

May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Tithing income for the week of May 10, 2020:	
Regular:	\$2,885.00
Loose:	\$2,485.00
ONLINE GIVING:	\$1,433.00
Tithing income TOTAL for	
May 10, 2020:	\$6,803.00
Tithing income May 12, 2019:	\$7,285.50
Tithing income TOTAL for	
Palm Sunday 2020	\$2,555.00
Easter Sunday 2020	\$8,355.00
Mass Attendance for May 10, 2020	0
Mass Attendance for May 12, 2019	338

Tithe for May 10, 2020

St. Vincent dePaul Society

Tithe for May 17, 2020

Operation Home front

Tithe for May 24, 2020

Operation Home front

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
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

“Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear... For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is the will of God, than for doing evil...for Christ suffered that he might lead you to God.”

How wonderful if you would take the time or make the opportunity to read the entire letter of Saint Peter. He spent his time, helping the first and persecuted Christians to remain strong in their faith. Are you ready to answer questions people might pose, because you are a believer? There are so many people hungry for the truth and for the Lord, and you might be the instrument He uses to bring them back, or even to meet Him for the first time.

The reason others approach you is because they find something special in you, they want what you have. If you are not sure how to respond, suggest a bible study or faith sharing group – and join one yourself. In this way all can grow together in faith as we walk the journey together. As someone told me today, they heard a voice saying ‘I am waiting for you.’

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip preaches to the people of Samaria, who accept his word after witnessing the miracles he performs. Peter and John pray that they will receive the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Christians are urged to remain steadfast in their allegiance to Christ, giving evidence always of gentleness and hope.

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In his words to the apostles at the Last Supper, Jesus promises to send them a comforter, a Paraclete, the Spirit of truth, who will be with them always.



LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass Intentions for the Week
And Weekly Readings



Saturday, May 16: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5; John 15:18-21

Special Intentions for All Essential Workers

Sunday, May 17: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

People of the Parish

Monday, May 18: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a & 9b; John 15:26-16:4a

Katherine Kozicki

Tuesday, May 19: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 16:22-34; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; John 16:5-11

Special Intentions of Matthew G. Soccio from Brother Tom

Wednesday, May 20: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 17:15, 22-18:1; Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14; John 16:12-15

Intentions of Kathie Tice from Anne Marie Showers

Thursday, May 21: The Ascension of the Lord

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

People of the Parish

Friday, May 22: Easter Weekday

Acts of the Apostles 18:9-18; Psalm 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; John 16:20-23

Helen Sutusky from Larry Sutusky

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

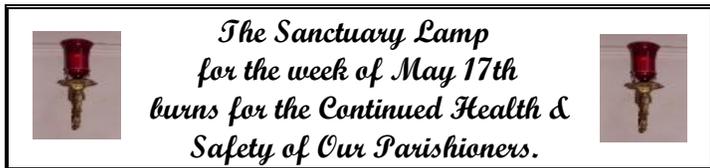
Rosary After Mass



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 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: Worshipers 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



Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. The following dates are available: **May 24, June 7, 14 & 28**

Check Out Our Website & Facebook Page

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

- **Daily Mass, 7:00 AM on Mon. & Tue., May 18 & 19, 7:00 PM Wed., May 20, 9:00 AM Thur., May 21, 7:00 AM Fri., May 22 & 9:00 AM Sat., May 23.**
- **Seventh Sunday of Easter Mass, 11:00 AM on May 24.**

New Time: Starting immediately and until further notice, **Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart will be celebrated and live streamed at 9:00 AM.** Join us each Saturday for Mass in addition to our regularly scheduled week day and Sunday Masses.

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**

Be Firm in Your Christian Faith

At this time of pandemic, let us be firm in our Christian faith. Let us become more hopeful about our future, though we live a time of uncertainty. We have restrictions to travel freely, to visit our loved ones in the nursing homes and hospitals, to do our regular businesses, to go to church to attend Holy Mass, to let our children play outdoor etc. We never imagined that this would happen in our life and we never want it to happen again. We are not sure when normalcy will return. The people of Israel had many such experiences in their life. We have references from the prophet Samuel and the Psalmist. **“During the time young Samuel was minister to the Lord under Eli, the word of the Lord was scarce and vision infrequent.”** (1 Sam 3:1) **“Even so we have seen no signs for us, there is no prophet any more, no one among us who knows for how long.”** (Ps 74:9) This is the best time for us Catholics to witness to our faith, to witness to the real presence of the Eucharistic Lord with us and within us. Let us look toward a better and brighter future. Let us trust in the words of Jesus who offered hope to his apostles. (Jn 14:1-21) He didn’t disappoint them. Jesus assured them of another Paraclete. (Jn 14:16,17) He sent the Holy Spirit, the paraclete, as he had promised. The apostles who stayed in the Upper Room since the arrest and death of Jesus, came out after receiving the Holy Spirit on the Pentecost Day. The Holy Spirit worked great wonders through them beyond their imagination, not only through miracles and conversions but also through the strength and courage to witness before their enemies, and finally to lay down their lives. “You will do greater than what I do” said Jesus. (Jn 14:12) The apostles couldn’t believe themselves working great deeds in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:6) and by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through them. Peter’s shadow caused healings. (Acts 5:15) At this moment of uncertainty, and threat to our health and life, let us realize the presence of God the Father “with us and in us.” Let us realize the presence of God the Son, Jesus Christ, “with us and in us.” Let us realize the presence of God the Holy Spirit “with us and in us.” Let us live our faith, courageously at this moment of the pandemic. Let us live with hope in God’s promise. Let us believe that God will satisfy our hope beyond our imagination. See you soon! **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.



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!



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 21st**. We pray that you are all well! We thank all of you in advance for helping us to spread some charity in our community. **Update: Week #1 we were able to help 26 families.**



Week #2 – Lunch

Cans/Cups of Prepared Pasta, Cans/Cups of Hearty Soups, Box of Instant Rice, Bread, Box of Macaroni and Cheese, Macaroni and Cheese Cups, Peanut Butter, Jelly Sliced American Cheese, Pack of Ramen Noodle Soups, Fruit Cups, Pudding Cups

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

SHS Benefit Auction Update

The Auction and Spaghetti Dinner have been rescheduled for June 6-7 at a new location, St. Jude Parish in Mifflintown. We would like to thank St. Jude for allowing us to use their space for this year's event. Spaghetti Dinner and Preview Night - June 6th and Oral Auction - June 7th. Official times will be announced closer to the event. The All-Cash Raffle tickets have been mailed out. If you did not receive them or would like more, please let the parish office know and we will mail them to you. 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. When the time comes and we can all resume to our new "normal", we will need help soliciting businesses and volunteering at our event. **This is the largest fundraiser for our Parish and School and it takes everyone working together to make it a success.** Don't forget: While you are practicing social distancing now is the time to find a unique item or put your talent to work creating a handmade item!



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.

