

St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church

3918 William Penn Highway, P.O. Box 187, Mifflintown, PA 17059
(717) 436-6722 (717) 242-2781 at Sacred Heart, Lewistown

Parish Staff

REV. BILL WEARY, PASTOR

frweary@stjudemifflintown.org

Rev. Jayaseelan Amalanathan, Parochial Vicar

MRS. GALE TREASTER, SECRETARY

rectory@stjudemifflintown.org

Liturgy Schedule

SATURDAY: 5:00 PM

First Saturday 6:30 PM

Hispanic Mass

SUNDAY: 9:15 AM

MONDAY: 9:00AM

HOLY DAYS: AS ANNOUNCED

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 4 – 4:45 PM

Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00 to 12:00

Wed. : 9:00 to 12:00

CLOSED HOLIDAYS



Registration – All parishioners should be properly registered in the parish. Please contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage – Contact the parish office as soon as possible, before establishing a date for the wedding. The Diocese requires 12 months advance notice and preparation for Marriage.

Baptism, Sacrament of the Sick, Shut-ins – Please contact the parish office to register for Baptism. One sponsor (Godparent) should be a practicing Catholic (if married, married in the church; attending Mass every weekend; moral life; etc.). One sponsor may be a practicing Protestant (called a Christian witness). We strive to visit parishioners homebound and those in the hospital. Please call the parish office if you would like us to visit, or if you are preparing for surgery.

Mass Cards & Memorial contributions – Mass cards in memory of the deceased and for special intentions are available after masses at the Religious Articles Corner. To make a memorial contribution, please contact the parish office.

CCD – Religious instruction for children meets after the 9:15 Mass until 11:45 from September to May. These classes are necessary before children receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Please contact the parish office for more information or registration.

Parish Pastoral Council – Meets the 3rd Monday of each month, from September to May. Please call the parish office for information.

Knights of Columbus – Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the social hall.

Women's Guild – Meets the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the social hall.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – These are classes for those desiring to join the Catholic Church. Please contact the Pastor for more information.

NFP (Natural Family Planning) – This is the only Catholic-approved means of regulating birth. Classes are offered frequently and are free to all who want to learn about this spiritual & effective way to plan a family. For information, call Martin & Mary Smith, 717-935-5256.

Prayer Chain – Prayers for all who are in need of prayers for whatever reason. Please contact the parish office for more information.

December 23, 2018
Fourth Sunday of Advent
STEWARDSHIP IS A WAY OF LIFE
TITHING IS GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
 Fourth Sunday of Advent
 December 23, 2018

“When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby stirred in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and cried out in a loud voice: ‘Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?’...‘Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.’”

What a wonderful family reunion. Two expectant mothers meeting, greeting, celebrating imminent births. St. Luke points out the presence of the Holy Spirit, even before the Pentecost event. The question posed by Elizabeth ‘who am I?’...can be changed for us today.

Who am I that my Lord and Savior should come to me? A loving Father saw our need, and in concern for us, sent, not the mother or our Savior, but the saving Lord Himself. How frequently we pray the words of Luke in the Hail Mary. As we complete our advent may the question of Elizabeth, and my question be answered.

As we approach the feast of the birth of Christ this week, may we live the visitation event, greeting others in the name of the Lord, recognizing His presence among us in our needy world. The two holy women rejoiced in Christ's presence, and so do we. Reflect for a few moments on the biblical basis of the Hail Mary.

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

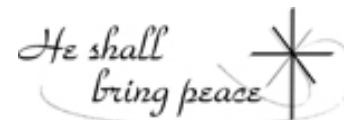
Micah speaks of the ruler who will come from Bethlehem. He discusses how the people of Israel will be saved from corruption and live in peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Paul describes to the Hebrews how Jesus came into the world and offered to do God's will. We were saved through his sacrifice, the only offering sufficient for the sins of the world.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Mary paid a visit to Elizabeth, whose baby stirred in her womb upon hearing Mary's greeting. Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth was deeply overjoyed that the words God had spoken to Mary had now been fulfilled.



EWTN Announcement

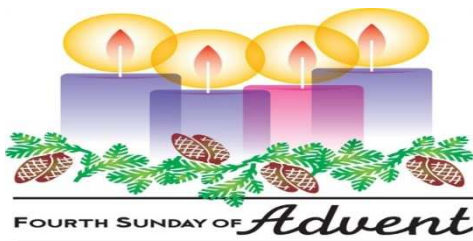
Join EWTN each week this Advent Season for special programming and devotionals easily located on their website www.ewtn.com/advent. Remember, your purchase of holy reminders from the EWTN Religious Catalog guarantees quality and helps support the network. Visit the online Catholic store at www.ewtnreligiouscatalogue.com.

<u>Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:</u>	
Income for December 16, 2018	\$ 3,200.13
Retirement for Religious	\$ 20.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 50.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 25.00
Christmas	\$ 100.00
Tithe for December 16, 2018	\$ 333.00
Shelter Services, Inc.	

What is the Advent Wreath?

Advent 2018

The Advent Wreath is one of our most popular Advent traditions. Its origin is in pre-Christian Germany and Scandinavia where the people gathered to celebrate the return of the sun after the winter solstice. The circular wreath made of evergreens with four candles interspersed represented the circle of the year and the life that endures through the winter. As the days grew longer, people lit candles to offer thanks to the “sun god” for the light. For us, the lighting of the Advent candles represents the promise of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.



LITURGICAL NOTES:

*Mass for the
Intentions of the Week
And Weekly Readings*



Saturday, December 22: Advent Weekday

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56

5:00 PM Suffering Souls in Purgatory and Deceased Members of F.O.S.S.

Sunday, December 23: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

9:15 AM Grace Bravo

Monday, December 24: The Morning Mass

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Luke 1:67-79

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, December 24: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas): At the Vigil Mass

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

6:00 PM Phyllis Davis

Tuesday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

10:00 AM People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 26: St. Stephen, The First Martyr (Feast)

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Matthew 10:17-22

Thursday December 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist (Feast)

1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a, 2-8

Friday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)

1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Matthew 2:13-18

Saturday, December 29: Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35

5:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 30: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28; Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

9:15 AM Fred Mitchell

Calendar of Events

Saturday: 12/22

Gospel Reflections/7:30am/ social hall
Mass/5:00 pm/ Church

Sunday: 12/23

Mass/ 9:15am/ Church

Monday: 12/24

Mass/9:00 am/ Church

Christmas Vigil Mass 6:00pm/Church

Carols begin at 5:30pm

Tuesday: 12/25

Christmas Day Mass/10:00am/ Church

Wednesday: 12/26

No Event

Thursday: 12/27

No Event

Friday: 12/28

No Event

Saturday: 12/29

Gospel Reflections/ 7:30am/ social hall

Mass/ 5:00pm/ Church

Sunday: 12/30

Mass/ 9:15am/ Church

Minister Schedule

December 29 & December 30, 2018

Saturday, Dec. 29, 2018: 5:00pm

EMHC: A. Zarnowski

Lector: C. Fitzgerald

Cantor: M. Kerchusky

Altar Servers: J. Zarnowski D. Treaster

Gifts: People of the Parish

Greeters: P. Thompson

Usher: T. Kerchusky

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018: 9:15am

EMHC: D. Treaster G. Best J. Fitzgerald

Lector: T. Kromel

Cantor: M. Miller

Altar Servers: E. Zeigler D. Zeigler C. Murphy

Gifts: People of the Parish

Greeters: People of the Parish

Ushers: R. Auken M. Eberts



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

National Council of the United States

Seeking Charity and Justice

If you are in need of some help or know of someone who is in need of assistance. Please contact St. Vincent de Paul at 242-2781. Requests for help are kept confidential

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Men's Cursillo Weekend will be **January 24-27, 2019** at the Christian Retreat Center, East Waterford, PA. The Women's Cursillo Weekend will be **February 21-24, 2019** at the Mariawald Renewal Center, Reading, PA.



2019 Respect Life Mass

The annual diocesan Respect Life Mass will take place on **Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 9:30 AM at Good Shepherd Church in Camp Hill.** This Mass is celebrated every year to commemorate the lives lost to abortion since 1973 and to pray for the building up of a culture of life in our nation from conception to natural death. Reverend Stephen Kelley, chaplain to our diocese's Rachel's Vineyard post-abortion ministry, will be the celebrant and homilist. Both he and Tom O'Neill will greet Respect Life leaders and volunteers from around the diocese in the narthex after the Mass. All are welcome!



Retired State Police Captain to Oversee Diocese's Youth Protection Programs



We are announcing that Captain Janet McNeal, who is retired from the Pennsylvania State Police, will oversee our Youth Protection programs. Captain McNeal has 26 years of law enforcement investigative and policy development experience, including serving as the chief administrator for the Megan's Law Sexual Offender Registry for the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Deeply Rooted Family Workshop

For parents seeking to deepen their family's spiritual life and lead their children to holiness. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Mechanicsburg is hosting a family workshop for parents, grandparents and children on **January 12, 2019 from 9 AM to 1 PM.** Workshop sessions, children's programming and lunch will be provided for a **\$30 registration fee.** Workshops being offered are: ***In the World, but not of the World*** presented by Eva Gontis; ***The Selfie Generation, Mass and the None-ers*** presented by Kent Smithmyer; ***The 21st Century Family's Guide to Pro-Life*** presented by Maria Gallagher; ***The Liturgy of the Domestic Church*** presented by Mike & Kristine Creavey; ***Youth, Culture and Faith*** presented by Tom Fertal and ***Making the Works of Mercy Your Bucket List*** presented by Sister Emily Vincent. Visit www.steas.net/family to register OR check with the parish office for a paper registration form.



Items Needed

The auction committee is looking for handmade, new, or gently used items to be auctioned off at our **Benefit Auction on April 28, 2019.** If you would like to donate an item, please contact Ashley Henry at the Parish Office at 717-242-2781.



Join Us

It is time to start planning the **21st Annual SHS Benefit Auction.** This year's auction will be held on **Sunday, April 28, 2019** at the Mifflin County Youth Park. A Spaghetti Dinner will be held the night before on Saturday, April 27th. **The next auction planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28th at 6 PM at SHS school.**

Diocese Night with the Hershey Bears

Celebrate Catholic Schools' Week with the **Hershey Bears Hockey Team vs. Laval Rockets at the Giant Center in Hershey on Saturday, January 26, 2019**



at 7 PM. This fun-filled action packed night at the Giant center is open to all and is a great way to celebrate Catholic Schools! Discounted tickets are available for \$16.00 each for all ages, from the regular admission price of \$25.00. **Deadline to order is Friday, January 18, 2019.** For more information contact jdise@HersheyPA.com.

Tickets Are Now on Sale!!

***Puttin' on the Glitz*, the 10th Annual Sacred Heart School Gala, will be held on February 2, 2019** at the Lewistown Country Club. **Tickets are NOW available at the Sacred Heart Parish Office, \$60** until January 20th and \$70 from January 21st till sold out. Tickets will be available after Masses in January. Join us for a night of great food, music and dancing, door prizes and special games of chance!!



Love and Support Shown to Others



Advent lays out the direction of the season. We renew our spirit as we focus on God's good plan for us. Lamentations 3:22-23 tells us "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Just as the moon on the new fallen snow, the beauty of the season renews each of us. The love and support shown to others in need renews our St. Vincent spirit and guides us into the new year with hope and joy. We thank you for your kindness, your generous donations and your realization that we are indeed here to aid our brothers and sisters in need. As we continue to follow God's plan in 2019, please remember those who are less fortunate who just require some help with basic needs, many that we take for granted.

The St. Vincent dePaul Board of Directors hope you have a Happy New Year full of joy and hope in the faithfulness of our Lord.



Extend mercy toward others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping!

Contact us at:

stvincentdepaullewistown@gmail.com



Please plan to join us for the St. Jude's Parish Epiphany of our Lord Celebration dinner to be held on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 5:00pm. A special program that includes music and a visit by the Three Kings is planned. The parish will be providing the meats and beverages. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish and a dessert. Sign-up sheets asking for a listing of the number attending and the covered dish that you plan to bring are in the social hall. We hope to see you at this festive parish celebration.

Bishop's Listening Sessions

Bishop Gainer invites all members of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish to attend a Listening Session on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at Saint Catherine Laboure Parish, 4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA at 7:00pm. Bishop Gainer will address concerns regarding the Grand Jury Report, the Diocese's response to abuse, our path forward, and any other questions or concern from parishioners. If you are unable to attend this or any other Listening Session, but would still like to ask Bishop Gainer a question, please email your question to

AskBishopGainer@hbgdiocese.org.



The cookie walk was another Success!!!

The St. Jude Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who helped in any way towards the Annual Cookie Walk, Candy, Crafts, and White Elephant Sale. Our profit was over \$2,000.00 that will go towards projects for our Parish. This year the combined effort of new bakers with an abundant variety of delicious cookies provided sales at the Cookie Walk, with extra boxes to sell after mass. We hope to continue this event. The Knights have already selected their cookie choices for 2019. Thank you again and have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

See you next year !

Wild Goose Series- Please mark your calendars and join us Sunday evenings at 5:30pm, January 20-February 24, 2019 for the second half of this beautiful series on the Holy Spirit. Please join us even if you have not attended the prior sessions. Each session begins with a pot-luck dinner followed by a video, reflection and discussion. Our next segment on January 20 is Fruits of the Holy Spirit. While there is no cost for the sessions, we ask that you register for the series to help in preparing the materials. If you have any questions please contact Ralph Perez at 717-543-1905.