

April 12, 2009 – Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

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

Tithing Income: April 5, 2009	\$ 8,876.90
April 6, 2008	\$ 9,589.50
Children's Offerings	\$ 16.75

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the charitable works of our parish St. Vincent DePaul society.

From the pastor: The Resurrection of Jesus reminds us that what appears to be utter despair can be turned into victory when we place all our confidence and trust in God. Our regular, weekly tithing is just one expression of this truth. Even when it seems "impossible" to offer God our full 10% (5% to the parish; 5% to your favorite charities), our trust in God finds its reward in ways we never expected. Thank you for your constant and regular faithfulness in offering to God your weekly tithing.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "God has provided for my needs. I know He does this so that I can help others. I feel that this is the least I can do."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithing, in addition to their financial gift: A couple of 5th graders said: "I gave my friend a piece of gum when she didn't have any," and "I helped my Mom clean." A 6th grader said: "I helped to clean my neighbor's house." A couple of 3rd graders said: "I cleaned my room," and "I pushed my sister in cart while Mom shopped." A couple of 1st graders said: "I helped clean," and "I helped make pizza."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Our only human experience of death is that it is final. The suffering and death of Good Friday we can grasp; that is within our human experience. But the joy and glory of Easter Sunday is hard to grasp, because it is outside of our human experience. No, the disciples didn't understand. Neither do we. But they came to believe – and so can we! The Paschal Mystery is not complete until death gives way to life, "The glory of the Lord's resurrection." Death leads all of us to the unbelieving and misunderstanding stance of those early disciples. The disciples saw the empty tomb and believed Mary's report. When they encountered the risen Lord, they remembered Jesus' promise that He would be raised up after three days. Thus they came to believe. Our "seeing" comes through hearing an unbroken chain of witnesses who have encountered the risen Lord and preached Christ raised from the dead. Easter Sunday is more than a celebration of the resurrection of *Christ*. It is also an invitation to preach the Gospel and take our place in the long line of witnesses to Jesus' risen life. The issue and challenge of Easter is to pass over from receiving a share in Jesus' risen life to, like Mary and the early disciples, proclaiming the Good News to all we meet.

About Liturgy: Features of Easter: During each of the Masses on Easter Sunday we renew our baptismal promises (replacing the Nicene Creed). With these promises we not only renew our willingness to reject evil and believe in our Triune God, but also renew our commitment to be faithful disciples of Jesus, the Risen One. Throughout the Easter season we remember this renewal as we use the "Sprinkling Rite" as an option at the beginning of Mass. Each Sunday we will recall the new life Christ won for us through His passion, death and resurrection. The priest blesses the water and sprinkles it on the people. Also throughout the Easter Season, we use incense during the Gospel to speak of the joy and solemnity of this season of victory over sin and death. We also use incense because we cannot use the candles for the Gospel – the reason being that the Easter Candle is there by the ambo, so there is no need for other candles – the use of incense helps us maintain a dignity and solemnity for the proclamation of the Gospel. Now that Easter has arrived, our fasting has ended, and the feasting begins! Alleluia! He is Risen! He is **truly** risen! Alleluia!

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Auction Committee Chair people MANDATORY MEETING. April 14th at 6:30pm in the school. All Chair people MUST ATTEND.

Sacred Heart Cemetery – Spring clean-up for all committee members plus new volunteers. Wednesday, April 15th at 5:30pm weather permitting.

The Parish Liturgy Committee meets Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30pm to finalize plans for Divine Mercy Sunday and review our celebration of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum. If you would like to be part of the liturgy committee, please join us. No experience is necessary, only a love for God and a desire to help shape our parish liturgies and celebrations.

Altar Server Workshop – All Altar servers are asked to attend two of the three workshops on the following dates: **April 18 – 9-11am, April 25 – 1-3pm, May 2 – 12-2pm** Would you like to become a server? If you have made your First Communion, you are invited to join us for these workshops to be trained. Questions? Contact Fr. Thoms.

The Women's Guild is planning a **Mother/Daughter Banquet** - Saturday, May 9 at 5:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Chicken and Ham provided. Bring a covered dish. Not able to bring your mother or daughter? Bring a friend. You may bring your casserole to the cafeteria before church. To register: Sign-up sheet in back of church, call Church office, call Timi Wills 248-1955 or call Dottie Peiffer 248-1804.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 12 – Easter – No CCD
- 13 – **Easter Monday – Parish Office Closed**
- 13 – School Board of Education / 6:30pm / school
- 14 – Auction Meeting / 6:30pm / cafeteria
- 16 – RCIA / 7pm / office
- 19 – CCD / 9am
- 19 – Divine Mercy Service / 2:15 – 4pm / church
- 19 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church
- 22 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / church
- 23 – RCIA / 7:00pm / office
- 26 – Last Day of CCD / 9am
- 26 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church
- 29 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / church

LITURGICAL NOTES

Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: April 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in loving memory of Angeline Ross & Frank Ross, Jr. from the family.

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (podium) please call the parish office to schedule. The next available date is First Communion, May 2-3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, April 12 (Easter Sunday)

7:30 AM People of the Parish

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, April 13 (Monday in the Octave of Easter)

7:00 AM Judith Gers

Tuesday, April 14 (Tuesday of the Octave of Easter)

7:00 AM Elizabeth Foresman

Wednesday, April 15 (Wednesday of Easter Octave)

7:00 PM E. Vincent Thoms

Thursday, April 16 (Thursday of the Octave of Easter)

7:00 AM Mary Rigel

9:00 AM Jack Roddey

Friday, April 17 (Friday of the Octave of Easter)

7:00 AM Oattie Olnick

Saturday, April 18 (Saturday of the Octave of Easter)

8:00 AM Pete Wambagh

4:00 PM Betty Ann Kenney

Sunday, April 19 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

7:00 AM Anna E. Hackenberry

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule for the next several weeks:

April 19 – Russell Krug

April 26 – Mel Reed

May 3 – Dave Kaniecki

Divine Mercy Sunday is next weekend.

Join us beginning at 2:15, for an instructional video on the Divine Mercy devotion followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction and an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Divine Mercy Sunday is enriched by a plenary indulgence so that faithful might receive in great abundance the gift of the consolation of the Holy Spirit so that they can foster a growing love for God and for their neighbor. All are invited to attend.



MORE THAN AN AUCTION NEWS

ONLY 2 WEEKS TILL OUR AUCTION!!!

Auction Items Needed: We are looking for any type of donations for the silent or oral auction. To donate an item call B.J. Newcamp at 436-9572 or beedgewolf@aol.com.

More Than An Auction: A Family Fun Fest: Sunday, April 26 at the Reedsville Youth Park. If you can help on a committee please call Annemarie Swineford at 248-3599. **Doors open at 11:00am and food will be served at 11:30am.** Your participation is valuable in making this auction a success! If you are **interested in making a gift basket** with a specific theme, or donating money for items to make a basket, call Connie Quinn at 667-6507.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010: We begin with a visit to Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Then we complete this “once-in-a-lifetime” journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Package price is all-inclusive out of Newark (EWR): approximately \$4,600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. **Information and registration forms are now available on the parish website.**

Need help with lawn work this spring & summer? Nolan Schaff (one of our high school age parishioners) is available to assist you with lawn mowing and other outdoor work. If you could use help, please contact the parish office and we will get you in touch with Nolan.

Discount Tickets are available at a HUGE savings. Regular admission tickets for adults are \$51.95; **our price is \$28.50; a savings of 45%.** Regular admission for children (ages 3-8) and Seniors (ages 55-69) is \$30.95, our price is \$24.00. Regular admission for Seniors age 70+ is \$20.95, our price is \$19.95. Tickets valid any day the Park is open during the regular season. Orders must be received by April 20th and will be delivered by May 19. Order forms are in the pamphlet rack or at the office.



Quo Vadis Days 2009 “Where are You Going?”

Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg’s 5th Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord’s call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, great food, talks and more. Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg staff *QVD*. Bishop Rhoades will join us for a day. *QVD* will be held from June 14-18, 2009 at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and College. Cost is free, due to generous donors. Please contact Fr. Bateman, Fr. Thoms or the Office of Vocations at 657-4804 x 282 with questions or for a registration packet.

EDUCATION

DISTURBING ADVANCES FOR THE CULTURE OF DEATH: Commentary by the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Harrisburg Continued...

There was perhaps one ray of hope in President Obama’s statement of March 9th. The president stated: “we will ensure that our government never opens the door to the use of cloning for human reproduction. It is dangerous, profoundly wrong, and has no place in our society, or any society.” I was glad the president made that statement. It is wrong to seek to have cloned children. But I wish he had just as forcefully recognized that it is wrong to clone human embryos because we want them for their body parts. This is euphemistically called “therapeutic cloning.” The president should have stated his unequivocal condemnation of this as well. (cf. *Dignitas Personae* #30).

We should all be gravely concerned that our new president may rescind existing federal protections for conscience rights in the health care profession. On February 27th, the Administration placed on a federal website the news that it intends to remove a conscience protection rule for the Department of Health and Human Services. We need these legal protections for health care workers. No doctor, nurse, or other health care worker should be coerced to be involved in abortion or other immoral acts. We must stand up for freedom of conscience and freedom of religion on behalf of individuals and on behalf of our religious institutions. Cardinal Francis George, the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, recently warned that a failure to protect conscience rights would move the country “from democracy to despotism.” I join Cardinal George in urging the faithful of our diocese to communicate to the Department of Health and Human Services in support of strong conscience protections for health care workers.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is inviting public comment on this attempt to rescind important federal regulations protecting the conscience rights of health care providers, especially those

at risk of being discriminated against because of their moral or religious objection to abortion. The Catholic community must speak out to protect Catholic doctors, nurses and hospitals. The deadline is April 9th for public comments. How? There are several ways to be involved. First, visit: www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection, then...

1. Be informed: listen to the videos, read the statements, check out the resources.

2. Be involved: click on the link and send your message (courtesy of the NCHLA). The link is on the right hand side of the web page.

3. Be an advocate: get others involved.

The recent orders of our president have been profoundly disappointing and may tempt us to lose hope for the building of a culture of life in our nation. We must pray for our president and our elected representatives that no matter what good they do in other areas, they must protect innocent life. But the foundation of our hope is not in political leaders or policies. Easter reminds us of the foundation of our hope: the Risen Jesus. As the great John Paul II reminded us: “The Lamb who was slain is alive, bearing the marks of his Passion in the splendor of the Resurrection. He alone is master of all the events of history: he opens its ‘seals’ (cf. *Rev 5: 1-10*) and proclaims, in time and beyond, *the power of life over death*” (*Evangelium Vitae* # 105).

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

The Sacred Heart School Board of Education meets on Monday, April 13 at 6:30pm in the school. All members of the school and parish communities are always welcome to attend these meetings to know what is going on in the school and to share your input.

If any of the following items pertain to you or to your family, please check the box in front of the item. This information will be a great help to us. You may tear off the form and deposit it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

- ? New in the Parish, would like to register
- ? Change of address
- ? Request collection envelopes
- ? Moving out of the Parish
- ? Need information, please call me at _____
- ? New telephone number: _____
- ? Family member (Name: _____) is ill
 - o At home
 - o At Lewistown Hospital(room ____)
 - o At _____ nursing home (room ____)
 - o Would like to receive Holy Communion

Your name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Previous address if changing: _____