

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

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| <b>Tithing Income:</b> February 15, 2009 | \$ 7,278.96 |
| February 17, 2008                        | \$ 6,849.50 |
| Children's Offerings                     | \$ 14.75    |

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will be used to purchase new albs for our altar servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Some of them are pretty tattered, and the altar servers need some smaller sizes.

**From the pastor:** Generosity is a strong sign of God's presence within us. Tithing is a bright light of generosity and trust in God – especially in the midst of difficult economic times. The world around us needs to see this generosity and trust in all of us. We really reflect Christ in our world. Thank you for your sacrifice of tithing!

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "We believe that tithing's time has come and will be part of a spiritual renewal for our parish. Our family has begun to tithe and in two months we have seen God's blessings on us. We hope that all our parishioners will also begin to give back to God what He deserves."

**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 6<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I helped a friend when she was sick, I carried a roaster and pots to the basement for my Mom." Several 4<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I told a student to turn in a cell phone she found, I folded sheets, I helped classmates with their homework." A couple of 6<sup>th</sup> graders said: "I brought my friend her homework when she was sick, I helped a friend pick up her books when she dropped them."

## **FROM THE PASTOR**

**Weekly Reflection:** This Sunday's readings speak of change in terms of something new happening – divine forgiveness. As the Gospel unfolds, we come to see that the man carried to Jesus on a mat actually suffered from two types of paralysis: physical and spiritual. Jesus looks beyond the physical paralysis and offers him the deeper healing he really needs: forgiveness. Like the actions of God toward the Israelites in the first reading, Jesus frees the paralytic (and us) from the past and opens a brand-new start in life. Forgiveness makes possible seeing something new that is happening. What is new is a whole new relationship with God. God desires such intimacy with us that forgiveness becomes an expression of divine presence. Transgressions cause a breach in relationships; God always acts to heal the breach, so long as we turn back toward God. Along with the crowd in the Gospel, we are astounded each time Jesus acts the same way to forgive us. Forgiveness is a divine act and presence that evokes a response of praise and the announcement that something new is happening. What is the "something

new" that this Gospel announces? That the Good News of the Gospel is forgiveness and that God's forgiveness offers us a new start in life.

**About Liturgy: The Sacrament of Penance:** Lent is upon us – and many of us begin thinking about getting to Confession (especially if it's been a while). As I read various Catholic publications, there is a lot of talk lately about the demise of this Sacrament, how it is not frequented enough. Like many parishes, we offer a communal penance service during Lent. Maybe a good Lenten resolution would be to put aside whatever else falls on that date (March 29) and avail oneself of this Sacrament. Too much of the Sacrament of Penance is thought of in terms of lists of sins. Certainly our sinfulness – weakening or breaking our relationship with God – is the "matter" of this Sacrament. But far more happens than mechanically reciting a list of sins. First and foremost this Sacrament is an opportunity for a personal encounter with Christ and the celebration of Divine Mercy. It is an opportunity to praise and glorify God for always being willing to restore an intimate relationship with us. It gives us a chance to publicly announce that the reign of sin is vanquished and the reign of God is upon us. Our very coming to church to celebrate this Sacrament is a proclamation of the Gospel – not by words, but by our deeds. Perhaps if we would cast this Sacrament in the positive light of God's forgiveness, mercy and desire for a restored relationship with each of us, more parishioners would celebrate this Sacrament. Our churches ought to be packed – people spilling out the doors into the street, eager to celebrate God's forgiveness and mercy, eager to proclaim their own share in divinity. When God's forgiveness and mercy are so powerfully felt – carried over in the forgiveness and mercy we extend to each other – then it might be difficult to contain our "Alleluia!" even during Lent.



**Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009:** The weekend of March 7-8, our parish will conduct the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal Campaign using the In-Pew Program. It works like this. I will speak for a few minutes about the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal after a brief homily. Then, I'll ask a member of our Lenten Appeal Team to walk through the program with you. The ushers will then assist you with the Response Envelopes and we'll take a few minutes to fill out the Response Envelopes together. Then, the ushers will collect the envelopes with a special separate pass of the basket and bring your commitments

to the altar with the offertory gifts. Please come to Mass that weekend prepared to make your pledge. You do not have to bring a check or cash to Mass that weekend for the In-Pew Program since coupon booklets will be sent out again this year – allowing you to spread your pledge payments out over a period of months. If you want to make a down payment or pay in full, that's fine, too. Thank you so very much! **This year's goal (actually assessment from the Diocese) is \$33,200.** Your help will enable us to reach (and even exceed) this goal. Thank you for your generosity to the work of the Diocesan Church.

## PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

**Lenten Mission – Learning from Archbishop Fulton Sheen - April 2, 3 & 4, 2009** 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) who was a personal friend of Archbishop Sheen. More information coming soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



### *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*

**Thursday, February 26:** The Sacrament of the Eucharist: *Bread and Wine or Body and Blood?*

**Knights of Columbus Fish Sandwich Sale:** Ash Wednesday and Friday, February 27, the Knights of Columbus will be selling fish sandwiches for \$3.00 each in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria. Sandwiches will be served 3-6pm and call-in orders are accepted after 3pm by calling 248-5351.



## LITURGICAL NOTES

**Ash Wednesday Mass:** Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 7am, 12noon and 7pm. During each Mass, ashes will be distributed. If you would like to take ashes to a homebound family member, please speak to Father after Mass and he will give you a prepared envelope containing ashes and prayers to be used while imposing them.



**The Stations of the Cross:** Each Friday during Lent, we pray together this wonderful devotion following the Way of the Cross. You are invited to join us each Friday at 7pm throughout the season of Lent. Join us!

**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. You order the flowers from the florist of your choice. The next available date would be First Holy Communion the weekend of May 1-2.

**The Flowers at the Altar this week** are in loving memory of Virginia Doster, the grandmother of Fr. Bateman.

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

### *Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Sunday, February 22**

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

**Monday, February 23**

7:00 AM Madeline Wear

**Tuesday, February 24**

7:00 AM Frances Watson

**Wednesday, February 25**

7:00 AM Frank Sciortino  
12:00 Noon Virginia Doster  
7:00 PM Michael J. Porpotage

**Thursday, February 26**

7:00 AM Alice Alpaugh  
9:00 AM Thomas J. McFadden

**Friday, February 27**

7:00 AM Rosario Fortino

**Saturday, February 28**

8:00 AM Stephen Watson  
4:00 PM Sadie McMenamin

**Sunday, March 1**

7:30 AM Kay Smith  
11:00 AM Wright & Zeigler families



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

March 1 – Russell Krug

March 8 – Mel Reed

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February**

- 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**
- 25 – Choir Practice / 8pm / choir loft
- 25 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria

26 – RCIA / 7pm / office  
27 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria

### **March**

1 – CCD / 9am  
1 – St. Monica Prayer Group / 7pm / church  
3 – Bible Study / 7pm / office  
4 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / choir loft  
5 – RCIA / 7pm / office  
6 – All Day Adoration / Holy Hour / 7pm  
6 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria  
8 – CCD / 9am  
8 – St. Monica Prayer Group / 7pm / church  
10 – Bible Study / 7pm / office  
11 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / choir loft  
12 – RCIA / 7pm / office  
13 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria  
13 – **Confirmation / 7pm / St. Jude Church**

### **MORE THAN AN AUCTION NEWS**

**More Than An Auction: A Family Fun Fest: Sunday, April 26 at the Reedsville Youth Park.** If you are able to help on a special committee the day of the auction please contact the appropriate committee chairperson:

**Auction Committee Chair:** Annemarie Swineford (248-3599)

**Publicity:** Kim Bubb (667-6941)

**Raffle:** Elizabeth Grumbine (667-6020)

**Children's Activities:** Ruth Allison (242-0984)

**Baked Goods :** Dot Conti (667-3197)

**Gift Baskets:** Connie Quinn (667-6507)

**School Baskets:** Sherry Hutchinson (348-9838)

**Fudge Contest:** Marie Bender (242-2781)

**Solicitation:** B.J. Newcamp (436-9572)

**Set Up & Tear Down:** Dave Sheetz (667-3227)

**Plant Sale:** Patti Fleegal (248-2209)

**Decorations:** Theresa Dybach (667-6893)

**Food committee:** Cyndi Shoemaker (667-9312 / 994-4948)

**Auction Booklets:** Tracy & Trevor Miller (436-5306)

**Auction Items Needed:** We are looking for any type of donations to be auctioned off for the silent or oral auction. If you would like to donate an item call B.J. Newcamp at 436-9572 or e-mail [beedgewolf@aol.com](mailto:beedgewolf@aol.com)

**Doors will open at 11:00am and food will be served at 11:30am for lunch,** 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.

**New “More Than An Auction” Event:** We will hold a parish rummage sale on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Reedsville Youth Park. Start saving or stacking your stuff. Any questions, call Gordon Parker at 667-9714(H) or 248-3643 (W).

**Plants Needed:** Attention Gardeners (professional or amateur)! We need your help again this year with donations for the plant sale. We are excited to see what kind of beautiful flowers and plants you have to share with

us again this year. You will be able to bring your donation in a disposable container with a description, to the auction the day before 4/25 or the day of the auction April 26. If you need any information contact the Plant Sale chair person Patti Fleegal at 248-2209 or you may e-mail [patriciafleegal@aol.com](mailto:patriciafleegal@aol.com)

**Fudge Contest:** This year we are changing our contest to delicious fudge, in conjunction with our More than an Auction. First prize is \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is \$25.00. All fudge is due at the Auction site in Reedsville (Youth Park) on Sunday, April 26 between the hours of 9:30 and 11:30am. After judging, all entries will be sold at the dessert table. Additional information is available by calling the parish office.

### **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 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Moose. Tickets for the dinner are \$14.00. To purchase tickets call Freda Hook at 248-5503.

#### **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010:**

Experience the Passion Play surrounded by the beauty of the Bavarian hills in the village of Oberammergau, Germany. A fulfillment of a promise to God for sparing this village from the black plague, every villager participates in this presentation, which is done on a magnificent scale every 10 years. Your pilgrimage begins with a visit to Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Complete this “once-in-a-lifetime” journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau and come to know scripture in a new light. Dates for this program are July 14 – 23, 2010 and package price is all-inclusive out of Newark Airport – approximately \$4,600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. If interested, please contact Fr. Bateman at the parish office.



**Contemporary Christian music concert** featuring Third Day, Brandon Heath and Revive. Bryce Jordon Center, Friday April 3rd. Prime seating tickets available. Contact Tom Soccio at 543-5438 evenings or weekends.

### **SACRED HEART SCHOOL**

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.

# Lenten Guidelines

## Abstinence

**Abstinence is to be practiced by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older.**

Abstinence is practiced on **Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent.**

**Ash Wednesday:** This day is observed by fasting and abstinence.

**Lenten Fridays:** These days are marked by the discipline of abstinence from Meat.

**Good Friday:** This day is observed by fasting and abstinence. Traditional abstinence is the practice of refraining from meat and meat products.

Entering fully into the spirit of the Lenten fast, we are also encouraged to abstain from other foods, practices or activities. The Lenten fast is one of penance. Our self-denial is a way of emphasizing our dependence on God. Failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered serious. However, failure to observe a substantial number or all of the penitential days during Lent must be considered serious.

## Those under the age of 14

Fasting and abstinence are not always possible for the younger members of the community. However, they should be encouraged to observe the spirit of the Lenten fast by assuming a penance appropriate to their age.

## Those age 18-59 years old

Fasting is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** by all Catholics who have celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and who have not yet celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## Age 59 years and older

Those who have celebrated their 59<sup>th</sup> birthday are welcome to share with the community in the practice of fasting. However, they should take appropriate care regarding their personal health conditions.

## How we do it...

In the customary fast, **those who are bound by this may take only one full meal.** Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

In the fast of the early Church, the fast began upon rising. No meals were taken until the customary work day ended at approximately 5 p.m. A glass of juice may be taken in the morning and simple liquids during the day, e.g., water, coffee, tea. The fast ends with a brief prayer, followed by an adequate meal. For many this may work as a more natural way to fast.

## Why we do it...

**When we fast and abstain, we do it together.** The practice of the Lenten fast and Paschal fast is a practice of the whole community. Though the fast is carried out personally, we are united in our action through Jesus Christ. Our united fast and abstinence are our prayers to the Father through Jesus.

**Our actions speak louder than our words.** Both personally and as a community we deliberately place ourselves in need (hunger being the most basic need) so that we can discover that for which we hunger spiritually in our lives and in our world. We do this to give concrete expression to our trust in God and to give us the spiritual sustenance we require. Our joint action is intended to strengthen our deep belief that the God who raised Jesus from the dead also fills our every need.