

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

The amounts for the contribution for December 20th were not available at the time the bulletin was sent for printing.

Next week's **tithe** will be for Aid to the Catholic Church in Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & Africa.

From a Pastor: "The parish story of tithing has become a spiritual statement of growing support of St. John the Evangelist's pastoral programs and an expanding catalogue of other charitable causes. Every week another person or couple inquires about how to 'sign up for the envelopes.' We appreciate all our contributors and we pray that the tithing spirit will capture the heart of every last one of our parishioners."

Rev. Msgr. Neil Graham
St. John the Evangelist, White Plains, NY

Comments from the pew: "For the past month or so, I have been praying to St. Jude, who has helped me, and to God, to let me know His will. . . So here I am joining the parish and the first thing I see is tithing. I wonder if this is God's will? The thing I most want my son to learn (and he's not there yet) is the joy of loving and giving. God's greatest gift to us is each other. We certainly are our brothers' keeper, and I guess I haven't been immune to the argument that the church could be doing more for the poor and the sick with its money. At any rate, I have been lacking in my personal relationship with God. I guess trying to live like Jesus is not enough (although I'm sorely lacking in my efforts there, too.) I guess the faith is the thing, and I guess if tithing will help me with that, I guess I better try it."

A parishioner

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Duane
St. John of the Cross, Roslyn, 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 helped Mom shovel snow." A 7th grader said: "I helped my Mom with her groceries." A couple of 5th graders said: "I helped my Mom bake cookies; I organized my Mom's jewelry case."

Pastor's Column

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The above title is the exact same title for the next bulletin column, immediately following. Why? It's because I want to draw attention to it. And why is that? It's because that next column is a great prayer tool for every week of the year.

That column is a list of the daily Mass Scripture readings for the upcoming week. Concentrate especially on the upcoming Sunday readings, in this case, Sunday, Jan. 3. Those are the weekend Mass of obligation readings; the Sunday Mass readings, in other words.

Do you find Mass boring at times? Well, spend a part of your daily prayer time at home, reading and thinking about those Sunday Mass readings. We're now printing them ahead of time for that very reason. When you hear those readings at Mass, you won't hear them cold anymore, as if for the first time. No, you will already be familiar with them. At home, you've already "chewed" on them, thought about them, prayed through them.

How? Well, you sit down in your room, Bible in your lap, bulletin next to you, and you look up those Sunday citations one-by-one. Say a prayer first, asking the Holy Spirit's help to understand. Then read each passage slowly, devoutly. Close your eyes and think about what you've read. Pray: "God, what do you want to tell me through these readings?"

The first (Old Testament) reading is usually on the same theme track as the Gospel (the final reading). So, play a little game. See if you come up with the same general theme as the priest preaching the homily that Sunday. See if you come up with the same everyday practical life applications as he does. This makes things more interesting. You tend to become more involved mentally and spiritually.

Make it fun for the whole family. Do family prayer sessions, with kids taking turns reading the Bible passages out loud. Hold a discussion on what it all means. Hint: Jan. 3 is Epiphany, so it's the wise men, the first pagan Gentiles to be let in on the good news. The first reading predicts this outreach to everyone, not just Jews, and the second reading underscores all that.

You can do the same with weekday readings as well. Have fun. And enjoy Sunday Mass more.

Fr. Bill



Scripture Readings for the week:

Monday, Dec. 28 – 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Matthew 2:13-18

Tuesday, Dec. 29 – 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Matthew 2:13-18.

Wednesday, Dec. 30 – 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40

Thursday, Dec. 31 – 1 John: 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; John 1:1-18

Friday, January 1 – Micah 4:1-4; James 4:1-10; Psalm 72:1bc-2, 3-4, 7-8, 12-13, 18; Matthew 5:20-24

Saturday, January 2 – 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-28

Sunday, January 3 – Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

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 Happy New Year.

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. **Deadline is January 3, 2010.**

Parish Volunteer Wine & Cheese Party: All parishioners who are volunteers, for the parish, in any capacity, are invited to a wine & cheese party to show our appreciation for all your dedication and faithfulness. The

event will take place on January 15 at 6pm in the school cafeteria. **Please take note: the date in the parish newsletter is incorrect**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

31 NO RCIA

31 – Office closed ½ day – New Year's Eve

January

1 – Office Closed – New Year's Day

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

7 – RCIA / 7pm / office

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

12 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

14 – RCIA / 7pm / office

15 – Parish Volunteer Party / 6pm / cafeteria

16 – St. Vincent DePaul free meal / 11:30am / cafeteria

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

18 – St. Vincent DePaul / 7pm / office

19 – Building & Grounds / 7pm / church basement

19 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

21 – RCIA / 7pm / office

24 – St Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / church

25 – Parish Council / 7pm / office

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule

January 3 – Mel Reed

January 10 – Dave Kaniecki

LITURGICAL NOTES

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, December 27– (The Holy Family)

7:30 AM Ed Pallo

11:00 AM People of the Parish

Monday, December 28 (The Holy Innocents)

7:00 AM Paul Wright

Tuesday, December 29 (St. Thomas Becket)

7:00 AM Loretta Breakstone

Wednesday, December 30

7:00 PM Margaret Johnson

Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

7:00 PM Benny Barr

Friday, January 1 (Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God)

10:00 AM Madeline Wear

Saturday, January 2 (St. Basil the Great)

8:00 AM Paul Wright

4:00 PM William Leeper

Sunday, January 3 (The Epiphany of the Lord)

7:30 AM Deceased of the Spagnoletti family

11:00 AM Doris & Anthony Desiderati

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates are available: January 3, 17, 24, and 31.

The Sanctuary Light this week is in loving memory of Margaret & Joe Boova.

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: 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

Nurse, EMT, or Paramedic in the Lewistown Area

Are you interested in helping elders in your community stay at home? If so, you may be eligible to participate in Penn State's REACH Network. Responsibilities include seeking out home dwelling elders aged 65 and older who are eligible for the program, scheduling home visits, and performing home safety assessments.

Research training and a stipend will be provided. For more information, call Leigh Gordon at 717-248-9618 (Monday – Thursday) or 717-531-1717 option 4 (Friday)

Principal investigator is Thomas E. Terndrup, M.D., Department of Emergency Medicine. This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board, under federal regulations, at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Donations Needed for El Salvador Mission Trip

The main purpose of **Hope International Services Inc.** is to provide short term medical trips to the country of El Salvador San Salvador. Our services include: Medical clinics, Health education and counseling, outreach services for street children, disaster victims & poor communities, supporting orphanages. Because of a reduction in funding for medical supplies, the organization is in **need** of the following **Medical Supplies**: 4 boxes of tongue depressors, 4 bags of cotton balls, 4 first aid kits, 4 ace bandages, 4 4x4 gauze packs, 4 boxes of band-aids, 4 pints of Hydrogen Peroxide, 4 boxes of Vaseline petroleum jelly adaptec gauze, 20 tubes of Triple Antibiotic ointment, 40 tubes of Clorimazole fungus cream, 40 bottles of Tears/Eye solution, 59 Prenatal vitamins, 200 children's vitamins, 100 adult vitamins, 10 cans of infant formula (POWERED), no glass or liquid. **500 Hygiene Packs (a must):** Hygiene pack consists of

travel size: wash cloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste. The 5 items will fit in a sandwich baggie. Due to shipping costs, it is very important to have all 5 items in a sandwich baggie. **Clothing:** Socks – all sizes including infants, new colored t-shirts with sports symbol for ages 5-12 yrs. For orphans (approx 50). You may drop the items off at the parish office or call Lorrie Gawryla at 717-543-5883.

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 (717) 909-9414.

We're Not Preachy – Want a Sunday radio program that is easy to listen to? **“Catholic Perspective”** shares information and inspiration with features that will help you to know and grow in your Catholic faith. Tune in Sunday mornings on WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown at 8am. On the web at www.hbgdiocese.org **“Catholic Perspective”** is brought to you in part by the Catholic Communication collection and your parish.

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.

A vision for the future: “By seeking holiness and using the gifts God has given us to accomplish His will in our lives, we are contributing mightily to that kingdom we all long for, where there will be no more crying or pain or death. Certainly no abortion. No euthanasia. No assisted suicide. No deep freezing of embryos as though they were merchandise. And no destruction of human life in the name of science.” Cardinal Justin Rigali, 1/21/08

Retreat for couples Experiencing Difficulty – Is your marriage tearing you apart? Rediscover the joy in your marriage. **Retrouvaille** (Ret-tro-vy) is a French word meaning discovery. Retrouvaille 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.

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.

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



