

January 2, 2022 The Epiphany of the Lord

Stewardship is a Way of Life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income for the week of December 19, 2021:

Regular: \$1,687.00

Christmas Offering: \$625.00

SECURITY AT SACRED HEART

For two years, Sacred Heart has had security teams present at every Thursday's Children's Mass, weekend Masses and other major liturgies throughout the year. There are trained persons present to intervene in case of any incident arising that would need attention. There is a security committee also in place that meets regularly to discuss security concerns and to fine tune appropriate protocol. Parishioners can feel confident and safe during time of worship because of these measures in place.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 2, 2022



“It was not made known to people of other generations as it has been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”

We recall with fondness the visit of the Magi, astrologers and kings. We admire the gifts and honor they brought. Imagine the warmth and gratitude of Mary and Joseph, following the songs of the angels and greetings of the humble shepherds.

Today we fast forward and learn through St. Paul the fruit of the visits. We are the beneficiaries – coheirs, recipients of the same grace, participants in the body of Christ, and copartners, with responsibilities to bring and reveal Jesus to others.

I bring my gift and share the gift of Jesus with others.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah rejoices over the light and glory that will shine upon Jerusalem. He describes how the wealth of nations will be brought to Jerusalem, and travelers will arrive bearing gifts and praising God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul explains to the Ephesians that the Gentiles are now co-heirs with the Jews. Through Jesus, they became members of the same body. Therefore, they would

receive everything God had promised the Jewish converts if they followed Christ's teachings.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Astrologers from the east came looking for the newborn king of the Jews, which greatly disturbed King Herod. Herod wanted to kill Jesus, and asked the astrologers to return and tell him where Jesus was. The astrologers found Jesus and brought him gifts, but received a message in a dream telling them not to return to Herod.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions for the Week

And Weekly Readings



Saturday, January 1: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27 (18ABC), Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

10:00 AM Jack & Patricia Marshall

From Scott & Alice Arnold

Sunday, January 2: The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

9:15 AM Charles Ames from Dan Ames

1:30 PM People of the Parish

Monday, January 3: Christmas Weekday

1 John 3:22-4:6; Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Tuesday, January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious (Memorial)

1 John 4:7-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8; Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday, January 5: St. John Neumann, Bishop (Memorial)

1 John 4:11-18; Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13;

Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, January 6: Christmas Weekday

1 John 4:19-5:4; Psalm 72:1-2, 14 & 15bc, 17;

Luke 4:14-22

Friday, January 7: Christmas Weekday

1 John 5:5-13; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20;

Luke 5:12-16

9:00 AM People of the Parish

Saturday, January 8: Christmas Weekday

1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; John 3:22-30

5:30 PM Jose Luis Garcia

Sunday, January 9: The Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (21C); Psalm 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

9:15 AM People of the Parish

1:30 PM People of the Parish

UPDATED COVID PREVENTION PRACTICES

With the current surge in COVID-19 positive cases and hospitalizations in our area, the following practices are suggested by the Diocese of Harrisburg for parishes as we enter the Christmas season and the month of January.

- Parishioners are encouraged to wear masks.
- All liturgical ministers (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Altar Servers, Greeters and Ushers should wear masks, except when proclaiming the Scripture readings and when receiving Holy Communion.
- Choirs and groups of singers should consider wearing masks when singing.
- The communal invitation to the Sign of Peace is suspended at this time.
- Sanitization of pews and other common spaces is strongly encouraged after large gatherings.
- Ventilation of spaces with fresh air is encouraged whenever possible.

We are further tweaking our Coronavirus prevention measures by having priests sanitize their hands, but only if they inadvertently touch someone's tongue when giving out communion. We hope this measure further advances the health and wellbeing of our congregation members. **Thank you for your patience during these difficult times. With much prayer and mutual charity, we will persevere and eventually prevail, but only through God's grace.**

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	Mary Tonge

FIRST FRIDAY: January 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
Mass will be followed by adoration.

MASS SCHEDULE:

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 YOUTH 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@stjudemifflintown.org or give your updated information to Alice Arnold. Thank you!



Ministry Schedule: January 1-2
Saturday, January 1, 2021 10:00 AM
Lector: T. Ober
Cantor: A. Arnold
Altar Server: TBA
Usher: S. Arnold, B. Auken
NO 5:30 PM MASS on New Year's Day

January 2, 2022 9:15AM Epiphany
Lector: J. Fitzgerald
Cantor: M. Miller
Altar Servers: St. Michael's Guard
Ushers:

Year-End Tax Statements

Please contact the Parish Office at 717-436-6722 or email the rectory at rectory@stjudemifflintown.org if you are in need of a year-end tax statement. In addition, the Office of Stewardship and Development at the Diocese will be happy to send, via email, a donor's record of giving if it is requested. The Diocese will no longer automatically send statements and their preference is to send statements electronically via email if requested. If you need a statement, please call the Office of Stewardship and Development at (717) 657-4804 ext. 245.



FAITH MATTERS

With Fr. Peter Rettig

“Where did you go to Christ-mas?...”

Fr. Peter, don't you mean, “Where did you celebrate Christmas?” No, I meant to ask, “Where did you go to Christmas?...” Breaking it down, “Christ-mas” literally means Christ's Mass. I find it interesting that some people who are indifferent or hostile towards the faith still embrace the word Christmas. Do they know that they're unintentionally acknowledging Christ's birth? Moreover, they're embracing the Catholic Faith because they say the word “Mass.” Do you know anybody who doesn't consider themselves Christian but still reaps all the benefits of Christmas? Personally, I'm conflicted. On one hand I see it as an abuse that many of my non-Christian family members reap the benefits of Christmas (presents, cookies and decorations). I believe they're confusing the means with the ends. They focus all their energy on the *how* of Christmas, that is, how they celebrate Christmas, which decorations to use, and which set of grandparents they're going to visit. Many have lost touch with the *what* of Christmas – Christ's birth. Christ is the reason for the season! One episode of Saturday Night Live I remember the host saying, “Christmas is all about friends and giving!” Actually, it's about Jesus Christ! Spending time with friends and giving presents is how we celebrate Christ's birth, but we must never confuse the means with the ends, the *how* with the *what*. On the other hand, I'm thankful that at least my non-Christian family members are open to saying the phrase “Merry Christmas.” This gives me comfort that they may someday come back to the Faith simply by embracing the phrase. On a more hostile level, some people try to ignore the Christian element of Christmas altogether by instead saying, “Happy Holidays.” Guess what, there's no escape; that's a Catholic phrase too! “Holidays” stems from “Holy-Days,” which were Catholic days of obligatory worship all throughout European history. Let's face it, Christ is the winner in every situation, even when it doesn't seem like people are giving him enough credit. Do we have any family members that celebrate Christmas while ignoring its source? If so, consider reminding them that the word Christmas is actually a profession of faith. May the Infant Jesus watch over you this Christmas season,

Fr. Peter Rettig

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered their time and talent during this year's Christmas Masses at Saint Jude Thaddeus Church to our Sacristans, Adult and Children's Choir Directors, Choir Members, Organists, EMHC's, Altar Servers, Knights of the Holy Temple, Lectors, Greeters, Cantors and Ushers for your willingness to serve. We pray that throughout 2022 our parish continues to thrive with the love of Jesus.



We have been presented the opportunity to hold a **NET Ministries** day retreat for youth on **Sunday, February 27** at the St. Jude Parish Hall in Mifflintown. **ALL middle schoolers and high schoolers from St. Jude and Sacred Heart Parishes are invited!** The NET retreat challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. The retreat is led by fully qualified college-aged volunteers. They will provide a day of spiritual nourishment for our youth. This year's retreat theme will be **One Church (The Catholic Church)**. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule of the church. Please mark your calendars. Look for additional information in upcoming bulletins.

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.



SCHOOL NEWS

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. 3rd.

