

December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Stewardship is a Way of Life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of December 6, 2020
\$1,450.00

Tithing income for the week of December 13, 2020
\$4,073.96

Mass Attendance for December 12, 2020 17
Mass Attendance for December 13, 2020 47



Altar Flowers for December 20, 2020 are in memory of
Veronica Ewing, granddaughter of Marie Dawson.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

"Mary said to the angel: 'How can this be, since I do not know man?' The angel answered her: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the most high will overshadow you, hence the holy offspring to be born will be called the Son of God... Mary said, 'I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done unto me as you say.' With that the angel left her... The word became flesh and he made his dwelling among us."

Because we are caught up in so many activities, it is easy for us to miss the importance of the visit of the messenger to Mary. She was being asked to redirect the history of the world. She raised a logical question, and through the Spirit, was answered, for our well being she said 'yes.'

Did you ever wonder what the young Jewish girl was doing when Gabriel came? Was she praying, doing household chores? Was she startled, afraid or curious? Before she went to Elizabeth did she tell her parents or Joseph? How would or respond? The great Saint Bernard said, 'Hurry up Mary, the world is waiting for your answer.'

The same Lord wishes to make His dwelling with us. Are we ready?

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

King David plans to build a temple to honor God. But God tells Nathan the Prophet that instead he will give David rest from his enemies, and ensure that both his house and community will be protected forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

In this letter of Paul to the Romans, he explains that the gospel reveals the mystery that had been hidden for many ages. Now it has been made known to all, so that they may believe, obey, and give glory through Jesus Christ forever.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Virgin Mary is approached by the angel Gabriel, who tells her that she has been chosen to bear the Son of God. Mary is first afraid, yet shows her unquestioning faith when she simply says, "Let it be done to me as you say."

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the
Intentions  for the
Week
And Weekly Readings



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 Steven Graham from Shirley Baade

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

Monday, December 21: Advent Weekday

Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Luke 1:39-45

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 22: Advent Weekday

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

Wednesday, December 23: Advent Weekday

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14; Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, 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 from Shane Ar

8:00 PM People of the Parish

Friday, 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 Jack and Patricia Marshall

Saturday, 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

5:30 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, December 27: The Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9;
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

9:15 AM Steven Graham from the Perez Family

LITURGICAL WORSHIP AIDS

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Savior.

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

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

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

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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

Fourth Week of Advent

Sunday	Micah 5:1-4
Monday	Song of Songs 2:8-14
Tuesday	Luke 1:57-66
Wednesday	Luke 1:67-79



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.

Fish for Sale! Knights of Columbus

Anyone interested in purchasing baked fish, the cost is \$20.00 per box. Please write your name and phone number on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Joe Zarnowski at 908-892-0271.

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.

PERMANENT DEACONS:

Men interested in joining the next class of those studying to become permanent deacons should contact Father Weary now for an initial interview. The deadline for applying to this five-year program is March 1, 2020. May God guide those interested in the diaconate during their spiritual journey of discernment.

CCD: CCD classes will resume January 3, 2021. CCD classes will continue regardless of whether regular school sessions resume. If you have any questions, please contact Ginger Best.

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@sacredheartlewisstown.com.

Parishioners are reminded that you may pay your tithes 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.**

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.

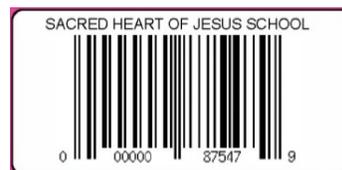
- ❖ Father will distribute Communion at the **end** of Mass from the altar area.
- ❖ Take all belongings with you and go single file up to the altar area. Right before receiving Communion drop one side of your mask and immediately put it back on after the Eucharist is in your mouth. Put one hand on top 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.**



Job Opportunity at St. Theresa School:

Saint Theresa School is seeking a **Director of Marketing, EITC & Development**. This position is designed to implement a comprehensive marketing, EITC (Education Improvement Tax Credit), and development program for funding a portion of the school budget. Interested candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in communications and/or marketing or an equivalent combination of education and experience in a comparable field. Experience in marketing and development preferred. Candidates are expected to uphold the values of the Catholic Church and St. Theresa School. This is a part-time opportunity: approximately 25 hours/week \$20.75 - \$25.95 per hour depending on experience. Not benefit eligible. Candidates will have to go through background/clearances and other training. Cover Letter and Resume can be submitted via email to Mr. Matthew E. Shore at mshore@sainttheresaschool.org or by mail to 1200 Bridge Street; New Cumberland, PA 17070.



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!**