

December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent

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

Tithing income for the week of November 21, 2021:	
Regular:	\$1,745.20
Tithing income for the week of November 28, 2021:	
Regular	\$3,353.73
Capital Improvement week of November 28, 2021:	
	\$200.00
Tithing income for the week of December 5, 2021:	
	Not available

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021

"Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, rejoice. Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds, present your needs to God in every form of prayer and of petitions full of gratitude."

Surely we are making many, many plans. Halfway through advent and we are told, 'rejoice, be happy.' Even with all difficulties, take a moment, 'for the Lord is near.' Take a moment to thank Him for coming. Take a moment, look around, and see how blessed you are.

Don't you have a reason for gratitude and joy? Doesn't your faith allow you to express thanks for others, for life, for family? Bring those people and their needs to the Lord in your plans and prayer. 'See how unselfish' you can be. May the closing words of the bible be your mantra this week: 'Come Lord Jesus.'

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

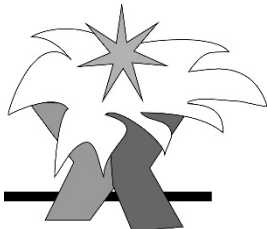
Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow his peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap."



LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*



And Weekly Readings

Saturday, December 11: Advent Weekday

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

5:30 PM Steven Zehringer

Sunday, December 12: Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a (9C); Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

9:15 AM Lorraine Hazard from Shane Armstrong

1:00 PM People of the Parish

Monday, December 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)

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

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 14: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church (Memorial)

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

Wednesday, December 15: Advent Weekday

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

Thursday, December 16: Advent Weekday

Isaiah 54:1-10; Psalm 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b;
Luke 7:24-30

Friday, December 17: Advent Weekday

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

Saturday, December 18: Advent Weekday

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

5:30 PM David L. Swigart from Daniel Swigart

Sunday, December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a (12C); Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

9:15 AM Gloria Rocco from Knights of Columbus

1:00 PM People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

December 24th Vigil Mass – 6:00 p.m. with music beginning at 5:30 p.m.

December 25th - 10:00 a.m. *There is no Saturday evening mass on December 25th

January 1st – 10:00 a.m. *There is no Saturday evening mass on January 1st

WOMEN'S GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER HAS BEEN CANCELLED:

The Women's Guild Christmas Dinner for December 15, 2021 has been cancelled due to illness of the chef.

ATTENTION YOURH AND ADULTS: JOIN THE MARCH FOR LIFE ON JANUARY 21, 2022:

Please join us and thousands of other pro-life youth and adults for a one-day trip to the annual March for Life on the National Mall in Washington D.C., Friday, January 21, 2022. Yoder Tourways will load passengers at both Sacred Heart and St. Jude parishes early in the morning of the March. On the way, we will make an interesting side trip to one of three possible locations. We are in the beginning stages of planning for this event, so more details will follow in coming bulletins.

If you are Interested, youth and adults can register by signing up on the sheet available in the social hall or by emailing Karen Thome, kkthome@centurylink.net, as soon as possible so that we can finalize plans.

Once we know approximately how many will attend, we can estimate the cost/person. We try to keep it as low as possible by asking for donations. If you cannot attend but would like to sponsor a youth or make a donation to sponsor the trip, we would be most grateful.

More details to come, but, in the meantime, **please sign-up on the sheet in the social hall as soon as possible.**

Any questions or to make a donation contact Karen Thome, kkthome@centurylink.net, 717-348-8051.

ALTAR SERVERS: Anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server, please contact David Treaster at 717-436-2968.

A CHRISTMAS CHOIR!

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for those who would like to participate in the Christmas Eve Choir. If you have a special musical talent (singing, musical instrument) let us know if you would like to share your talent with the congregation. If you have any questions, please see Megan Miller or contact her at 717-527-4426 or mfitz6@hotmail.com. Practices will be brief and commence at 10:30 a.m. following the Sunday morning mass.

UPDATE YOUR HOME ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

If you have moved or changed your phone number, please e-mail the office at rectory@stjudemiffliintown.org or give your updated information to Alice Arnold. Thank you!

New Sacred Heart Parish Office Hours

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL NOW BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS. Our office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Rectory Open House Christmas Party

Father Weary's Rectory Open House Christmas Party will be held on **Sunday, December 12th from 3-5PM.** All are welcome to join us for this annual celebration. Snacks and drinks will be provide



Ministry Schedule: December 11-12

Sat. 5:30 PM

Lector: C. Fitzgerald

Cantor: M. Kerchusky

Altar Server: J. Zarnowski

Usher: T. Kerchusky

Sun. 9:15 AM

Lector: T. Ober

Cantor: A. Arnold

Altar Server: St. Michael's Guard

Usher: D. Ames, P. Ames

Ministry Schedule: December 18-25

Sat. 5:30 PM

Lector: M. Tonge

Cantor: M. Kerchusky

Altar Server: J. Zarnowski

Usher: T. Kerchusky

Sun. 9:15 AM

Lector: T. Kromel

Cantor: R. Perez

Altar Server: C. Schall, D. Miller

Usher: S. Arnold, L. Bastian

Friday, December 24 Christmas Eve 6:00 PM

Lector: C. Fitzgerald

Cantor: M. Miller and Choir

Altar Server: St. Michael's Guard

Usher: D. Ames, P. Ames

Saturday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Lector: M. Tonge

Cantor: A. Arnold

Altar Server: TBA

Usher: TBA

NO 5:30 PM MASS on Christmas Day

FAITH MATTERS

With Fr. Peter Rettig
How's your Prayer life?

Something that's been resonating in my soul past few weeks is the importance of silence. And when I refer to silence, I don't necessarily mean lack of noise – I mean a lack of all distractions from within. Even my daily holy hour with Fr. Bill seems to be threatened by an inundation of random thoughts. I sit in silence, breathe, bask in God's presence and, all of a sudden, I think about an email I have to send or a reminder on my calendar I have to set. Yes, even as a priest it takes discipline for me to keep my eye on the prize (God) while I'm praying. Practicing what I preach is hard, but I want to challenge you this Advent to make time for silent prayer. And I want you to challenge me, too! Pull me aside and ask me how my prayer is going these next three weeks! Silence is key



to our relationship with God. There are times for prayer with verbal responses, like at Mass or the Rosary. In that sense, we are praying as a community for and with each other. But we truly nourish our relationship with God through silent prayer. So be intentional. Cut out time for you and God this Advent. If our relationship with God boiled down to a recipe, it would be the simplest recipe in the world! It only requires two ingredients and one step! It's easier than no-bake cookies or jailhouse chili! The recipe would look like this:

*****Cut out the below recipe and put it in your quiet place where you can see it every day.*****

Recipe for Fruitful Prayer

You will Need:

1. Love for God
2. Silence

Step 1 (Only Step): Thoroughly mix your love for God with at least five minutes of silence per day. **What do you want to tell God? What does he say back?**

That's it... Start with just 5 minutes in the morning when you sip your coffee. If you're used to reading the news in the morning, just set it aside for five minutes and talk to God. Then read the news after. I find my most critical time of the day is the first hour where I talk to God over coffee. You and I can make a difference this Advent through prayer. Pray for me and I will pray for you that we are prepared for Christ's coming on Christmas Eve. God bless you!

Fund-raiser Tuesdays at Harshbarger's

Sacred Heart School is hosting a Harshbarger's **Sub 'n Malt Fundraiser Night this Tuesday, December 14.** Take the coupon available in the Narthex or shown below to either Harshbarger's location (McVeytown or Port Royal) and they will give the school **25%** of the sale total. This includes purchases toward dine-in, take out, and ice cream sales, as well as gift certificates...just in time for Christmas! Enjoy Fabulous Food in the 50's Mood and help support Sacred Heart School all at the same time!



Check This Out

The Knights of Columbus sponsored billboards with the theme **“Keep Christ in Christmas”** may now be viewed on Highway 322 West. **One billboard is located on 322 W, just past the Clarion Inn exit, by Daubert's Trucking and the second is on the right side of 322 E, past Red's Diner heading toward Mifflintown.**

Sacred Heart School students **George Grove** and **Jocie Wert** were the talented winners whose posters were turned into billboards. The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the students of our parish and Sacred Heart School who are fantastic artists and submitted posters. **It's important to remember Christ at Christmas and that he gave us the ultimate gift.**



SCHOOL NEWS

Shade Mountain Shop-In-Fundraiser

Shade Mountain Naturals The Shade Mountain Shopping day for our SHS HSA fundraiser will be **December 6-December 11.** Anyone who shops on those dates will get a % of their sales. This can be at their Lewistown location or online. **When shopping in person or online you need to mention you are shopping for the SHS HSA fundraiser.** More info can be found at www.shade-mountain.com.



SAVE THE DATE -SACRED HEART GALA IS BACK!!



A rogue Catholic congregation is meeting at a local fire hall claiming to celebrate Mass Sunday afternoons. There seems to be a priest associated with this gathering but it is uncertain if he has valid Holy Orders. I have notified Bishop Ronald Gainer of this splinter organization which is very sympathetic to the same sex attraction agenda. Below is a statement issued by the bishop's office.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SACRED HEART PARISH, LEWISTOWN AND SAINT JUDE THADDEUS PARISH, MIFFLINTOWN:

Periodically, groups which are not affiliated with the Catholic Church attempt to portray themselves as truly Catholic. Their ministers may present themselves as Catholic priests, and their services may contain elements of the Catholic Mass. In recent years, these groups have included the "American Catholic Church," the "Independent Catholic Church," the "Old Catholic Church," and the "Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Mission." The Diocese of Harrisburg wishes to inform all faithful Catholics that these groups are not in any manner affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Their prayers and services are not licit sacraments. Attendance at their services does not satisfy the obligation of Catholics to participate in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation. It is important for Catholics to remember that an essential element and obligation of Catholic identity is communion with the local bishop, and with the successor of Peter, the Pope. All of these groups lack this element of Catholic identity, and many of their doctrines deny authentic Catholic teaching. Any Catholic who willingly joins or embraces the teachings of one of these dissident sects or groups is in schism with the Catholic Church and is subject to the penalty of excommunication.

PRAYER REQUEST

Cheryl and George Miller of Mifflin request prayers for healing for themselves and their son, Robbie Miller. They are recovering from Covid.

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

Genevieve Gregos
Steven Graham
Nicholas Spak
Mary Ann Truitt

John T. Kromel
William Nash
Roseanne Spak