

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income: January 25, 2009	\$ 8,843.35
January 27, 2008	\$ 7,051.95
Children's Offerings	\$ 21.25

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be to support the work and mission of the Sisters of Christian Charity.

From the pastor: If you are anything like me, you dread doing your taxes, but it is a necessary evil. Yet, God always brings good out of evil. Doing my taxes every year gives me the opportunity to evaluate my commitment to tithing. Seeing what I actually brought in and what I actually gave to the parish (and other charities), I can see if I truly gave 5% to the parish and 5% to my favorite personal charities, or if I "slacked off." Perhaps taxes, as "taxing" as they can be, are a chance to review our own personal dedication to tithing. Thank you for reviewing your own commitment and making sure that we are offering God our thanks through our weekly tithe to His Church.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I have been tithing ever since I joined the parish. Although I am on a fixed income, my tithe always comes first and God provides for all the rest."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: Several 4th graders said: "I helped vaccinate the goats, I did the dishes, I gave my tokens to someone at Chuckie Cheese." A couple of Kindergartners said, "I cleaned my room" A couple of 7th graders said: "I helped take care of my Grandma, I helped my friend with her homework." A 1st grader said: "I cleaned up my toys."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Three-year-old Caitlin was used to going to Sunday Mass, and her parents took time to teach her and coax her into acceptable behavior. Most Sundays she was pretty good, but one Sunday the music was particularly lively and it caught her fancy. Her little arms and hands were tapping out the beat and her little back end was going to and fro just as fast as she could make it go. Her rambunctiousness lasted pretty much the whole Mass. When Mass was over, she looked up at her mother and asked, "Mommy, help me behave in church." Who knows what prompted this little child to conclude that she had misbehaved, but her question also indicated something important about the relationship of child and parent: the child looked to her parent as one in authority – one who could teach her.

In the Gospel today, the people are "astonished" and "amazed" at Jesus' teaching, because he teaches "as one having authority." In both cases, "authority" is not perceived as a negative power over, but as investing one with the wisdom and graciousness to have the people's good at heart.

Jesus' authority rests in His identity as the "Holy One of God" – indeed, His identity as the Divine Son. The "new teaching with authority" about which the people are amazed is not the healing miracle, but the display of God's face-to-face presence mediated in Jesus. We, too, are privileged to encounter Jesus, and come to hear and know the Holy One's healing and compassion. God is not terrifying, but gentle and loving.

Jesus' authority rested in both His word and in His power and willingness to confront evil. Living the Paschal Mystery in our lives requires us to be as bold as Jesus in confronting whatever "demons" keep us from surrendering ourselves to the growth and life to which God calls us. The call to die to self is more than idle talk – it is the ongoing demand in daily living to listen to God's word, know all that the Lord commands us, and embrace the life God offers. In the surrendering of ourselves over to God's will, in the dying to self, is the identity with the "Holy One of God" which assures us of new life.

About Liturgy: *Liturgy as Prophecy:* We usually think of prophecy as arising in persons called by God to announce anew the covenant with God and call the community to renewed relationship with God and commitment to the covenantal terms. Liturgy itself has a prophetic thrust; it always reminds us of our baptismal covenant with God and calls us to deeper relationship with God and a renewed commitment to live according to God's will. Obviously, one way liturgy is prophetic is through the proclamation of Scriptures during the Liturgy of the Word, when we are reminded of God's abiding presence and love, of the divine desire to be in intimate relationship with us. We hear in the Scriptures both challenge and encouragement as we journey deeper into our relationship with God.

Another way liturgy is prophetic is through the prayers of the faithful. As we conclude our prayer and reflection on Scriptures, we turn our hearts to the Church, world, those in need and our own local community. As we pray for all these needs, we also nudge ourselves to become involved in facing systemic and personal harm and we commit ourselves to reach out to make our Church and world a better place for everyone.

Yet another way the liturgy is prophetic is by hearing the proclamation of our Christian story in the Eucharistic Prayer and approaching God's table of abundance to be nourished on the heavenly Food. By remembering God's great deeds for us and divine desire for salvation, we are invited to deeper commitment, remembering that our baptismal covenant has made us "kin," daughters and sons of God who are now conformed to the dying and rising of the beloved Son.

Help Needed: So far, no one has responded to my “call for help.” But, if you ever check out the back of the bulletin, you may notice that there are very FEW advertisers – it’s mostly “fillers” from the bulletin company. We are in GREAT NEED of more advertisers for our parish bulletin – in fact, we receive some percentage of each of the ads. If you would be willing to help solicit new advertisements for the back of our bulletin, please contact Fr. Bateman at the parish office.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Pennies for Life: We ask every parishioner (children and adults) to bring pennies equal to each year of their lives to church or school. The pennies will be collected and a check for the amount sent to the Respect Life Office. The pennies collected will help mothers who are poor and or afraid to have their babies. They will provide medicine, food, clothing and shelter for the babies’ mothers and help them to learn how better to care for their babies. Thank you for your support! **The container will remain in the entryway of the church until February 7** (because we failed to have the container available for you to deposit your pennies).

Monthly Adult Education: Wednesday, February 4 at 7:30pm in the church basement we will have our monthly opportunity for adult education on aspects of faith. This month our topic will be **Confession: Why do I have to go?** Even among Catholics, Confession is a greatly misunderstood and greatly under-used Sacrament. Yet its power can be a true aid to our spiritual lives. If you have ever wondered about this Sacrament or want to learn more – you are welcome. There will be no pre-judgments about anyone who may come questioning the need for the Sacrament, but an open, inviting environment to learn more about its beauty. Join us!

Attention Computer "Geeks": The Sacred Heart School Technology Committee would like to expand its focus to become a **parish-wide technology committee** to accommodate the future plans of a **campus-like network between parish office, rectory, and school.** If you have any knowledge of computer hardware and/or software, and would like to help with planning, implementation, and/or maintenance of such a network, please contact Dave Sheetz at 667-3227 or dhseetz@jardenplastics.com or call the school at 248-5351. Thank you!



Attention Men of the Parish: The 31st annual Corpus Christi Men’s Retreat at Mt. St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg MD is set for July 24-26. **Msgr. George Tomicheck** will lead the retreat; he is from the St. John Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia and has led many retreats and parish missions across the US and is currently serving in the Philippines. Mark your calendar and watch for more details.

Lenten Mission: April 2, 3 & 4, 2009 - Archbishop Fulton Sheen. We all remember watching Archbishop Sheen on TV. Join us as we remember him and reflect on his words during our Lenten Mission. Our preacher will be Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR (probably known through his appearances on EWTN) is the Vice-Postulator of the Cause for the Canonization of Archbishop



Sheen and was a personal friend of Archbishop Sheen. The purpose of the Sheen Foundation is to make known the life, works and thoughts of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, to educate people in the values that he taught, to assist the missions to which he dedicated his life, to assist others in seeking his intercession, and to undertake and pursue all acts ancillary thereto, including, but not limited to, the advancement of the Cause of Canonization of Archbishop Sheen in the Catholic Church, according to the process prescribed in the Code of Canon Law under the supervision of the bishop of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois. More information coming soon; **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



Thursday, February 5: Anointing of the Sick / Suffering, Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Parish Advocacy Committee will meet in the Church on Sunday, February 8, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (This meeting will **not** be in the basement but in the Church.) Anyone interested in helping to develop an action plan for the committee should attend. The purpose of the Parish Advocacy Committee is to enable Sacred Heart Parish to become a more inclusive parish for persons with disabilities. Both the Diocese and our parish are committed to working toward full participation of people with disabilities and their families in all aspects of the life of the Church. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the committee, please contact Mary Lou Sigler at 717-667-2890.

Women’s Guild Meeting: The Women’s Guild will meet on Saturday, February 7 after the 8am Mass. All women are asked to bring 3 dozen coolies with them so that they can be “bagged” and taken to the shut-ins of our parish.

LITURGICAL NOTES

First Friday Adoration & Holy Hour: This Friday, February 6, is the first Friday of the month. There will be all day adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:30am until 7pm, when there will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour until 8pm.



There is a sign-up sheet in the entryway for people to make the time commitment to come and spend time with the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Remember that the Eucharist cannot be left alone – so please make the sacrifice to come and spend some time with the Lord.

Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: February 8, 22.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** this week is in loving memory of Enoch Drozda from his wife Mary

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (podium) please call the parish office to schedule. You order the flowers from the florist of your choice. The following dates are available: February 8, 15, 22.

The **Flowers** this week are in loving memory of C. Edwin Howard from the Howard family.



- Sunday, February 1**
7:30 AM Vera Helwig
11:00 AM Int. of Dorothy Ammerman on her 100th birthday.
- Monday, February 2 (Presentation of the Lord)**
7:00 AM Jessie Schreiber
- Tuesday, February 3 (St. Balise)**
7:00 AM Kay Smith
- Wednesday, February 4**
7:00 PM Joseph Kasmark
- Thursday, February 5 (St. Agatha)**
7:00 AM Richard & Elizabeth Showers
9:00 AM SHS
- Friday, February 6 (St. Paul Miki and companions)**
7:00 AM Roy Starnowski
- Saturday, February 7**
8:00 AM Lenora Buckley
4:00 PM Drozda & Zampelli families
- Sunday, February 8**
7:30 AM People of the Parish
11:00 AM Marjorie Kaufman

Palms to Ashes: Each year, the palms from the previous Palm Sunday are burned to create the ashes used on Ash Wednesday. You are invited to bring in your palms and place them in the receptacle in the entryway. **Please, NO** “twisty ties” or rubber bands. Just place the palms in a paper bag and put them in the receptacle. Palms will be accepted until Sunday, February 22.



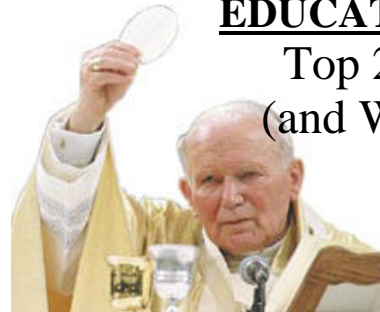
Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule for the next several weeks:

- February 8 – Mel Reed
- February 15 – John Potts
- February 22 – Dave Kaniecki

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February**
- 1 – CCD / 9am
 - 1 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church
 - 3 – Bible Study / 7:00pm / office
 - 4 – Adult Education / 7:30pm / church basement
 - 5 – RCIA / 7pm / office
 - 6 – All-day Eucharistic Adoration / Holy Hour / 7pm
 - 7 – Women’s Guild / 8am Mass / meet: church basement
 - 8 – CCD / 9am
 - 8 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church
 - 10 – Bible Study / 7pm / office
 - 11 – Baptism Class / 7:30pm / office
 - 12 – RCIA / 7pm / office

EDUCATION



Top 20 Reasons How (and Why) to return to Sunday Mass

Continued...

Reason 11: Guaranteed Bible readings. Countless lives have been changed

by Scripture. Might yours?

Reason 12: Statistics say that people who go to Church are less stressed.

Reason 13: It’s the best way to pray for your family and friends – and to cope with troubled times.

Reason 14: One of the Ten Commandments asks us to go to Mass every Sunday.

Reason 15: You become a better person at Mass. The more you are part of God’s life, the better you’ll be.

Reason 16: Life is complicated. Get directions that *work* – from the One who created life.

Reason 17: It’s your way to go most directly through Jesus Christ to God the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Reason 18: Is one hour too much to give to God? How many do you spend on other priorities?
To be continued...

Quick Tip: Communion is open to all who are not conscious of committing a serious sin (anything from missing Sunday Mass to infidelity) since their last confession.

Quick Tip: In prayer after Communion, make one resolution about how you’ll live your life differently. (Think back on the homily for ideas).

Quick Tip: Feel alone and unsure at church? Bring a friend!

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Knight at the Races”: The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a “Knight at the Races” on Saturday, February 21st at the Elks Lodge on 3rd Street. Further details will be posted as they are available!

Looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift? Attend the upcoming **Marriage Encounter Weekend** together! It will be held Feb 27-Mar 1, 2009 at Precious Blood Spiritual Center in Columbia, PA. For more info or to register, please contact Patrick & Jen Najdek at (717) 848-1149 or jenniferandpatrick@comcast.net. The weekend is filling up fast, reserve your spot today!

Mass in Celebration of African American Faith and Culture: On Sunday, February 8, 2009, Bishop Kevin Rhoades will be the celebrant and homilist at a Mass celebrating African American Faith and Culture in conjunction with the Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita at 12:15pm at Saint Patrick Cathedra, 212 State Street, Harrisburg. The diocesan Black Catholic Committee has planned a dynamic liturgy celebrating African American faith and culture, featuring the choir from Saint Bernardine Parish in Baltimore, MD. All are welcome!



To **share the gift of caring** with those among us with end-stage illnesses, please register for the **Spring Volunteer Training** with **HOSPICE: The Bridge**, Lewistown Hospital. The training sessions will begin on Tuesday, March 24 at the Hospice office, located on the second floor at the Hospital. Volunteers must complete all sessions. Time of sessions are based on volunteer availability and will be announced late. We are in particular need of volunteers who are available to provide caregiver relief to family members for short period of time and Bereavement volunteers who periodically contact family members following a death. If you have any questions or are interested in registering for these sessions, please call the Hospice office at 242-5017 or 242-5000. Thank You

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Sacred Heart School Celebrates Service – This past Friday we concluded our celebration of Catholic Schools Week, the time each year when we share with the parish and community the many ways our school makes a difference in our community while educating students in an atmosphere of faith and values. The pastor, principal, staff and students thank all of the families, parishoners, friends from Lewistown and volunteers who helped make our week special.

February is the Month to Register at Sacred Heart School - Registrations are now being accepted for the 2009-10 school year at Sacred Heart School. Applications for The Neumann Scholarship, a primary source for financial aid for any SHS family (K through 5) who qualifies (a family of 4 can earn up to \$70,000 and still qualify!) **must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2009**. We recommend registration in February so we have time to process this and other foundation applications. Families must be registered before applying for this and other scholarships. Applications are available in the school office. Please let the office know if you need an application and we will send one home to you.

There will be a **Financial Aid Night / Prospective Family Open House** on Tuesday, February 24, from 5:30 – 7:00pm in the school for anyone interested in information on financial aid or registration, who may need help filling out the applications. Call the school at 238-5351 for additional information.



What is Kindergarten doing? Kindergarten has been celebrating the New Year. In Language Arts, they continue to learn letters and sounds. As we started up again in January, we began to focus on learning to blend individual sounds into words. Also, we are having lots of fun participating in a literature study on Jan Brett. We've also begun learning geometry and fractions in Math class. We are learning to recognize and name geometric shapes and equal parts. Kindergarten hopes everyone had a Happy Catholic Schools Week!

A HUGE “Thank You” to everyone who helped make our celebration of Catholic Schools Week such a wonderful time: the St. John’s Council of the Knights of Columbus for sponsoring our pancake breakfast; John Pannizzo for donating food for our faculty appreciation luncheon; Tom Storm for his famous Spaghetti lunch; all the businesses who sponsored the radio ads promoting Catholic Schools Week; Jenna Pinder who chaired the event for the HSA; Parents who donated cakes, baskets, cookies and cupcakes; our school faculty and staff; Nora Torquato, Chuck Zannino, Susan Jones and Karen Thome who watched the children so the faculty could enjoy a luncheon in their honor; **and** everyone I have inadvertently forgotten. Thank you to everyone!

