

December 17, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

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

Tithing income for the week of December 10, 2023:

Regular: \$4,666.25
Loose: \$2,029.00
ONLINE GIVING: \$1,027.00
Tithing income December 10, 2023: \$7,785.80
Tithing income December 11, 2022: \$8,454.25

Mass Attendance for December 10, 2023 362
Mass Attendance for December 11, 2022 327

Tithe for December 8, 2023 (Immaculate Conception)
Sister's of Christian Charity \$ 96

Tithe for December 10, 2023
St. Vincent dePaul Society \$779
Retirement Fund for Religious (envelope) \$410

Tithe for December 17, 2023
Promise Ranch Ministries

Tithe for December 24, 2023
St. Vincent dePaul Society
United Way Energy Bank

Tithe for December 25, 2023 (Christmas)
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), Catholic Near East (CNEWA)

Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, December 25th** and **Tuesday, December 26th** in observance of Christmas. The office will reopen on Thursday, Dec. 28th. The office will also be closed on **Monday, January 1st** in observance of New Years.



Prayer for Advent

O Lord, the Advent candles, with their familiar, glowing light, help us to turn to you. May we stay alert in these weeks, anticipating the joyful celebration of your Son's arrival into the world. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wandering from your ways. Help us to stay ever watchful, like the gatekeeper. Help us, we pray, to hold your mercy deep within our heart, carrying it with us as we prepare for the coming of our infant Savior. Amen.



FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly Most Holy Name Catholic Church, Garfield, NJ Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

"Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything; retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and entire, spirit, soul and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it."

Living the final days of Advent, Saint Paul offers a game plan for prayer and action. We have heard the prophet speak. We have met John the Baptist and accepted his message of repentance and renewal. What more can be done? It is something we dare not avoid - our personal call to holiness.

Set aside a few minutes each day, look into your heart, see what the Lord sees, thanking Him for His blessings, but also ask help to set aside whatever can block the Lord giving you His peace. 'Come Lord Jesus.'

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Isaiah describes the joy and salvation which will accompany the coming of Christ. He compares the plants which spring from a garden to the justice that will spring from all nations.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul reminds the Thessalonians to constantly ready themselves for Christ's arrival. He tells them to "avoid any semblance of evil" so that they may be found irreproachable when Jesus does arrive.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John explains that he is only a messenger to the people for one more powerful than himself. John stresses to them that they must make a path for the one so powerful that he is not fit to unfasten the strap of his sandal.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass  for the
Intentions  Week



Saturday, December 16: Advent Weekday

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19;

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

4:00 PM Catherine Schultz from Betsy Tressler

Sunday, December 17: Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11; Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54;

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

7:30 AM Peter Meloni from Mom

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, December 18: Advent Weekday

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;

Matthew 1:18-25

8:00 AM Bob & Betty Hackenberry from the Family

Tuesday, December 19: Advent Weekday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;

Luke 1:5-25

8:00 AM Diane Hallinan from the Hallinan Family

Wednesday, December 20: Advent Weekday

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6;

Luke 1:26-38

7:00 PM Special Intentions of Katherine Costa from Steve & Donath Korbich

Thursday, December 21: Advent Weekday

Song of Songs 2:8-14; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21;

Luke 1:39-45

9:00 AM Special Intentions of Donath Korbich from Donna Potepan

In Memory/Honor of SHS Memorial Society Members

Friday, December 22: Advent Weekday

1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;

Luke 1:46-56

8:00 AM Sr. Mary Zavacky

Saturday, December 23: Advent Weekday

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 & 14;

Luke 1:57-66

4:00 PM Helen Berich from her Daughter

Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

7:30 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Wednesday 12/20/23

Confessions/6:30PM/Church

Mass/7:00PM/Church

Adult Choir Final Rehearsal/7:30PM/Church

Thursday 12/21/23

Mass/ 9:00AM/Church

RCIA/7:00PM/Parish Office

Friday 12/22/23

Mass/8:00AM/Church

SHS Early Dismissal/11:15 AM

Saturday 12/23/23

Confessions/3:00PM/Church

Mass/4:00PM/Church

Sunday 12/24/23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass/10:00AM/Church

No Adult Sunday School

No CCD Class

No Youth Group



Sunday 12/24/22

IMPORTANT NOTICE

****Christmas Carols & Children's Pageant**

3:30 PM/Church**

Christmas Eve Mass/4:00PM/Church

Christmas Vigil Mass/6:00PM/St. Jude

Christmas Carols/9:45PM/Church

Christmas Vigil Mass/10:00PM/Church



Monday 12/25/22

No 8:00 AM Mass

Christmas Day Mass/10:00AM/Church

Christmas Day Mass/10:00AM/St. Jude

Spanish Mass/1:30PM/St Jude



Calendar of Events

Saturday 12/16/23

SVDP Christmas Basket Distribution/9AM-1PM

Confessions/3:00PM/Church

Mass/4:00PM/Church

Sunday 12/17/23 – Third Sunday of Advent

Mass/7:30AM/Church

Adult Sunday School/9:00AM/Parish Office

No CCD Class

Mass/11:00AM/Church

Children's Final Choir Practice/12:30PM/Choir Loft

Spanish Mass/1:30PM/St Jude

No Youth Group

Monday 12/18/23

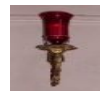
Mass/8:00AM/Church

Tuesday 12/19/23

Mass/8:00AM/Church



**The Sanctuary Lamp
for the week of December 17th
burns in honor of
Katherine Costa's 104th Birthday
From Steve & Donath Korbich**



**Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates
are available: February 11, 18 & 25 and March 3 & 17.**



**The Sanctuary Flowers for the
week of December 17th
are in honor of
Annie Hallinger's 102nd Birthday
From daughters Anna Zavacky & Jeannie Krepps
and Families**



**Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize
flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the office to
schedule. The following dates are available:
January 7, 14, & 21 and February 4, 11, 18 & 25.**



Ministry Schedule: December 16 – December 17

Sat. 4:00 PM

Greeter: Ken Johnson, Steven Lilley

Lector: Pete O'Donnell

EMHC: Christina Stryker

Knights of the Holy Temple: Tristen Kline

Altar Server: Daniel McMonigal

Cantor: Dr. Michael Murray

Sun. 7:30 AM

Greeter: Bill & Kim Napikoski

Lector: Don Spangler

EMHC: Mike Leeper

Knights of the Holy Temple: Unfilled

Altar Server: Caroline Palopoli

Cantor: Mary Smith

Sun. 11:00 AM

Greeter: Judy DeVecchis, Judith Stroup

Lector: Judy Sieber

EMHC: Greg DeVecchis

Knights of the Holy Temple: Landon Mazur

Altar Server: Kenneth Shank

Cantor: Cathy Stout

Ministry Schedule: December 23 – December 24

Sat. 4:00 PM

Greeter: Diane Bray

Lector: Bernie Howard

EMHC: Nora Torquato

Knights of the Holy Temple: Tristen Kline

Altar Server: Kenneth Swartzell

Cantor: Katie Swartzell

Sun. 10:00 AM-December 24-Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Denny & Dottie Peiffer

Lector: Unfilled

EMHC: Joann Loht

Knights of the Holy Temple: Landon Mazur

Altar Server: Unfilled

Cantor: Cathy Stout

Ministry Schedule: December 24 – December 25

Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Children's Mass 3:30 PM

EMHC: Nora Torquato

Knight of the Holy Temple: Unfilled

Altar Servers: Daniel & Ethan McMonigal

Sun. Dec. 24 Christmas Vigil Mass 10:00 PM

Greeter: Diane Bray

Lector: Jeff Michaels

EMHC: Wendy Vogt

Knight of the Holy Temple: Matthew Murray

Altar Server: Kenneth Swartzell

Cantor: Gino Zannino

Mon. Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass 10:00 AM

Greeter: Denny & Dottie Peiffer

Lector: Judy Sieber

EMHC: Joann Loht

Knight of the Holy Temple: Unfilled

Altar Server: Unfilled

Cantor: Dr. Michael Murray



Christmas Basket Collection and Giving Tree Gifts



St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank you all for your most generous help with our Giving Tree. We were able to help many children and their families. We were also blessed by your help to provide Christmas Food Baskets to 106 families. Christmas is truly Christmas when we celebrate God's love by helping those in need! **Merry Christmas!**

Thank you for your support and generosity!



We are still in need of personal care items such as **shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, as well as diapers size two and three.**

They can be dropped off at the St. Vincent DePaul office or placed in the basket in the narthex.



Children's Choir practices for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass will be held from 12:30 -1:30 p.m. in the Choir Loft on the following dates:

Final Rehearsal
Sunday, December 17

All children in grades 1-8 are invited to join. The children's choir will sing at 3:30 PM, prior to the 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. For questions, please contact Cathy Stout at 814-360-4268.



One of our Catholic traditions is the wearing of the Brown Scapular. It is a devotion to Our Blessed Mother. Our Lady appeared to Saint Simon Stock in the year 1251 and gave him the Brown Scapular. She promised that anyone who wears the Scapular will be given the Grace of Final Perseverance to attain Eternal Life in Heaven. Fr. Rich will bless Scapulars in a brief ceremony on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17th, immediately following the 11:00 AM Mass.

Youth Group News



WINTER YOUTH SCHEDULE

The Youth Group will not meet on Sunday, December 17th, Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st in observance of the holidays. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 7th at 6 PM



CATECHISM in a YEAR -- ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School Class will **NOT** meet on Sunday, December 24th or Sunday, December 31st. Class will resume Sunday, January 7th.



SCHOOL NEWS

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday 7:30 AM- 3:30 PM

**If assistance is needed outside of office hours, leave a message on the school answering machine at 717-248-5351 or contact the Parish Office at 717-242-2781



Sacred Heart School Angel Fund

You will find nicely decorated apples in the Narthex. These apples were decorated by the students of SHS in hopes that you will make a gift to the SHS Angel Fund. The SHS Angel Fund provides scholarships and financial assistance to children who attend our school. If you would like to make a donation, you can make checks payable to **Sacred Heart School with Angel Fund** in the memo and placing it in the collection basket, mailing it to the school or you can go online to sacredheartschool.com and make an online donation. Donations to the SHS Angel Fund are accepted at any time during the year; however, if you are able, we encourage you to participate at this time. **Consider using your 5% tithe to other charitable organizations to participate, if possible. Thanks for your support of SHS!**



RaiseRight™

Formerly ShopWithScrip

RaiseRight, formerly SCRIP, is a wonderful fundraiser for our school. Families purchase gift cards for everyday expenses (i.e. groceries, gas, clothing, eating out) or gifts for holidays (i.e. Christmas, Birthdays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day) and HSA receives a percentage of each purchase. Percentages vary based on the company. The money HSA receives goes back to the school for assemblies, playground improvement, teacher expenses, etc. There are over 750 brands from which you can purchase gift cards. You can purchase gift cards 3 different ways:

1. Fill out a form available in the Narthex. Send it into the school or the Parish Office with cash or a check made out to SHS-HSA.
2. Download the app or go to RaiseRight.com and order gift cards. You can choose to have the gift cards shipped to you or to the school. There is a small fee to have the gift cards shipped to you and there is a small fee to pay for your order through the website or app.
3. Download the app or go to RaiseRight.com and order e-gift cards or reloadable cards. These cards are made available to you immediately. There is a small fee to pay for orders through the website or app.

The RaiseRight enrollment code for SHS is:

986DCAA961532

Thank you for your support. Happy Shopping!

Update: December 19th is the expected delivery date for orders placed on December 6th. Cards can be picked up at the School or Parish Office. **This is a year round fundraiser.**



Save the Date

SHS Gala:

Diamond Jubilee:

Celebrating 75 years of Catholic Education at SHS, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3 at the Lewistown Country Club. Tickets are now available at the Parish Office; prices are \$60 per person through Jan. 26th and \$70 Jan. 27th thru Feb. 1st.

