I would like to take some time to focus on the Gospel and the second reading.

First, the Gospel. Pilate found no fault with Jesus but yet the crowd yelled “Crucify Him, Crucify Him.” What a terrible event to be associated with. Regardless, Jesus accepts his fate humbly and willingly. As I dig deeper into this passage, it occurs to me that “we” are actually the crowd yelling, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him.” Why, because our sin is what sent Him to the cross. Every time we sin, we are asking Jesus to go to the cross again and die for us. This is so powerful once we really grasp why Jesus died. Because God loves you and me so much, He sent Jesus to die for the cross for our sins. For most of my life, I did not ‘get this.’ But Jesus died for me so that I may live forever with Him. Do I show Him the respect and love He so deserves and desires? The time I spend on earth is just a tiny blip on the radar when compared to the time I can spend with Him in eternity – forever and ever, without end. Do you as Christians take the crucifixion seriously? Do you truly understand that Jesus loves you so much He died for you? I challenge you to take sin seriously. Sin separates us from God. Once we truly believe this, we can live the life Jesus planned for us. This doesn’t mean we’ll never sin, but we should be aware of when we sin and ask for forgiveness.

The second reading talks about Jesus taking the form of a slave. Even though He is God, He took the form of a human. As scripture shows, Jesus performs miracle after miracle of healing and helping those in need. He had a servant heart, focused on others. I challenge you to write the following phrase on your bathroom mirror “I am Third.” It’s amazing what an influence this has had in my life, especially when media continually tells us that “we deserve the very best,” and “if it makes you happy, it can’t be wrong.” We are bombarded by advertising that makes us think that “it’s all about us and our needs.” Such statements turn the focus from God and others, to ourselves. Family and others are Second and God is First. Mother Theresa is a great role model. She left everything she had to live with the poor and serve them. I challenge you to become a slave to Jesus. Let this be a time when we look deep within our hearts and ask who we serve. Is it Jesus or is it ourselves. Take some quiet time today to ask Jesus how we can better serve Him and others. “Thy will be done.” It’s not about us.

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”
1 Peter 3:15.

God Bless,
Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

**Weekly Stewardship Report: Last Sunday, March 18, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewardship Report</th>
<th>Stewardship Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Collection:</strong> Envs: $3,159.</td>
<td><strong>Loose:</strong> $407.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electronic:</strong> $120.</td>
<td><strong>Total Regular Collection:</strong> $3,686.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RectExp:</strong> $34.</td>
<td><strong>Weekly Stewardship Report:</strong> Last Sunday, March 18, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries:</strong> $1,300.</td>
<td><strong>Utilities:</strong> $307.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Bills Paid This Week:</strong> $3,114.</td>
<td><strong>Total Bills Paid This Week:</strong> $3,114.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated!*

**Intentions of the Sick:** If you know someone that may be ill, facing surgery, etc., you can write down the person’s name on the sheet on the small podium as you come in to Mass at both our churches, and names will be read that Sunday during the Intercessions. There’s a new sheet there every Sunday.

**Stations of the Cross By St. Alphonsus Liguori** Journey with Christ to Calvary

Personally follow Christ and His Sorrowful Mother on their journey to Calvary with the Stations of the Cross. Moving meditations by Saint Alphonsus Liguori accompanied by the beautiful Latin hymn, Stabat Mater, draw you into a more intimate experience of the Church’s powerful Lenten prayer. Go to Formed.org and register using code, CFMRYY.

**The Lector’s Corner**

Workshop for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word 2018, page v

Understanding the Word We Proclaim

Preparation reading at the table of the Word can be just as multifaceted as preparing for a family feast. Consider the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, in which Philip asked the eunuch who was reading from Isaiah, "Do you understand what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30), a question that we should ask ourselves in preparing for liturgical proclamation. *If we who proclaim do not understand our reading, how can we help the assembly understand it?*

Contact: Michael Thayne, Lector Ministry Coordinator, thaynemm@earthlink.net

**Taste of Spring**

Once again the Rotary Club is donating part of the profits from the Taste of Spring Event to our Ecumenical Food Pantry. The Taste of Spring will be held on Sat., April 14th, at the Ford Hill Golf Course Clubhouse from 4-6pm.

Please join us for a time of great music, conversation, wine sampling and delicious appetizers. Tickets are available at Country Wine and Liquor on Rt. 11 Whitney Point, from Rotary members and on line. More details to follow.

**WP Ecumenical Food Pantry**

- Thank you to those who donated pasta this month for the WP Ecumenical Food Pantry. During the month of April we are collecting canned tuna.
- There are marked baskets at the entrances of our churches. Thank you for all your food & monetary donations.

**Please Pray For Our Following Friends and Family in the Military:**


*If you have a friend or family member serving our country and would like their name mentioned weekly in our bulletin, to be kept in our prayers, please contact our parish office.*
If you know of parishioners that have not been able to come to Mass because they are homebound, please let the Parish Office know so our Hospitality Groups can provide contact with them through visits and cards, and perhaps they would like to receive a copy of our bulletin.

Hospitalized or ill: Please notify rectory or email lcrowley@zfastest.net so we can provide for their/your spiritual needs.

If you know someone that is ill, facing surgery, or some other kind of difficulty, and needs our prayers, please call Dottie Angel at 656-9230 or Pat Canfield at 849-6978. Dottie will lead the Prayer Chain we have at The CC of St. Stephen-St. Patrick. Supporting each other with the Power of Prayer is the best medicine.

Mission Statement for The Catholic Community of St. Stephen - St. Patrick
We are a Roman Catholic Community of faith, welcoming the strength found in diversity. We are committed to using our time, talent, and treasure in proclaiming the Kingdom of God through prayer, fellowship, and service. We experience our unity at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord, and our direction from the Word of God.

If you know someone that is ill, facing surgery, or some other kind of difficulty, and needs our prayers, please call Dottie Angel at 656-9230 or Pat Canfield at 849-6978. Dottie will lead the Prayer Chain we have at The CC of St. Stephen-St. Patrick. Supporting each other with the Power of Prayer is the best medicine.

Daily Mass Schedule & Intentions

Palm Sunday  Mar. 25  8:30 AM Whitney Point…for Elsie Zelsnack…by Elsie Poyer
10:30 AM Marathon…for Patricia Campbell…by CCSS-SP’s Hospitality Ministry Committee
12:00 PM OLPH…for Jennie Ricca…by Pat & Terri Fedele

Tuesday  Mar. 27  8:30 AM OLPH…for The People Of Our Parish
7:00 PM Marathon. Mass of the Last Supper/Washing of Feet
7:00 PM Whitney Point…Veneration Service with Dcn. Joe During
8:30 AM Whitney Point…for Joe Sculley…by Mary Sculley
10:30 AM Marathon…for Dorothy Gripp, Birthday …by Jerry Gripp
In Thanksgiving …by John Carroll
12:00 PM OLPH…for Nazzareno Buttigieg…by Josephine Kellogg

Readings for the Week of March 25 through April 1, 2018:

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1–15:47
Monday: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33,36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-24
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13–53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1–19:42
Saturday: Gn 1:1–2:2; Gn 22:1–18; Mk 16:1-7

WP Ecumenical Food Pantry: M-Th & Sat, 10am-Noon & Thurs Eve, 6-8pm. Closed Fridays, Holidays, & when school is closed for inclement weather. Food Pantry Chairperson: Roger Calice Clothing Bank: M, Tu & Sat, 10am-Noon. Mobile Food Pantry: 1st Friday of Month at WP Church parking lot. Truck arrives around 9:30am (unless holiday)

NEW MINISTRY SCHEDULES IN SACRISTIES. PLEASE SEE SIGNUP SHEETS AT EACH CHURCH FOR HOLY WEEK.
Today, Mar. 25th  
Palm Sunday - Distribution of Palms at each Mass

Monday, Mar. 26th  
7:00pm - Women's Faith Group - Whitney Point Parish House

Tuesday, Mar. 27th  
8:30am Mass today at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Cincinnatus 
Holy Thursday, Mar. 29th  
7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper/Washing of Feet - Marathon Church 
followed by Adoration until 9:30pm

Good Friday, Mar. 30th  
3:00pm - Stations of the Cross - Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 
7:00pm - Veneration of the Cross - Whitney Point Church

Easter Sunday, April 1st  
Children's Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Following 8:30am Mass on WP Church Grounds

Whole Community Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Discussion
Reading 1 - Isaiah 50:4-7
The Lord's servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Reading 2 - Philippians 2:6-11
Christ was obedient even to death, but God has exalted him.

Gospel - Mark 14:1-15:47
(Shorter form: Mark 15:1-39)
Jesus is sentenced to death and crucified.
The centurion who witnessed his death declared, “This man was the Son of God.”

Adults: When Pope Francis listened to how the disciples fell asleep during Jesus’ most crucial moments, he asked himself certain questions: Has my life fallen asleep? Am I like Pilate? When I see that the situation is difficult, do I wash my hands and dodge my responsibility ... ?

Children: When is it hard to obey? Why?

Come and Visit with Jesus
Did you know that every Thursday evening, for one hour, you can come and spend some time with Jesus? Eucharistic Adoration is just that; a chance to stay for all of it. This Thursday, March 29th, is at Marathon Church and until 9:30pm, following our Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm.

Tuesday, March 27th, 7:00pm -
Chrism Mass-The Cathedral, Syracuse
Holy Thursday, March 29th, 7:00pm -
Mass of the Last Supper/Washing of Feet - Marathon Church w/Adoration until 9:30pm

Good Friday, March 30th, 3:00pm -
Praying Stations of the Cross - OLPH
7:00pm - Veneration Service - Whitney Point Church

Easter Sunday, April 1st  
Regular Mass Schedule

Children's Easter Egg Hunt following the 8:30am Mass at Whitney Point

This Week In Our Parish
Palm Sunday - Distribution of Palms at each Mass

7:00pm - Women's Faith Group - Whitney Point Parish House

8:30am Mass today at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Cincinnatus 
7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper/Washing of Feet - Marathon Church 
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Thank you for the donations for CCSS-SP’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt next Sunday, after the 8:30am Mass, on the Whitney Point Church grounds. All children from our churches are invited to hunt and adults to watch.

The Marathon Maplefest is April 7th & 8th. Sign up sheets for our annual pasta dinner on Saturday, April 7th, are at the entrances of our churches. Please consider signing up, we need many for preparing, cooking, serving, etc.

Pasta Dinner

“Today, March 25th, we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Distribution of palms at each Mass.”

“Thank you for the donations for CCSS-SP’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt next Sunday, after the 8:30am Mass, on the Whitney Point Church grounds. All children from our churches are invited to hunt and adults to watch.

The Marathon Maplefest is April 7th & 8th. Sign up sheets for our annual pasta dinner on Saturday, April 7th, are at the entrances of our churches. Please consider signing up, we need many for preparing, cooking, serving, etc.

Welcome to the World of the Faith Formations.

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl:
Encountering Our Neighbors

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty. Those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives?

Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.

Lent - Changing Our Attitudes
Lent is the most sacred time of the church year for Christians. It gives us time to stop and think about what Jesus went through in the days leading up to His death and Resurrection. For forty days we prayerfully consider our direction in life and how it can be better in the eyes of Jesus. In our reflection time, some of the things we might want to consider are our attitudes. Think about some of these suggestions and choose one to be conscious over during the remaining days of Lent.

*Give up complaining; focus on gratitude
*Give up pessimism; become an optimist
*Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts
*Give up discouragement; be full of hope
*Give up worry; trust Divine Providence
*Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness

*Give up hatred; return good for evil
*Give up negativism; be positive
*Give up anger; be more patient
*Give up pettiness; become mature
*Give up gloom; enjoy the beauty around you
*Give up jealousy; pray for trust
*Give up gossiping; control your tongue
*Give up sin; turn to virtue