



## April 19, 2009 – Devine Mercy Sunday – Second Sunday of Easter

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

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Tithing Income:</b> April 12, 2009 | \$ 4,575.50 |
| April 13, 2008                        | \$ 7,019.35 |
| Children's Offerings                  | \$ 16.00    |
| Good Friday 2009                      | \$ 1,047.00 |

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will be the annual Catholic Home Missions Appeal. For more information, visit: <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2009/09-073.shtml>

**From the pastor:** God's Divine Mercy never fails! No matter what we are going through or how difficult things become in our lives, His mercy endures forever! Today, we recall the words Jesus gave to St. Faustina when she saw the vision of the Divine Mercy: "Jesus, I trust in you." Isn't that our constant proclamation as we offer God our weekly tithe – God, I trust in you more than my money – and I return to you a mere 10% of what you first gave to me. Thank you for showing your trust in God through your weekly tithe to your parish.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "I found out the best time of the year to consider my generosity to God is at tax time when I can see in black and white what percent of my income went to God in comparison to what I spent on other items I felt I didn't have and I wanted."

**My Good Deed for the Week:** Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A couple of 4<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I helped with the yard sale," "I pushed Pap's wheelchair to his room." A 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader said: "We did our chores without complaining." A couple of 7<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I helped my mother while we were running errands," "I let my friend borrow a hair tie for practice."

### FROM THE PASTOR

**Weekly Reflection:** Belief always goes beyond what we can prove, and often means we must go out on a limb. Belief can make us vulnerable; for example, we can be taken advantage of or we might gain a reputation for being gullible. Belief in the risen Lord means that we die to self so that we can encounter the risen Lord around us. This means, at times, that we ourselves might have "nail marks" or we might be wounded. Dying to self always runs a risk of being vulnerable. So it was with Jesus. Out of His vulnerability, love and self-giving came risen life! The challenge of today's Gospel is that we put aside our own fears and embrace belief, with all its consequences. Just as the risen Lord was relentless in bringing the disciples from disbelief to belief, so is He with us. He is also just as relentless with us as He was with the disciples in bringing them to the cross. Even after His resurrection, Jesus always challenges us to both dying and rising. Having passed over from our Lenten discipline to Easter rejoicing doesn't mean that we can forget about the dying

required for living the Paschal Mystery. Now, however, our "seeing" is heightened: we have experienced once again Easter joy, a glimpse and promise of the fullness yet to come.

**About Liturgy: *Easter Octave:*** Two great festivals still retain an octave in the 1969 Revised General Roman Calendar: Christmas and Easter. For eight days we celebrate with great solemnity the joy of the festival; for example, we sing the sequence every day during the octave of Easter and no other celebration may take the place of these eight days. Eight is an important symbolic number and its meaning for an octave is something of the same meaning as when the early Christians called Sunday the "eighth day." Our week has seven days and so, to speak of an eighth day is to speak of a day beyond our human reckoning of time – beyond time, belonging to the end times. Theologically, this refers to "eschatological" time when Jesus Christ will return in all His glory to gather everything back to God at the end and fullness of time. Thus, the Easter octave means more than simply going from one Sunday to the next; it heightens our expectation that the risen life we celebrate is the same life that we will one day share with the Trinity in everlasting glory.

### PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

**Altar Server Workshop** – All Altar servers are asked to attend two of the three workshops on the following dates: **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.

**Women's Guild** will meet May 2 after the 8am Mass. We will be meeting in the church basement to make final plans for our May 9 Mother/Daughter Banquet.

**Save the Date – Coming soon! Parish Picnic, Sunday, July 19. More information to follow**

**The Parish Advocacy Program Committee** will meet on Monday, April 27, at 2:00 P.M. in the new office on South Brown Street. Please contact Mary Lou Sigler if you cannot attend.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

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

27 – Parish Advocacy Meeting /

29 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / 2pm / office

30 – RCIA / 7:00pm / office

### May

1 – All Day Adoration / Holy Hour 7pm

**2 – First Holy Communion / 4pm Mass**

3 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church

6 – RCIA 7pm / office

## LITURGICAL NOTES

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

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in loving memory of the Deceased of the Battista 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 19

7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry

11:00 AM People of the Parish

### Monday, April 20

7:00 AM Thomas McFadden

### Tuesday, April 21

7:00 AM Virginia Doster

### Wednesday, April 22

7:00 PM Intention of John Kriauckas

### Thursday, April 23

7:00 AM Madeline Wear

9:00 AM Marge & Tom Connare

### Friday, April 24

7:00 AM Art Santell

### Saturday, April 25 (Feast of St. Mark)

8:00 AM Kay Smith

4:00 PM Frank Semkowski

### Sunday, April 26

7:00 AM Albert Attivo

11:00 AM Marie Meloni

**The Bald Eagle Lodge #51** Fraternal Order of Police has made a donation of complementary tickets for its F.O.P. Good Times Oldies show. There is only one show at

7:30pm on April 24 at the State College Area High School Auditorium. If any one is interested call the office at 242-2781.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is this 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.



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

April 26 – Mel Reed

May 3 – Dave Kaniecki

May 10 – Mel Reed

## MORE THAN AN AUCTION: Next Sunday, April 26. Doors open 11am.

Check out the “More than an Auction” website where you’ll find the full schedule, lists of activities, and photos of some of the items that will be up for auction. This is the ONLY major parish fundraiser – we ask every parishioner to help make our annual auction a great success! The auction website can be found by following the link at: [www.SacredHeartLewistown.com](http://www.SacredHeartLewistown.com).

## 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.**

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

**Divine Mercy Devotion:** From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through scripture and tradition: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone — especially the greatest sinners.

The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message of mercy is that God loves us — all of us — no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. It is a message we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC.

**A** — Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B** — Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C** — Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

**The Divine Mercy Devotion:** Devotion to The Divine Mercy involves a total commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving, and to be merciful as He is merciful.

The devotional practices proposed in the diary of Saint Faustina and set forth in this website are completely in accordance with the teachings of the Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ.

**Merciful Heart:** There are two scriptural verses that we should keep in mind as we involve ourselves in these devotional practices:

1. "This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me" (Is 29:13);

2. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7).

It's an ironic and somewhat frightening fact that many of the most religious people of Christ's time (people who were actively practicing their religion and eagerly awaiting the promised Messiah) were not able to recognize Him when He came.

The Pharisees, to whom Christ was speaking in the first quotation above, were very devoted to the prayers, rules, and rituals of their religion; but over the years, these outer observances had become so important in themselves that their real meaning had been lost. The Pharisees performed all the prescribed sacrifices, said all the right prayers, fasted regularly, and talked a lot of about God, but none of it had touched their hearts. As a result, they had no relationship with God, they were not living the way He wanted them to live, and they were not prepared for the coming of Jesus.

When we look at the image of the Merciful Savior, or pause for prayer at three o'clock, or pray the Chaplet — are these things drawing us closer to the real sacramental life of the Church and allowing Jesus to transform our hearts? Or have they just become religious habits? In our daily lives are we growing more and more as people of mercy? Or are we just giving "lip service" to God's mercy?

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**WHERE WOULD YOU BE TODAY WITHOUT YOUR CATHOLIC EDUCATION?** If you are in a position to financially assist local families to send their children to Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Fr Bateman, Sister Marie, or Sue Parzanese would like to hear from you. An "Adopt A Student" Program is being considered so that those whom God has blessed can "financially" adopt a child who would like to attend our Catholic school. Perhaps you could consider it as your 5% tithe to other charities? **If you are a product of Catholic Education (or if your children are), please search your heart to assist our parish children in this way - You will be blessed!**

**Sacred Heart School Board of Education Seeks Nominations:** There are 4 openings on the Board of Education for three-year terms. The Board is consultative to the Pastor and Principal to assist with the mission of the parish school. Those interested in serving on the Board should submit their intentions in writing to Fr. Bateman. Nominations are open to all members of the parish of good moral character and in good standing with the Church. Nominations are due Monday, May 4.



