

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

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| Tithing Income: February, 1, 2009 | \$ 8,365.00 |
| February 3, 2008 | \$ 9,151.00 |
| Children's Offerings | \$ 7.00 |

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the charitable works of our parish St. Vincent DePaul Society.

From the pastor: Unless we are extremely fortunate, many of us own our homes and cars on credit. We really don't own them outright, but instead we have this loan until they are paid for. In a similar sense, whatever goods of this world we have are on loan from God. We are stewards of the time, talent and treasure loaned to us and we do eventually have to render an accounting. We should try to practice consistent and meaningful stewardship of what God has given us, sharing with others to improve their time on earth. This is a common thread with which religion and charity are joined. Here at Sacred Heart we have many parishioners who donate unselfishly so that God's work may continue...and I thank them for their generosity.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "As I think about the elections just past, I see how much more I need God and want to give Him more of myself."

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 2nd grader said: "I helped Mom clean." Several 6th graders said: "I helped my Nana do her laundry." "I set the table for my Gram." "I helped clean out the goats' pen." A 4th grader said: "I helped Nana make bread." A Kindergartner said: "I set the table for Nana." A 7th grader said: "I helped make dinner."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: So many times during our life we can identify with Job's lament in this week's first reading: "Is not life on earth a drudgery?" Some of us must get up early in the morning to get to work. We might sit in traffic for too many precious minutes in rush hour. We might work in a job where we feel like all we get is complaints, no matter how hard we try. Like Job, we might feel like our days end "without hope." The Gospel tells us that Jesus who "cured many." Peter's mother-in-law, the sick in the town, those possessed by demons... It is no surprise that everyone is looking for Jesus – who wouldn't seek hope and the promise of a better life? This Gospel reminds us of two important and related points. First, the significance of Jesus' healings and exorcisms goes beyond the individuals who came to Him in their illness. Rather, they reveal the purpose for which Jesus came. Into a world of hopelessness described by Job, Jesus enters preaching Good News, confronting suffering and bringing hope. Jesus is Good News in action. Second, we might lament that we could not have lived in Jesus' time to bring our sorrows and ailments to Jesus for healing. Yet, Jesus IS present to us just as much today.

Like the people in the Gospel, all we need to do is look for Him, come to Him, present ourselves and ask to be healed. Jesus never loses sight of why He came – to preach the Good News. He never rose "very early before dawn" and went out "to a deserted place" to pray, to be in communion with God. This is how we come to Jesus today – by praying, being in communion with God, and receiving the Sacraments which He left us. Hope is discovered when we surrender ourselves to God, to Him in the intimacy of divine encounter and allow Him to reach out and heal us.

About Liturgy: *The 2nd Reading during Ordinary Time:* Usually during Ordinary Time the 2nd reading does not fit with the 1st reading and Gospel. The 2nd reading during this season is a sequential reading of one of the New Testament letters. This Sunday, the 2nd reading happily reinforces the other readings. Paul is emphasizing his (all Christians') role in preaching the Gospel, but this is no reason to boast. Paul says we must become "all things to all, to save at least some" and find our own share in the Gospel we preach by the way we live the Good News.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

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!



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!**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Thursday, February 12: The Sacrament of Marriage and Natural Family Planning (NFP) – *the Darkness of Contraception*. Everyone from the parish is welcome to attend this presentation to learn more about Natural Family Planning – the **ONLY** means of planning a family approved by the Catholic Church.

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.

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.

The **Sanctuary Lamp** this week is in loving memory of Mary Parker from Chris & Mike Nowark.

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 15, 22.

The **Flowers in the Sanctuary** this week are in loving memory of Marian L. Wagner, the mother of Kay Parker of our parish.



Sunday, February 8

7:30 AM People of the Parish
11:00 AM Marjorie Kaufman.

Monday, February 9

7:00 AM Mid Rocco

Tuesday, February 10 (St. Scholastica)

7:00 AM Wright & Zeigler families

Wednesday, February 11 (Our Lady of Lourdes)

7:00 PM Richard Quilter

Thursday, February 12

7:00 AM Ronald Lacey
9:00 AM Mary Zarkovich

Friday, February 13

7:00 AM Judith Gers

Saturday, February 14 (Sts. Cyril and Methodius)

8:00 AM Ira Solomon
4:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, February 15

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

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

February 15 – John Potts

February 22 – Dave Kaniecki

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

8 – CCD / 9am

8 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group / 7pm / church

10 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

11 – Baptism Class / 7:30pm / office

11 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / church

12 – RCIA / 7pm / office

EDUCATION

President Obama Reversal of Mexico City Policy “Very Disappointing”: USCCB, WASHINGTON – The decision by President Barack Obama to reverse the Mexico City Policy is “very disappointing,” said Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities. He made the statement January 23, after President Obama issued the executive order restoring U.S. funding to organizations that perform and promote abortion in developing nations. His statement follows:

“It is very disappointing that President Obama has reversed the Mexico City Policy, which prevents U.S. funding of organizations that perform and promote abortion as a family planning method in developing nations. An Administration that wants to reduce abortions should not divert U.S. funds to groups that promote abortions.

“Cardinal Francis George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote to President-elect Obama [prior to his inauguration] urging him to retain this policy. As Cardinal George said in his letter:

“The **Mexico City Policy**, first established in 1984, has wrongly been attacked as a restriction on foreign aid for family planning. In fact, it has not reduced such aid at all, but has ensured that family planning funds are not diverted to organizations dedicated to performing and promoting abortions instead of reducing them. Once the clear line between family planning and abortion is erased, the idea of using family planning to reduce abortions becomes meaningless, and abortion tends to replace contraception as the means for reducing family size. A shift toward promoting abortion in developing nations would also increase distrust of the United States in these nations, whose values and culture often reject abortion, at a time when we need their trust and respect.”



Common “Good” Excuses for Missing Mass:

What’s in it for me? Everything!

God desires only and always what is good for you. He became a man in large part

to give us Himself in the Mass. *Why should you deny yourself such a gift?*

I don’t need to go to Mass to get close to God. At Mass, you receive God Himself – Jesus Christ truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Even a beautiful mountain vista with a stream teeming with trout or the best sports field in the world cannot compare to that!

I had a bad experience with the Church. This is always sad. But many of us also had bad experiences with teachers – and we know the whole education system isn’t bad. Jesus wants to bring you healing at Mass.

I don’t get anything out of Mass. Don’t expect it to be entertainment! Learn about what it does: joins us to Christ; separates us from sin; wipes away venial sins; commits us to the poor; prepares us for heaven.

I don’t have the time. There are 24 hours a day, 68 hours a week. Mass takes about one hour. That’s LESS than 1% of your week. You have the time; find it!

I’m a sinner. I don’t deserve to be at Mass. Welcome to the club! We are a Church of saved sinners. NONE of us deserves to be here. See you at the confessional...

Bishops Urge Congress to Make the Poor a Priority in Economic Recovery Legislation: USCC, WASHINGTON – The U.S. bishops urged Congress to

make poor families and vulnerable workers central priorities as Congress adopts an economic recovery legislation. Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), made the call in a January 28 letter to both houses of Congress.

“Low-income families and individuals are experiencing the greatest hardship and have the least capacity to cope in this time of economic crisis,” Bishop Murphy said in the letter, adding that these people are also more likely “to use these new resources quickly to purchase the essentials of life and to help move our economy forward.”

Citing the need to avoid partisan or ideological agendas and to focus on the needs of the poor, Bishop Murphy offered the bishops’ support for aspects of the proposed recovery legislation. These include increasing funds for nutrition assistance through food stamps and other programs, protecting low-income families from losing Medicaid and social service assistance, and extending Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. He also urged the House to reject measures regarding contraception and immigration as unnecessary and inconsistent with the purposes of the recovery legislation.

Bishop Murphy echoed Pope Benedict XVI’s call to bolster the economy by focusing on the dignity of the human person, adding, “This is a time to pursue the common good, beginning with help for the families and communities most hurt by this crisis.”

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 3rd 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.

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 Cathedral, 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.

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!

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 mission of our parish school, we ask every family of 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!