

December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Tithing income for the week of December 5, 2021:

Regular: \$2,509.75

Tithing:

Matthew 25 \$20.00

Retirement \$20.00

Immaculate Conception \$155.00

Capital Improvements \$90.00

Christmas Flowers \$185.00

Tithing income for the week of November 28, 2021:

Regular: \$3,353.73

Capital Improvements \$200.00



A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021

"Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does it happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.'"

A few short days for us to allow the Lord of history into our lives again. Finding the two pregnant mothers to be meeting and greeting is not unlike what will transpire in our lives with Christmas visits.

The words exchanged, words we pray daily in the Hail Mary, are sacred biblical words. The question Elizabeth asks is ours: 'how does it happen that the mother of my Lord should come to me?' Mary is present to us in so many ways as model, protector, mother.

The next question is ours: How is it that my Savior should come to me? Because of His love He took on our humanity, to give us grace and allow us to be part of His divinity. Let the encounter of the relatives lead us to our encounter with Jesus this week.

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.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the Intentions  for the Week



And Weekly Readings

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 the Knights of Columbus

1:30 PM People of the Parish

Monday, December 20: Advent Weekday

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6;

Luke 1:26-38

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 21: Advent Weekday

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

Luke 1:39-45

Wednesday, December 22: Advent Weekday

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

Luke 1:46-56

Thursday, December 23: Advent Weekday

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

Luke 1:57-66

Friday, December 24: The Nativity of the Lord Vigil

Mass

Isaiah 62:1-5 (13ABC); Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts

of the Apostles 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or

1:18-25

6:00 PM Phyllis Davis from Shane Armstrong

10:00 PM People of the Parish

Saturday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:1-6, (14ABC); Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13;

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

10:00 AM Jose Luis Garcia

Sunday, December 26: The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 (17C); Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10;

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52

9:15 AM John and Sarah Gerberich from Bill

Gerberich

1:30 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

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.

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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Cookie Walk! The donation of your time and talents was greatly appreciated.



Ministry Schedule: December 18-19

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

December 26, 2021 9:15AM

Lector: J. Fitzgerald

Cantor: A. Arnold

Altar Servers: St. Michael's Guard

Ushers: 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

Mary Ann Truitt

Sacred Heart Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, December 24th** and remain closed through **Monday, December 27th** in observance of Christmas. The office will reopen

on Tuesday, Dec. 28th. The office will be closed on **Friday, December 31st** in observance of New Years.



FAITH MATTERS

With Fr. Peter Rettig

How's your Prayer life?



Something that's been resonating in my soul the 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

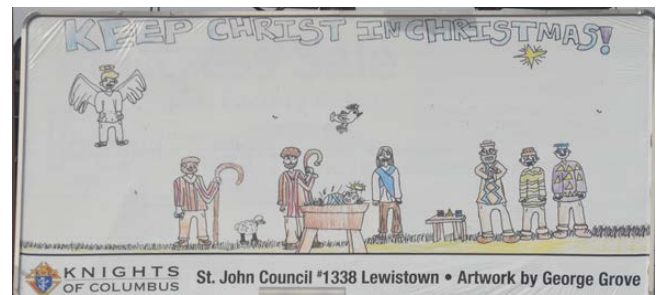
Step 1 (Only Step): Thoroughly mix your love for God with at least five minutes of silence per day. What do you want to tell God? What does he say back?

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!

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.**



SHS Gala, **RAISE THE STAKES**, will be held on Saturday, **Feb. 5, 2022** at the **Lewistown Country Club**. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office; prices are **\$60** per person through Jan. 28th and **\$70** Jan. 29th thru Feb. 3st.



SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Pie Pick-up

Pies ordered from Sacred Heart School will be available for pick-up at the school on December 22. There is an early dismissal that day so pies must be picked up by 11:15AM.



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.