

December 6, 2020

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**ST. JOSEPH IS A TITHING PARISH**

God's Plan for Giving

In return for the Lord's generosity, our people returned to God the following:

Sunday Offerings:	\$4,284.00
Last Year:	\$3,449.00

The above are bank deposit amounts

- Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00AM  
4:00 PM  
**First Saturday**  
Poor Souls  
Bob Kirby  
(Sue & Larry Blase)
- Sun. Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 AM  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
People of the Parish  
  
11:00 AM  
Curtis Aimino  
(Renee & Mark Dickerman)  
*St. Ambrose*  
Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil  
(Fr. Hoke Intentions)
- Mon. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00PM
- Tues. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Noon  
Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary  
(Fr. Hoke Intentions)
- Wed. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM  
Matthew Mousley
- Thurs. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM  
Bea Gharett
- Fri. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 AM  
*St. Damasus I*  
Chic & Purina Chiccino  
(Anne)
- Sat. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**  
4:00 PM  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
People of the Parish
- Sun. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 AM  
In honor of St. Lucy  
(Muscarella Family)  
11:00 AM  
Paula Heneffe  
(Sofie & Wes Cromley)

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for "the glory of the Lord to be revealed." Rather than looking only at God's power, Isaiah focuses on God's kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

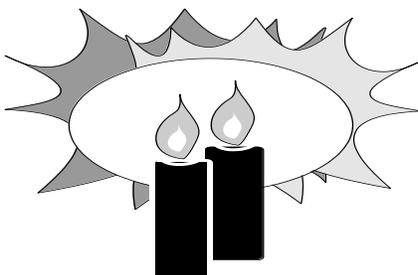
For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

**Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to "stoop and untie his sandal straps." John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.

**Second Collections**

- Dec.-Christmas Flowers
- Dec. 6-Our Faith Our Future
- Dec. 13-Retired Religious Fund
- Dec. 20- Repair & Maint.



***A letter from Bishop Gainer has been posted in lieu of Father Hoke's weekly message.***

**DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**



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November 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a year 2020 has become. Who would have thought that a global pandemic would impact every continent and continue to affect our daily lives, eight months after it reached our Diocese? I pray you and your loved ones have been safe during this time.

I am writing to you today as we have reached a milestone in the reorganization process for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg (RCDH). As you may know, November 13, 2020 was established by the bankruptcy court as the last day—or the bar date—for creditors, including survivors of abuse, to file claims against the RCDH. Having passed the bar date, we have received claims on behalf of approximately 59 survivors.

The next phase of the reorganization process, which is already in motion, is mediation regarding the claims asserted by survivors. Through this mediation, the survivors (either individually or through a committee representing their interests), our present and historical insurance providers, the RCDH, and the parishes and schools will work together in an effort to reach a consensual resolution of the survivor claims asserted against the RCDH.

As we explained when this process started in February, the RCDH's financial situation had been in a challenging position for several years prior to the Grand Jury Subpoena. That investigation and the legal costs we incurred took its toll on our financial situation, leaving us with no other path forward than to file for Chapter 11 protections and seek to reorganize. Once this process is complete, our Diocese will have a much stronger foundation to build, and rebuild, upon.

I fully understand that the past several years have been very difficult on our priests, deacons, religious, employees and most especially, each of you. There is no excuse, there is no justification for the RCDH's horrific past regarding clergy sexual abuse. I continue to offer my most profound apology to all those survivors of clergy abuse and to pray they will find healing. I also thank each of you for your continued faith, especially when it has been repeatedly tested.

We still have several months of mediation ahead of us and we will do our best to keep you informed of milestone actions, when possible. As we move through this process, I encourage you to visit [www.hbgdiocese.org/reorganization-information](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/reorganization-information) for the most up-to-date information.

I humbly ask for your prayers for our Diocese as we continue this process. May God grant us every grace needed during this difficult time. May Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, intercede with Her Son to be our strength and support.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ronald W. Gainer".

Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer  
Bishop of Harrisburg

**REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SICK  
IN YOUR PRAYERS, ESPECIALLY:**

Jack Wasilewski	Vickie Youman
Joan Bittler	Kurt Livingston
Evelyn Young	Dr. Mike Weisner
Tresha Sudol	George Sudol
Rita Patynski	Rita Prentiss
Anna Lee Fagnano	Abram Koons
Connie Buehler	Charlotte Farrell
Jackie Rando	Marie Lindner
Harriet Moore	Vicki Howell
Donald Reigel	Ed Zerrenner
Dolores Caicco	Sister Laura
Beth Onesci	

**PRAYER IS OUR WAY TO CALL UPON GOD**

Please pray every day for all members of the Body of Christ at St. Joseph's Milton, pray in a distinct way for all who are burdened with poor health. Please keep this bulletin close to pray for our parish shut-ins, and those in serious poor health, and may they pray for you.

Our Prayer List is for special prayer needs; it is a list of special requests for those who are in grave need of prayer. We welcome the names of those in great need of prayer. If I do not personally know the on-going condition of the person, the name will be removed from our prayer list eight weeks after their enrollment. If a member of the parish wants to give us an up-date and have a person re-enrolled, then we will be happy to do so.

Let us be reasonable: If we listed everyone who needs prayer on this list it would be longer than we could handle. Our Sunday Universal Prayers at Mass are of the greatest power for blessings for the sick. Pray at Mass with us. Yes, you should pray, and ask for prayers personally person to person, gather to pray together in the Lord, and only in a very serious need add the need to the prayer list.

Bless Bless, Fr. Hoke

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)**

On Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a vigil at 7PM and on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> Mass at Noon.  
*The Vigil and Mass will be held at the Parish Church.*

**Mass Intention Requests**

For your convenience, mass intention envelope requests have been placed in the back of the church or you may call the church office. If you take an envelope, please fill out and place in offertory basket. A staff member will be in touch with you regarding your request. Thank you for helping cut back on foot traffic in the church office during this time.

**Music Minister Wanted**

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milton PA is in need of an organist/choir director beginning January 2021. Please contact the church office for more details.

**Mass Locations**

Until further notice, all masses except for Sunday 11 a.m. will be held at the church. The Sunday 11 a.m. Mass will be held at the Parish Center.

**Wreaths for Veterans**

Last weekend our church youth placed wreaths on the graves of our Veterans. Please take time to stop by St. Joseph Cemetery to offer prayers for our dearly departed loved ones. *Thank you to the families who helped. We are truly grateful for our volunteers, a huge thank you to the Rocktashel, Seksinsky and Wendt Families for placing the Wreaths.*

## Christmas Giving

**Gifts for our Shut-ins-** Thank you to all who took an envelope. If you have not returned, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**No Room at the Inn-** We will be collecting monetary donations for No Room at the Inn. Envelopes labeled will be made available at the back of the church. *To date, we have collected \$839.00*

**The Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger-** This year, due to the pandemic they have paused the sale of cookie trays. However, the need to feed starving people in Haiti and the US has grown during the pandemic, so a collection will be taken instead. Bishop Gainer is asking all parishes to participate. St. Joseph will be participating with the collection. We are asking a \$10.00 donation to replace the cost of the \$15.00 cookie tray. Envelopes will be made available at the back of the church for your donation. *To date, we have collected \$380.00*

## Lottery Tickets

Please consider purchasing lottery tickets for the month of February. Tickets are available after all Masses or you may call the church office to purchase tickets. The church has not been able to have fundraisers this year due to Covid-19. The church is counting on this vital fundraiser to help support our Parish. *Ticket sellers are needed to help make this a successful fundraiser. Please consider taking a few to sell to family and friends.*



## Advent Prayer

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world, You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose You, this Advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said "Yes" to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son.

Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Amen.