

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

LOVE GOD, SERVE GOD: EVERYTHING IS IN THAT.



A Message from Fr. Matt ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the movie "Talladega Nights," a cinematic triumph if ever there was one, the character Ricky Bobby says a prayer to "8-pound, 6-ounce, newborn infant Jesus" because he says this is the Jesus that he likes best! It is a funny scene in a funny but terrible movie. But let me tell you, that sweet baby Jesus isn't the one we see in the Readings this week.

Instead we find a God of Demanding Commandments in the First Reading. A God Crucified in the Second Reading. And a God of Destruction and Cleansing in the Gospel. We know for sure that the God in these Readings is also the Word Made Flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, who laid in the manger, all 8-pounds and 6-ounces of Him. But while the story of the Nativity certainly is not easy, with no room in the inn and poor young parents on the run, it is certainly sweeter and gentler than what we see today. In a lot of ways, it is easier for us to love that Baby than this giver of commands and flipper of tables. But it is important to remember that they are one and the same Person. One and the same God. It got me thinking, how do we respond when Jesus isn't who we think He should be? When He doesn't answer us the way we think He should?

In the Second Reading, St. Paul talks about just this. He speaks of the Cross and Christ Crucified. The Jews see the Cross as a stumbling block because this is not the way they thought the Messiah would save them. This isn't the Messiah they expected or wanted. The Gentiles think the Cross is foolishness. It wasn't rational to them that an all-powerful God would make Himself powerless to save what He Himself created. They found it silly and it didn't fit their way of thinking. This wasn't what they thought a god would do. Do we shake our heads at them? Oh Jews, how can you not see it? Oh Gentiles, how could you be so arrogant and stuck in your philosophy? But we better be careful. If I'm honest, my reaction when things don't go the way I want them to, when God doesn't answer my prayers the way that I'm expecting; my response can be just like the Jews and Gentiles that Paul is speaking of. How about you?

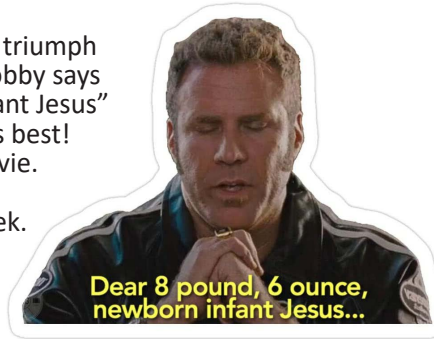
When things don't go the way you want or expect them to, when things change that you were used to, when old traditions (or fish fry menus!) are adjusted, how do you respond? Do you get angry and bitter and complain and write Facebook posts about it because you know what is right and this ain't it? What I mean is, is it a stumbling block? Does it seem like foolishness? For me, and maybe for you, sometimes it sure does.

Last week, God put Abraham to the test. This whole past year, maybe God has been putting us all to the test. Maybe He is telling us through St. Paul that what we are to be as Christians, is people of the Christ Crucified. We are waiting for the sweet little baby Jesus to make us feel good in an undemanding way that involves no pain or suffering or change. But that isn't how this works. St. Paul doesn't say we preach Christ and Him sweet and non-threatening. He says we preach Christ and Him Crucified.

This week, be honest with yourself about how you respond to this. There sure have been many crosses placed in our lives this year. What have they been to you? A stumbling block? Foolishness? Let's double down the rest of Lent and let Christ cleanse the temple that is in our hearts. Cleanse us of thinking we know better. Cleanse us of self concern. Cleanse us of holding onto the past just because we are comfortable there.

Jesus is doing something. He is doing something big and good. It may not be what we expect or think is right. Can you be unselfish and humble enough, patient enough, to let Jesus do what He is doing?

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU CONFESSION OPPORTUNITY

Wednesday, March 10

6-9pm @ Mater Dolorosa

This Lent, rediscover the healing power of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Catholic parishes throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh on **March 10**. If you've been away for a long time, don't worry: *The Light Is On For You*. Mass at MD will not be celebrated this day. Additionally, all regular Confession times are available through Lent. No confessions will be heard on **Holy Saturday, April 3**.

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

THIS SCHEDULE IS ALTERED FOR HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL EVENTS

MONDAY

MATER DOLOROSA MASS - NOON

TUESDAY

ST. WENDELIN MASS

WEDNESDAY

ST. WENDELIN MASS - 10:00AM

SCHOOL-ONLY - IF SCHOOL IS IN REMOTE LEARNING STATUS, MASS IS CANCELED

MATER DOLOROSA CONFESSIONS - 6-9PM

NO MASS THIS NIGHT AT MD

THURSDAY

ST. WENDELIN MASS - 8:00AM

FRIDAY

ST. JOSEPH MASS - NOON

SATURDAY

MATER DOLOROSA CONFESSION - 11:00-11:30AM

ST. WENDELIN CONFESSION - 11:00-11:30AM

ST. JOSEPH CONFESSION - 11:45AM-12:15PM

ST. WENDELIN VIGIL MASS - 4:00PM

MATER DOLOROSA VIGIL MASS - 5:30PM

SUNDAY MASSES

ST. WENDELIN - 7:00AM

MATER DOLOROSA - 8:15AM

ST. JOSEPH - 9:30AM

ST. WENDELIN - 10:30AM

OPEN PRAYER TIMES WRAP AROUND **WEEKDAY**

MASSSES, WITH CHURCHES AVAILABLE FOR

QUIET REFLECTION:

> AN HOUR AFTER THE TWO 8AM MASSES

> AN HOUR BEFORE THE TWO NOON MASSES
AND THE ONE 7PM MASS

WEEKEND MASS REGISTRATION

Registration for weekend (Saturday Vigils and Sunday) Masses needs to continue for a while longer. Call 724-445-3713 X0 or email to registration@saintclareparish.com by 3pm on Fridays. Registration is for one week at a time.

PARISH NOTES

BULLETIN INSERT SARRIS EASTER CANDY

Delicious Sarris Easter Candy is available through Saint Clare Parish. See the bulletin insert.

FOOD DRIVE PVFC FOR EASTER

Saint Clare Parish will have collection bins at Mater Dolorosa and St. Joseph for nonperishable items for the Petroleum Valley Food Cupboard Easter Food Drive. Monetary donations are accepted too. Items placed in the bins will be removed after each Mass to adhere to Covid-19 guidelines. The deadline to donate is **Wednesday, March 17**.

2021 PARISH SHARE FINDING JOY IN GIVING

Parish Share 2021 started February 21 and our Offertory listings have been changed to reflect this. The theme for this year is *Finding Joy in Giving*. Our Goal is \$80,599.00

LENTEN ROSARY SERIES SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Saint Clare Parish's online Rosary Series continues with the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm. **Session Three is March 9 and features The Crowning With Thorns.** The Zoom link is posted on our website on Tuesday morning. Questions? Contact Sue Fraley at 724-445-3713 or sue@saintclareparish.com. *Attend as many sessions as you can make.*



ST. MARY'S FISH DINNERS

St. Mary's Church, 821 Herman Rd., is hosting Drive Thru Fish Dinners on the

three remaining **Fridays of Lent: March 12, 19 & 26**, from 2-6pm, \$10 per dinner. The meal includes pan-fried fish, French fries, green beans, coleslaw, bread & cake. Follow directional signs to enter and exit the Drive Thru area.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS AT 7PM

The remaining schedule is:
March 12 - Mater Dolorosa
March 19 - St. Joseph, *This is the Feast Day of St. Joseph*
March 26 - St. Wendelin

LIVING LENT AS A FAMILY 4-PART SERIES ON FORMED.ORG

This Lent, all families are invited to live deeply this holy season! For four consecutive Thursdays, Formed is bringing in couples to talk about how they live Lent as a family, with the hope that these discussions can help your family draw closer to Christ this Lent. The first session streamed on **Thursday, March 4**, and it is accessible on Formed.org. Check out the new session on **Thursday, March 11**.

FRIDAYS OF LENT DAYS OF ABSTINENCE

Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. The obligation of abstinence (refraining from eating meat) begins at age 14. The law of fasting (limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals) is for individuals ages 18-59 who are without a medical condition in which fasting may be considered harmful. If you cannot fast, almsgiving is suggested. Fasting is an obligation on Good Friday.

BAPTISM CLASS REGISTER FOR MAY SESSION

Parents are required to take a Baptism Class prior to having their first child baptized, or if it has been a few years between children. Online Zoom classes

are being scheduled on three Mondays throughout 2021, at 6:30pm. **Dates are: May 3, August 2 and November 1.** To register for a Zoom session or to schedule a baptism, contact Barb at 724-445-3713 x4.

CROCHETERS NEEDED BAPTISMAL BLANKETS

Saint Clare Parish offers white baptismal blankets to all children and adults baptized in the Faith. The blankets have been lovingly made by Parishioners for years. If you can crochet and would like to join this Ministry, call the Parish Office. A pattern and yarn are supplied. ***If you need some inspiration for this endeavor ... take a look right here at Jane Neigh!***



Jane crocheted 150 Baptismal Blankets and quite a few RCIA Shawls in the 14 years she has been involved with the Ministry. She is stepping down from Baptismal Blankets and deservedly so! Whether experienced or a new crocheter, WE CAN USE YOUR HELP! Call the Parish Office.

This week's St. Wendelin School

Student of the Week is:

ABIGAIL HOELZER

Abby is in First Grade at St. Wendelin School. She has an older sister, Haley, who also attends St. Wendelin and two dogs, Buddy and Shadow. Abby's favorite subject at school is Math because she likes to learn about adding and subtracting.

She is an excellent student who loves learning.

One of her favorite activities is the all school Walk-a-Thon!

Outside of school, Abby enjoys spending time with her family, especially when they take trips to the beach since she loves to swim!

When she grows up,

Abby would like to become a Doctor!

Congratulations to this week's

St. Wendelin School Student of the Week,
ABIGAIL HOELZER!

Catholic Identity Program

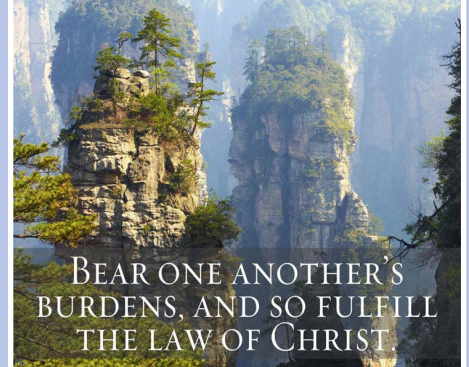
This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This Week's Virtue:

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is being freely accountable for our actions through knowing what is right and good and striving to do our best.

GALATIANS 6:2



St. Wendelin School's Good Friday Fish Dinner DRIVE THRU ONLY

April 2, 3-7pm

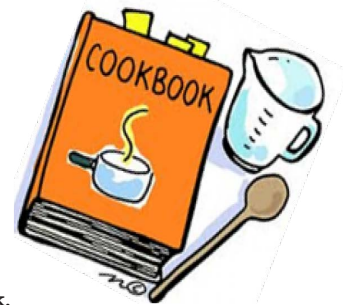
The Drive Thru Dinner will include a basket raffle and a 50/50. Tickets can be purchased for while you are in line to get your meal(s). Stay tuned for details! Contact Suzetta Williams at 724.996.9209 to volunteer or donate prizes.



A TASTY NEW COOKBOOK

St. Wendelin School PTG is creating a new recipe book and needs your BEST RECIPES! Submit ASAP to:

1. PTG email at ptgstwend@zoominternet.net
OR
 2. Mail to St. Wendelin School,
211 St. Wendelin Rd., Butler, PA 16002
OR
 3. Place a hard copy in the school drop box.
- Questions? Email the PTG at the above address.



ST. WENDELIN SCHOOL REGISTRATION
IS OPEN FOR THE 2021-22 YEAR.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.STWENDELINSCHOOL.COM

ON THE WEBSITE, YOU CAN TAKE
A VIRTUAL TOUR AND DOWNLOAD FORMS.
QUESTIONS? CALL THE SCHOOL
OFFICE AT 724-285-4986.

Coming this Spring...

St. Wendelin School's annual fundraisers for:

Mother's Day Flower Baskets

Annual Flowers

Vegetable Plants

Order details
available soon with
easy pick up at SW Pavilion



Saint Clare of Assisi Parish Information

MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES, MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, MARCH 8

Noon **Mass** at MD

For Bernard Callihan

By Brian & Karen Callihan
& Family

Open church 11am till Mass starts

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

8am **Mass** at SW

For Gabby Weiland

By Clete & Lisa Geibel

Open church after Mass till 10am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

10am School-only **Mass** at SW

For Rose Marie Snyder

6-9pm **Confessions** at MD

"The Light Is On For You"

NO MASS at MD this night

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

8am **Mass** at SW

In Memory of Regis Neff

By Robert Jarecki

Open church after Mass till 10am

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Noon **Mass** at SJ

For Robert Wiles

By Fred & Martha Callihan
& Family

Open church 11am till Mass starts

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Confessions are

11-11:30am at both MD & SW

11:45am-12:15pm at SJ

4pm **Mass** at SW

For Cora Carbin

By Frank & Ann Raypush

5:30pm **Mass** at MD

For Mary Louise O'Donnell

By Don Hershberger Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

7am **Mass** at SW

For Diane Neal

By John & Sharon Bopp

8:15am **Mass** at MD

For Joe & Mary O'Donnell

By Salli

9:30am **Mass** at SJ

For Gertrude Berteotti

By Bill & Rosemary McGrady

10:30am **Mass** at SW

For Erdman Brauchle

By Donna Stephenson



MARCH 8 - MARCH 14

MONDAY:

2 KGS 5:1-15B; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4;
LK 4:24-30

TUESDAY:

DN 3:25, 34-43;
Ps 25:4-5AB, 6-7BC, 8-9;
MT. 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY:

DT 4:1, 5-9;
Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;
MT 5:17-19

THURSDAY:

JER 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9;
LK 11:14-23

FRIDAY:

HOS 14:2-10; Ps 81:6C-11AB, 14, 17;
Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY:

HOS 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21AB;
LK 18:9-14

SUNDAY:

2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6;
EPH 2:4-10; JN 3:14-21

ALTERNATE READINGS

FOR USE WITH RCIA - YEAR A:

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A;
Ps 23:1-6; EPH 5:8-14;
JN 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]



Parish Offertories

February 27 & 28

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI PARISH

Offertory at Mass \$4,868.00

Offertory ONLINE..... \$981.00

TOTAL Offertory..... \$5,849.00

Weekly Goal\$10,700.00

Fiscal Year Goal\$550,000.00

Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal... \$207,946.97

Maintenance Fund \$61.00

Maintenance Fund ONLINE..... \$00.00

School Support..... \$35.00

School Support ONLINE \$00.00

Parish Share (PSP) \$360.00

Parish Share ONLINE..... \$00.00

TOTAL Parish Share..... \$360.00

2021 Parish Share Goal.....\$80,599.00

2021 Total PS Received \$950.00

St. Anthony & DePaul Schools \$20.00

Solemnity of Mary \$10.00

Easter \$40.00

Easter Flowers \$10.00

**Thank you for your generosity
to Parish Ministries!**

Just a note...

The 2021-22 Parish Share Program campaign started February 21. That is why there is a change in the goal and the amount is starting over.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Anthony & Hannah Slater
on the baptism of their daughter
LILY JOSEPHINE SLATER
on February 28, 2021

MAY JESUS ALWAYS BE HER LIGHT

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The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops - The "Equality" Act

TRUTH ABOUT THE "EQUALITY" ACT

This Congressional bill is well-intentioned but misguided. The Equality Act discriminates against people of faith, threatens unborn life, and undermines the common good. Human dignity is central to what we believe as Catholics. Every person is made in the image of God and should be treated accordingly, with respect and compassion. That means we need to honor every person's right to be free of unjust discrimination.

The Equality Act purports to protect people experiencing same-sex attraction or gender discordance from unjust discrimination. Although this is a worthy purpose, the Equality Act does not serve it. And instead of respecting differences in beliefs about marriage and sexuality, the Equality Act discriminates against people of faith precisely because of those beliefs. In the process, the Equality Act codifies the new ideology of "gender" in federal law, dismissing sexual difference and falsely presenting "gender"

as only a social construct.

The Equality Act:

- > exempts itself from the bipartisan Religious Freedom Restoration Act, in an explicit and unprecedented departure from one of America's founding principles, infringing on religious freedom and making it more difficult for individuals to live out their faith

- > forces religiously operated spaces and establishments, such as church halls, to either host functions that violate their beliefs or close their doors to their communities

- > requires women in sports to compete against, and share locker rooms and shower facilities with men and boys

- > forces faith-based charities that serve all people to violate their religious beliefs, and threatens the welfare of thousands of beneficiaries of charitable services such as shelters and foster care agencies, by forcing a multitude of them to be shut down

- > jeopardizes existing prohibitions on the use of federal taxpayer funds for abortion,

likely pressuring or even mandating the performance of abortions by health care providers in violation of their consciences, and ultimately ending more human lives

- > hinders quality health care, by forcing health care professionals, against their best medical judgment, to support treatments and procedures associated with "gender transition."

The Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of human services in the U.S., helping millions of Americans in need through its parishes, schools, hospitals, shelters, legal clinics, food banks, and charities. Our core beliefs about the dignity of the human person and the wisdom of God's design motivate both our positions on marriage, life, and sexuality, and our call to serve those most in need and the common good. By running roughshod over religious liberty, the Equality Act directly undermines the Church's ability to fulfill that call.

<https://www.usccb.org/equality-act>

St. Joseph Church & Administrative Center

Located at 864 Chicora Road, Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713 Fax: 724-607-1183

Office Hours: M. W. F. - 9am-Noon

Offices for ALL Clergy and Staff are located here.

Names and emails listed to the right.

Mater Dolorosa Church

Located at 409 North Main Street, Chicora, PA 16025

Office Hours at St. Joseph Administrative Center

St. Wendelin Church & School

Located at 210/211 St. Wendelin Road, Butler, PA 16002

Office Hours at St. Joseph Administrative Center

WEBSITE: <https://www.saintclareparish.com/>

Sunday Mass Registrations (temporary)

Reservations are required for the six Sunday Masses.

Call 724-445-3713 X0 or email by Friday at 3pm to registration@saintclareparish.com. You will receive at call to confirm and be assigned an attendance number. Until further notice, you must call every week.

Prayer List

For ALL Prayer List updates, call Fran Parker @ 724-445-7421

Cemetery Inquiries

Contact North Regional Office, 2636 Ellwood Road, New Castle, PA 16101, 724-323-0033, cpca@cpca-pgh.org

Bulletin & Website Information

Submission deadline is Tuesdays at 10:00am.

Contact Gina at communications@saintclareparish.com
To place an ad, call 1-800-945-6629, Parish Number 947100

Facilities Scheduling

Contact Barb @ 724-445-3713, barb@saintclareparish.com
Facility usage temporarily suspended due to Covid

Saint Clare of Assisi Clergy and Staff

Father Matt McClain, Pastor

mmclain@diopitt.org

Father Ward Stakem, Senior Parochial Vicar

Father Lou Pascazi, Senior Parochial Vicar

frlou@saintclareparish.com

Father Jim Kurtz, Senior Parochial Vicar

Barb Boltz, Parish Administrative Assistant & Facilities Scheduler

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Nicole Karenbauer, Parish Administrative Assistant,

School Accountant, Safe Environment Coordinator

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Sue Fraley, Director of Evangelization,

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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Linda Green & Kit Lanier, Parish Receptionists

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kit@saintclareparish.com