

August 22, 2021 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship is a Way of Life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of August 1 and August 8, 2021 (combined):

Regular: \$7,661.11

Tithing income for the week of August 15, 2021:

Regular: \$2,165.22

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 22, 2021

"When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people. 'If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today who you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' ...Many of the disciples who were listening said, 'This is a hard saying, who can accept it?'"

Joshua, the successor of Moses, challenged the people. How often in the scriptures we come to moments of great decision? Mary was asked to be the Mother of God. She said yes. Peter and the apostles were summoned to leave the fishing industry and tax collectors booth. Saints and Martyrs throughout the ages, made their heroic decisions. Missionaries traveled to bring the gospel to others. Now it is my turn.

Surely, as the hymn says, 'We have decided to follow Jesus.' But do we only when it is convenient? In moments of stress, or at the time to make a moral decision, what wins, convenience and ease or witness and commitment? Maybe we should begin by realizing that the Christian life is a challenge, supported by God's gift of grace, allowing us to make a firm decision to improve.

The Christian life is not to be a life of comfort, but it is comforting to know that Jesus Christ supports my decision to follow.

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel and told them if it did not please them to serve God, then they must decide who they would serve. The people claimed that God had brought them out of slavery and protected them on their journey. Therefore, they would serve, the Lord their God, and no one else.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

Husbands and wives should love one another as Christ loved the Church. They should nourish and care for each other as Christ cared for the church. Through the union between the two, they become one.

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' followers were still disturbed by his teaching of the living bread, which they could not yet fully understand. Jesus explained that the Spirit gives life, and flesh is

unimportant. Some of the disciples decided to leave. Jesus asked if the Twelve also wanted to leave. Although they do not completely understand yet, they have enough faith in Jesus to stay because they believe he is God's holy one.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the Week*



And Weekly Readings

Saturday, August 21: St Pius X, Pope (Memorial)

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Psalm 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Matthew 23:1-12

5:30 PM Donald Thome from Karen Thome

Sunday, August 22: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Ephesians 5:21-32; John 6:60-69

9:15 AM Mary Ann Truitt from Minerva Bolger

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, August 23: Weekday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; Matthew 23:13-22

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, August 24: St Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast)

Revelation 21:9b-14; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; John 1:45-51

Wednesday, August 25: Weekday

1 Thessalonians 2:13; Psalm 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday, August 26: Weekday

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalm 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 & 17; Matthew 24:42-51

Friday, August 27: St Monica (Memorial)

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 97:1 & 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday, August 28: St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalm 98:1, 7-8, 9; Matthew 25:14-30

5:30 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, August 29: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9:15 AM Harry Fogleman from Edith Fogleman



Ministry Schedule: August 21-22

Sat. 5:30 PM

Lector: C. Fitzgerald

EMHC: A. Zarnowski

Altar Server: J. Zarnowski

Cantor: M. Kerchusky

Usher: T. Kerchusky

Sun. 9:15 AM

Lector: J. Kelly

EMHC: D. Parson

Altar Server: St. Michael's Guard

Cantor: M. Miller

Usher: R. Auker, M. Eberts

Ministry Schedule: August 28-29 Assumption

Sat. 5:30 PM

Lector: M. Tonge

EMHC: A. Zarnowski

Altar Server: J. Zarnowski

Cantor: M. Kerchusky

Usher: T. Kerchusky

Sun. 9:15 AM

Lector: T. Ober

EMHC: K. Graham

Altar Server: D. Treaster, D. Best

Cantor: R. Perez

Usher: D. Ames, P. Ames

**Please continue to pray for the
repose of the souls of:**

Genevieve Gregos

John T. Kromel

Steven Graham

William Nash

Nicholas Spak

Roseanne Spak

Frances Schilling

Mary Tonge

Mary Ann Truitt

ST. JUDE OFFICE HOURS:

The office will be open on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Also, immediately after Sunday services. Please have any announcements to the church office by Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

rectory@stjudemiffintown.org

Bishop Robert Barron's

UNTOLD BLESSING

Three Paths to Holiness

God calls each of us to become a saint, and he's ready to support us along the way by providing abundant blessings. Join us as we seek these blessings by participating in Bishop Robert Barron's DVD-based program: "*Untold Blessing: Three Paths to Holiness.*" The first path is "Finding the Center in Christ," the second is "Knowing You Are a Sinner" and then the third, "Realizing Your Life is Not About You."

On Sunday September 12, 2021 at 5:30 PM our parish will begin the six week program the *Untold Blessing: Three Paths to Holiness*. To find out more information or register, please contact Ralph Perez 717-543-1905 or complete the sign up sheet found in the narthex of the church.

Los tres caminos a la santidad

BENDICIÓN DESCONOCIDA

Dios nos llama a cada uno a hacernos santos, y está dispuesto a apoyarnos a lo largo del camino dándonos abundantes bendiciones. Acompañennos mientras buscamos estas bendiciones, participando en el programa basado en DVD del Padre Barron: *Bendición incalculable: Los tres caminos a la santidad*. El primer camino es "Encontrando el centro"; el segundo es "Descubriendo que eres un pecador" y luego el tercero, "Tu vida no se trata de ti".

El Domingo, 12 de Septiembre de 2021, nuestra parroquia comenzará con el programa de seis domingos, *Bendición Desconocida: Los tres caminos a la santidad*. Para más información or registrarse, hable con Rafael Perez 717-543-1905 o puede registrarse para en el programa en la entrada de la iglesia.



Hey TEENAGER! Did you know that you're awesome??? And, do you know how much God loves you??? In fact, when I was praying the other day, God told me how awesome YOU are. That's why I'm reaching out to you personally to invite you to the "St. Jude Parish Youth Kickoff." Come and enjoy **music, food, wholesome fun, and the love of Christ**. Plus, you can hang out with the new priest, Fr. Peter Rettig!

Who: You, and many other teenagers!

What: A kickoff party for the St. Jude Parish Youth Group.

Where: We will meet in the St. Jude Parish **rectory** – 3918 William Penn Highway, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

When: Sunday, Sep. 12 @6:30-8:30 *** (2nd and 4th Sundays of every month).***

Why: Come and make Christ your personal friend while having fun with other guys and girls your age.

Moms and Dads, we will meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday, beginning Sep. 12, so mark it on your calendars as a reoccurring event! Fr. Peter kindly asks that, if possible, at least one other adult (parent, family member, or friend 18 years or older) remain present during each meeting as a chaperone.

Christ is your best friend. Get ready to know Christ on a level you've never imagined. Come, and see...

- Fr. Peter Rettig

Catholic Bishops of PA Prioritize Safety as Mass Obligation Resumes

Jesus commanded his followers to care for the sick and to bring physical and spiritual healing to everyone. In that spirit, the Catholic bishops of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have issued this statement: Caring for the health, safety and spiritual wellbeing of parishioners and their communities is a priority of all the bishops of Pennsylvania. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, dioceses have made every effort to implement best practices in public health for every aspect of parish life. Each diocese is continuously re-evaluating coronavirus mitigation efforts, frequently consulting with state and federal healthcare experts and constantly monitoring data. Diocesan leaders are listening to input from parishioners, including those with medical expertise, as cases of the Delta and other new variants are surging. It now seems evident that this global health crisis could linger for months or years to come. **Our call as shepherds is to provide the Eucharist in a safe environment. To that end, each diocesan bishop will communicate to the faithful, asking them to prioritize their own health and the health of their neighbors and faith communities.** As previously announced, the bishops are reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days beginning on Sun., Aug. 15, 2021. **However, by longstanding Church law, this obligation does not apply to those who are: sick, have a serious health risk, in a household with those at risk, primary caregivers to those at risk, have serious anxiety or concerns about being in a large-group setting due to COVID-19, unable to attend Mass in person.** As an act of charity, anyone who believes they might have COVID-19 or one of its variants or have been exposed should stay home. Those who are legitimately excused from Mass on Sundays and Holy Days are encouraged to spend time in prayer, meditating on the death and Resurrection of the Lord, reading the sacred Scriptures, and uniting themselves to Christ. They are also encouraged to investigate the numerous options to view broadcasts and streams of Mass, which are continuing across the state. **While masks are not currently mandated, each parishioner is strongly encouraged to make a responsible decision about the use of masks and vaccinations following in the examples of all Pennsylvania Bishops, Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who have all been vaccinated for the common good.** Our coronavirus mitigation efforts will continue to evolve, based on the most up-to-date public health information. Each bishop will continue to communicate with the faithful as changes become necessary.

CCD News:

It is time to register your children for CCD. CCD classes will commence Sunday, September 19, 2021. All children should be registered by Sunday, August 29, 2021.

Please fill out the registration forms which are available in the Narthex, complete the form and return it to one of the following people: Father Bill, Alice Arnold or Shane Armstrong.

Dear Friends,

As we respond to the current impact of the COVID-19 variants in the Commonwealth, Bishop Gainer asks all parishes to make the following adjustments to liturgical protocol until further notice:

- 1. Masks are to be worn for the distribution of Holy Communion by all priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion during the celebration of Holy Mass and outside the celebration of Holy Mass. This includes visits to the sick and homebound and applies even to those who are vaccinated.**
- 2. All those distributing Holy Communion are to sanitize their hands prior to the distribution. It is not necessary to sanitize during the distribution of Holy Communion unless there has been contact with the recipient. It is not necessary to sanitize hands after every person who receives Holy Communion on the tongue.**
- 3. Masks are to be worn by ushers and greeters whenever they are exercising their service. When they return to their pews for the celebration of Holy Mass, they may choose to lower their masks.**
- 4. There is no mask requirement for parishioners at large at this time.**
- 5. Hand sanitizing stations should be made available to all who enter our churches and institutions.**
- 6. Pew sanitization should continue periodically with in the church buildings.**
- 7. There is not a prohibition on choirs or liturgical music at this time. The consideration of choirs in the coming months will be made after more conversation and further reflection.**

These protocols are in place to ensure the safety of our parish communities and to prevent the need for further measures that would constrain public worship within the Diocese of Harrisburg. Thank you for your attention to these measures.

In His Heart,

Father Brommer

Catholic Charismatic Day of Renewal with Fr Weary

For all seeking healing, light, & growth in the power of the Holy Spirit, please save the date, **September 18, 2021**, from 8am-3pm, for the **Catholic Charismatic Day of Renewal** at the Diocesan Center (4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg). Mark your calendar now! The theme **Out of Darkness, Into the Light: God's Power over Pandemic** will be presented by **Keynote Speaker Rev. William Weary**. Please join us for Mass, Adoration, Talks, Prayer for Power & Healing of the Holy Spirit and More! A fee of \$20 per person will be accepted on site the same day and only by cash or check. No credit cards will be accepted. We ask that you **pre-register by Sept. 8th**. Lunch will be ordered **only** for those who have pre-registered. To pre-register call Joyce at 717-308-7245, or email charismatic.harrisburg@gmail.com. For additional information visit aliveinthepirit.net. Don't miss the grace!

FAITH MATTERS

With Fr. Peter Rettig



"Don't overthink it!" my high school algebra teacher would say when we asked for help on our exams. "It's not that hard! If you think too hard, you'll get the problem wrong!" Today so many people overthink the existence of God. When reasoning God's existence, they don't begin by thinking about the most obvious truths, namely that something cannot come from nothing... plain and simple! I remember as a seminarian at Mount Saint Mary's we would go on evangelization trips to university campuses each semester. When visiting University of Massachusetts, Amherst, my partner and I asked three different people if they believed in God, to which they said, "no." We asked why. They explained that they lent their ear to science, and many scientists say there is no God. We thought for a minute and responded, "if there is no God, then where did all of existence come from?" They responded, "many scientists say that the physical world came out of nothing." We responded, "But, logically speaking, something cannot come out of nothing. The only thing that can come out of nothing is nothing – that's simple logic. Mathematics, the very core of science, states that zero plus zero will always equal zero. Therefore, something cannot come out of nothing, which means that there must be some type of creating force." Then they admitted that some type of Creator did exist. The point is that these students overthought the existence of God. So many people form arguments against God's existence without first addressing the most obvious truths, like the fact that something cannot come out of nothing (mathematically and physically). What happens when people skirt around the most obvious truths? They're never satisfied. Instead of logically deducing the existence of God, they first decide that they don't want to believe in God, then they find flimsy arguments to support their belief. What is the result of this? When people ignore the most blatant truths, they are never satisfied because they know they lied to themselves. Thus, fulfilling the stereotype of the angry atheist. Now, did we convert those students to the Faith? Probably not... YET! St. Paul says that some people will sow the seeds of faith and others will

reap. We can only pray that the truth we sowed in them will be reaped by the Holy Spirit through another experience later in their lives. So, the next time you talk to an atheist, ask them if something can come out of nothing, because the last time you checked, the only thing that can logically come out of nothing is... nothing ($0 + 0 = 0$).



SCHOOL NEWS

SHS SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Tue., Wed. & Thur. 9AM-1PM

**If assistance is needed outside of office hours, leave a message on the school answering machine or contact the Parish Office at 717-242-2781.



Save the Date! The 24th Annual SHS Benefit Auction is scheduled to be held October 9-10, 2021 at the Mifflin County Youth Park. The auction committee is

looking for handmade, new, or like new donated items to be auctioned off. In the past these creative items have proven to be the most sought after and cherished by our generous bidders! Like to think outside the box? How about teaming up with some of your friends to auction off a dessert a month, a progressive dinner, soup a month, the opportunities are endless. For questions, please contact development@sacredheartschool.com Please bring all items to the Parish Office by **September 10, 2021**. We thank you in advance for your support of our largest fundraiser of the year!

Do you love SHS? Has SHS touched your life in any way? We are looking for a few monetary

sponsors for some SHS families that are in need of tuition help. If you are interested in helping a Catholic child receive a quality catholic education in a safe and nurturing environment, please call Ashley Henry at the Parish Office 717-242-2781 or email at development@sacredheartschool.com. **Our families appreciate your support!**

