

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

Tithing Income: February, 8, 2009	\$ 7,823.00
February 10, 2008	\$ 6,849.50
Children's Offerings	\$ 15.50

Next week's tithing: The annual collection for the Poor Missions is scheduled for February 21/22, 2009. This collection supports the efforts of the Church both locally and nationally to work with poor and minority missions. A portion of this collection is sent to the national Office for Black and Indian Missions. The rest provides financial assistance to minority students in our diocesan Catholic schools. Your generosity provides the means for ministry and Catholic education for those most in need throughout the nation and here at home.

From the pastor: Tithing isn't a gamble on what can be, it's an acknowledgment of what is. God has, is, and always will do for us. By tithing, we're just saying "Thank You."

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "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 brother's keeper, and I guess I haven't been immune to the argument that the Church could be doing more for the sick and the poor with its money. At any rate, I have been lacking in my personal relationship with God. I think 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 if tithing will help me with that, I'd better try it."

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 5th graders said: "I cleaned up after working on my project, I vacuumed after my party." Several 4th graders said: "I helped my brother with the garbage, I made my Mom's bed, I drew my Dad a picture to cheer him up." "A couple of 6th graders said: " helped my I helped make a door in his shop, I helped my grandma with her laundry." A couple of 1st graders said: "I cleaned up, I shared my toys with my brother."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: It was a rainy summer Saturday and 6-year-old Aaron was cooped up in the house but wanted to be outside playing with his friends. Feisty, he had teased his little sister one too many times. Exasperated, his mother turned to him and declared, "You're in the doghouse!" Aaron retorted, "No, I'm not, that's outside. I'm stuck here in the house." Aaron took his mother's metaphor literally, but still understood. Today the Gospel tells of a leper who approaches Jesus, seeking to move from being outside and excluded to being inside and included. The transformation Jesus makes in the leper goes even further. In biblical times, lepers were required to proclaim "unclean" and live in isolation from the

community. The leper approached Jesus with doubt: "If you wish..." Jesus, however, has no doubt about His response: "I will do it." Jesus' compassion gave the leper what he deeply wished – to be made clean, yes, but also to be included once more in the life of the community.

An encounter with Jesus transforms the man and changes the acts in two ways: He goes from isolation to inclusion; he becomes a disciple as he "spread the report abroad." Our own encounters with Jesus bring us to the same community of inclusion and discipleship. Jesus touches us in the same way today, drawing us into community and enabling us to do the same for others.

About Liturgy: *The Role of Ushers & Greeters:* Although it is every parishioner's job to make sure everyone feels included in both the liturgies and in the parish community, it is part of the greeters and ushers mandate as a "visible liturgical ministry" to model inclusiveness in the parish. Sometimes we can sometimes make others feel like religious and social "outcasts." Sometimes we are so busy catching up with friends coming into church that we miss an opportunity to say a welcome to someone we don't know. Sometimes we might miss an opportunity to help parents with young children who are restless and noisy on a particular morning feel more comfortable. Sometimes we miss an opportunity to be the first to comfort the one who might become sick during Mass. Hospitality is about inclusiveness, attending to the needs and comfort of others and minimizing distractions and challenges so that members of the congregation can more easily surrender themselves to the transforming presence and action of God. Does our welcome help form the members of the congregation into the Body of Christ? Our hospitality is much more than just a social welcome; it concerns helping the congregation become church made visible, gathered around the visible Head, Christ. This is why there can be no outcasts – we are all members of the Body of Christ.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

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!**



Sunday, February 15

7:30 AM Anna E Hackenberry
11:00 AM Charles Lennartz

Monday, February 16

7:00 AM Joseph Berich

Tuesday, February 17

7:00 AM Michael Koranda

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 PM Marge & Tom Connare

Thursday, February 19

7:00 AM E. Vincent Thoms
9:00 AM Jack Roddey

Friday, February 20

7:00 AM Anna Basiloni

Saturday, February 21

8:00 AM Dorothy Hoepstine
4:00 PM Mark Gerrana

Sunday, February 22

7:30 AM Leila Stutusky
11:00 AM People of the Parish

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

- February 22– Dave Kaniecki
- March 1 – Russell Krug
- March 8 – Mel Reed

LITURGICAL NOTES

Palms to Ashes: Each year, the palms from the previous Palm Sunday are burned to create the ashes used on Ash Wednesday. As Ash Wednesday draws near, 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. You may also bring in other religious items that need to be “disposed of” properly (broken rosaries, scapulars, etc.)



Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: February 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** this week is in loving memory of Michael J. Porpotage from his sister-in-law, Mary Drozda.

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 22.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 15 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / Church
- 16 – SVDP meeting / 7pm / office
- 17 – Bible Study / 7:00pm / office
- 18 – Liturgy committee / 7:30pm / Rectory
- 19 – RCIA / 7pm / office
- 20 – Parish Advocacy Meeting / 2pm / office
- 21 – SVDP free meal / 11am / School cafeteria
- 22 – CCD / 9pm
- 22 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / Church
- 23 – Parish Pastoral Council / 7 pm / office
- 24 – Bible Study / 7pm / office
- 25 – Ash Wednesday

EDUCATION

NBC trashes pro-life ad featuring Obama. Network refuses to run Catholic commercial during Super Bowl: By Chelsea Schilling © 2009 WorldNetDaily. NBC has rejected a pro-life ad that celebrates President Barack Obama's mother's decision not to abort the first black American president for its Super Bowl lineup – even though the video has skyrocketed in popularity with almost 750,000 hits on YouTube. The commercial,

sponsored by the pro-life Catholic group *Fidilis* and its “CatholicVote” website, begins with an ultrasound image of a baby moving in his mother's womb.

“This child's future is a broken home,” it says. “He will be abandoned by his father. His single mother will struggle to raise him. Despite the hardships, he will endure,” the ad states. “This child will become the first African American president.” It features a photo of President Obama and concludes, “Life. Imagine the potential.”

The organization website states that it launched its “Life: Imagine the Potential” campaign “to reach Americans who are either indifferent, or who have not yet thought about the great potential of every human life.” President Obama's agenda regarding “reproductive choice” is posted on the White House website. It states, Obama “has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority in his Administration.”

However, an NBC representative said the network is not interested in the commercial. After days of discussion, the representative told *Fidilis* that NBC and the NFL will not run commercials involving “political advocacy or issues,” *Fidilis* said in a statement today. The video has become increasingly popular since it first ran on Black Entertainment Television in Chicago on Inauguration Day.

Fidilis President Brian Burch told the *Washington Times* that NBC was working with the company to purchase a commercial package in the nation's top 10 markets and four additional cities at the cost of \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million. “We put out the call to our members and large pro-life benefactors who told us they would put up significant dollars to make this happen,” Burch said. “I was told the ad was approved and then there were a number of attorneys working on it.” But he said NBC later reversed its decision. “Then I was told they didn't want to run political or advocacy ads,” Burch told the *Times*.

He claims that while NBC told his organization it would not allow advocacy ads, the network told PETA something entirely different when it rejected the group's sexually explicit commercial showing women having intimate moments with vegetables. “There's no doubt that PETA is an advocacy group,” Burch said in his statement. “NBC rejected PETA's ad for another reason altogether.” An e-mail posted on PETA's website from Victoria Morgan, vice president of advertising standards for NBC Universal, said: “The PETA spot submitted to Advertising Standards depicts a level of sexuality exceeding our standards.” Morgan provided “edits that need to be made” before the spot could be finalized to run during the Super Bowl.

“NBC claims it doesn't allow advocacy ads, but that's not true,” Burch said. “They were willing to air an ad by PETA if they would simply tone down the sexual suggestiveness. Our ad is far less provocative, and hardly

controversial by comparison.” He said, unlike the salacious PETA commercial, the pro-life ad is clean and has a positive message. “There is nothing objectionable in this positive, life-affirming advertisement,” Burch said. “We show a beautiful ultrasound, something NBC's parent company *GE* has done for years. We congratulate Barack Obama on becoming the first African-American President. And we simply ask people to imagine the potential of every human life.” See the commercial at CatholicVote.org.

Concerned individuals may send comments about NBC's decision to Victoria Morgan (victoria.morgan@nbc.com), vice president of advertising standards at NBC Universal, or call (212) 664-4267.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brotherhood Award Dinner honoring John Brittain:

The Mifflin County Roundtable of Christians and Jews will present John Brittain, a member of our parish, with the community Brotherhood Award. This will take place on February 24th at 6:30pm at the Moose. Tickets for the dinner are \$14.00. To purchase tickets call Freda Hook at 248-5503.

“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 3^d Street. Further details will be posted as they are available!

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010: You are invited to join Fr. Bateman and Fr. Dan Powell (of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Harrisburg) on this



exciting pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to see the “once every 10 year” Passion Play presented by the people of Oberammergau, Germany. The trip will include visits to Galilee, the excavation of Tel Megiddo, Cana, Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, the Mt. of Beatitudes (site of the Sermon on the Mount), Tabgha (site of The Miracle of the Fishes and the Loaves), Capernaum, Mt. Tabor (traditional site of the Transfiguration), Megiddo, Jericho, the Mt. of Olives, Jerusalem, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Chapel of the Flagellation, the place of the Last Supper, the Mount of Olives, and the recently excavated archeological site in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City and the Gihon Springs, among other stops. Then, after all this we travel to Oberammergau, Germany for a two-night stay with the people of the village and experience the Passion Play. In this charming place, surrounded by unforgettable alpine views, we experience the last week of Christ's life before our return to the US. Preliminary cost estimates are somewhere around \$4,600, but costs are

fluctuating a great deal. If interested, please contact Fr. Bateman at the parish office.

Malta Home – is in need of dedicated volunteers to serve in a variety of capacities – visiting residents, delivering mail, assisting with activities, putting supplies away, painting – the opportunities seems endless for those who may be interested. Do you have a genuine desire to help the elderly, and to make a difference in the life of a nursing resident? If so, please contact the Director of Activities / Volunteer Coordinator – Kari Ann Keller – at Malta Home. She can be reached from 8:30am – 4:30pm at 248-3988. Potential volunteers are asked to submit an application and be interviewed. Please help us! We celebrate National Volunteer Month in April – and look forward to recognizing your efforts in helping make our home a better place for our residents!



“Do everything for the glory of God.” Your vocation is the call to give God glory in your very being. Is He choosing you to be a priest or consecrated religious? Call Father Raymond LaVoie (717)657-4804 or email him at frlavoie@hbgdiocese.org

The Prevention Health Screening group is offering you 6 quick, painless, non-invasive health tests to see if you are at risk for a serious health problem. On Friday, **March 6th** beginning at **9am** the prevention program will be at the **First United Methodist Church** (corner of Third & Dorcas Streets) to offer you and the community several health tests. These will check for such things as: **stroke, heart disease, osteoporosis, and pulmonary disease.** These tests will make sure your arteries do not have any dangerous blockages. The tests are very low in cost, non-invasive and are read by a local vascular physician before the results are given directly to you and are referred back to your own doctor. Call 1-800-446-0925 for more info.

Mardi Gras Slavic Style - Saturday, February 21 St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church will host a Pre-Lenten Party! Come one, come all and join the fun at the Parish Center - 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, from 4 till 10 PM. Come out for delicious ethnic food, festive games, and music by the Polka Who! Admission is Free. It's a Pre-Lenten Party! For information call the parish at 652-1415.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

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.

A HUGE “Thank You” to the businesses who sponsored the radio ads for Catholic Schools Week: The Law Offices of Tom and Chris Torquato; Frank Guerrini Vending; Hoenstine & Heller Hoenstine Funeral Homes; Dan Bennett State Farm Insurance; Barr Funeral Home; and Doctor M. Colleen McCusker Eye Care. We thank them for their support of Catholic Education and, when you are choosing businesses, we encourage you to use these companies who are such great supporters of SHS.

“More Than An Auction” Raffle Tickets: The weekends of February 15-16 and 21-22, Sacred Heart of Jesus School will begin distribution of the ticket books for the “All Cash Raffle” held during the *More Than An Auction* event which will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at the Youth Park in Reedsville. As our **ONLY** major parish fundraiser to support the Sacred Heart Parish to buy or sell just 1 booklet of 10 tickets. Each ticket costs \$5.00, but a book of 10 is only \$35.00 (you get three tickets for FREE!). The top cash prize for the raffle is \$1,000! We had a great response last year, so we hope we can count on your support again this year!

New!! “More Than An Auction” A new event will be held in conjunction with the “More Than An Auction”. We will hold a parish rummage sale on Saturday, April 25th at the Reedsville Youth Park. Start saving or stacking your stuff. Any questions, call Gordon Parker at 667-9714(H) or 248-3643 (W).

FEBRUARY 16TH

