

May 24, 2020 Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

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|---|------------|
| Tithing income for the week of May 17, 2020: | |
| Regular: | \$4,142.50 |
| Loose: | \$ 920.00 |
| ONLINE GIVING: | \$2,700.00 |
| Tithing income TOTAL for May 17, 2020: \$7,762.50 | |
| Tithing income May 19, 2019: \$7,285.50 | |
| Tithing income TOTAL for Palm Sunday 2020 \$2,555.00 | |
| Easter Sunday 2020 \$8,386.25 | |
| Mass Attendance for May 17, 2020 | 0 |
| Mass Attendance for May 19, 2019 | 338 |

Tithe for May 17, 2020

Operation Home front

Tithe for May 24, 2020

Operation Home Front

Tithe for May 31, 2020

PA Pro-Life Federation, Americans United for Life
Pentecost Collection to Fund Education of Future Priests
and Care of Sick Priest (envelope)

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive thee under the sacramental veil, I beseech thee, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the Immaculate Heart of thy most Holy Mother, and to abide with me, thou in me, and I in thee, in time and in eternity. Amen

A Prayer During an Epidemic

Lord Jesus, Hear our pleas, our Good Shepherd and Divine Physician. We implore your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease. Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make preparations to care for those most vulnerable. Assist all professionals and volunteers who work to eradicate the epidemic now spreading. May our actions be marked by your steadfast love and selfless service and never by panic or fear. Bestow your comfort and healing to the sick, sustain and strengthen them by your grace. May they know your closeness as they carry the cross of illness. And may all who have been called from this life come to worship you eternally with all the saints as you grant consolation and peace to their mourners. Amen

Holy Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us.

St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick, pray for us.

St. Rocco, protector against epidemics, pray for us.

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS
HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020

“After Jesus had been taken up into heaven the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet which is near to Jerusalem...they went to the upper room where they were staying. All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

Before we take leave of the month of May, dedicated to mothers, and our mother Mary, may I find a moment to look at this first community, united with her in prayer. Her last words in the bible, spoken at the Cana wedding, ‘Do whatever he tells you’ is reflected in her life and directed to our living as disciples.

How blessed we are to have her known and loved, with many traditions in our cultures, our art and devotion. Jesus gave her to us as our Mother before He breathed His last. Like the apostle John, may we take her into our homes, our hearts, for she is the gift that Jesus gave us.

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the eleven apostles returned to Jerusalem and prayed in the upstairs room. With them were some women and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

Christians are exhorted to rejoice in suffering because through suffering, they share in the life of Christ.

Gospel: John 17:1-11a

This is a continuation of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper. He tells the Father that he has made his name known, that he has finished the work his Father has given him, and that he wishes now to share in the glory at his side.

GLORIFIED ON EARTH

LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass  for the
Intentions  for the
Week

And Weekly Readings



Saturday, May 23: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 18:23-28; Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10; John 16:23b-28

Sr. Mary Zavacky

Sunday, May 24: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11a

People of the Parish

Monday, May 25: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; John 16:29-33

Anthony Battista from Del & Rose Guerrini

Tuesday, May 26: St Philip Neri, Priest (Memorial)

Acts of the Apostles 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a

Richard & Elizabeth Showers from Anne Marie Showers

Wednesday, May 27: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17:11b-19

Sr. Mary Zavacky

Thursday, May 28: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a & 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; John 17:20-26

Tom & Marge Connare from Tom Connare Jr.

Friday, May 29: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 25:13b-21; Psalm 1-3:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 21:15-19

Raymond Showers from Anne Marie Showers

Saturday, May 30: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 & 7; John 21:20-25

Albert Battista from Del & Rose Guerrini

Sunday, May 31: Pentecost Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

People of the Parish

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 26th at 8:30 AM. Enjoy your holiday.



Remember - our fallen heroes. They are the reason that we are free.

Rosary After Mass



Starting May 1st, the rosary will be prayed out loud, after every live streamed Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. This is a perfect opportunity for reviving the old, traditional family rosary. Both individuals and families are welcome to pray out loud with us at home as we petition Jesus, through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, for Heavenly assistance and healing during this coronavirus crisis.

SACRED HEART, LEWISTOWN, PA. PARISH UPDATE

Fr. Jay and myself feel strengthened by your prayers and support and we are grateful for God's blessings, through your intercession, during this difficult time. We too pray for all of you and for the Lord's protection over your families. A week ago, I felt a bit down and out about things. For one, I had planned to get a major hike in that day but dawdled and now it was afternoon and seemed too late to get started. Instead I went to a local picturesque country cemetery where I go sometimes, to just sit and meditate. It was a nice day out and the surrounding trees, swaying in the breeze, were somewhat comforting but I ruminated about the state of our parish, church and world. Saddened, I got up to leave, and an epitaph on a headstone caught my eye. It was God's words to Joshua (and me) from Joshua 1:9 and it said "Be strong and of good courage. Be not afraid nor dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee wherever thou goest." Deeply moved, I almost cried. It was just what I needed. Thank you God. Then, I wandered into the nearby woods and a found a beautiful hiking trail! I got a marvelous walk through nature in that day after all. Thanks again God. Emmanuel. God is with us. Evidence of that is through the generosity so many of you are showing during this time. For instance, our parish office staff, with the help of Saint Vincent de Paul, just distributed bags of food to 26 needy families; food donated by many of you in response to our recent call for help. Let's continue that giving into the coming weeks. Also, a group of parishioners volunteered to phone parishioners, many of whom are lonely and infirm (call the parish office if you wish to volunteer for this ministry). Plus, your response to the weekend collection is very touching, through mail, online giving, and dropping envelopes into the box at the rectory. We are pretty much at the same level as before the coronavirus. Our big school Benefit Auction, usually in April at Reedsville Youth Park, was canceled, of course, and that's a serious hit against income, but we are formulating creative plans



*The Sanctuary Lamp
for the week of May 24th
burns for the safe return of the
re-opening up our church.*



Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. The following dates are available: **June 7, 14 & 28**

Beginning next weekend, May 30 & 31 Pentecost Sunday, Sacred Heart of Jesus will Regather as a Parish Community! Holy Mass will be held at regular times beginning Saturday, May 30th. Preparation of the Re-opening of Church and Regathering as a Parish Community guides will be mailed out this week and posted on our website. Please familiarize yourself with these guides before joining us for Mass.

Check Out Our Website & Facebook Page

Keep checking the Sacred Heart Website at www.sacredheartlewisstown.com for daily postings. Live streaming of Mass occurs each day on **Sacred Heart of Jesus** Facebook page.

- **Daily Mass, 9:00 AM on Mon. May 25 (Memorial Day), 7:00 AM Tue., May 26, 7:00 PM Wed., May 27, 9:00 AM Thur., May 28, 7:00 AM Fri., May 29 & 4:00 PM Sat., May 30.**
- **Pentecost Sunday Mass, 7:30 & 11:00 AM on May 31.**

to make up some of the difference. We will get the Payroll Protection Plan (forgivable) loan (\$141,500), and that will help us end in the black this fiscal year. Next fiscal year (beginning July 1), we hope to be back on board with such major fundraisers as the Annual Fund, Gala (dinner dance) and Benefit Auction. When Mifflin County moves from red to yellow category (we don't know when) the bishop will allow the church to be open on a limited basis. His rules: Worshippers must all wear masks, sit six feet apart and every third pew, filling up only one third of the church's capacity at any one liturgy, with a full cleaning done between Masses. Hymn books will be removed as infection-spreaders in favor of photocopied song sheets, discarded after every Mass. More to come on that as we make our plans to re-open. But God is with us. Read Joshua 1:9 and apply it to yourself. And thanks for all you are doing. "The Lord thy God is with thee, wherever thou goest."

Fr. Bill

Mothers and Saints

Many of us looking back on our childhood and young adulthood are humble enough to admit "My mother is/was a saint." We probably did not accord our mothers the high honor at the time but now in retrospect they should be canonized for their limitless patience, unflagging perseverance and unconditional love. Since we just observed Mother's Day and since I have been on a roll recently writing about two saints, I got to thinking about saints – ancient and recent - who were mothers. Probably the first to come to mind and the best known is St. Monica who by persevering prayer and many tears finally saw the conversion of her son, Saint Augustine. There is a tender passage in his great work, *The Confessions*, in which Monica tells her son that she knows she is dying. They were in Ostia, then the port city of Rome, waiting to sail to their native place in Africa. Her only request was that he remember her at "the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." No doubt he honored her request throughout his lifetime. Someone much less familiar is a woman who has the title "The Mother of Saints," Saint Emilia of Caesarea (d. 375). She was the mother of 10, six of whom are saints, including Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory of Nyssa. It didn't hurt that the husband and father of this family was Saint Basil the Elder. Now that's a holy family! The discovery that you are going to be a mother can at times cause distress and fear. Feelings of uncertainty and inadequacy are not uncommon. Take a look at Blessed Maria Quattrocchi (1884-1965). She and her husband, Blessed Luigi, had four children. She was terrified by the first pregnancy and was near despair by the second. In a letter to her husband Maria wrote: "Who will give me strength to think of two children? To endure the physical and psychological exhaustion of pregnancy and all the rest. Believe me, I am truly in despair." If you're a mom or a mother-to-be and you feel the need to scream to the top of your lungs over the stress of mothering, here is a holy lady who understands you and will pray for you. Some saint mothers knew the profound sadness of seeing their children die before they did. Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821), the first American born canonized saint,

married William Seton and they had five children. When her father-in-law died, they took in her husband's six younger half-siblings. Widowed at age 29, Elizabeth had the care of 11 children, her own five children were all under 8 years of age. She converted from the Episcopal Church to Catholicism and founded the Sisters of Mercy of Saint Joseph's. By the time of her death at 47, she had seen her two sons and two of her daughters die. Only Catherine, the first American to enter the Sisters of Mercy, was alive at her mother's death. Saint Elizabeth Ann wrote: "Afflictions are the steps to heaven." She knew those steps well. Lately one of the names most frequently chosen by young women for their Confirmation is Gianna in honor of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-62). Saint Gianna is best remembered for her heroic sacrifice of choosing the life of her unborn daughter over her own. Additionally, she is a model for pregnant women experiencing a health crisis, for working mothers – she was a practicing physician – and for women who have lost children through miscarriage – she lost her fourth and fifth children to miscarriage. She remains a selfless witness to the sanctity of life. So there's a small sampling of some saint mothers whom the Church honors and who want us to be with them in our heavenly home. Each in her own way mirrored some of the virtues, some of the beauty, some of the graces of our Blessed Mother, Mary, to whose abundant love and protection we commend our own mothers. In Christ, **Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer**

The Risen Lord is alive in us and among us

There prevailed an extra-ordinary atmosphere when the Archangel Gabriel had announced the Good news from God to the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Lk 1:26-38) There were some extra-ordinary manifestations when Jesus was born. (Lk 2:8-20; Mt 2:1-12) In his public ministry, Jesus went on doing miracles only in support of preaching the Good news of the Kingdom of God, His Heavenly Father. At His death, there were a few divine manifestations. (Mt 27:51-54) After his resurrection, Jesus did appear a few times to his apostles and other disciples. (Jn 20:11-29) Should I expect miracles to become part of my life? Could I always expect God to work miracles in my life? If I realize the presence of God with me and in me, then, I will realize that my life is a miracle with all its joys and sorrows; I will realize that my life is filled with miracles. (Jn 15:7) Well, I know what is the Good news that Jesus preached. Therefore, I should live always that Good news. I know that Jesus is the Good news of God. Therefore, I should always make every effort to live like Jesus. Always, I should witness to others that the Risen Jesus is alive in me. My family should witness to others that the Risen Jesus dwells in each member of my family. My parish community should witness to others that the Risen Lord is alive and present among its members. Easter season of the Liturgical year comes to an end with the celebration of the Pentecost Sunday. Then begins the Ordinary time of the Liturgical year. It doesn't mean that we will be without the presence of the Risen Lord. In fact, it is the Spirit of the Risen Christ, who, continues

to guide us and strengthen us through his living presence in us and among us. We have been away for more than two months from our holy gathering in our parish church for our community worship. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Risen Lord, brings us back to the church with the celebration the Pentecost. This is so symbolic that we, like the holy apostles, are beginning a new life, a life without fear and a life to bear witness to the world that the Risen Christ is with us and in the world. See you again in the church on May 31, 2020.

Fr. Jay

Races Cancelled

The annual **Knight at the Races**, scheduled for May 16th and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, has been cancelled this year. All pre-paid ticket money will be returned. Please call Rick Berich at 717-667-3373 for additional information. Hope to see you next year at the Knight at the Races.



SH/SVDP Grocery Ministry

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish has partnered with St. Vincent DePaul to provide much needed grocery items to those who are experiencing hardship during this unprecedented time. If you are willing and able to participate, we welcome your support! We plan to do this for four weeks, then will continue beyond that time frame as need warrants. Here's how it will work: Each week, choose to provide as many items as you desire from each list, and drop them off at the parish office, **no later than Wednesday afternoon**, in the Brown St. vestibule, during office hours (M-F, 8:30AM-4:30PM, except May 25). We will leave the door unlocked, so you can safely deposit your items there without any contact from us. If you need help with your items, we can also pick them up from you curbside, or, if you live in Reedsville, Sue Parzanese can bring your items from your home to the office (just call the office at 717-242-2781 and let her know). If you would like to do more than one week at a time (since you grocery shop less than once a week), feel free to do so, and we will save those items for the week in which they were intended. We will then bag them up and deliver them to the St. Vincent DePaul's offices on Monument Square for distribution. If you know of someone who is in need, feel free to call the parish office (717-242-2781) or St. Vincent (717-363-4812) so we can reserve some groceries for them. **Our next distribution is planned for Thursday, May 28th.** We thank all of you in advance for helping us to spread some charity in our community. **Update: Week #2 we were able to help 32 families.**



Week #3 – Dinner

Bag of Egg Noodles, Bag of Rice Sides, Canned Tuna, Box of Tuna/Chicken Helper, Canned Chicken, Box/Jar of Pasta Meat Sauce, Box of Pasta, Can of Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Box of Instant Rice, Box of Homestyle Bakes Pudding Cups, Quart of Milk

Week #4 – Snacks

Microwave Popcorn, Pretzels, PB/Cheese Sandwich, Crackers, Granola Bars, Boxed Cheese Crackers, Fruit Cups, Assorted Fresh Fruit, Baby Carrots, String Cheese Peanuts, 100% Fruit Juice, Chocolate Milk



SCHOOL NEWS

SHS T-Shirts

Sacred Heart School has joined the **Support Small Business Project by Lewistown Printworks**. For every SHS T-shirt purchased for \$20, **\$10 comes back to our school**. Shop now on lewistownprint.com Thank you for supporting our school!



SHS Benefit Auction Update

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we unfortunately have to cancel our Annual Benefit Auction scheduled for June 6-7. We are encouraging everyone to help us sell our All Cash Raffle Tickets with a grand prize of \$1,000. Tickets are \$5 a piece or \$25 for a booklet of 5. They can be returned to the Parish Office by mail or placed in the drop box at the rectory. Our goal is to sell all of our tickets, which would raise **\$35,000** for our Parish and School. The All Cash Raffle drawing will be held on June 17th. We will be having an online auction June 15-17 with more details to follow.



Enroll NOW for the 2020-21 Academic Year!

Even though SHS is closed, we are still enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year for Grades K-5. If you or someone you know has a child entering Kindergarten or would be interested in transferring into Grades 1-5, please email Ashley Henry at development@sacredheartshcool.com and we will get you an enrollment and information packet. Kindergarten students need to be age 5 by Sept. 1, 2020. **Scholarships and Financial Aid are available, and applications are still being accepted. All faiths are welcome!**

Did you know that we offer a tuition transfer grant to any child going into grades 1st through 5th? Any public, private, charter or home-school student who transfers to Sacred Heart School is eligible to receive this grant. Each student will receive \$1,500 in grants over the course of 2 years (\$1,000 in year 1 and \$500 in year 2.) Restrictions apply and no financial aid forms are required.

