



Stewardship is a way of life.
Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income: Nov. 29, 2015:	
Regular:	\$ 6,949.00
Loose:	\$ 797.25
Children's Offering:	\$ -0-
ONLINE GIVING:	\$ 913.00
Tithing Income TOTAL For	
Nov. 29, 2015:	<u>\$ 8,659.25</u>
Tithing Income: Nov. 30, 2014	<u>\$ 5,915.00</u>
Tithing Income: Nov. 22, 2015:	
Regular:	\$ 6,712.05
Loose:	\$ 797.26
Children's Offering:	\$ -0-
ONLINE GIVING:	\$ 1,630.00
Tithing Income TOTAL For	
Nov. 22, 2015:	<u>\$ 9,139.31</u>
Tithing Income: Nov. 23, 2014	<u>\$ 7,241.00</u>

Mass Attendance:
Weekend of November 29, 2015 - 389
Weekend of November 30, 2014 - 401

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2015 – 46
Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2014 - 50

Weekend of November 22, 2015 - 467
Weekend of November 23, 2014 - 439

From Our Pastor: Tithing is closely linked with mercy, the theme of the upcoming 12 months. We extend mercy to the beneficiaries of our contributions, especially the parish, by our generosity. Scary as it can be, at least at first, we then beg God for mercy over our finances; asking that we don't go broke or get behind. And behold, God extends His mercy to us. Our prayer is answered. It's a won-win on mercy all around.

From the pews:
 By sharing our time, talent and treasure through Sacred Heart's Tithing program, our family has been blessed with deeper faith, peace of mind and stronger relationships with our parish family, and that is just the tip of the iceberg!!!



PASTOR'S COLUMN

MERCY ME

The worldwide Year of Mercy begins throughout the Catholic Church this Tuesday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This is a time to think of opening our hearts wider to God and to one another.

A fitting symbol for this is the ritual opening of cathedral and shrine church doors throughout the world. The pope will be doing this Dec. 8th at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

For our diocese, Bishop Ronald Gainer will open this holy year by celebrating a 6 p.m. Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, Harrisburg. And then, the following Sunday, Dec. 13, he will do a solemn opening of the Year of Mercy door at the cathedral.

This event will begin with the congregation gathering at 3:50 p.m., on State Street, at the nearby chapel (the former St. Lawrence church), and processing outside, along the avenue to the cathedral, a distance of one block, where the bishop will open and bless the door. Everyone will then proceed inside for a 4 p.m. vespers (evening prayer) liturgy. Those unable to make the walk may go directly to the cathedral and wait for the crowd to arrive.

Pilgrimages to our cathedral in Harrisburg are encouraged throughout this Year of Mercy. If anyone is interested in forming a bus trip, let me know. We can work together on this.

Upon arriving at the cathedral, we would prayerfully walk through the door, a symbol of walking into the Heart of Christ and receiving His mercy, and then extending that mercy to others. Guided tours are available and if you have never seen our cathedral, you are in for a treat.

The top feature is the beautiful stained glass, made in Munich, Germany, in the early 1900s. If you visit, pray for a sunny day, when the bright colors of the windows come alive. Such a pilgrimage would bring a plenary indulgence to any participant, i.e., complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin, under the usual conditions (confession, prayers for the pope, detachment from all sin).

There have been a number of special years proclaimed by recent popes. There was the Year of Faith, last year's Year of the Family, even a Year of the Priest earlier this decade. Now it is the Year of Mercy. Some may wonder if there is a numbing effect, if we are getting "yeared out."

But these proclamations provide opportunities for spiritual growth, with the title theme being the impetus or the driving force for advancement toward God; in this case Mercy.

It all seems an extension of the ancient Jewish Jubilee Years of the Old Testament. Every 70 years, debts were forgiven and no work was to be done (for the whole year? Well, that's what it says in Leviticus). There were also the sabbatical years, once every seven years, with similar rules; work was forbidden or at least curtailed.

It doesn't seem workable or practical and maybe it was largely symbolic but the idea is nice: Take time out for God.

And when I think of Mercy I think of someone saying "Do me a favor" or "Cut me a break." Do yourself and others a favor this upcoming twelve months and drop a grudge, reconcile with an enemy, cut someone a break, do a favor. Extend Mercy. Mercy me, what a good year it will be.

Fr. Bill

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

Sunday: 12/06/15 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mass/7:30 & 11am/Church
 CCD/9am/SH School
 Mifflin County HS Choir will sing at 11am Mass
 Advent Penance Service/3pm/Church
 7pm/ St. Jude

☆ **Children's Choir Practice/5pm/Choir Loft** ☆

Monday: 12/07/15 Immaculate Conception Vigil:

Mass/7pm/Church – Sacred Heart

Tuesday: 12/08/15 Immaculate Conception Holy Day:

Mass/12 Noon/Church – Sacred Heart
 Mass/7pm/Church – St. Jude Thaddeus
 SHS School Board Meeting/6pm/Faculty Room

Wednesday: 12/09/15:

Confessions/6:30pm/Church
 Mass/7pm/Church

Adult Choir/7:30 pm/Choir Loft

Annual Christmas Open House/7:30pm/Rectory

Thursday: 12/10/15:

Mass/9am/Church

Friday: 12/11/15:

Mass/7am/Church

Saturday: 12/12/15:

St. Jude Cookie Walk
 Cursillo School of leaders/10a/St. Jude
 Confessions/3pm/Church
 Mass/4pm/Church

Sunday: 12/13/15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mass/7:30 & 11am/Church
 CCD/9am/SH School – LAST DAY OF SEMESTER!

Monday: 12/14/15:

Mass/7am/Church

Tuesday: 12/15/15:

Mass/7am/Church

Wednesday: 12/16/15:

Confessions/6:30pm/Church
 Mass/7pm/Church

Adult Choir/7:35pm/Choir Loft

Thursday: 12/17/15:

SHS Mass/9am/Church

RCIA/7pm/Parish office

Friday: 12/18/15:

Mass/7am/Church

Saturday: 12/19/15:

Confessions/3pm/Church
 Mass/4pm/Church

Sunday: 12/20/15 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mass/7:30 & 11am/Church

LITURGICAL NOTES:

Mass Intentions for the Week



And Weekly Readings

Sunday, December 06 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126:1-6; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11;
 Luke 3:1-6

7:30 AM Joe & Lucy Hallinger

11:00 AM Richard Calkins

Monday, December 07 St. Ambrose

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85:9-14; Luke 5:17-26

7:00 AM Joseph Tice Sr.

Tuesday, December 08 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (HOLY DAY)

Genesis 3:9-15; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12;
 Luke 1:26-38

12:00 PM People of the Parish

7:00 PM People of the Parish

Wednesday, December 09

Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-4,8 &10; Matthew 11:28-30

7:00 PM John Eddie Miller

Thursday, December 10

Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1 &9-13; Matthew 11:11-15

9:00 AM Gary McCoach

Friday, December 11

Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1:1-4 &6; Matthew 11:16-19

7:00 AM Special Intentions for Sister Carmelita

Saturday, December 12

Revelation 11:19;12:1-6,10; Judith 13:18-19; Luke 1:39-47

4:00 PM Anna Hackenberry

Sunday, December 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6;Philippians 4:4-7;
 Luke 3:10-18

7:30 AM Samuel & Adeline DeVecchis

11:00 AM People of the Parish

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

Dec 06 - Mel Reed

Dec 13 - Russell Krug

Dec 20 - Dave Kaniecki

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates are **available:** Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements. **Dates Available:**

The Sanctuary lamp is
 In Loving Memory of
 Frank Guerrini
 With Love His wife Marie

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. **The following dates are available:**

Altar Flowers are:

*In Honor of the 105th Birthday of
Grace Heindl on December 8th
With Love Mary Frances*

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happening This Week!

Wednesday, December 9th at 7:30 For the Annual Rectory Christmas Wine and Cheese Open House!



On Sunday, November 29 & Dec 6th St. Vincent DePaul will be collecting grocery items for the Christmas Baskets to be given out to those in need in the parish or in the community on December 19th from 10am – 12pm.

The following is a list of the items needed by December 1st:

Cranberry Sauce
Boxes of Stuffing or Bread Cubes to make stuffing
Peas, Corn, Green Beans
Box Potatoes or Potatoes for mashing
Cake Mixes, Frosting

Items for making pies

Canned Fruit, Sweet Potatoes

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.**

On December 13th St. Vincent DePaul will be accepting monetary donations to purchase turkeys and anything other than food items they may need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

P.S. If you know of anyone needing a basket please call the parish office before the 4th of December. Thank you.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
National Council of the United States
Seeking Charity and Justice

ST. Vincent de Paul needs help! They are looking for donations for the small travel size toiletries such as shampoo, toothpaste, shaving cream, deodorant, and baby items, etc....



Upcoming Cursillo Movement Event, held at St. Jude, Mifflintown, is open to everyone: "School of Leaders" Session, 10 am to 12noon, On December 12th.

beginning with a spiritual talk by Fr. Bill and following with a layperson speaking about practical applications. This event will take place in the Church.



Attention: Confirmation students on December 20th after the 11 am Mass, we will need assistance in bringing the Christmas Decorations up from the Basement and putting them

up in the Church this is a great way to earn Church hours for Confirmation. Don't miss out on this opportunity.

Welcoming People With Disabilities So All May Encounter Christ, A Guide for Parishes. Diocese of Harrisburg, *Tina Stryker, the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Advocate for Persons with Disabilities*

Our first priority as a parish in meeting the needs of persons with disabilities is spirituality. We must see that every individual meets Christ. They must meet Christ in the celebration of the Sacraments, in proclaiming the Word, in prayer and in the compassion and love of the community. 1 Some general tips for welcoming and including persons with a disability are...

- Focus on the person, not the disability.
- Treat adults with disabilities as adults.
- Speak directly to the parishioner, not to the companion or interpreter.
- Ask for instructions before providing assistance; don't assume you know the need.
- Recognize that the person may have multiple disabilities and, therefore, multiple needs.
- Use normal voice and volume, unless instructed to do otherwise.
- Offer to shake hands when introduced.
- Relax; we are all people with gifts and challenges

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Annual St. Jude Mifflintown **Cookie walk** will be held **Saturday, December 12th, at 8 am**

in the Social Hall... Get there early; cookies go fast!



Charismatic Workshop with Rev. Stephen DeLacy – “Freedom in God’s Mercy” January 9th, 2016 8am-4pm at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800

Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg PA. Registration \$20.00 per adult/\$10.00 per student includes lunch. Call Lori for information: 717-877-4818 or email: loriribic@yahoo.com Also registration forms are in the Sacred Heart Church Vestibule.



All are invited to kick-off Catholic Schools’ Week 2016 with the Hershey Bears Hockey team at the Giant Center in Hershey. The Annual Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg Night will be **Saturday,**

January 30, 2016 at 7 p.m. Tickets are discounted to \$14 each for all ages from the regular admission price of \$20. For tickets, get an order form from your school or parish office or contact Janet Dise - jdise@HersheyPA.com . Forms are also available for download on the [intranet](#) under announcements and also at www.hbgdiocese.org/schools. **The deadline for orders is Monday, January 25, 2016.**

The Jubilee Year of Mercy:

Bishop Gainer will solemnly open the principal Diocesan Door of Mercy at Saint Patrick Cathedral on **Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 4 PM in the context of Solemn Vespers for the Third Sunday of Advent. All the faithful of the Diocese are invited to attend. The prescription for the solemn ritual involves gathering at a stational church with a procession to the Door of Mercy: we will gather at Saint Lawrence Chapel, State Street, and process together to the Cathedral where Bishop Gainer will solemnly open the Door of Mercy and lead us through into this year of grace. Participants able to make the small pilgrimage are asked to gather at St Lawrence Chapel by 3:50 PM. Those unable to walk in process are invited to go immediately to the Cathedral. **The South Street Parking Garage is available free of charge to all participants.****



From the Desk of Dr. Maginnis:

Dear Parishioners:

As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, our school has formed a Planning Team as part of our efforts to secure re-accreditation from the Middle States

Association. The team would like to share with you the following set of belief statements that we drafted as representing our school. These draft statements are also being shared with the School Board, Parish Council, and other members of the SHS faith community:

We believe that:

- (1) Christ is the center of our lives.
- (2) Every person is a gift from God and worthy of love, respect, and dignity.
- (3) Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- (4) Catholic education is the shared responsibility of the school, families, and parish.
- (5) Effective faith-based education develops the whole person—spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.
- (6) A safe, loving, encouraging school environment allows students to reach their full potential.
- (7) Children should be taught self-discipline and respect for others.
- (8) We express the presence of God through our words and actions towards one another.
- (9) Continuous improvement and evaluation of the curriculum are essential to academic excellence.



Gala tickets on sale now!

Join us Over the Rainbow for an Enchanted Evening in the Emerald City.

Saturday, February 6, 2016

5:00 PM- 11:00 PM

Lewistown Community Center @ Rec. Park

Tickets: \$50 thru Jan. 17, 2016

\$60 after Jan. 17, 2016

Purchase a table of 8 to receive reserved seating & a complimentary bottle of wine! Door Prizes every hour plus Grab Bags, 50/50's & Raffle Tickets will be available for purchase. **Get your tickets at the school or parish office today!**



Please join us for our annual Christmas Musical on Friday, December 18th at 10am & 7pm in the church. This year the students will be performing “Follow the Star.”



The auction committee is looking for handmade items for this year’s auction. If crafting is your thing, please consider making an item to donate. **For questions, please contact Ashley Henry, at the Parish Office.**