

December 25, 2016 The Nativity of the Lord

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

Tithing Income for the week of December 18, 2016:

Regular:	\$ 4,142.00
Loose:	\$ 2,104.00
Children's offering:	\$ 0
ONLINE GIVING:	\$ 1,070.00
Tithing income TOTAL for December 11, 2016:	\$ 7,391.00

Tithing Income December 20, 2015 not available

Tithe for the week for December 18:

St. Vincent dePaul Society \$ 739.00

Tithe for the week of December 25:

Knights of Columbus Charities

Tithes for Christmas:

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard (1/3), Catholic Relief Services, ICMC, and CNEWA (2/3)

Tithe for the week of January 1:

Expectations Women's Center; Samaritan's Purse

Tithe for Solemnity of Mary:

Catholic Volunteer Network

Mass Attendance:

For the weekend of December 18, 2016- 333

For the weekend of December 20, 2015- 470

God did His part, we now must do ours. He has redeemed and purified us and claims us as His. My response is eager acceptance of what He has come to offer me. As I look around, who needs to know of my experience of this redeeming savior? The books, the songs, the traditions can tell me of Him and this day. They encourage me to seek Him. Prayer is where I meet Him.

The virtues of temperance, justice and piety reflect our serious and joy filled acceptance of Jesus Christ this Christmas of 2016. May you be blessed.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah rejoices that God is bringing his exiled people home to Jerusalem. He calls out to the people to be glad because God will restore Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Paul explains to the Hebrews that although God had spoken through the prophets, people could not always completely understand the message. Now God has spoken to us by sending Jesus, the son, a reflection of God's glory and forgiver of our sins.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

John describes how the Word came into the world in the form of Jesus. All those who accept Jesus become children of God by sharing in Jesus' love. No one has seen God, but through Jesus, God was revealed to us.

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FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
The Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2016

"The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Christ Jesus...to redeem us and to cleanse for himself a people of his own... eager to do what is right."

Why this passage from St. Paul's letter to Titus as part of our worship on this great Christmas day? It is easy for us to be so caught up in many distractions that we overlook some basic points. Do I realize that there were centuries of waiting for the Messiah and people grew weary and forgetful? Paul tells them, the savior has appeared.

If the coming of the redeemer speaks to me today, my Christmas joy reminds me that godless ways and worldly desires are not the focus. Gifts, consumerism, travel and visits are ours because the gift, Jesus, who travelled to earth and Bethlehem, placed salvation at our disposal.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

Saturday 12/24/16: The Nativity of the Lord at Night

Christmas Eve Children's Mass/4:00PM/Church

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass/6:30PM/St Jude

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass/10:00PM/Church
(Carols begin at 9:30PM)

Sunday 12/25/16: The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Day Mass/8:30AM/Church

Christmas Day Mass/11:00AM/St. Jude

Monday 12/26/16:

No 7:00AM Mass/Fr. Bill will be away

Parish Office Closed

School Closed



Tuesday 12/27/16:

No 7:00AM Mass/Fr. Bill will be away

School Closed

****FOR EMERGENCIES FROM 12/25 AT 12:00PM THROUGH 12/17 AT 10:00PM, PLEASE CALL FR. RICHARD BAKER AT 1-914-598-6902.**

Wednesday 12/28/16:

Confessions/6:30PM/Church

Mass/7:00PM/Church

No Adult Choir – will resume in February

School closed

Thursday 12/29/16:

Mass/9:00AM/Church

RCIA/7:00PM/Parish Office

School closed

Friday 12/30/16:

Mass/7:00AM/Church

School Closed

Saturday 12/31/16: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass/4:00PM/Church

Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass/5:30PM/St. Jude

Sunday 1/1/17:

No 7:30AM Mass

Solemnity of Mary Mass/9:15AM/St. Jude

Solemnity of Mary Mass/11:00AM/Church



Monday: 1/2/17:

Mass/7:00AM/Church

School Closed

Parish Office Closed

Tuesday 1/3/17:

Mass/7:00AM/Church

School Closed

Wednesday 1/4/17:

Confessions/6:30PM/Church

Mass/7:00PM/Church

Thursday 1/5/17:

Mass/9:00AM/Church

RCIA/7:00PM/Parish Office

Friday 1/6/17:

Mass/7:00AM/Church

All-Day Adoration following Mass

Holy Hour and Benediction/7-8PM/Church

IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

The parish office will be open on a modified schedule until further notice. The office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30AM-12:30PM (except for 12/26/16 and 1/2/17, when the office will be closed all day). Other hours by appointment only. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you!

Please remember to pray for Tom Storm, our Maintenance Supervisor, who will be on sick leave for some time. We look forward to him coming back to us in the New Year!

LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass  for the
Intentions *Week*

And Weekly Readings



Saturday , December 24:The 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

4:00 PM Jerry Wagner from The Wagner Family

10:00PM Tom and Marge Connare from Tom

Connare Jr.

Sunday, December 25:The Nativity of The Lord

Isaiah 62:11-12 (15ABC) Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

8:30 AM People of the Parish

Monday, December 26: St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Matthew 10:17-22

7:00 AM No Mass

Tuesday, December 27: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 21:1a, 2-8

7:00 AM No Mass

Wednesday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Matthew 2:13-18

7:00 PM Thoraya Joy Ayoubee from Joan Pacini

Thursday, December 29: Fifth Day within the

Octave of the Nativity of the Lord:

1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35

9:00 AM Christina Berich from Denny and Dottie Peiffer

Friday, December 30: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

7:00 AM Mary Ann Montgomery from the Montgomery Family

Saturday , December 31:The Vigil of the

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; John 1:1-18

4:00 PM Roger Ellwood

Sunday, January 1:The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God:

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

11:00 AM People of the Parish

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

Dec. 25th - Dave Kaniecki

Jan. 1st - Mel Reed

Jan. 8th - Russell Krug

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. The following dates are available: Jan. 15, 22, & 29.

*Sanctuary Lamp
for the Week of December 25th is in Loving Memory
of Gary McCoach from Helen McCoach*

Memorialize Flowers: Altar flowers are a nice way to remember your loved ones either for a special anniversary, a birthday, or as a memorial. Your intention is announced in the bulletin the same week. If you would like to have flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. Once scheduled, you contact the florist of your choice and pay the florist directly. The following dates are available: **Jan. 15, 22, 29.**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Immediate Opening for a Full-time Parish Secretary at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lewistown.

This position requires a positive, friendly, mature, detail-oriented people-person with above-average keyboard skills, excellent organizational and interpersonal skills with the ability to understand and follow directions, as well as work independently. Trustworthiness, reliability, willingness to maintain confidentiality and the ability to perform routine and delegated assignments in a timely manner are essential. The person should possess an overall knowledge of general office procedures and excellent spelling and grammatical skills. This person should be proficient in Microsoft Office applications, including Word, Excel, Outlook and Publisher. A visible representative of the parish and sometimes the only person in the office, this person will need to put the interests of the parish first in all actions and communication with others. Cordial and effective communications with priests, parishioners, vendors, committee members, officers of church councils, and Diocesan personnel is an ongoing necessity. Job hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM. Educational and work experience requirements include: a high school diploma, preferably with business curriculum. Associate Degree in Office Administration helpful. Two or three years of work experience preferred. Please submit your resume to Pastor William Weary, 9 N Brown St, Lewistown PA. Job description and application are available at the office and on the parish website at www.sacredheartlewisstown.com



Thank You!

Sacred Heart Parish thanks the anonymous donor who purchased the new Ciborium and Book Stand for use during our liturgies. Father blessed these items at the 4:00PM Mass on 12/17. Also, thanks to Gloria Truhan who made the swags for the windows this Christmas. We are so blessed to have so many generous parishioners who care so much about our parish!

Card Shower

If anyone would like to send a card to Katherine Costa to help celebrate her 97th birthday, her address is: Katherine Costa, The Chelsea, 440 Old York Rd, #313, Jenkintown, PA 19046

Good News!

From Eleanor Angstadt (Father Bill's sister): Thanks to all of you for your prayers! I am OFFICIALLY finished with my cancer treatment-YEA!! I couldn't have handled it all without the prayers of the faithful! God Bless all of you!



Gala Tickets are on sale now!

Please join us January 28th for the Sacred Heart School Gala at the Lewistown Rec Park Community Center as we *Rock Around the Clock 50's style*. Tickets are \$50 through Jan. 15th and \$60 after Jan. 15th. Pick yours up today at the Parish or School Offices. Tickets will be sold after Mass on January 8th. Fifties attire is welcome, but not required. Questions? Please contact Ashley Henry at development@sacredheartschool.com



Attention Parishioners!

Religious articles have been donated by a parishioner. There are quite a few articles: crosses, statues, pictures, etc. Anyone interested in looking at these items can come to the Parish Office. These items are free.



March for Life

The March for Life will be held in Washington D.C. on January 27th. A schedule for the day is posted on the bulletin board in the church vestibule. Limited seats may be available on a first-come-first-served basis. Contact the parish office if interested.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS



[10th Annual Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Night with the Hershey Bears](#)

Everyone is invited to join our Catholic Schools at The Tenth Annual Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Night with the Hershey Bears Hockey Team, Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 7 p.m. Tickets are discounted to \$14.50 for all ages over 2. Regular admission is \$20.

The evening will begin with the Bishop McDevitt Choir singing the National Anthem prior to game start time (with our own Chad Reed as Director!). Ticket order form is attached. DEADLINE TO ORDER is Monday, January 30, 2017. For more information, contact Janet Dise at jdise@HersheyPA.com or aeverest@hbgdiocese.org. You can also call (717) 657-4804 ext. 222.

Mifflin-Juniata Human Service Needs Your Help!

The Point-in-time Unsheltered Count will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017. They are looking for volunteers to help with the homeless survey from 6-7:30PM. A mandatory training will take place at 5:30PM prior to the count at the Lewistown Borough Police Dept. This is the appointed time that every county in Pennsylvania participates in counting their local homeless population in order to continue to receive state and federal funding so that we can provide services to help anyone who becomes homeless. Volunteers should contact Kristen Price or Tammy Swartz at 717-242-5452.

“Being a Young Adult Catholic in Today’s World of Non-Believers” is the topic to be presented by Fr. Jonathan Sawicki at Theology on Tap. This will take place on Thursday, January 12 at Annie Bailey’s Irish Pub (2nd floor), 28 E. King St., Lancaster, PA. It starts at 7 pm with a Happy Half Hour, 7:30 pm the speaker begins, followed by Q&A. All young adults, (20’s and 30’s) single, married, Catholic or not, are invited to attend. For more information, visit: www.totlancaster.com

Father Sawicki, is the pastor of Immaculate Conception BVM Church – St. Mary’s – in

downtown York. He describes the parish as a diverse group of faithful Christians trying to be holy, helping each other in times of difficulty, and rejoicing in moments of celebration. Theology on Tap is a Young Adult Ministry and Evangelization outreach of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Diocesan Mass for Homeschooling Families
Bishop Gainer will be celebrating Mass for Homeschooling Families in Room 103 of the Diocesan Center the evening of Friday, January 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM. The Sacrament of Penance will be available before Mass from 5:30 - 6:15 PM. After Mass, there will be a light reception with cookies, coffee, and punch in the lobby. If you plan to attend, please RSVP Jim Gontis at the Diocesan Religious Education Office by January 3, at jgontis@hbgdiocese.org, letting us know the number of people from your family planning to attend. The Diocesan Center is located at 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA, 17111.



SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to Sacred Heart School students **Addie Wilburne, Grade 5** and **Elena Colon, Grade 3**, who were winners of the “Keep Christ in Christmas” Billboard Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #1388. Each student will receive a \$50 gift card and their billboard design can be seen around Lewistown in two locations!

Sacred Heart School will be closed from December 23, 2016 at 11:30AM through January 3, 2017. The Administration, Faculty, Staff, Parents and Children of SHS wish all of you a joyous and blessed Christmas and prosperity and joy in the coming year! Thank you for all you do for SHS all year long!