

April 12, 2020 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Stewardship is a Way of Life. **Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:**

Our deepest thanks to everyone who has continued to send their tithe during this difficult time. You may do on-line giving or send it directly to the Church at P.O. Box 187, Mifflintown, Pa 17059.

Here is an update on the Diocesan Annual Campaign. Our goal this year is \$14,960.00. So far parishioners have pledged \$ 7,129.00, with \$6,304.00 being paid. The campaign runs until December 2020. Thanks to all who have contributed thus far.

Tithe for Good Friday 2020

Holy Land – Moved to Sept. 13, 2020

At Home Prayer Devotions

Suggestions for at-home prayer devotions and spirituality during the Coronavirus can be found at www.stpaulcenter.com/hub. This is sponsored by the St. Paul Center for Biblical theology, Steubenville, OH. They can also be reached at 740-424-4757.

Magnificat

During these difficult times, we all continue to look for ways to remain close to Jesus, his Blessed Mother, and his Church. In addition to its online edition, **MAGNIFICAT is now offering complimentary access to its iOS and Android Apps** throughout May. To register for **free access** visit www.magnificat.com/free. **Complimentary access to MagnifiKid is also available.** Visit www.magnifikid.com/free to view and download each weekly booklet of their colorful Sunday missalette for children ages 6-12.

IBreviary
Free Liturgy of the Hours resources for every hour are now available from IBreviary. A temporary web page has been created offering a printable prayer PDF for the current hour every day. Visit https://www.ebreviary.com/ebreviary/usa4/current_print_prayer.nsf?OpenDatabase for your printable prayers.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

“So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them ‘they have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him.’ So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.... Then the other disciple went in, and he saw and believed. For they did not understand the Scriptures that he had to rise from the dead.”

We can search for the Lord as did Mary of Magdalena. We can run as did Peter and John, and find linen cloths and an empty tomb. Our search continues. We can reflect on our favorite post resurrection stories as recorded in the scriptures and share our belief and Easter joy.

More importantly, we need to look into our own hearts, renew our Easter faith and discover the presence of the Risen Lord in our hearts for the kingdom is near and is within you. May we mirror the joy of the first witnesses of the Risen Lord, as we live Easter every day.

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

In this passage, Peter testifies that he and his followers saw the miracles performed by Christ, witnessed His death, and believe in His resurrection. Now they will proclaim to all that Christ is the Son of God.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Paul tells the Colossians that they will appear with Christ in glory. They should be mindful of things above rather than things on earth.

Gospel: John 20:1-9

In vivid detail, John tells us that when Mary Magdalene visited Christ's tomb, the tomb was empty. She told the apostles, who ran to the tomb, and saw the "wrappings" on the ground. The disciple who entered first "saw and believed."



A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen

Good Friday and Easter Liturgies with Bishop Gainer to be on ABC 27 - Using technology to stay connected to the faithful during the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Ronald Gainer invites the faithful to join him remotely for our first ever digital Holy Week and Easter. **Good Friday and Easter liturgies will be broadcast on ABC 27.** All Holy Week and Easter liturgies will also be live streamed to the Diocesan YouTube channel. Please see the schedule below.

Holy Week Livestream/Broadcast Liturgies with Bishop Gainer

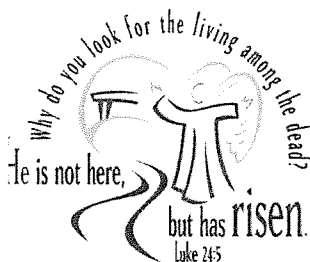
All liturgies are live streamed to the Diocesan YouTube channel

(www.youtube.com/user/hbgdiocese)

Holy Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday at noon (also broadcast on ABC 27 at 3 p.m.)

Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m. (also broadcast on ABC 27 at 1 p.m.)



LITURGICAL NOTES:

*Mass Intentions for the Week
And Weekly Readings*



Saturday, April 11: The Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

No Mass at Saint Jude

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

Dave & Gale Treaster's 51st Wedding Anniversary

Monday, April 13: Monday within the Octave of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a, & 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15

People of the Parish

Tuesday, April 14: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 & 22; John 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 15: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)

Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-35

Thursday, April 16: Thursday within the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)

Acts of the Apostles 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab & 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48

Friday, April 17: Friday within the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)

Acts of the Apostles 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2 & 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14

Saturday, April 18: Saturday within the Octave of Easter (Solemnity)


Acts of the Apostles 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1 & 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21

Robert Fitzgerald Sr.


Sunday, April 19: Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

William and Deb Flint



*The Sanctuary Lamp
for the week of April 12th
burns for Protection of
All Health Care Workers*



Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. The following dates are available: **April 12, 19,**

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the office to schedule. The following dates are available: **May 3, 17, 24 & 31**



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, April 13th for the Easter holiday.

Check Out Our Website & Facebook Page

Keep checking the Sacred Heart Website at www.sacredheartlewistown.com for daily postings. **During Holy Week**, subject to change, we are **hoping** to live stream on our website the following:

- **Daily Mass, 7:00 AM on Mon. & Tue., April 13 & 14, 7:00 PM Wed., Apr. 15, 9:00 AM Thur., April 16, 7:00 AM Fri., Apr. 17.**
- **Divine Mercy Sunday Mass, 11:00 AM on April 19**

Watch daily and Sunday 11:00 AM Mass on Sacred Hearts Facebook page and St. Jude's Sat., 5:30 PM Mass on St. Jude's Facebook page.

Bishop Gainer Suspends Holy Week & Easter

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer regrettably announced that no public Masses will be celebrated for Palm Sunday, Holy Week or Easter. This difficult decision was made after careful consideration of the decree (In time of COVID-19 (II)) issued by Pope Francis, and in following the recommendations of state and local government and, most especially, out of continued concern for the health and wellbeing of the faithful during these unprecedented times. "Our Diocese, our nation and our world are experiencing the unthinkable with the coronavirus. With this global pandemic in mind, the Holy See, Pope Francis, has decreed that all Holy Week and Easter Masses will be celebrated, but that countries impacted by coronavirus and in cases where restrictions regarding the assembly and movement of people are in place, the bishop and priests may celebrate without the presence of the faithful. With the restrictions and recommendations from our state government, and in consideration of the highly contagious nature of this virus, it would be irresponsible of me to open our parish while still in the midst of this pandemic," said Bishop Gainer. "Please know the impact of this announcement is not lost on me. I too am deeply hurting by not being able to gather with the faithful for the celebration of Mass. "Although we cannot come together for public Masses during this holiest time of year, our priests will celebrate Holy Week and Easter Masses. Many of our Parishes are live streaming these Masses and I encourage the faithful to participate in Mass through these online means." Parishes throughout the Diocese have been asked to bless the palms used on Palm Sunday and to make them available for parishioners at a later date. The Chrism Mass in which the Holy Oils used in celebrating the sacraments are blessed and which traditionally is held during Holy Week, and includes a gathering of all priest from the Diocesan order to renew their priestly promises, has also been postponed. Additional information on live stream options and resources for parishioners are available on the Health Alerts page of the [diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org). Additional COVID-19 preventions measures and recommendations from the Diocese are also available on the website.



A Message From Father Bill

"For even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing as I observe your good order and firmness of your faith in Christ" (Col. 2:5). Am I feeling what St. Paul was feeling? Yes, I am. Are you? I think we all are: absent from one another but united in spirit. Remember, another term for the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. That means wherever we are, we are parts of a body – with Jesus Christ as the head. But it's still hard to be apart from one another during these trying times. Worst of all is the closed church. We can echo the prayer of the prophet Daniel in the fiery

furnace, during a 6th century B.C. persecution, when Jewish public worship was forbidden. Daniel laments to God: "We have in our day no prince, prophet or leader, no holocaust, sacrifice, oblation or incense ... but with contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received" (Daniel 3:38). With "contrite heart and humble spirit" you can still be received, by fervent private prayer and Bible reading at home, both individual and with the family together. The really great news is that now you can go to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Lewistown** Facebook page on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. and each week day for daily Mass for a live streaming of all services. The Mass schedule is as follows:

- Monday, April 13, 7:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Tuesday, April 14, 7:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Wednesday, April 15, 7:00PM Daily Mass with Fr. Jay
- Thursday, April 16, 9:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Bill
- Friday, April 17, 7:00AM Daily Mass with Fr. Bill
- Sunday, April 19, 11:00AM Divine Mercy Sunday Mass with Fr. Bill

If you don't have Facebook, go to Sacred Heart's webpage at www.sacredheartlewestown.com for viewing anytime by clicking on the Facebook icon on the upper left of the screen or the link to the live streaming Mass on the right to watch the video. When you click on either of these links, a pop up will appear asking to; 1) Log into your Facebook page, 2) Create a new Facebook account, or 3) Click Not Now, which will allow you to view the video on the website without creating a Facebook account. Once Mass is over, the video will be available to view anytime in the same way. Because Facebook live is free, we are not in need of donations to cover the cost of this streaming service at this time. Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in supporting this endeavor financially. Please visit the webpage frequently for any updated information and to read the weekly bulletin. Also, you can go to **St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church** Facebook page any Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. for a live streaming of their Mass. In addition, you may go to the EWTN site at www.ewtn.com for Mass as well. Fr. Jay and I miss you all very much. We love you and pray for you. We are celebrating private Mass each day and fulfilling all of your Mass intentions. We are doing fine; thanks be to God. Financially, these are difficult times, for both households and churches, but God will take care of us in the long run. If you can, please continue your contributions to your parish church, because we are seriously compromised as well. We have parish staff and school faculty whose paychecks now are seriously in jeopardy, so please help us. Almost all are still working since churches are deemed by the state an essential service. You may pay your

tithe through online giving – click on the Online Giving icon on the top right of the Sacred Heart of Jesus homepage on our website, or you may mail your collection envelope to the parish office or put your envelope in the new secure drop box, bolted to the rectory wall by the garage. If you can increase your gift, God bless you. And consider donations to our St. Vincent de Paul Society, the church's charitable arm. To whatever extent you are able, please be generous to the parish school's Annual Fund (general school income), the Angel Fund (family tuition assistance), and your purchase and/or sale of Benefit Auction raffle tickets, especially since the big Benefit Auction, our huge annual school fundraiser, might not be held this year. By all means, we wish to keep the school going. Teachers have been valiantly teaching online from home, since the school closure. Thanks for your prayers and support. Hang in there. "And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Col. 3:15).

An Easter Message From Father Jay

Until the Resurrection of Jesus, the world was confused about the meaning and value of the human sufferings such as illness, pain and death. And people were greatly troubled at it. It was Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became man and dwelt among men and women on earth, unraveled the mystery of suffering and death. The widespread pandemic of the coronavirus raises the question, "Why is this?" to all human beings, especially the believers of God and more especially the Christian believers. We, Catholics, accept this coronavirus in the spirit of Jesus and Mary. Jesus foretold thrice about his manner of death. He suffered the trial before his death, his journey of carrying the cross to Calvary and his crucifixion, knowing full well that there was going to be his Resurrection on the third day after his death. Our Blessed Mother Mary accompanied the most tortuous journey of Jesus to Calvary and stood by his cross watching his death and listening to his desperate cry just before his death, "**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**" (Mt 27:46) She simply suffered in her heart with the serious and hurting question, "Why is this happening to my sinless son, the Son of God?" She didn't know the answer but simply believed in God and accepted the suffering and death of her blessed son. (Lk 2:51) She could accept the mystery contained in the suffering and death of her blessed son as she accepted the mystery in conceiving him in her blessed womb. The mystery involved in the entire life of Jesus until his death did not confuse her faith. Rather, the mystery of her son became her strength to live her life with her renewed obedience to God which she had made at the Annunciation, "**Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.**" (Lk 1:38) For three days, Our Blessed Mother had to live in her mind and heart, body and soul, with the mystery of the suffering and death of Jesus. In my

belief, it was Our Blessed Mother who had the privilege to see her blessed son who is now the Risen Lord. Sunday, the third day, unraveled the mystery of human suffering and death. The whole world began the new journey to live for eternal life and to live with eternal life. The present widespread coronavirus should be seen and accepted with the attitude of our Blessed Mother. This is the moment we must bear witness to our Christian faith to all non-Christians and unbelievers around us and around the world. Coronavirus is a mystery to others but not to us Christians because we believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has conquered death through his own suffering and death. Coronavirus has no power over our Christian faith. Like St. Paul let us challenge the mysterious virus, "**Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**" (1 Cor 15:55) This is the right time to seek our Blessed Mother through the prayer, "Hail Mary". This prayer has been used by over a billion Catholics through centuries. We could add some more words in this prayer, "Pray for us sinners, now at the fear of our death and at the hour of our death, Amen." Our Blessed Mother is called the 'Co-Redeemer' as Jesus is "The Redeemer." For, only Jesus and Mary were the only people in human history, not affected by bacteria and virus. They did not suffer any illness on account of the bacteria and virus. The saving power of Jesus will assist us now. The powerful witness of our Blessed Mother and Queen will not fail us, at this moment of our life, the pandemic. **Happy Easter!**
Father Jay



SHS Benefit Auction

Stay tuned for updates on our 2020 Benefit Auction.

We are accepting raffle tickets and money at the parish office or in the drop box located at the Rectory. In addition, we are still looking for donations of handmade, new, and gently used unique items. **While you are practicing social distancing now is the time to put those talents to work!** Thank you for your support of the auction!! Don't forget to follow us on Facebook! Thank you!



Help Wanted

A **Substitute Cook** is still needed in the SHS Cafeteria for next year. This **paid position** requires you to work minimally monthly and as needed. Training will be provided. In addition, parents and grandparents of SHS students can earn service hours by helping out in the cafeteria. Pick the day you can help, arrive by 11:15 AM and work till approximately 12:15 PM. Serve lunch, clean up, run the dishwasher...no experience required!

