

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

Tithing Income : December 13, 2009	\$5,794.15
Tithing Income December 14, 2008	\$8,777.25
Children's Offering:	\$ 8.00

Next week's tithe will be for Shelter Services of Lewistown

From a Pastor: An elderly man stopped at a Hearing Aid Center and asked about cost. "We have them from \$2,500 down to \$1.50," the salesperson said. "What's the \$2,500 one like?" asked the elderly man. "Well, it translates three languages and is the latest in electronics," answered the salesperson. "And what about the one for \$1.50?" asked the man. "It's this button attached to a string," the salesman said. "How does it work?" "It doesn't," said the salesperson. "But if you put it in your ear and the string in your pocket, you'll be surprised at how loud people will talk."

"As Catholics, we 'hear' a lot of talk about money. Maybe [that's because] so few 'listen'. Frequently. . . I tell others of the generosity and sacrificial giving of the people of College Point. Your love of St. Fidelis is clearly demonstrated in your financial commitment to our parish. May God bless you one hundred-fold for your tithe."

Rev. Arthur Minichello
St. Fidelis, College Point, NY

Comments from the pew: Saying we love someone is easy. Proving it with service is harder, but it really makes our love come alive. Tithing is like that for me.

A parishioner
Rev. Msgr. William M. Richardson,
Cathedral Parish of St. Patrick,
Harrisburg, PA

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A 1st grader said: "I gave my sister toast when she was sick." A 7th grader said: "I helped my Gramma walk through the snow." A 6th grader said: "I helped my Gram make blankets." A couple of 5th graders said: "I burned a Christmas CD for Mom-loaned a book to a friend, I helped put up the tree."

Pastor's Column

KEEP CRISIS IN CHRISTMAS

Did they think that they were making history that night? I wonder. Yes, it was a

miraculous conception and birth, so Joseph and Mary knew something big was up. And don't forget all those singing angels in the sky. There were lots of clues to greatness there.

But look at the other details: Dirty stable, barn animals, ragged shepherds, cold night. What did they think? Has God abandoned us? Isn't this child supposed to be special? What kind of treatment is this?

Now we romanticize the whole thing, like we make jewelry out of crosses. The crèche sets and the nativity scenes are fine, as long as we acknowledge that it was a miserable, scary night.

I've been to the original Bethlehem twice. There, too, one finds little evidence of the raw experience which that night foisted on the main players. Standing there now is a large, spacious basilica with the alleged site of His birth down in the basement chapels. A floor star marks the sacred spot where the Word made flesh came forth from Mary.

When I was there, the Greek Orthodox monks seemed impatient with the pushy, chatty tourists, as they shooed them out of the way of a cleric coming in to periodically incense the area. If you were kneeling to pray the monks tended to leave you alone. They respected gestures of devotion. On my knees, reciting the joyful mysteries of the rosary, I tried to envision the cave this once was and the horrible discomforts felt by the Holy Family.

Now we lionize the event. The Incarnation, after all, deserves our exultation but do we catch what a life lesson there is in this? Is God trying to show us that apparent defeat and failure are fodder for triumph and glory? There was no room for them in the inn. That rejection became part of the Christmas story, fondly re-enacted in skits, dramas, and countless retellings.

Some of our greatest struggles in life later became our greatest memories because those struggles strengthen us for the tasks ahead. They become epics. Think about how our grandparents or great grandparents, traveled from foreign lands, starting out with nothing. Many would tell us that those lean, mean, early years were their best. They had God and one another and that was all they had but that was enough. Like Mary and Joseph.

And so, have yourself a merry little Christmas, remembering that life's dirty stables can bring tomorrow's resurrection glory. Making history isn't always fun, except in the retelling, when we

remember that He never stopped being "Emmanuel,"
God is with us. Fr. Bill

Scripture Readings for the week:

Monday, Dec. 21 – Song of Songs 2:28-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21, Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday, Dec. 22 – 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56.

Wednesday, Dec. 23 – Malachi:3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5b, 8-9, 10-14; Luke 1:57-66

Thursday, Dec. 24 – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-5; Luke 1:67-79.

Friday, December 25 – Isaiah 52:7-10, 16abc; Psalm 98:1-1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6, 18-19; John 1:1-188-25

Saturday, December 26 – Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-4a, 5-6ab 16-17; Luke 1:5-25

Sunday, December 27 – 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-2; Psalm 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; 1 John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52

Advent Theme this year is The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary – The decorations at the front of the church on the altar each week will signify a different mystery. This weekend is **The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**. "After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions." (Luke 2:46)



PARISH ACTIVITIES

Youth Group upcoming events:

The March for Life, January 21 & 22 – Get off school and join us for this educational/religious trip!

Adult Bible Study

Where – Sacred Heart of Jesus business office

When – Every Tuesday, January 12, 2010 until Easter

Time – 7pm to 8:30pm

Subject – A Journey through the Bible

An excellent introduction to the Bible. This is a great way to "get your feet wet" and learn how to begin Bible study.

All welcome. Phil Quinn 667-6507



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will meet Thursday at 7 pm – December 24. No RCIA Merry Christmas.

BISHOP RHOADES' SPIRITUAL BOUQUET

Please pick up your spiritual bouquet slip in the back of church. Take it home and fill out the number of spiritual activities you have done for Bishop Rhoades. Bring the filled-out slip back and put it in the collection basket. We will count them up and send the total to the bishop as a gift before he leaves for Indiana.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

20 – Distribution of Christmas food baskets / 12:00pm / church basement

20 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / church

22 – Choir Practice / 7pm / Church

23 – No RCIA

24 – Christmas Eve – Office Closed

25 – Christmas Day – Office Closed

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule

December 27 – Russell Krug

January 3 – Mel Reed

January 10 – Dave Kaniecki

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 20 – (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry

11:00 AM Frank & Bess Cox & Margaret & Sam Boova

Monday, December 21 (St. Peter Canisus)

7:00 AM Anna Kasmak

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 AM Jane Drozda

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 PM Christa Porpotage

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 PM People of the Parish

10:00 PM People of the Parish

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00 AM People of the Parish

Saturday, December 26 (St. Stephen)

8:00 AM Betty Slavish

4:00 PM Joseph Boova

Sunday, December 27 (Holy Family)

7:30 AM Ed Pallo

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates are available: None in December. January 3, 17, 24, 31.

The Sanctuary Light this week is in loving memory of Jane Drozda from her mother-in-law Mary Drozda.

Memorialize Flowers : If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. The next available dates are: December 20, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

Rectory Cook/Housekeeper Needed - A part-time cook/housekeeper is needed for Sacred Heart Lewistown, rectory to work about 15 hours per week doing mostly housecleaning, laundry and some meals. Please contact Fr. Weary, 242-2781, if interested. Pay will be discussed in the interview.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Introductory Sessions of the Creighton Model Fertility Care System and the NaProTechnology, a means of monitoring one's reproductive and gynecologic health held regularly throughout the Diocese. This method is applicable to all reproductive categories including breastfeeding and pre-menopause. In addition to achieving or avoiding pregnancy, this system can help in evaluation and treatment of infertility, repetitive miscarriage, abnormal bleeding, ovarian cysts, pelvic pain, PMS and perimenopausal symptoms. Registration required. To register or for information contact the following numbers: Contact: Spirit Fertility Care Services (71)909-9414.

American Red Cross – Donate Blood – Wednesday, December 23rd 12-6pm at First United Methodist Church, 200 E. Third St., Lewistown. Donate blood until January 10 and you could experience the joy of being the winner of a “Super” drawing. Learn more by visiting : Redcrosslife.org

Any girl in 2nd or 3rd grade interested in joining **Brownie Girl Scouts**, please contact Adrienne Zannino at 717-348-9375 or 717-247-3963. We meet every Thursday at 6:15 at the East Derry Firehouse.



TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS RETREAT AT ST. JUDE: We want to ascertain how many people would be interested in participating in a retreat on the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Jude. If we have enough people, we will then schedule a date and time for Fr. Frank Parrinello, pastor of the Mater Dei Community in Harrisburg, to come to St. Jude and give a workshop on the Traditional Latin Mass. Following catechesis, Father will offer the

Traditional Latin Mass here at St. Jude. Anyone interested, please sign-up in the vestibule of the church. (Signing up is not a firm commitment on your part, as we realize the ultimate date and time scheduled may not suit everyone who is interested.) Any questions, see Fr. Thoms or contact Karen Thome, 694-3607.

“The Word became flesh and dwelled among us,” St John’s gospel states. Perhaps if we could look at each unborn child as a word from God, we would be less likely to destroy those children who each have a unique message to share with the world.

Retreat for couples Experiencing Difficulty – Is your marriage tearing you apart? Rediscover the joy in your marriage. **Retrouville** (Ret-tro-vy) is a French word meaning rediscovery. Retrouville is a program, which helps to restore communication and trust in a marriage. If you feel helpless or trapped by frequent conflicts, please know that hundreds of couples have been helped. Call us and give yourselves another chance. The next program will be held January 22-24, 2010, at the Homewood Suites in Mechanicsburg, PA. Let us reserve a place for you. For information call Tom or Patty (717) 938-8229 or 1-800-470-2230.

Prayer Placemats – A great gift for children on this holiday season: Prayer Place Mats! Each placemat contains prayers commonly prayed by children and is laminated for easy cleanup. Available in English and Spanish. For more information, contact the Family Ministries office at 717-657-4804, Ext. 317.

A wonderful phenomenon is taking place in the foster care system. Foster children are finding permanency and security in their new families and many are being adopted by their foster parents. Join us in our next training series with people just like you, who need to know more before they are ready to start the process. Will you join with us and help meet the parenting needs of kids with broken lives? We have a desperate need for more families for the many needy children. Please call 717-564-7115 or (800) 777-7003 or visit: www.hbgdiocese.org/Adoption&FosterCare.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Great News for Our Parish!

Our school has recently received accreditation by the Middle States Association for Elementary Schools. Accreditation is granted by the commission when self study, evaluation and planning reports reveal that the school meets the standards for accreditation. The Association was begun in 1887 to set standards for American education.

Characteristics of an Accredited School:

Devoted to its mission; accepts objective evaluation by outside evaluators, student oriented, plans for its future, examines its performance, maintains a qualified faculty and engages in on-going planning.

SHS is grateful to all parishioners who helped with this process and who are continuing to work with the school on its goal implementations.

Thank you to the Moms who helped with the recent Holiday Shop.

Our Advent Baby Items collection was a wonderful success. Thank you to all families who participated.

A Blessed Christmas season to all from the children, faculty, staff and administration of SHS.

Christmas Vacation: December 23 until Jan 3; school reopens on January 4th, 2010.

“Please circle Jan 30th on your calendar for “Savor Flavors From Around the World”.

Treat your taste buds to delicious foods from various cultures.

Enjoy

entertainment provided by Tommy Wareham...or you may join in and be part of the entertainment, Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 6-10pm at the Rec Park Community Center in Lewistown.

Tickets are \$50 and are available at Calkins Automotive, The Downtown OIP & Grill, and the Parish office.

Come celebrate and support Sacred Heart School and Catholic Education. Questions can be directed to:

Sue Reinke, Crista Bobb, Yvonne Hopple, Claire Acker, or Jacquie Bennett



MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST
BE WITH ALL OF
YOU.



MERRY
CHRISTMAS FROM THE
PRIESTS, NUNS AND STAFF
OF SACRED HEART PARISH



