

December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

Stewardship is a Way of Life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of November 22, 2020:

Regular: \$1,458.00

Tithing income for the week of November 29, 2020:

Regular \$2,696.25

Mass Attendance for November 28, 2020 28

Mass Attendance for November 29, 2020 67

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to
those who have
given a lifetime.



Thanks for giving! "We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year," says a Catholic sister. "Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters." Thank you for donating last week.



Reorganization Update from Bishop Gainer



My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a year 2020 has become. Who would have thought that a global pandemic would impact every continent and continue to affect our daily lives, eight months after it reached our Diocese? I pray you and your loved ones have been safe during this time.

I am writing to you today as we have reached a milestone in the reorganization process for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg (RCDH). As you may know, November 13, 2020 was established by the bankruptcy court as the last day—or the bar date—for creditors, including survivors of abuse, to file claims against the RCDH. Having passed the bar date, we have received claims on behalf of approximately 59 survivors.

The next phase of the reorganization process, which is already in motion, is mediation regarding the claims asserted by survivors. Through this mediation, the survivors (either individually or through a committee representing their interests), our present and historical

insurance providers, the RCDH, and the parishes and schools will work together in an effort to reach a consensual resolution of the survivor claims asserted against the RCDH.

As we explained when this process started in February, the RCDH's financial situation had been in a challenging position for several years prior to the Grand Jury Subpoena. That investigation and the legal costs we incurred took its toll on our financial situation, leaving us with no other path forward than to file for Chapter 11 protections and seek to reorganize. Once this process is complete, our Diocese will have a much stronger foundation to build, and rebuild, upon.

We still have several months of mediation ahead of us and we will do our best to keep you informed of milestone actions, when possible. As we move through this process, I encourage you to visit www.hbgdiocese.org/reorganization-information for the most up-to-date information.

I fully understand that the past several years have been very difficult on our priests, deacons, religious, employees and most especially, each of you. There is no excuse, there is no justification for the RCDH's horrific past regarding clergy sexual abuse. I continue to offer my most profound apology to all those survivors of clergy abuse and to pray they will find healing. I also thank each of you for your continued faith, especially when it has been repeatedly tested.

I humbly ask for your prayers for our Diocese as we continue this process. May God grant us every grace needed during this difficult time. May Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, intercede with Her Son to be our strength and support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week

And Weekly Readings



Saturday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19;
Luke 1:39-47

5:30 PM Arthur Montrey

Sunday, December 13: Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1
Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

9:15 AM Lorraine Hazard

**Monday, December 14: St John of the Cross,
Priest & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)**

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9;
Matthew 21:23-27

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 15: Advent Weekday

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23;
Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16: Advent Weekday

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21b-25; Psalm 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14;
Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17: Advent Weekday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Matthew
1:1-17

Friday, December 18: Advent Weekday

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-
25

Saturday, December 19: Advent Weekday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Luke
1:5-25

5:30 PM Steve Graham

Sunday, December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

9:15 AM People of the Parish

LITURGICAL WORSHIP AIDS

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed,
the Lord is near.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and
sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in
my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to
do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most
grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and
sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you,
we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord
Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy
One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen

Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my god.

Profession of Faith (Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in
one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light
from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were
made. For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, (bow) *and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was
crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was
buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have
no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with
the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has
spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for
the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and life of the world to come.
Amen

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth
are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
he who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.

(For those who are watching from home)

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

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our
protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O
Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the Power of God, cast
into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the
world seeking the ruin of souls.

Daily Readings For Advent

***“Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet, a light for my
path.” - Psalm 119:105***

Third Week of Advent

Sunday	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Monday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Tuesday	Jeremiah 23:5-8
Wednesday	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Thursday	Isaiah 7:10-14
Friday	Luke 1:5-25
Saturday	Luke 1:26-38



Angel Tree:

We will be doing the Angel Tree, but in a modified way. Due to the virus we are not permitted to hang Angels on the Angel Tree. Crossroads Pregnancy has been contacted and indicate they could use the following items: fitted crib sheets, bibs, socks size 0 to 3, and size 3 to 6, little stuffed animals, baby lotion, and pacifiers. The gifts need not be wrapped, and can be placed in the container in the vestibule. Also, Head Start is in need of hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks. Any size from newborn up to five years old. Please wrap these and label them by what is inside. Ex. Gloves for 3-year-old boy or girl. Donations will be accepted from November 29th through and including December 13th. Ginger Best is coordinating this effort, please contact her with any questions at 717-734-3048. Thank you so much!

Announcements for the Bulletin:

Please have your announcements for the bulletin to the church office by Wednesday afternoon no later than 1:00 p.m.

CCD Teachers and Substitutes:

CCD Teachers and substitutes are needed. Please speak with Father Bill or Ginger Best.

Cookie Walk:

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the Women's Guild will not hold its annual cookie walk this year. The Guild uses the funds from the cookie walk for its annual projects. Donations to the Guild are appreciated.

Christmas Masses:

December 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

December 24, 2020 at 8:00 p.m.

December 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Father Weary Health Report:

Thanksgiving brought much for me in terms of gratitude. I dodged a cancer bullet. My PSAs went up pretty high from 5.5. to 11.5, so the doctor ordered a biopsy, November 2, telling me, "50 percent chance it's prostate cancer, 50 percent chance it's an inflammation."

I had never had a biopsy before and I don't want another one, ever again, if possible. They took 14 snippets out of my prostate area, local anesthesia and, yes, it was painful.

I was at peace during the ensuing 10 days, awaiting the test results. I placed it in God's hands, figuring there was nothing I could do but pray, which I did, and had others praying as well, (although, the doctor suggested I not tell anyone until results came in.)

Results? Negative! Thank you, Jesus! Apparently it was some sort of inflammation after all.

A few days later, I got a flare-up of pain and extreme difficulty in urinating and the doctor thought it was a urinary tract infection. He ordered a urinalysis, which also came back negative! No infection – but what was causing this pain? Just inflammation from the biopsy, the doctor said. But it went on for several days. And then the pain left. And I'm back to normal now. God is good. Thanks to all who were praying for me and may we sustain thankfulness throughout the year, in all circumstances.

Peace, Father Bill

Parish Office Closed

Under direction of the Diocese of Harrisburg due to the severity and concern of the COVID-19 virus the **Parish Office once again is closed.**

Non-essential visitors entering the Parish

Office are prohibited. Both priests, the parish secretary and office personnel will still be available via phone at 717-242-2781 or email at shparishoffice@sacredheartlewistown.com.

Parishioners are reminded that you may pay your tithe online, by mailing your collection envelope to the parish office or by placing your envelope in the drop box, bolted to the rectory wall by the garage. Please visit our website frequently for updated information at www.SacredHeartLewistown.com. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause our parishioners. **Thank you for your understanding.**



Attention Parishioners

According to a recent directive received from the Diocese of Harrisburg, we will be continuing to prop the front doors of the church open prior to each mass to avoid repeated touching of the door handles, as well as continuing to open the windows and run the ceiling fans indefinitely, to provide proper ventilation during mass. We realize that the outside temperatures continue to drop, but we **must** adhere to these directives for the safety of all those coming to Mass despite the colder temperatures. **Please dress accordingly for your comfort during Mass.** As space is still limited, parishioners are reminded to arrive at least 15 minutes early for Mass. For your safety, the front and side doors will be locked when Mass begins.

Guidelines For Mass

- ❖ Masks **must** be worn at all times.
- ❖ Remain 6 ft. apart.
- ❖ Ushers will seat you at the beginning of Mass and dismiss you at the end of Mass.
- ❖ Confessions are heard in the rectory garage on Wed., 6:30-6:45 PM & Sat., 3:00-3:45 PM
- ❖ Only permitted to fill the church to approx. 1/3 capacity. Space is limited; please come early. Sunday Mass obligation is still suspended. You may want to consider attending a weekly Mass in place of Sunday.
- ❖ Doors are locked during Mass for your safety.
- ❖ The restroom is available but **must be sanitized after each use.** Please clean the restroom after use according to the directions posted inside. Children must be accompanied by an adult & the adult must clean the restroom after the child is finished
- ❖ Crying room is closed.
- ❖ Collection basket will not be passed. Place your collection in 1 of the 2 locked collection boxes provided. Collection boxes are located in the Vestibule area or at the front of the church by the handicap door.
- ❖ Votive candles are not accessible at this time. If you would like a candle lit, call the parish office and they will have a sacristan light a candle for you. Your donation may be put in the collection box.
- ❖ Father will distribute Communion at the **end** of Mass from the altar area.
- ❖ Take all belongings with you and go single file up to the altar area. Right before receiving Communion drop one side of your mask and immediately put it back on after the Eucharist is in your mouth. Put one hand on top of the other palm side up. Father will try not to touch your hand. After receiving Communion proceed out the handicap door. If you are not receiving Communion just follow the flow of people as they proceed out the door.

These guidelines are an act of charity and out of concern for your safety and not an infringement upon your personal rights. Thank you for your continued cooperation. Your diligence in adhering to these guidelines helps to prevent

further safety concerns for our parishioners. **These guidelines are not optional.**



Mifflin County Covid-19 Relief Grant Awarded

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish and School were selected by the Mifflin County Commissioners as one of the non-profit organizations to be awarded a Mifflin County Covid-19 Relief Grant in the amount of \$35,000! Sue Parzanese, Finance Manager, received notice of the grant opportunity in early November, with a short two-week application process. The second wave of grants, which raised the income threshold to \$1.5 million, allowed us to be eligible to apply. Mifflin County Commissioners said that "the state government has allocated \$4.1 million in CARES Act money to Mifflin County, which the commissioners decided to use to assist local businesses and nonprofits in addition to increasing local broadband internet access. *"A virus cannot define a community,"* Planning Director Mark Colussy said on the website. *We can restore our county to be better and stronger than ever. By providing funding to our businesses, non-profits, broadband providers and municipalities, money will be in the hands of the people who can directly improve our lives in a pandemic."* We understand that \$4.1 million will not completely alleviate the losses our communities have endured," the commissioners wrote on the website. *"It is our hope these dollars will be a shot-in-the-arm, filling in holes that might be left from businesses and organizations who were able to qualify for U.S. Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program/PPP, Economic Injury Disaster Loan/EIDL program or Pennsylvania's Certified Development Finance Institutions/CDFI grant program."* Since the pandemic forced our school and church to shut down in March, we have lost \$93,397.00 in revenues, due to reduced Sunday and tuition collections and limited opportunities to complete fund raising events, as well as increased expenses at the school and parish to provide safe environments in which to worship, work and learn. Although we received a PPP Loan of \$141,500 and CARES Act money from the Mifflin County School District, we continue to struggle to make ends meet in our budget. This additional \$35,000 will enable us to continue paying our staff and pay our bills, which continue to mount. We thank the County for providing us the opportunity to receive this funding as we continue our mission.

Help Support Scouts Boy Scout Troop 2 is selling Christmas trees again this year. A variety of fresh cut trees including Douglas Fir, Blue Spruce, Concolor Fir, Fraser Fir, Colorado Blue and Cork Bark Fir are being offered. Hours of operation are weeknights 4-8 PM, Saturdays 10-8 PM and Sundays 1-5 PM. The stand is located on Electric Avenue near the Lewistown Creamery. **Help support Troop 2 of which some of our parish's youth are members. Money earned help the boys in the troop pay for scouting activities.**





SCHOOL NEWS

Substitute Teacher Needed

A long-term substitute teacher is needed in the 5th grade classroom at Sacred Heart School. This position will run from January 2021 through the end of the school year while Mrs. Hardin, 5th grade teacher, is on maternity leave. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in a substitute teaching position, please contact one of the co-administrators at Sacred Heart School at 717-248-5351 or email at principal@sacredheartschool.com.



Building a WEIS Future

Educational technology and funding changes daily. To keep up with these changes and expenses, Sacred Heart School is partnering with Weis Markets in the **Weis 4 School** program. By participating in this program, we can earn money for our school simply by shopping as we all do every day. **When you shop at Weis, scan the barcode below to register your Weis Club Card.** Once you register, you are in the program and you do not need to register again. Please share this barcode with your friends and relatives so they can earn points for our school too. **Thank you for supporting our school with much needed funding!**

