

## April 5, 2009 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

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

<b>Tithing Income:</b> March 29, 2009	\$ 8,355.50
March 30, 2008	\$ 8,936.72
Children's Offerings	\$ 14.50

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will be for the "Pastors Fund" which is used to aid people who need financial help and for various little projects which are not part of our regular parish budget.

**From the pastor:** Jesus' fickle followers hailed him as a King on Palm Sunday and demanded his death five days later. One way in which we prove our faithfulness to Jesus is by our tithing - sharing our time, talent and treasure with the Lord's own people. Thank you for being faithful in your support of your parish.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "If the weight of the Cross makes you stagger, its power will also sustain you."

**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 5<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I helped my Dad ready the garden for planting, I helped my Mom pick up her money when it spilled." A 7<sup>th</sup> grader said: I went out and found the dog for my Mom when she ran away." A kindergartner said: "I got ready for Church without fuss." A 7<sup>th</sup> grader said: I helped a neighbor with homework."

### FROM THE PASTOR

**Weekly Reflection:** The essence of discipleship is that we don't simply receive the fruit of Jesus' suffering and death; the essence of discipleship is that we align our own identity with that of Jesus, accept self-denial and self-giving, and in this way walk with Him to the cross. Disciples go wherever the Master goes. Coming to understand who Jesus is, His mission, and how that relates to us as His disciples is no easy task; it takes a lifetime. Like Jesus, to be faithful followers by taking up our cross means we will feel this to the depths of our humanity: we will suffer, we will lose heart, we will cry out to God to take life's miserable lot away from us. But also like Jesus, we have divine life that gives us the strength to carry our cross. It is divine life pulsing within us – which we first receive at our baptism – that raises up our humanity, enabling us to be faithful disciples carrying our crosses, faithful disciples consistent with our identity as Christians, as the Body of Christ.

**About Liturgy: Holy Week:** Holy Week is the last week of Lent before Easter, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday. In an older nomenclature, Holy Week is the second Sunday of Passiontide (Passiontide begins on the fifth Sunday of Lent). Holy Week is the part of the Church Year where Jesus' final moments are commemorated. The final three days of Holy week are

part of the Paschal Triduum. Holy Week consists of the following events: **Palm Sunday:** On the sixth Sunday of Lent we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Worship services include blessing of the palms and a procession. The liturgical color is red. Also known as "Fig Sunday." **Spy Wednesday:** This is an old and uncommon name for the Wednesday of Holy Week, which commemorates Judas' agreement to betray Jesus (see Matthew 26:3-5, 14-16). **Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday):** The name "Maundy Thursday" is derived from Jesus "mandate" to love one another as he loves us. This day celebrates Jesus' institution of the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Ordination. Also known as "Shear Thursday." **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion:** A Fast day of the Church commemorating Jesus' crucifixion and death. Worship customs include Veneration of the Cross, communion from the reserved Maundy Thursday host, and the singing or preaching of the Passion (reading or singing excerpts of the Passion story from John's gospel). In the Catholic Church, the liturgical color was formerly black, but is now red. **Holy Saturday:** This is the final day of both Holy Week and the Triduum. There are few specific customs associated with Holy Saturday, except that it is the final night before the Feast of the Resurrection, which begins at the Great Easter Vigil. Other customs and events, including Tenebrae, have developed as Holy Week customs. Generally Holy Week is a busy time for Catholic and Orthodox Christians, as we build up to the Queen of all Church Feasts, Easter (Pascha).

**Public Comment sought on Federal Regulation that protects conscience rights of health care providers:** The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is inviting public comment on a proposal to rescind an important December 2008 federal regulation that protects the conscience rights of health care providers. Help protect the rights of our Catholic health care professionals & institutions. To access links and make a comment (or to get more information) please go to the US Bishop's Website: [www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection](http://www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection). **Note that comments must be posted by April 9, 2009.** The website provides a simple form letter, all you need to do is fill in your name and address. The rest is already down for you.

### PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

**Help needed driving van:** If anyone is interested in driving the van to pick up parishioners for Sunday Mass at the 11am please call the parish office.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April**

**5 – Palm Sunday (11am Mass begins at school) No CCD**

7 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

8 – Tenebrae / 7:30pm / church

- 9 – Holy Thursday
- 10 – Good Friday – Office Closed
- 10 – Last Day for Fish Sandwich Sales/ 3-6pm / cafeteria
- 11 – Easter Vigil / 8pm
- 12 – Easter – No CCD
- 13 – Easter Monday – Office Closed

## LITURGICAL NOTES

**Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp:** The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: April 26

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is for the intentions of the Traxler family.

**Memorialize Flowers:** During the season of Lent, flowers are not used at the altar to help remind us of the starkness and simplicity of the season. If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (podium) during the Easter Season, please call the parish office to schedule. The next available date is First Communion, May 1-2.



**Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday)**

- 7:30 AM Albert Attivo
- 11:00 AM Marjorie Kaufman

**Monday, April 6**

- 7:00 AM Lenore Schrum

**Tuesday, April 7**

- 7:00 AM Marie LeGuen

**Wednesday, April 8**

- 7:00 PM Ciro & Rose Simonetti

**Thursday, April 9 (Holy Thursday)**

- 7:00 AM **NO MASS** – Morning Prayer
- 7:00 PM People of the Parish
- 10:00 PM Night Prayer

**Friday, April 10 (Good Friday of the Lord's Passion)**

- 7:00 AM **NO MASS** – Morning Prayer
- 11 AM – Office of Readings
- 12noon – Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 PM People of the Parish

**Saturday, April 11 (Holy Saturday)**

- 8:00 AM **NO MASS** – Morning Prayer
- 11:00 AM Office of Readings
- 11:15 AM Blessing of Easter Food
- 8:00 PM Easter Vigil** People of the Parish

**NOTE** – there are no confessions and no 4pm Mass today

**Sunday, April 12 (Easter Resurrection of the Lord)**

- 7:00 AM People of the Parish
- 11:00 AM People of the Parish

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

- April 12 – Dave Kaniecki
- April 19– Russell Krug

**Tenebrae 7:30pm Wednesday:** “Tenebrae” is the name given to the service of Matins and Lauds belonging to the last three days of Holy Week. It differs, in many things, from the Office of the rest of the year. All is sad and mournful, as though it were a funeral service; nothing could more emphatically express the grief that now weighs down the heart of our holy Mother the Church. The tone of the whole Office is most noticeably mournful: the lessons taken from the Lamentations of Jeremias, the omission of the Gloria Patri, of the Te Deum, and of blessings etc., so the darkness of these services seems to have been designedly chosen to mark the Church’s desolation. There is an impressive ceremony, peculiar to this Office, which tends to perpetuate its name. There is placed in the sanctuary, near the altar, candlesticks holding fifteen candles. At the end of each psalm or canticle, one of these fifteen candles is extinguished, but the Easter Candle is left lighted. Then the Easter Candle is taken from the sanctuary. When the final prayer is finished, a loud noise is made which symbolizes the closing of Christ’s tomb. Then the Easter Candle is brought back into the sanctuary to remind us of the coming resurrection. Join us for this moving ceremony.

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** There are two opportunities to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday next week. The first at Sacred Heart in Lewistown. Beginning at 2:15, there will be 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.

**Ecumenical Good Friday Service:** The *Lewistown Ministerium* invites you to join us on Good Friday as we observe the events of the day in the mode that it all originally took place: in the streets and among the people! A procession through the streets begins at 11:15am at Third & Dorcas Streets and returns to Sacred Heart to pray the Stations of the Cross at 12 noon. All are invited!

**Last Chance for Confession:** We have tried to provide as many opportunities for confession as possible. The last opportunity is on Wednesday of this week from 8-9pm.

### MORE THAN AN AUCTION NEWS

**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](mailto: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.

**Plants Needed:** We need your help again this year with donations for the plant sale. Please bring your donation in a disposable container with a description to the auction the day before (4/25) or the day of the auction (4/26). If you need information contact Patti Fleegal (248-2209) [patriciafleegal@aol.com](mailto:patriciafleegal@aol.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.**

**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 for purchase to parishioners and their families at a significant 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 are valid any day the Park is open during the regular public season. Orders must be received at the parish by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Parishes will receive tickets by May 19. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church or at the office.

**Thank you!!** Kitty Perry would like to thank all those who sent flowers or cards for the celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**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 fifth 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 (717) 657-4804, ext. 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** This past January, I over 1,000 faithful from our diocese were part of an estimated 300,000 people in Washington, D.C. at the annual March for Life. The majority of participants in recent years have been young people. This always gives me renewed hope for the future as we work to build a culture of life in our nation. Each year, and especially this year, the secular media provided little, if any, coverage of this significant event. I cannot imagine the media ignoring other gatherings of this size in our nation’s capital.

The very day after the March for Life, President Obama, by executive order, reversed the Mexico City policy, first established in 1984, which prevented U.S. funding of organizations that perform and promote abortion as a family planning method in developing nations. According to polls, most Americans opposed this decision by the president. It is profoundly disturbing that our tax dollars are being used to fund organizations dedicated to performing and promoting abortions. It is shameful that our nation is exporting anti-life propaganda to people overseas whose values and cultures are often profoundly respectful of the right to life.

On March 9th, again by executive order, President Obama lifted the ban on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. It is profoundly disturbing that our tax dollars will be used to destroy human embryos. The president described his order as “an important step in advancing the cause of science in America.” I agree with Cardinal Justin Rigali, the chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in calling the executive order “a sad victory of politics over science and ethics.”

I have often been asked, by non-Catholics as well as by some Catholics, why the Catholic Church opposes stem cell research. I must always begin by explaining that the Church only opposes *unethical* stem cell research. We support research that does not destroy or harm human life in the process. We support research using adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood stem cells, now recognized by scientists as having great versatility and already effective against some serious illnesses. There are also recent scientific advances in the development of a genetic technique that produces stem cells without destroying (or using) any human embryos. It involves the transfer of genes into adult cells, triggering them to convert into pluripotent stem cells. This reprogramming of adult cells into embryonic-like stem cells was praised by the journal *Science* as the scientific breakthrough of the year. So why divert funds from these promising avenues of research to

support research that involves the destruction of human life at its earliest stages?

The Church cannot and will not support research that involves the deliberate destruction of human embryos. The obtaining of stem cells from a living human embryo is gravely wrong since it invariably causes the death of the embryo. Pope Benedict XVI teaches: "Research in such cases, irrespective of efficacious therapeutic results, is not truly at the service of humanity. In fact, this research advances through the suppression of human lives that are equal in dignity to the lives of other human individuals and to the lives of the researchers themselves. History itself has condemned such a science in the past and will condemn it in the future, not only because it lacks the light of God but also because it lacks humanity." (From a talk given by Benedict XVI on Sept. 16, 2008, to the participants in the symposium on "Stem Cells: What Future for Therapy?" organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life. See <http://www.zenit.org/article-17829?l=english>)

I am afraid that many people in our society today have forgotten or reject the principle that "the end does not justify the means." A good intention (e.g. curing disease) does not make evil means (e.g. killing embryonic human life) good or just. I realize that many good people struggle with this issue principally because of the existence of frozen embryos, embryos that were conceived *in vitro* and then frozen. There are indeed thousands of frozen embryos as a result of *in vitro* fertilization. It is important first of all to note that cryopreservation is itself "incompatible with the respect owed to human embryos" (cf. *Dignitas Personae* #18). We would not be faced with the moral dilemma about what to do with frozen embryos if they were not frozen to begin with and if *in vitro* fertilization had not taken place.

It is extremely important that we teach clearly and convincingly about the immorality of *in vitro* fertilization. Techniques that dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act are morally unacceptable (cf. *Catechism* #2377). Also, the process of *in vitro* fertilization very frequently involves the deliberate destruction of embryos. It is deeply disturbing, yet often ignored, that the number of embryos sacrificed is about 80% in relation to those that are born in this process of artificial procreation. And then there is the process mentioned above of freezing embryos conceived *in vitro*, preserving them for repeated pregnancies if initial attempts are unsuccessful. Many of these embryos do not even survive the process of freezing and thawing (cf. *Dignitas Personae* #14, note 27).

The ethical dilemma now facing us is what to do with the large number of frozen embryos already in existence. It is a grave injustice that these embryos have been produced, frozen and stored in the first place. How can this injustice be remedied? It is not remedied by treating the embryos as mere *biological* material and destroying them for research purposes. "Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception" (cf. *Catechism* #2270).

There have been other proposals made to try to resolve the ethical dilemma of what to do with frozen embryos. Each is morally problematic. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith recently stated in *Dignitas Personae* (#19): "All things considered, it needs to be recognized that the thousands of abandoned embryos represent a situation of injustice that in fact cannot be resolved. Therefore John Paul II made an 'appeal to the conscience of the world's scientific authorities, and in particular to doctors, that the production of human embryos be halted, taking into account that there seems to be no morally licit solution regarding the human destiny of the thousands and thousands of frozen embryos that are and remain the subjects of essential rights and should therefore be protected by law as human persons'."

It is indeed sad that the appeal of Pope John Paul II has mostly gone unheeded. It is particularly sad that in the United States our tax dollars are now being used in a way that treats human life at its very beginnings as a commodity, as mere biological material, for research. President Obama's reversal of the ban on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research is not an advance for science. It is an advance for the culture of death in our country. *To be continued...*

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**SHS Class Lenten Projects: Grade 3:** They have a bulletin board with a cross and footprints on it. As the students do a random act of kindness, or make a sacrifice, a white tissue flower will be put on the cross. By the end of Lent, they hope to have a beautiful white Resurrection Cross to celebrate the Easter season.

**Holy Week Schedule:** Everyone is encouraged to take part in as many events as possible during this Holy Week:

**Wednesday:** Tenebrae 7:30pm

**Thursday:** Morning Prayer 7am

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8-10pm

Night Prayer 10pm

**Friday:** Morning Prayer 7am

Office of Readings 11am

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross 12noon

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7pm

**Saturday:** Morning Prayer 8am

Office of Readings 11am

Blessing of Easter foods 11:15am

Easter Vigil: 8pm

**Sunday:** Mass 7:30am & 11am

**Note: there are NO confessions and NO 4pm Mass on Saturday, April 11.**