

November 27, 2011 – First Sunday of Advent

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income will be reported in the December 4th bulletin, due to the early Holiday submission

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
November 27, 2011

“...the witness I bore to Christ has been so confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus. He will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and so it was he who called you to fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” A new season of Advent, along with some changes in the English translation of our prayers. How special it is that we accept both changes to lead us through a time of special prayer of both remembrance and anticipation. In his customary manner of reassurance to his disciples, St. Paul reminds us that we lack no spiritual gift. We are already caught in the season, bombarded concerning the right gift, the perfect gift, the necessary gift. How true this is, if we include the gift of which Paul speaks. Jesus is the gift of the Father to us. Through His coming in time, the Lord brought us the gift of grace, God's life in us. As we accept this gift, we have everything which we need to live blameless and fruitful lives. The advent season offers us the chance to appreciate what the gift of the Father meant for all of humankind. We use this season, wishing that others might spend some time reflecting upon and treasuring the gift of Jesus. There is a social dimension to the gift, expressed through the word ‘fellowship’. We enter into oneness with others in our advent prayer as together we anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth in 2011. The days we spend in prayer and preparation help us to be like Paul bearing witness to Christ for the well being of others. As the hymn expresses it was ‘Oh what fellowship..., resting in the everlasting arm...’

Preparing the Way....

Theme for Advent 2011

John the Baptist

As we begin Advent this year the readings at Mass remind us of John the Baptist, the last of the prophets and the forerunner of our Lord. The son of a priestly line, born of aged parents as if by a miracle, brought up as a Nazarite, that is, dedicated from birth to God's service with lifelong obligations never to shave, take wine, or indulge in human pleasures. He lived in the desert wilderness, a rugged and magnetic

figure, clothed in the skin of a camel, living on locusts and wild honey.

Crowds followed him, held by his hypnotic power and rugged eloquence. John prepared the way for Jesus, and with all his fierceness exercised a vital and realistic ministry. With it went a surprising humility and tenderness, for he recognized his own limitations and that he was but a forerunner for our Lord. He shrank even from the thought of baptizing Him, and spoke of Him with wonder and devotion. I am not the Christ, he said. I am but a voice. “He that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear.”

His end was tragic. In his characteristic boldness he denounced the unlawful marriage of the infamous Herodias, and as a result, he had been thrown into the gloomy fortress of Machaerus on the shores of the Dead Sea. Then, to gratify the cruel and frivolous whim of a dancing girl Salome, the daughter of Herodias, who had been prompted by her mother, Herod, to his own disgust, but unwilling to take back his word, put him to death, and there followed the shameful display of his head on a plate.

Thus ended the life of this extraordinary figure who blazed the trail for our Lord. The disciples gave his body a decent burial and then broke the tragic news to Jesus, who overcome by grief he took a boat to be apart from the crowds.

Just as John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of our Lord, may we take the four weeks of Advent to prepare our hearts and souls for the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we take the time to boldly denounce the evil ways of our lives and embrace the love of our Lord.



Weekly Readings



Monday – November 28

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday – November 29

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday – November 30 (St. Andrew, Apostle)

Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 118:1-11; Matthew 4:18-22

Thursday – December 1

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1 & 8-9, 19-21, 25-27;
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday – December 2

Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1,4,13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday – December 3 (St. Francis Xavier, Priest)

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-6;

Matthew 9:35- 10:1, 5-8

Sunday – December 4

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85:9-14; Mark 1:1-8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November:

11/27 - NO CCD Classes

11/27 - NO Children's Choir Practice

11/28 - NO SCHOOL

11/29 - NO SCHOOL

11/30 - Adult Choir practice/7:30 pm/ Choir Loft

December:

12/01 - 15th Annual Ice Festival Begins/Dtwn Lewistown

12/01 - Sacred Heart's Children's Choir to perform on
the Mifflin County Court House Steps at 7pm

12/01 - Cursillo Group Mtg/4:30pm/Parish Ofc.

12/01 - RCIA/7pm/Parish Ofc. Boardroom

12/02 - ALL DAY ADORATION after 7am Mass

12/02 - Columbiettes/5:30pm/Adoration -Church

12/02 - 15th Annual Ice Festival/downtown Lewistown

12/03 - Ladies Guild Meeting/8am after Mass

12/04 - CCD Classes/9am/SHS

12/06 - Auction Organizational Mtg/6pm/SHS Cafeteria

12/07-9 - Santa's Workshop @ SHS

12/7 - Pro-Life Mtg/6pm/Parish Office

12/7 - Adult Choir Practice/7:30pm/Choir Loft

12/8 - Cursillo Group Mtg/4:30 pm/Parish Ofc.

12/8 - RCIA/7pm/Parish Ofc.

12/11 - CCD Classes/9am/SHS - Last day of Semester

12/11 - PENANCE SERVICE/3pm/Church

12/11 - Children's Choir Practice/5pm/Choir Loft

12/12 - SHS School Board Mtg/6pm/ SHS Faculty Rm.

12/12 - St. Vincent DePaul mtg/7pm/SHS Cafeteria

12/13 - Knight of Columbus Mtg/7pm/K of C Hse.

12/14 - Adult Choir Practice/7:30pm/Choir Loft

12/15 - Cursillo Grp Mtg/4:30pm/Parish Ofc.

12/15 - HSA Gen. Mtg/6pm/SHS Faculty Rm

12/15 - RCIA/7pm/Parish Ofc.

12/16 - SHS Christmas program/10am/Church

SHS Christmas program/7pm/Church

12/17 -St. Vincent de Paul Free Meal/11:30am/SHS
Cafeteria



LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, November 27

7:30 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM Frank Guerrini

Monday, November 28

7:00 AM Arthur Leeper

Tuesday, November 29

7:00 AM Marjorie A. Kaufman

Wednesday, November 30

7:00 PM Lily Blakey

Thursday, December 1

7:00 AM Special Intentions for Jose & Maria Acosta

9:00 AM Leonard Eby

Friday, December 2

7:00 AM Special Intentions for Mr. Bruce
Wagenseller

Saturday, December 3

8:00 AM Special Intentions for Harold Gene Fultz

4:00 PM Anna Hackenberry

Sunday, December 4

7:30 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM Deceased of the Battista Family

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the
van schedule:

Dec 04 - Russell Krug

Dec 11 - Dave Kanicki

Dec 18 - Mel Reed

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following
dates are available: Dec 4, 11, 18. Cost is \$20. Call
the office to make arrangements.

Sanctuary Lamp:

Mary Esposito & Joe Hallinger

With love Annie Hallinger

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to
memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit)
please call the parish office to schedule. Dates
available are Nov. 27th & Dec 4th. Flower colors
should be coordinated with the church seasons.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

**ATTN: Eucharistic Ministers, Cantors, Lectors,
Greeters, & Gift Bearers....** I will be working on the
new schedule which will begin December 31st to
March 31st Please check your schedules and send
in your requests by December 16th, Thank you in
advance....

Attention Parishioners, please remember while you are in Church you are in a sacred place. And the use of cell phones is **not permitted**, this also applies to **“texting” before & during Mass**. In addition, **chewing gum is also not allowed**. Thank you in advance for respecting our Church.



More than an Auction Organizational Meeting will be held **December 6th, at 6pm** in the **SHS Cafeteria**. Any questions or would like more information please feel free to contact Sue Parzanese at the Parish office.

Beginning Sunday, November 27th St. Vincent DePaul will be collecting grocery items for the church's Christmas Baskets to be given out to those in need in the parish or in the community on December 18. The

following is a list of the items needed:

Cranberry Sauce
Boxes of Stuffing or Bread cubes to make stuffing
Peas, Corn, Green Beans
Cake Mixes, Frosting
Items for making pies
Canned Fruit, Sweet Potatoes
Box Potatoes for mashing
Tea Buns

Also needed are turkeys if you have one to donate. Please bring your items to the sacristy of the church or to the church office on 9 N. Brown St.

December 4th & 11th we will be taking monetary donations to purchase turkeys and anything other than food items we may need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

P.S. If you know of anyone needing a basket please call the parish office. Thank you.



The Columbiettes will have a booth at the Ice Festival on Thursday, December 1st & Friday, December 2nd. They will be located right on Market St. in Front of the Knights of Columbus

House. They will be selling piping hot homemade soups: **Thursday: Chili & Chicken Corn Soup, Friday: Vegetable Beef & Ham and Bean Soup.** So, stop by our booth on your way to the Court house to watch our Children's Choir, enjoy homemade soup and our children's angelic voices!



Sacred Heart of Jesus Children's Choir will be singing at the Mifflin County Court House steps on Thursday, December 1st at 7pm, come listen and support our parish's children and their angelic voices singing some traditional classics and some new favorites.

A Thank you note from Sisters of Christian Charity- Uruguay-Argentina Delegation in response to our parishes tithes back in September.

Dear Rev. Weary, My name is Sister Maria Angelina Rivarola; I am a Sister of Christian Charity in the Uruguay-Argentina Delegation. On behalf of all our Sisters, I wanted to thank you for your gentleness and help for our mission in Uruguay.

Our Congregation owns three schools in Uruguay: **Inmaculada Concepción** in the city of **Santa Lucia, Inmaculada Concepción** in the City of **Montevideo;** and **Escuela Madre Paulina (named after our Mother Foundress Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt)**, located in a very poor neighborhood in the outskirts of the city of **Montevideo**. Our Sisters have been ministering in these schools since their foundation.

We provide education in kindergarten and elementary levels, and high school in one for our schools in Uruguay. Our students come from needy families, and thanks to our Congregation's effort during all these years, it has been possible to keep all these Catholic schools open. Otherwise, our students would not be able to continue their education and would have to attend public schools which are secular. Moreover, it happens many times a public schools, that the environment leads them to drug addictions, due to the lack of formation.

Since the Government of Uruguay does not support private schools financially, it is very hard for us to maintain the schools; therefore, we need the support of benefactors to be able to continue with this very important mission. We need to renovate our buildings, so as to provide better classrooms for our students, improve the school facilities, which in many cases have been seriously damaged due to the lack of maintenance throughout the years.

Please extend our gratitude to your parishioners; your generous support means a lot to us. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to bless your Parish and its families, so that His Love may always prevail in your community. Be sure of our grateful prayers for you and your Parish. May the Lord bless you and guide you in your ministry.

Sincerely, Sr. Maria Angelina Rivarola, SCC

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS



“Father, we are the work of Your hands.” Is God's work in you to be of service to Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call the Office of

Vocations (717) 657-4804



Messiah College Christmas Concert

This year marks the eighth appearance of the **Messiah College Choir Christmas Concert** for SSA's *Sundays on State Street* concert series, Sunday, December 4, at 4:00 p.m. in Saint Lawrence Chapel. A highlight to any holiday season, this student ensemble will perform a variety of works and holiday classics, sure to inspire and set the mood of the season. Be sure to arrive early for this very popular event. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested.



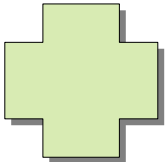
Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy

is looking for a donation of a 10, 12, or 14 foot Christmas tree to display in the student union. If you are interested please contact Katie at 808-6118.



Mifflin County Roundtable of Christians and Jews.

Nominate someone for this year's Brotherhood Award. The person nominated should have demonstrated through religious community work, or other humane expressions, the qualities that embrace Brotherhood. The process is easy. Just pick up an application form at any area bank or at the Juniata Valley Chamber of Commerce office, complete the form and mail to: Mifflin County Roundtable of Christians and Jews, PO Box 1136, Lewistown, PA 17044. Entry **Deadline is Thursday, December 15th**



Local Blood Drives for November/December:

Wednesday, November 30th:

9:30 am – 3:30pm
Lewistown Hospital – Classroom #4
400 Highland Park Ave, Lewistown

Wednesday, December 21st:

12:00 pm – 3:30 pm
First United Methodist Church
200 E. Third Street, Lewistown



St. Jude Thaddeus Mass Schedule & Events:

Saturday:

Confessions: 4pm -4:45 pm
Mass: 5pm – English
6pm - Spanish

Sunday:

Mass: 9:15 am

St. Jude Events:

CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK AT ST. JUDE:

The Women's Guild of St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Mifflintown is sponsoring a **Christmas Cookie Walk** on Saturday, December 10, 2011, in the church social hall from 9 A.M. to Noon (or while supply lasts). Purchase an empty container for \$9.00 and fill it with your choice from a wide variety of homemade Christmas cookies. Each container will hold 3-4 dozen cookies, depending on the size and shape of the cookies selected. Homemade candies will be on sale, and there will be a White Elephant table offering a variety of Christmas articles. Plus, our youth will sponsor a basket raffle to help fund their trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Come early to get the best selection. Doors open at 9 A.M. sharp. For more information, contact Shirley Baade at 436-2373.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Weekly Schedule:

Monday 11/28 /Tuesday 11/29 - SHS CLOSED

Wednesday 11/30 – School Re-Opens; End of First Trimester

Thursday 12/1 – 9am Mass Grade 5; Children's Choir to sing at Ice Festival 7pm

Friday 12/2 – First Friday Adoration Grades 3-5
Ice Festival Booth sponsored by SHS 6-8pm

✚ Mittens, Hats and scarves are being collected at the Ice Festival this year. Help those in need by your donation.



Sacred Heart of Jesus School Students will be having a Craft Booth At the Ice Festival Friday, December 2nd, from 6pm – 8pm in the UCP building located next to the Mifflin County Court House in Monument Square. The kids will be making "Happy Birthday Jesus" Bracelets which are sure to compliment their Christmas outfits this season!

The SHS Christmas program is being held December 16th, in our beautiful church.

First show is at 10am and the second is being held at 7pm. Come and check out this awesome production!

