

July 24, 2011 Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income: July 17, 2011	\$ 7,800.00
Tithing Income: July 19, 2010	\$ 6,693.75
Children's Offering:	\$ 1.00

Next Week's Tithes is for:

To support the St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, located in Boalsburg.

Tithe for 7/17/11 supported the following Group:

Sister Servants of the Sacred Heart	\$ 500.00
Mifflin County Soccer Club	\$ 250.00

From the Pastor:

"If someone were begging for a dime, would you give him or her anything? If you gave them something, would it just be a dime? If that beggar were Christ, would you give Him more? Does Christ have to beg us for what we have already received as gifts from God?"

Comments on Tithing from the pews:

"Recently I had my monthly bills out on the desk to begin writing checks. It really struck me that the cheapest 'bill' was what I put in my monthly envelope. I looked at all the other bills and realized that none of them give me the peace, the joy and the support that my faith gives. I hope to slowly set my priorities straight."

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP) WEEK

It won't be announced from the White House or by congressional resolution but the above week is big in Catholic Church life. It runs from July 24 to 30 and reminds us of the sacredness of the marital act and life in the womb.

NFP means spacing births according to natural means, i.e., avoiding the marital act when the wife is fertile. The woman's body signals its fertile cycle each month through easily detected signs like body temperature and certain vaginal signs. Given those signs, the couple then avoids intercourse and a birth is avoided naturally, without recourse to the artificial birth control pill or to condoms, both immoral by Catholic Church teaching.

Why are they immoral? Here's why: couples using them directly and intentionally stifle the God-given, life-giving nature of the marital act. Each marital act between husband and wife is sacred, with both its love-giving (unitive) and life-giving (procreative) properties intact, not to be interfered with. The act is to be done free and clear, so to speak, as God intended.

Husbands and wives should make a generous response to life, giving back to God, church and society a good number of well-formed children who may go out to change the world and to someday help populate Heaven, we hope and pray. One reason the marital act is so

sacred is precisely because we can co-create with God new human beings that we hope will somebody be enjoying Heaven. Angels and devils, being pure spirits, do not procreate. We do, by God's good graces.

NFP respects this sacred trust. The couple simply avoids the act for a time during the fertile period of the monthly cycle. There's nothing wrong with refraining from the act. What's wrong is doing the act and simultaneously altering its meaning by eliminating the ability to give life, even if just for a time.

Remember too that the moral problem is not simply that these means are artificial. Riding in an airplane or train is artificial too but is not immoral or sinful. The moral problem with condoms and the pill is attacking the life-giving properties of the act. After all, our fertility is a gift from God, to be celebrated and cherished, not attacked. Artificial contraception treats our fertility like a disease, to be stifled or even eliminated, as with tubal ligations or vasectomies.

A married couple may well decide that right now is not a good time for another child. That can be a reasonable decision to make. Perhaps one partner is laid off from work. Maybe the other partner has been very ill. Maybe the couple wants to space births a year or two between babies. The moral, spiritual and physically healthy solution (no foams, spermicides or chemicals ingested) is NFP.

This centuries-old teaching was reinforced in Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae* ("About Human Life"). In that document, the pope predicted that wide availability of artificial birth control would increase sexual immorality, especially among the young. The rise in STDs, teen pregnancies, single parenthood, abortion, adultery and divorce, corresponds almost exactly to the rise of artificial contraception, from the 1960s on.

Interested couples need training in this method and those in Mifflin and Juniata Counties should call Martin and Mary Smith, Belleville, 717-935-5256, for more information. Happy NFP Week!

Fr. Bill



Weekly Readings

Monday – July 25 (St. James, Apostle)

2Corinthians 4:7-15; Psalm 126:1-6;
Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday – July 26 (Sts. Joachim & Anne)

Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28; Psalm 103:6-13;
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday – July 27

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99:5, 6, 7, 9; Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday – July 28

Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Psalm 84:3-6,8,11; Psalm 99:5-7,9;
Matthew 13:44-46

Friday – July 29 (St. Martha)

Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37; Psalm 81:3-6,10-11, ;
John 11:19-27

Saturday – July 30

Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8;
Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday – July 31 (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

Numbers 11:4-15; Psalm 81:12-17; Matthew 14:22-36

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 24- Mass/7:30am/Church
- 24- Mass/11am/Church
- 25- Mass/7am/Church
- 26- Mass/7am/Church
- 27- Mass/7pm/Church
- 28- Mass/7am/Church
- 29- Mass/7am/Church
- 30- Mass/8am/Church
- 30- Confessions/3pm/Church
- 30- Mass/4pm/Church
- 31- Mass/7:30am/Church
- 31- Mass/11am/Church

Aug

- 1- Mass/7am/Church
- 2- Mass/7am/Church
- 3- Pro-Life Group Mtg/6pm/Parish Ofc.
- 3- Mass/7pm/Church
- 4- Mass/7am/Church
- 5- Mass/7am/Church
- 5- ALL DAY ADORATION**
- 5- Holy Hour/ 7pm/ Church
- 6- Mass/8am/ Church
- 6- Women's Guild Mtg/After Mass/Church Basement
- 6- Mass/4pm/Church
- 7- Mass/7:30 am/Church
- 7- Mass/11am/Church

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, July 24

- 7:30 AM Judith & Honey Gers
- 11:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, July 25

- 7:00 AM Frank Guerrini

Tuesday, July 26

- 7:00 AM Karen Lee Hurrell

Wednesday, July 27

- 7:00 PM Deceased of the Battista Family

Thursday, July 28

- 7:00 AM The Wetherell Children

Friday, July 29

- 7:00 AM Poor Souls in Purgatory & the Forgotten Souls of this World

Saturday, July 30

- 8:00 AM Mary Drozda
- 4:00 PM Anna Hackenberry

Sunday, July 31

- 7:30 AM Ann Turbett
- 11:00 AM Frank Guerrini

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

- July 31 - Russell Krug
- Aug 7 - Dave Kaniecki
- Aug 14 - Mel Reed

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates are available: July 24 - 31. Cost is \$20. Call the office to make arrangements.

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. Dates available are July 31- Aug 7. Flower colors should be coordinated with the church seasons.

Altar Flowers this weekend:

In honor of Robert A. Hackenberry for his 91st Birthday! From his Grandchildren, Jack Jr., Jeane, Fred Jr., Cherie, and their Families

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Help wanted, local parishioner looking for a Catholic cleaning person. Please contact Mr. John Wilkinson at 248-7183.

Interested in joining the Catholic Church? or know someone who is?

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) classes begin 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in the parish office and continue most Thursday evenings throughout the school year, through May, 2012. People can begin the classes as a come-and-see opportunity with no obligation at all to enter the Church. If you or anyone you know would be interested in trying out these classes, please contact Fr. Bill, 242-2781.



The Knights of Columbus Council 1338 is sponsoring a boat cruise at the Raystown Lake on Sunday, July 31, 2011, from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm. The

cost of the cruise including Italian dinner is \$25.00 per person. 3 MO (Tom Shears Band) will be providing entertainment. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, alcoholic beverages BYOB. For more information & RSVP by July 17th please contact Chuck Zannino at: 717-247-3963.



Save the Date! Father Thomas Kosnicki, from Divine Word Missionaries will be visiting our Parish on August 6 & 7, 2011, and will be presiding over mass that weekend. Divine Word Missionaries is a Catholic missionary society that works among the poor, the neglected and the disadvantaged in more than 70 countries around the world. For over a century, the priests and Brothers have helped those in need build a better future. Often their work takes them to lands so remote that services we consider necessities do not exist. There is no electricity or drinkable water. Medicine and doctors are in short supply, if available at all. Education as we know it does not exist. The work of Divine Word Missionaries is, first and most importantly, to preach the Gospel and share the Word of God. Preaching the Gospel in mission communities is done in many ways. Sharing Christ through the Word brings comfort to those in need, peace to those in pain and builds vibrant Catholic communities of faith.



The Parish office is looking for a parishioner who has extensive knowledge and background with computers and computer systems.

This person must be able to have website building/maintenance experience, and able to program, and work with networking systems. This can be a volunteer or paid position. Please contact Sue Parzanese at the parish office.

Welcome to the new members of our Parish!

Tyler James Coons, Baptized June 12, 2011

Renzie Rose Cramer, June 26, 2011

Daniel Lee McMonigal, Baptized July 10, 2011

Delagnie Rae Newlan, Baptized July 17, 2011

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (HDCCW) warmly invites you to join them for their first annual weekend retreat, August 5-7 (Friday evening to Sunday noon) at Mount St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD, home of the beautiful National Shrine Grotto of our lady of Lourdes. The theme will be "Women of Hope" with Rev. Andrew P. Marinak as Retreat Master. Cost is \$130 (Single Room with Shared Bath) or \$155 (Single with Private Bath). Please call Barbara McCarthy at 717-534-1858 to register or to inquire about transportation. We sincerely hope to see you there for this inspiring weekend!



"Holy Words for Holy People" are informational and educational sessions being scheduled in parish's in the Diocese of Harrisburg. These presentations will introduce the upcoming word changes at Mass to the Catholic in the pew. The session will involve going through the parts of the Mass that will be changing and discussing the historical context and the spiritual richness of the words. At the session answers to these questions will be answered; What is changing? Why is it changing? And, How can I reap the most spiritual benefits from the changes? A session will be held at **St. Francis Xavier, Gettsburg, on July 26th, at 7 p.m.** Fr. Joshua Brommer, Liturgy Coordinator for the Diocese will be presenting the Sessions. The Sessions are intended for all Catholics in the diocese at large as well as anyone with an interest in the topic. More information on the topic is available at www.hbgdiocese.org.

Can't make the July 26th session below is the schedule of session around the diocese:

July 26, 7pm St. Francis Xavier, Gettysburg- this session will be held at the Lake Heritage Community Room.

Questions about the location should be directed to the parish at 334-3919.

August 8	7pm	St. Margaret Mary, Harrisburg
August 23	7pm	Our Lady of Lourdes, Enola
September 7	7pm	St. Joseph, York
September 13	7pm	St. John the Baptist, New Freedom

More dates for additional session will be announced for September.

HARRISBURG: The Knights of Columbus Harrisburg Diocesan Chapter will sponsor a Blue Mass to honor law enforcement and emergency personnel and their families at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11 at St. Patrick Cathedral at 212 State Street in downtown Harrisburg.

The ceremonial Color Corps of both the Capitol Police and the Harrisburg Police Department will participate in the Mass. "The Blue Mass honors police officers, firefighters and emergency personnel who have fallen in the line of duty, and it enables parishioners and others to pray for the safety and protection of all of the brave men and women who serve daily to keep us safe," said Bert Langendijk of Knights of Columbus Council #11008, which is based at St. Patrick Cathedral. Referring to the blue uniforms worn by so many public safety personnel, the Blue Mass dates back to 1934. It remains a venerable tradition in many dioceses, including Harrisburg. This will be the **FIFTH** consecutive year for the Blue Mass in Harrisburg. **WHO:** Knights of Columbus, Harrisburg Diocesan Chapter, **WHAT:** Blue Mass to Honor Law Enforcement & Emergency Personnel, **WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, **WHERE:** St. Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street,



Harrisburg. All emergency and law enforcement personnel in the Greater Harrisburg area are invited to attend. Media coverage also is invited and welcome. Additional information about the Knights of Columbus, Council #11008, can be found by visiting <http://www.kofc11008.org>.

PA Legislative Update:

School Choice Postponed, Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your hard work has been paying off. Although school choice supporters in Pennsylvania are disappointed that the state legislature left for its summer recess on June 30 with out passing school vouchers, the governor and both chambers of the legislative body have made school choice a high priority for this fall. The PCC encourages those who care about the future of education in Pennsylvania to use the summer months to speak out on school choice. Legislators are home now. Summer is a good time to visit or call your legislator in their local district offices or send letters faxes and e-mails urging support for school choice. There was some good news for school choice advocates; however, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program was restored to \$75 million, up from \$60 million in 2009 and 2010.

Pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes

Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg MD. The 24th Annual Diocesan-Wide Pilgrimage for World Peace through Conversion of Heart will take place on Thursday, August 4, 2011, at the Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes. This day of prayer will offer the Sacrament of Penance, the Holy sacrifice of the Mass praying of the Holy Rosary, a Marian Conference by Fr. John Bednarik, OFM Cap, an act of Consecration to Mary, Mediatrix of all Graces, the chanting of the Divine Mercy chaplet, and will end with a Holy Hour of Exposition and adoration. *The Days Schedule:* 10a Orientation, 10:15a The Sacrament of Reconciliation, 11:30a Rosary at the Grotto (weather permitting), 12p Holy Mass at the Grotto (weather permitting), and Celebrant & Homilist: The Most Rev. Joseph P. McFadden, D.D., and Bishop of Harrisburg. 1p Lunch (pack your own lunch), 2p Marian Conference in the Chapel on the Hill/Presenter = Fr. John Bednarik, OFM Cap, 2:45p Holy Hour in the Chapel on the Hill, 3:45p Dismissal. For general information, contact Deacon Michael Grella at 717-939-6431(home) or at 717-379-8083 (cell), or email at dmgrella@hbgiocese.org.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL



**Sacred Heart School Office will be Open:
July 25th – July 29th**

Office hours are as follows:

Tues/ Wed 9AM – 12PM, Thu 9AM - 1PM

**** Should you need assistance in between office hours, please contact Sue Parzanese at the Parish office:**

9 North Brown St. Ph: (717) 447- 2002

Welcome back to school! SHS will open on August 31st at 8:00AM. The Children are to wear phys ed uniforms with sneakers on that day. Breakfast and lunch will not be offered the first three days of school. Kindly bring bag lunch and snack. Milk will be available for purchase at the price of 45 cents. Additional details for school opening will be mailed to parents early August. We wish you enjoyable summer days as we look forward to seeing our children return on August 31st!

Faculty Dates: July 28: In-service - Call school office for details--Topic: Autism; August 18: In-service at SHS, 9-3PM, Topic: Assessment; August 25th: Faculty Meeting, 10:30-1:30; August 29: Retreat Day at St. Jude's, 9AM Mass - Closing: 1:30; August 30th: In-service Topic: Technology 9-2PM.

SHS is accepting registrations for all grades, K-5.

Call the school to schedule an appointment to meet with us and to hear what SHS has to offer as an alternative to the public school system. We accept children of various faiths and we are provided with district busing. Some tuition assistance continues to be available. We offer remedial help as well as enrichment classes for those who qualify. Speech classes and Spanish enrichment continues to be offered as well as after school clubs. All of this is accomplished in an environment of our Catholic faith where children have weekly Liturgy, daily religion classes, prayer throughout the day, celebration of Church seasons and commemoration of the saints. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at (717) 248-5351 or (717) 447-2002. Check us out on the web at www.sacredheartschool.com!

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS NEEDED!

If anyone in the parish is interested in providing a part or full scholarship for Sacred Heart School students, please contact Sue Parzanese. We are in great need for financial aid again this year. Thanks for your generosity!