in the Military:

Dante Capane, Richard Cronkhite, Tara Felker, Michael Goliat, Jason Middleton, Garrett Santoline, Michael Santoline, Anthony Svez, Luke Thornton, Zachary Thornton, Andrew West, Jeffery West, Jeffrey Yuhas



Christians throughout Pittsburgh are invited to take part in the international 40 Days for Life Campaign which runs through March 25. The mission of 40 Days for Life is to unite the Body of Christ in the spiritual battle to end abortion. Join other Christians for 40 days of prayer and fasting and a **peaceful vigil** held every day from **7AM to 7PM** in front of Planned Parenthood (933 Liberty Avenue), or offer your personal prayers for this cause.

DID YOU KNOW?

... that according to statistics, the average person sleeps 26 years of their life? ... and since there are 168 hours in a week and if all that we do is put in **one hour at Mass on a weekend**, that's **less than 1% of our time** for God and His work. Perhaps during this Lenten Season, we can find more grace-filled time to rekindle our love and faith in our Lord and our parish!

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

Next Drawing: **Wednesday, February 28**
Entered to Date: **107**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

FISCAL YEAR JULY 2017 - JUNE 2018

Budgeted Weekly Offering Required	\$ 5,249.00
Actual Weekly Offering (Feb. 17/18)	\$ 4,722.12
Weekly Deficit	\$ -526.88
Ash Wednesday	\$ 901.00
Parish Share 2018 YTD	\$ 4,882.00

Our **SECOND COLLECTION THIS** weekend is for the Repairs and Maintenance of our parish properties.

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Our **SECOND COLLECTION NEXT** weekend will be for the Diocesan Parish Share Program.

PSP PLEDGES Made to Date: \$19,050

We have **ADORATION** every **Friday after the 2PM Stations of the Cross until the 7PM Stations of the Cross begin**. Sign up for designated periods of time on the **Sign-up Sheets** that are at the back of the church, so that there will always be someone present throughout the day to visit with the Lord.

This past week, we began our 5-week series on the Mass entitled, **“Getting More Out of the Mass”**. The series is offered at two different times; **Thursdays through March 22 at 2PM** (or) on **Saturdays through March 24 at Noon**. You can join the group at either session. Booklets are still available for any late-comers.

In anticipation of the changes that will occur in the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* initiative, we were required to pack up the records of our **schools** (St. Joseph, St. Paulinus, St. Clare, Clairton Central Catholic & St. Clare of Assisi) and our **churches** (St. Joseph, St. Paulinus & the original St. Clare) that were previously closed. Thirty-nine boxes of school records were picked up in December that will be stored at the Archives & Records Center in Pittsburgh. Records for our closed churches will be picked up in March.

While packing the records we found a case of St. Clare of Assisi *Pictorial Directories* from 2009, a box of *past issues of “the Word Among us”* and *brass door plates from St. Clare School* that were donated by parishioners. The directories and booklets are available in the church vestibule for anyone to take. We will have the door plates at the parish office, along with a number of 4-drawer file cabinets. Call the parish office if you are interested.

CONCERNING ST. CLARE CEMETERY

In order to maintain the appearance of our parish cemetery properties and ensure the safety of visitors and employees, The Catholic Parish Cemeteries Association will be conducting the **Annual Cemetery Cleanup** during the month of March. Please note that all Christmas items will be removed from all graves during the cleanup. *Please remove any items you wish to keep prior to Thursday, March 1.* Thank you for your cooperation! It is greatly appreciated.

CONCERNING OUR DIOCESE & COMMUNITY



It Is Good That We Are Here —As Jesus was transfigured in dazzling white with Moses and Elijah on Mount Tabor, the Apostles do not want the moment to end. We can only imagine what it was like to see Jesus in splendor and glory and can also understand the Apostles' desire to stay there forever. After all, isn't that what we anticipate heaven to be like? Yet, days before, these same Apostles wanted nothing to do with Jesus telling them that He must suffer and die and that they must take up their crosses and follow Him to be His disciples. Do we, at times, want all the glory without any of the work and suffering? During this Lenten season it is very good that we are with Jesus in His suffering, so that we might be with Him one day in His glory. The same is true of our journey *On Mission for The Church Alive!* While there may be great challenges in forming new, vibrant communities of faith, the new life possible for our parishes will shine brightly and be reflected in our lives. May we remain devoted to prayer, fasting and good works this Lent so that our hearts will be made ready for all that lies in store for us. To learn more and stay informed, visit: onmissionchurchalive.org.

An update on Father Angelus' Health from Fr. John Pfannenstiel, OFM, Cap

Father Angelus is in great suffering right now with the pain in his back almost unbearable. Father still has a very good appetite but he struggles to carry even a cup. Father Angelus is offering up this great pain for all who need his prayerful assistance. He endures his suffering quietly and with great patience. Please keep him in your prayers. He appreciates every prayer uttered in silence, every hidden act of kindness and every loving thought that may cross your mind.

BILLBOARD SIGNS FROM GOD

**"Isn't this the best math equation ever?
1 Cross + 3 Nails = 4Given."
- God**

Beginning in the fall of 2018, as part of the *On Mission for The Church Alive!* initiative, the Mass schedule in all parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh will be changing. Parishes will see changes to the number of Sunday and weekday Masses and even different Mass times. From now until new Mass schedules are announced for Parish Groupings in July 2018, parishes will use their current Mass schedule. Immediately following the announcement of the new Mass schedule in July 2018, parishes will be advised to schedule Masses according to the new Mass schedule. This means that while we will make every effort to honor the scheduled time and date for Mass intentions, the time of the Mass you have requested and even the date or location may need to change. It may also be possible that your intention would be combined with other intentions at the same Mass.

The **Serra Catholic Placement Test** for incoming freshmen will be held on **Saturday, March 3** from **9AM to Noon**. To register, call Mrs. Lyons at 412-751-2020.

Marriage MOMENTS

Principles for honoring your spouse: #1 Golden Rule ... Treat your mate the same way you want to be treated; #2 ... No Double Standards - Be as considerate to your spouse as you are to co-workers or strangers; #3 ... Honor Requests that your spouse asks you to do or not do.

Parenting POINTERS

God said to Abraham, "because you did not withhold from me your beloved son, I will bless you." (Genesis 22:16) Parenting can be hard. It comes with a lot of sacrifices. Believe that God will provide even if the way is not clear right now.

Family PERSPECTIVE

The apostles thought they knew Jesus, but when he changed in front of them at the Transfiguration, they were "afraid." In families, we cannot freeze relationships because change and growth are inevitable. Children grow up, parents grow old and spouses change. Transfigurations are all around us and within us. Relationships can only grow when we embrace the new and let go of the old.

**Our Bulletin is Sponsored This Week
In Memory of**

**Bob, Cil and Dan Petersen
By Kathy & Eileen**

PARISH MEMBERSHIP FORM

Registering at our Parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community.

We extend a warm welcome and hope you will find our Parish Community a place where your faith will be nourished.

If you are moving into, or out of the Parish, please let us know. Fill out this Form and return it to the Parish Office.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Check One: New _____ Change of Address _____ Moving out of Parish _____ Want Envelopes _____



THE PASTOR

If a priest preaches over ten minutes, he's long winded.
If his sermon is short, he didn't prepare it.

If the parish funds are high, he's a businessman.
If he mentions money, he's money mad.

If he visits his parishioners, he's nosy.
If he doesn't, he's snobbish.

If he has fundraisers, he's bleeding the people.
If he doesn't, there's no life in the parish.

If he takes time in the confession to help and advise sinners,
he takes too long.
If he doesn't, he doesn't care.

If he celebrates the liturgy in a quiet voice, he's a bore.
If he puts feeling into it, he's an actor.

If he starts Mass on time, his watch is fast.
If he starts late, he's holding up the people.

If he tries to lead the people in music, he's showing off.
If he doesn't, he doesn't care what the Mass is like.

If he decorates the church, he's wasting money.
If he doesn't, he's letting it run down.

If he's young, he's not experienced. If he's old, he ought to
retire.
If he dies, there was nobody like him and there will never
be his equal again!

*Disclaimer: This flyer was distributed against the wishes of
Fr. Chuck ... but his staff rarely listens to him!*