

April 19, 2020 Sunday of Divine Mercy

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

Tithing income for the week of April 12, 2020:

Regular: \$1,809.00

Easter: \$ 430.00

Capital Improvements: \$ 220.00

STRENGTHENING THE CHURCH AT HOME



Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Right now over 40% of diocese in the United States are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States. Please be generous. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.

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

LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE

We are continuing to accept contributions toward this years Diocesan Annual Campaign. Our assessment for this year is \$14,960. At this time we have received gifts and pledges in the amount of \$8,579.00, leaving us at \$6,381.00 to reach our assessment total. The campaign continues through December of 2020.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Sunday of Divine Mercy
April 19, 2020

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... Although you have never seen him, you love him, even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

There are two letters of Saint Peter in the scriptures, directed to the early Christians, providing encouragement in living their new found faith in Jesus, risen from the dead. It is through the gift of faith that we are able to live as true disciples.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, may I express my gratitude for the mercy that Jesus continues to pour out on me, as I place my trust in Him. Pope Francis once said that God's last name is mercy and he is constantly reminding us, 'God's love for us is so great, so deep it is an unending love, one that always lifts us up and leads us on and supports us, on.'



'Jesus I trust in You.'

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

In the early days of the Church in Jerusalem, the faithful listened intently to the teachings of the apostles. They lived a communal life, sharing all property in common and praying and taking their meals together.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

In this first letter from Peter, he speaks to the Christians with great joy and confidence, reminding them that through Christ's resurrection, they have been given a new birth and are heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

After his resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and gives them the power to forgive sins. Thomas, who is absent, sees Christ later and believes in His resurrection after feeling His wounds. Christ admonishes Thomas by saying, "You became a believer because you saw Me. Blessed are they who have not seen and believed."

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19th, commemorating Our Lord's Appearances to Sister Faustina in the 1930's, where He emphasized God's great mercy over all humankind. We will honor His Divine Mercy on this Sunday with a Holy Hour in church, 3-4 PM, with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Join us live on our Facebook page; **Sacred Heart of Jesus Lewistown** for Holy Hour in honor of Divine Mercy.



LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

And Weekly Readings



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

People of the Parish

Monday, April 20: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 4:23-31; Psalm 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9; John 3:1-8

William and Deb Flint

Tuesday, April 21: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 4:32-37; Psalm 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5; John 3:7b-15

Wednesday, April 22: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 5:17-26; Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 3:16-21

Thursday, April 23: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 5:27-33; Psalm 34:2 & 9, 17-18, 19-20; John 3:31-36

Friday, April 24: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 5:34-42; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; John 6:1-15

Saturday, April 25: St. Mark, Evangelist (Feast)

1 Peter 5:5b-14; Psalm 89: 2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mark 16:15-20

Benjamin Davis

Sunday, April 26: Third Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

People of the Parish

- Daily Mass, 7:00 AM on Mon. & Tue., April 20 & 21, 7:00 PM Wed., Apr. 22, 9:00 AM Thur., April 23, 7:00 AM Fri., Apr. 24 & 9:00 AM Sat., April 25.
- Third Sunday of Easter Mass, 11:00 AM on April 26.

Diocesan Resources



Information on live stream options and resources for parishioners are available on the Health Alerts page of the diocesan website, www.hbgdiocese.org/coronavirus. Additional COVID-19 preventions measures and recommendations from the Diocese are also available on the website.

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 at www.magnifikid.com/free.



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.

An Update From Father Bill

May God bless you all. This is an update on our situation as a parish. First of all, many, many thanks to all who have submitted Sunday collection envelopes by regular mail, into the locked box attached to the Rectory wall (by the garage) or by online giving. Please continue to do so, on a regular basis, and even increase your regular offerings, if possible, because we have fallen behind with income the last several weeks from the coronavirus shut-down. We have applied for one of the small business loans to tide us over but have received no word yet on results. Also, please continue your generosity to the school's Annual Fund and to the Annual Benefit



*The Sanctuary Lamp
for the week of April 19th
burns for the Health of All*



Parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. The following dates are available: **May 3, 17 & 24**

New Time: Starting immediately and until further notice, **Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart will be celebrated and live streamed at 9:00 AM.** Join us this Saturday, April 18th as Fr. Jay and Fr. Bill concelebrate Mass in honor of Fr. Jay's 31st anniversary of his priesthood ordination.

Check Out Our Website & Facebook Page

Keep checking the Sacred Heart Website at www.sacredheartlewisstown.com for daily postings. Live streaming of Mass occurs each day on **Sacred Heart of Jesus** Facebook page.

Auction raffle tickets. We are live streaming Masses every day, so please check the parish's Facebook page at **Sacred Heart of Jesus Lewistown** or watch Mass later on our website at www.sacredheartlewisstown.com. We are adding a 9 AM Saturday Mass to the schedule starting this week until further notice. **This Saturday, April 18th, Fr. Jay and I, for the first time, will concelebrate the Mass in honor of Fr. Jay's 31st anniversary of priesthood ordination.** Many thanks to parishioners who have helped us with the technology and the liturgies for these video Masses. **We are praying for all of you and with God's grace, we will get through this.** *Peace, Fr. Bill*

A Great Miracle By Us!

Today, Wednesday, April 15, I read about a preacher who led his church congregation violating the 'Social distancing', died of the Coronavirus. Holy Mass has the healing power. Holy Mass is Jesus; Holy Mass is the Living Presence of Jesus; Holy Mass is the Real Body and Real Blood of Jesus. Jesus "gave his apostles authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness." (Mt 10:1) The sinful apostles were sent by Jesus to exercise his divine power among the sick and the possessed. They did it. They returned happily to report to Jesus the success of their mission. After the resurrection of Jesus and after the Pentecost, Peter worked an extraordinary miracle of curing a crippled beggar who was well known to all who had frequented the Jerusalem Temple. It was an instant cure. Peter, a forgiven sinner, simply said, **"I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk."** (Acts 3:6) The man who was crippled from birth leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. (3:8) We, the baptized, also could work miracles. I have been hopeful of the decrease of the current pandemic after the Easter. I believe, it is. I want to wait until the feast of Pentecost, May 31, for major decrease of the pandemic. I believe, it will. Instead of waiting for the vaccine for this strange and new virus, we could hasten its disappearance instantly. How? By our repentance from our sins and return to our loving God. We, the parishioners of Sacred Heart and St. Jude could make this mysterious coronavirus a mystery by our true repentance and return to God. God said, **"For the sake of the ten, I will not destroy Sodom"** (Gen 18:32) We are several hundred Catholics living in these two counties. All of you who are at home, unable to go to church, I tell you, if you decide now to give up all your sinful ways, then, you will see the miracle happening now,

instantly. This is the saving power of the Risen Lord and the healing power of our Risen Savior. I have expressed my decision to our Risen Lord to stay away from sins with his help. Do you? Together, shall we?
Father Jay

The Catholic Witness Is Going Digital!

The Catholic Witness has been privileged to share the news from our parishes, Catholic schools, Charities and our Diocesan programs for more than 50 years. We now find ourselves in uncharted waters, walking together down a path none of us have ever traveled. Like all parishes, Catholic schools and businesses throughout our Diocese and Commonwealth, we have also felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The loss of revenue due to the pandemic means that hard, temporary decisions must be made. We have made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend the printed version of *The Catholic Witness*, after the May 1 edition. This suspension does not mean we will stop providing the Catholic news you have come to rely on and enjoy. The news will continue in an all-digital format, delivered weekly via email and also accessible on *The Catholic Witness* pages of our website. Please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/the-catholic-witness-newspaper/ for sign-up details.

The St. Vincent dePaul Society has decided to move their office to 3 W. Monument Square, Suite 203, Lewistown. They may now be reached at 717-363-4812 or at stvincentdepaullewisstown@gmail.com. In these challenging times, we need to remember this passage: Deuteronomy 31:8 **"He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."** When you're fearing a situation or emotional challenge, really envision God saying this; just to you. We are all in this together, and we know God is watching over us together and individually. We at St Vincent want you to be well and safe and we want to thank all who met our "Lenten Challenge" and went above and beyond to get those donations to us. We are so blessed to have so many supporters. Know in this difficult time we are still helping those in need.



Job Opportunity

The part-time position of Secretary/Financial Bookkeeper is open at St. Jude Thaddeus Church, Mifflintown, PA. Applicants must be friendly, with considerable computer and financial bookkeeping skills. If interested, please contact Fr. Weary, 717-242-2781.



SCHOOL NEWS

A Note From the Principal

We at Sacred Heart School are still trying to grasp that the governor has closed all PA schools closing for the rest of the year. We had little notice of the initial shutdown and didn't even have time to say goodbye to the students or help them in their transition to being at home. Our superintendent, Mr. Breen, has had all the schools in Harrisburg diocese keeping the education process going for students. Teachers at Sacred Heart have been continually giving lesson information online as parents have been working hard helping their children complete school work. Teachers are in the process of learning various online teaching techniques such as Google Classroom, Zoom meetings, etc. Others, who have students without computers or the internet, have been using drop off bins in front of the school. We are trying to keep the process of learning progressing for the students. It is quite challenging for a teacher when they themselves may have children of their own to teach at home. Likewise, we feel for the parents who may have several family members needing help or getting on the family computer. This is definitely new and unexpected for all of us. Please pray for our wonderful families and teachers as we navigate through this difficult time.

SHS Benefit Auction Update



The Auction and Spaghetti Dinner have been rescheduled for June 6-7 at a new location, St. Jude Parish in Mifflintown. We would like to thank St.

Jude for allowing us to use their space for this year's event. Spaghetti Dinner and Preview Night - June 6th and Oral Auction - June 7th. Official times will be announced closer to the event. The All-Cash Raffle tickets have been mailed out. If you did not receive them or would like more, please let the parish office know and we will mail them to you. They can be returned to the Parish Office by mail or placed in the drop box at the rectory. Our goal is to sell all of our tickets, which would raise **\$35,000** for our Parish and School. When the time comes and we can all resume to our new "normal", we will need help soliciting businesses and volunteering at our event. **This is the largest fundraiser for our Parish and School and it takes everyone working together to make it a success.** Don't forget: While you are practicing social distancing now is the time to find a unique item or put your talent to work creating a handmade item!

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!



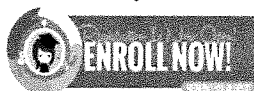
Great News!

We have been blessed with a few additional sources for scholarships through the state's EITC program, so we have a total of \$35,893 in scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year! This is nearly three times the amount of money available than we have had in several years! We will be processing applications for financial aid over the next two weeks, so **this is the time to register for the coming school year and take advantage of these scholarships!** Please contact the Parish Business Office at 717-447-2002 or shfinance@sacredheartlewisstown.com for application and registration information.



Enroll NOW for the 2020-21 Academic Year!

Even though SHS is closed, we are still enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year for Grades K-5. If you or someone you know has a child entering Kindergarten or would be interested in transferring into Grades 1-5, please email Ashley Henry at development@sacredheartshcool.com and we will get you an enrollment and information packet. Kindergarten students need to be age 5 by Sept. 1, 2020. **Scholarships and Financial Aid are available, and applications are still being accepted.** There is plenty of information about the school, the application process, and financial aid on our website at www.sacredheartschool.com. **All faiths are welcome!**



Did you know that we offer a tuition transfer grant to any child going into grades 1st through 5th?

Any public, private, charter or home-school student who transfers to Sacred Heart School is eligible to receive this grant. Each student will receive \$1,500 in grants over the course of 2 years (\$1,000 in year 1 and \$500 in year 2.) Restrictions apply and no financial aid forms are required.

