

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

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Tithing Income:</b> April 19, 2009 | \$ 7,341.00 |
| April 20, 2008                        | \$ 7,019.35 |
| Children's Offerings                  | \$ 1.00     |
| Easter 2009                           | \$ 9,695.00 |
| Easter 2008                           | \$ 9,680.75 |

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will provide financial help to our parish Cemetery Committee to help provide the materials they need to maintain our parish cemetery so beautifully all summer long.

**From the pastor:** Generosity is a strong sign of God's presence within us. Tithing is a bright light of generosity and trust in God. The world around us needs to see this generosity and trust in all of us. We really reflect Christ in our world. Thank you for your sacrifice of tithing!

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "My husband and I don't agree on this. I will continue to give at Church. I will continue to help others. I will continue to make food/money donations as I have in the past. I will pray to better understand why he feels so different and hope he'll change his mind. God bless all of you and thank you for all you do."

**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 made biscuits," "I played with my cousins when they had no one to play with." A kindergartner said: "I held the door for my Mommy when she came in with the groceries A 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I helped clean and prepare for Easter." A 5<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I fixed a fence."

**FROM THE PASTOR**

**Weekly Reflection:** Despite the reports of the two Emmaus disciples and other eyewitnesses as well, when Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples they "were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost." Similar to last Sunday with Thomas, Jesus invites the disciples to "Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself." "Look...touch...see." How concretely Jesus relates to the disciples. How understanding! How quickly their terror was changed to incredulous joy! How amazed they were as this risen One ate before them the "piece of baked fish." It is as though Jesus is doing everything possible to help the disciples understand how real this new life of resurrection is. Then Jesus brings it home to the disciples in specific terms to we can readily relate. His death and resurrection were not isolated events only in the life of Jesus; they have meaning for all Jesus' disciples. The reality of His passing over from death to life is carried forward by those who witness to these things: repentance and forgiveness of sins.

It is perhaps surprising that repentance and forgiveness (things we usually associate with Lent) figure so prominently in all three readings today. They suggest that we, unlike the disciples to whom Jesus appeared after the resurrection, cannot "Look...touch...see." But Jesus gives us another and just as concrete way to come to belief in the new life of resurrection. For repentance and forgiveness are themselves encounters with the risen Lord, an invitation to greater belief, and an experience of our own resurrection.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus invites all the disciples to do what he had invited Thomas to do, "Touch me," so that they might come to believe in His resurrection. This belief, however, is not passive. Our belief in the risen Lord is made visible when we "preach in His name" the kind of repentance leading to the new life of forgiveness. We "touch" Jesus today when we repent of our sins and forgive others – an encounter with this same risen Lord that makes Him present in our world today. Jesus "was made known" in the breaking of the bread and in repentance and forgiveness. This is risen life: "You are forgiven." This is our witness to the resurrection: "I forgive you." Giving and receiving forgiveness are resurrection activities. This is how Jesus is known.

**About Liturgy: *The Sacrament of Penance:*** Much is being written in the Catholic press these days about the "demise" of the Sacrament of Penance – too few are making use of this Sacrament of healing, especially as private confession between the typical twice-a-year communal penance services in our parishes. Perhaps part of the problem lies in a rather narrow understanding of this Sacrament – that it is all about acknowledging sins. This is true, but it is only one dimension of the Sacrament. Far more important is that our seeking and receiving forgiveness, our firm resolve of repentance, and our doing some penance as an expression of our desire for conversion are all opportunities for encounters with the risen Christ.

Like all liturgy, the Sacrament of Penance makes present the Paschal Mystery. Perhaps we focus too much on the dying aspect of this mystery (confession of sins) and not enough on the rising (encounter with Christ and the restoration of our relationship with God and the Church). Perhaps a good practice would be to reflect on some New Testament passage on forgiveness for a significant time before confession; perhaps this Sunday's Gospel would be a good choice since it reminds us so well of the connection between forgiveness and risen life.

Perhaps, having heard today's Gospel, this would be a good Sunday to mark our calendars for times for us to receive the Sacrament of Penance. This is one way to prolong the Easter celebration into Ordinary Time.

**THANK YOU!** To EVERYONE who helped make our celebration of Holy Week and Easter such wonderful and uplifting spiritual celebrations. Choir, servers, lectors, sacristans, you ALL did a wonderful job. Thank you.

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations:** Next Sunday, May 3, is a special Easter celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated this day as *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. Our parish will join with the universal church to ask for God's blessings that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocation.

## **PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES**

**Altar Server Workshop** – Only one more workshop remains for altar server training (both new servers and current servers to review procedures) this Saturday, **May 2** from **12-2pm**. Questions? Please 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. Open to all women of the parish. 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 or the call Church office. You may also call Timi Wills 248-1955 or 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.

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

**Reminder:** The **choir dinner** will be held at the Downtown OIP on Wednesday, April 29 starting at 6:30. Choir members and their families are welcome to attend.

**Sacred Heart Cemetery spring clean-up** for all committee members plus new volunteers, Wednesday, April 29 at 5:30pm weather permitting. Questions? Call 242-0033

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **April**

**26 – Last Day of CCD / 9am**

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

27 – Parish Advocacy Meeting / 2pm / office

29 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / church

30 – RCIA / 7:00pm / office

### **May**

1 – All Day Adoration / Holy Hour / 7pm / church

2 – Women's Guild Meeting / 8:30am / church basement

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

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

6 – RCIA 7pm / office

9 – Mother Daughter Banquet / 5:30pm / cafeteria

**Coming Events – for your planning: Saturday, May 2** is our parish celebration of First Holy Communion during the 4pm Mass. Know that there will be many guests and family members of our First Communicants present. Also, **Next Sunday, May 3:** So that you can plan, there will be a special presentation to Fr. Bateman by representatives of the Diocese and local community following the 11am Mass which could prolong Mass a bit.

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

## **LITURGICAL NOTES**

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

**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 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

### **Sunday, April 26**

7:30 AM Albert Attivo

11:00 AM Marie Meloni

### **Monday, April 27**

7:00 AM Brynne Schuenemann

### **Tuesday, April 28**

7:00 AM Joseph Cibellis

### **Wednesday, April 29 (St. Catherine of Siena)**

7:00 PM Clovis Peano

### **Thursday, April 30**

7:00 AM Rosario Forino

9:00 AM Charles Lennartz

### **Friday, May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker)**

7:00 AM Shirley Molinelli

### **Saturday, May 2 (St. Athanasius)**

8:00 AM Wright & Zeigler families

4:00 PM John Dulack

### **Sunday, May 3 (Day of Prayer for Vocations)**

7:00 AM Doris Helwig

11:00 AM Deceased of the Battista family

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

May 3 – Dave Kaniecki

May 10 – Mel Reed

May 17 – Russell Krug

**MORE THAN AN AUCTION:**  
**TODAY, April 26. Doors open 11am.**  
**Live auction begins at 1pm.**

If you did not hand in your **raffle tickets** you may take them to the auction site. The auction is the **ONLY** major parish fundraiser – we ask every parishioner to help make our annual auction a great success! Thank you for all your help! Info on auction items is on the parish website.

## **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 available on the parish website and the pamphlet rack in the entryway.**

**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.

In 2011 the **Holy Union Sisters** will be celebrating 125 years of presence and service in the US. In this regard I am looking to find graduates of Holy Union Schools or people who attended Holy Union Schools for part of their schooling, former Sisters, parish members, and colleagues who may have worked with us, to keep all of you informed about this milestone celebration. If you are interested in being our guest list for any events being planned in your geographic area and/or being on our 125<sup>th</sup> celebration committees please contact me by phone, letter or email. Patricia Butler, SNDdeN, Director of Mission Advancement, Holy Union Sisters US Province, PO Box 410, Milton, MA 01286-0006. Tel. 617-696-8765 Ext. 19, Fax:617-696-8571 email: [patricia.butler@husmilton.org](mailto:patricia.butler@husmilton.org)

## **EDUCATION**

**Are your kids *always* on Facebook? What you should know!** *When “Know Thyself” Becomes “Show Thyself:”* **Researcher Analyzes Costs of Virtual Friendship** by Genevieve Pollock: WASHINGTON, D.C., APRIL 2, 2009 ([Zenit.org](http://Zenit.org)).- Online social networking sites are gaining popularity, but they may be

transforming our culture in unexpected negative ways, said a biotechnology expert.

Christine Rosen, author and senior editor of *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society*, said this as part of the John Henry Cardinal Newman Lecture Series, sponsored by the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. The talk, titled “Virtual Friendship and the New Narcissism,” was broadcast March 13 on the Internet.

Rosen noted the popularity of online social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook, stating that the latter reported 150 million members in January. If Facebook was a country, she added, it would be the eighth most populated nation worldwide. She prompted a closer look at these sites, observing that most people ask the question, “What is it doing for us?” The author acknowledged that these tools help to bring people together and improve social networks; a person homebound with a unique illness can connect with a community of others in the same situation.

She continued: “But I’d like to ask a different question: What is it doing to us? What is it doing to our sense of social boundaries? To our sense of individuality? To our friendships?” The researcher underlined the need to question the role of technology, and how it has changed the understanding of friendship. She stated, “Friendship in these virtual spaces is thoroughly different from real-world friendship.”

**Personal transformation:** Rosen noted, “These sites make some certain types of connections easier,” but as they are not tied to geography or a community governed by its own social norms, they are subject to personal whims. This, she said, “frees the person from any kind of responsibility that tends to come with membership in a community, and this changes the tenor of any relationships that tend to form there.” Traditionally, she observed, “friendship is a relationship which involves the sharing of mutual interests, reciprocity, trust, and the revelation of intimate details over time and within specific contexts.” It depends on mutual revelations, and can only flourish within the boundaries of privacy. On networking sites, however, there is a concept of “public friendship,” which is fluid, promiscuous and bureaucratic.

The author asserted that “the very architecture of these sites is set up to get you to behave in a certain way.” It emphasizes gathering friends, ranking and managing them. She noted that it promotes a “frantic friend procurement where more is better.” Rosen affirmed that this demand to collect friends and to perform constantly by marketing ourselves can undermine “our ability to attain what the site promises, a surer sense of who we are and where we belong.” Today’s social networking sites organize themselves around the person’s hobbies, interests and photographs, she observed, and thus “your entry into this world is through the revelation of personal information.” The author acknowledged that these sites make it “easier to stay in contact with a wider circle of

people,” but she noted that they “favor interaction of greater quantity,” not necessarily greater quality.

**Self-absorption:** Rosen also pointed that the sites “are starting to encourage a different kind of narcissism.” She added, “There are definitely opportunity costs when we spend so much time grooming ourselves online.”

The researcher asked whether the time spent online is well-spent: “In investing so much energy in improving how we present ourselves online, are we missing opportunities to genuinely improve ourselves?” The sites that encourage you to “broadcast yourself,” which is the tagline for the video-sharing Web site YouTube, allows greater self-promotion than before, she noted, and can reinforce a belief that every mundane detail of our lives is worth publicizing. She pointed out that many people engage in personal broadcasting just “because they can,” but that they are often unaware that it also transforms who they are.

People are not just living in the moment, but are publicizing the moment, she said. It is a different level of experience that has real implications for the human person. There is a cost, Rosen pointed out, seen in cases like the Florida man who committed suicide while people watched online. She explained: “The distance and abstraction of our online friendships and online relationships can lead to a kind of systemic desensitization as a culture if we are not careful about it. [...] We expose everything, but are we feeling anything?”

The researcher noted along with the increase in online networking, there are increasing levels of reported loneliness. The sites make connections more convenient, taking the risk and real work out of a relationship and turning it into information. She noted the arrival of a new networking site, boffery.com, which describes itself as “a place for you to document your sexual history and map your sexual connections.”

People will always feel vulnerable about being cut off from the human community, she said, but these sites depend on a person's desire to reveal things about themselves or compare themselves to others, which can increase anxiety. “Social networking sites have made our relationships more reliable,” Rosen concluded, “but whether they have made them more satisfying remains to be seen.”

## **SACRED HEART SCHOOL**

**Middle States Accreditation:** Sacred Heart of Jesus School has been in the process of preparing for a Middle States Accreditation. Two years of research, self-evaluation and goal setting have been completed and this past week (April 20-22) a team of educators was on site to see the school for themselves. In deciding to seek accreditation, Sacred Heart of Jesus School is sending the message that it is willing to examine all areas of the school, and desires to become better. It is willing to open itself up to the visitation and judgment of professional

colleagues because it takes its educational responsibilities seriously and is agreeable to accepting guidance and fresh thoughts on improving. It is never too late to consider Sacred Heart of Jesus School for your children. For more information, visit [www.SacredHeartSchool.com](http://www.SacredHeartSchool.com).

**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.

**Pastor Award:** At its 2008 convention, the Department of Elementary Schools established the NCEA (National Catholic Education Association) Distinguished Pastor Award. This annual award is presented to honor pastors who have given outstanding support to Catholic elementary education. Our school and diocesan communities have honored Father Bateman by nominating him for this national award. Although he was not selected as one of this year's national awardees, the NCEA honored him with a Certificate of Recognition which Father will receive from the Diocesan school office. The Superintendent of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Livia Riley, will be in Lewistown on Sunday, May 3 to acknowledge his outstanding support of our Catholic School during the 11am Mass. Please mark your calendars to join us in showing appreciation to Father Bateman for his commitment to Catholic education. Thank you!

**What is Kindergarten doing?** In Language Arts they are learning reading skills. They will continue to write in a journal. IN Math, they are exploring time and money. IN science, they are studying living things. The students will be growing plants and logging the growth in a plant journal. In religion, the main focus is that Jesus wants us all to share God's love. Happy Easter! Mrs. "T."