

January 11, 2009 – The Baptism of the Lord

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income: December 28, 2008	\$ 7,539.50
December 30, 2007	\$ 7,168.50
Children's Offerings	\$ 18.00
Tithing Income: January 4, 2009	\$ 8,283.00
January 6, 2008	\$ 7,644.15
Children's Offerings	\$ 13.25
Christmas Collection 2008	\$ 24,908.65
Christmas Collection 2007	\$ 27,191.00
January 1 Collection 2008	\$ 3,086.50
January 1 Collection 2007	\$ 2,739.00

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

From the pastor: Generosity is a strong sign of God's presence within us. Tithing is a right light of generosity and trust in God. 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: "I have been tithing faithfully for the last 10 years and it is the best decision I ever made. There is an inner conviction and peace that says you are doing the right thing, and there are other benefits as well. Right now, I could not afford to stop tithing! God is good and God is faithful – take the leap!"

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 7th grader said: "I helped make dinner" A 5th grader said: "I dried dishes." A couple of 1st graders said: "I fed and watered the dogs, I cleaned my room" A few 4th graders said: "I helped Father Bateman collect programs from Christmas Eve, I folded towels, I helped clean up after our Christmas dinner." A couple of kindergartners said: "I helped get Christmas decorations out, I baked cookies for Santa." A couple of Pre-K's said: "I carried diapers to the house, I shared my game with my brothers."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Several times in our lives we might be asked to produce a copy of our baptismal certificates; for example, at our First Communion and Confirmation or at Marriage or Ordination or entrance into religious life. Having a certificate and producing it when needed might lead us to believe that Baptism is something that happened in the past that is over and completed is the *ritual ceremony* of Baptism. But that is surely not all there is to Baptism. An essential tenet of Christianity is that Baptism plunges us into an ongoing way of living whereby our lives are patterned after Christ's. This Sunday, the Gospel gives us a picture of who Jesus is and that following Him means taking up His saving mission – the everyday,

practical way we LIVE our Baptism all our lives. The way we do that is through our vocation. Each of us is called to live our lives in a particular vocation – a particular way of sharing in Christ's mission of proclaiming the Kingdom. Some do this as a married person and/or parent; others as a priest, deacon or consecrated religious man or woman, still others as a single person. Each of these states of life is a way that we live out our Baptismal commitment in our daily lives – following Christ and imitating His Sacrifice by sacrificing ourselves for our spouse, the Church or all people we meet.

This week is *National Vocation Awareness Week*.

As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations of dedicated people as married and single people, men to serve as priests, deacons, brothers, and women as religious sisters.



About Liturgy: *Christmas Season and Ordinary Time:*

Although the world threw their Christmas Trees to the curb on January 1, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas Season, not only for 12 Days, but until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (today). That means that tomorrow begins Ordinary Time once again. Having celebrated the Lord's Incarnation and His Manifestation as the "Light of the Nations," we enter into a season of growth (thus the green vestments) in Ordinary Time. It is a time which is actually anything BUT ordinary – it is a time during which we strive to grow in the mysteries we have celebrated the past weeks – to continue to manifest Christ through OUR lives – and to live our vocation: proclaiming the Kingdom of God in word and deed.

No Mass on Wednesday or Thursday: Fr. Thoms and I are both members of the same "priest support group" (called an Emmaus Group). Each January our group takes a 1 ½ day retreat. This year, we'll be leaving on Tuesday morning and returning Thursday afternoon. In past years, only I was a member of the group, but now both our priests are involved. Thus, there will be no Mass on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning. Thanks for your understanding and your prayers.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

The Parish Advocacy Committee will meet on Sunday, January 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Church. The committee is open to everyone interested in sharing ideas and developing plans to help create a more inclusive parish community in regard to persons with disabilities. We need

your help in determining an action plan for the Parish. The meeting will end no later than 6:45 because St. Monica's Prayer Group meets at 7:00 for recitation of the Rosary and other prayers.



Thursday, January 15: Baptism – The Ten Commandments. Natural Law.

Pennies for Life: As we prepare to observe the anniversary of the infamous Roe V Wade US Supreme Court decision which deprived pre-born children of legal personhood, it would be well for us to consider positive and uplifting ways to build up a Culture of Life in our communities. The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Harrisburg has conducted the Pennies for Life project in our parishes, religious education programs and schools for several years – raising support and awareness of the outreach programs offering alternatives to women facing an unanticipated pregnancy. The Pennies for Life program has allowed the Church to provide substantial assistance to crisis pregnancy counseling and aftercare for women and their children. This is a positive program that emphasizes life as a gift from God that we are all truly thankful for. We are asking every parishioner (children and adults) to bring pennies equal to each year of their lives to church or school during the month of January. The pennies will be collected on January 31 and a check for the amount sent to the Respect Life Office. The theme is thankfulness for the gift of life. 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 willingness to help support the Pennies for Life program.



LITURGICAL NOTES

Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: January 25.

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in loving memory of Marie Meloni from the Ross family

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: None in January.

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

January 18 – John Potts

January 25 – Dave Kaniecki



Sunday, January 11 (The Baptism of the Lord)

7:30 AM Marjorie Kaufman

11:00 AM Agnes Parks McMillen

Monday, January 12

7:00 AM Rosario Fortino

Tuesday, January 13

7:00 AM Judith Gers

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 PM NO MASS

Thursday, January 15

7:00 AM NO MASS

9:00 AM NO MASS

Friday, January 16

7:00 AM Wright & Zeigler families

Saturday, January 17

8:00 AM Madeline Wear

4:00 PM Croce Cracchiolo & Caterina Cangialosi

Sunday, January 18

7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry

11:00 AM Intention of the Meloni family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

11 – CCD / 9:00am

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

11 – Parish Advocacy Meeting / 5:30pm / Church basement

13 – Bible Study / 6:30pm / new office

14 – RCIA / 7pm / new office

17 – St. Vincent dePaul free meal / 11:30am

18 – CCD / 9am

18 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / Church

19 – School Board of Education / 6:30pm / school

19 – St. Vincent DePaul meeting / 7pm / new office

20 – Bible Study / 6:30pm / new office

21 – Liturgy Committee / 7:30pm

22 – RCIA / 7pm / new office

25 – CCD / 9am

25 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / Church

26 – Parish Pastoral Council / 7pm / new office

27 – Bible Study / 6:30pm / new office

28 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm

29 – RCIA / 7pm / new office

Check out our parish calendars online at

www.SacredHeartLewistown.com

Click "parish calendars"



Post Card Campaign: The past few weeks, there have been articles about FOCA and the impact that FOCA would have on abortion rates and on society as a whole. It is clear that FOCA must be defeated in the U.S. Congress. Our elected representatives NEED to hear from us on this extremely important issue. Next weekend, we'll be conducting a post-card campaign, encouraging you to write your elected representatives and senators in the U.S. Congress. Your participation is encouraged!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR FOR CHRISTMAS.

Given in memory /honor of: Intention (given by)

Richard Quilter (Kathleen Quilter)
 Buck Pacini and John Miller family (Joan Pacini)
 Mabel Mileski & Gertrude Haag (Mrs. David Koller) (Frank Cunningham)
 Robert Hackett, Children & families (Betty Hackett)
 Rose (Stravolo) Parker (Mrs. Harold Fultz, Jr.)
 Warner & Wagner families, Jerry Wagner (Dolores Wagner families and children)
 My family (Grace Gray)
 LaRoss, Schutawie, Laub, Searer & Young families (Cathy Searer)
 Marjorie A. Kaufman (Bob Kaufman)
 Rosemarie Zimmerman (Joan Stone)
 Melvin & Mary Parker, Frank & Angela Giarizzo & Paul A. Royer (Betty Lou Royer)
 Melvin & Mary Parker, Frank & Angela Giarizzo & Robert Wagner (Mel & Kay Parker)
 John Metzger (Jean Metzger)
 Deceased of the Shanshala & Stout families (Cathy Stout)
 Rocco J. Soccio (Barbara Soccio)
 Guerrini & Battista families (Fran & Marie Guerrini)
 Theresa Brown & Stephen Korinchak (Martha Shank)
 Enoch Drozda & in honor of Mary Drozda (Barbara Patterson III)
 Steve Olnick (Donna Sheaffer)
 Kolb & Regan families (Irene Regan)
 Thomas E. Clark & Harry & Louise Heane (Shirley Clark)
 Fusetti & Taptich families (Dan & Susan Taptich)
 Deceased families & friends of George Stoicheff & Robert Wakefield (Dave & Ann Stoicheff)
 John Thomas Fisher & Peggy L Reitz (Robert Fisher)
 Joseph Martin (Clare Martin)
 Luther Rhodes, Jr., Dorothy E. Rhodes, Donald Shehan (Skip & Melinda Rhodes)

Family members (Dick & Linda Calkins)
 John & Sara A. Clark (Patricia Rhodes & family)
 Doris Helwig, Vera & Michael Helwig (Sylvia Helwig)
 John & Michael Rupp (Frances Rupp)
 Albert & Terry Attivo (Hilda & Mary Ann)
 Harold & Josie Huet (Elizabeth Tressler)
 Frances & Samuel Rosenberry, Margie, Joseph & Steven
 LaRoss, Pauline (Weakland) LaRoss (Robert & Cheryl Rosenberry)
 Deceased of the Bell & Gerlock families (Tom Bell)
 Benzie family (Barbara Bollinger)
 Deceased of the Sebastian-Gonzalez family (Manuela Traxler)
 Trackim, Uritis Barno & Michael, deceased family members (Jeff & Cathy Michaels)
 Anthony & Catherine Simonetti (Ann Smith)
 Fred & K.C. Malone (Ramona Malone)
 Julia & Roland Stravolo, Paul Teenie, Joan Hampton, Lois Hartman, Lee Teenie (Ann Teenie & Michael Stravolo)
 Michael Porpotage, Mary & Paul Zarkovich, Anna & Mike Porpotage, Steward Stewart, Mary Hoover (Mary Lou Sigler)
 Deceased members of the family (Mary Erskine)
 Carl Kodish (Helen Kodish)
 Francis & Dorothy O'Donnell, Steve & Alberta Bray (Diane Bray)
 Deceased of the Ross & Condeloro families, Marie & Joey Meloni, (Lucy Ross & brothers)
 Mr. & Mrs. William Headings, Jerry Heading (Bill & Fay Headings)
 Tillie & Tony Berger, Charlie Goss (Harry & Pat Carothers)
 Angelo, Kathryn & John Meloni (Anna Stewart)
 Mathew Krug (Russell & Shirley Krug)
 Donald Parson, Sr. (Douglas & Carolyn Parson)
 Timothy Quinn (Joe & Susan Miriello)
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Seedor & Mr. & Mrs. James Nash (Phil & Pat Nash)
 Joseph & Veronica Miriello (Miriello family)
 Joe Hallinger & Angelo & Mary Esposito (Annie Hallinger)
 Arthur Fuoco (John & Kimberly Fuoco)
 Elizabeth Heroux (James & Joey Heroux)
 Fred Mitchell (Jessica Mitchell)
 Daniel & Lillian Conti & Pasquale Conti (Mary Conti)
 Helen, Jackie, Tony, Berich, Tom Teichman & all deceased members of the Berich family (Gretchen Berich)
 Our Loved ones (Mario & Norma Andrie)
 Our Parents & loved ones (Helen Salvatore)
 Bernie Miklos, Sr. (Lisa Miklos)
 Deceased of Kasmark family (Larry Sutusky)
 Howard & Wanda Knouse, Bob & Martha Sheaffer, Charles & Barb Reed (Ed Reed)
 Deceased Olnick family (Joe Olnick)
 George Yebernetsky & George Truhan (George & Gloria Truhan)

John & Marilyn Ahern (Dan & Karen Ahern & sons)
 Leonard McCoach, Deceased Kryston family (Helen McCoach)
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Litzinger, Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas (William & Kathleean Litzinger)
 Gaetana C. Cole (Gary & Sue Parzanese)
 Bertha {& John Evanowsky, George Miskinis (George & Cynthia Miskinis)
 Vincent Peiffer, William & Margaret Taylor, members of the Putz family Denny & Dottie Peiffer)
 Deceased Ughetto & Thomas families (Lou & Evelyne Ughetto)
 Anna e. Hackenberry (Robert Hackenberry)
 Ottie Olnick & Patricia Thompson (Nancy & Timi Wills)
 Special Intention (Ed & Sarah Stoicheff)
 Beloved Sophia, Catherine Ann & Nellie, Helen (Theresa Dybach)
 Alfredo Recalde & Stephen Mikula (Carlos & Marta Recalde)
 Wheeler & Worker families (Bob & Eileen Worker)
 Anna E. Hackenberry (Pat Fultz)
 (Mr. & Mrs. Robert Peters)
 (Mr. James Patton)
 (Judith Sieber)
 (Fran Hartman)
 (Amy Tuyen)
 (Kathy Tice)
 (Dr. Earl & Katherine Costa)
 (Stephen & Theresa Dalton)
 (Paul & Jo Mattern)
 (Sue Reinke)
 (Rick & Mary Jo Berich)
 (Joann Loht)

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Day of Prayer for Christian Unity: Each year, the Christian faithful gather toward the end of January to pray for the unity of the Church and that our separated brothers and sisters come home to the fullness of the faith. This year there will be two events: an afternoon prayer service at 3pm (at which Fr. Thoms will preach) and an evening concert at 7pm featuring the Gospel Choir "Essence of Joy." More information will follow.

Special Vespers for the Year of Saint Paul: Bishop Rhoades invites you to join him for *Solemn Vespers on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul* on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Saint Patrick Cathedral. This special event, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, will witness to Saint Paul's work and zeal leaving no stone unturned for unity and harmony among all Christians. A prelude concert by choirs from local Orthodox Churches will begin at 4:15 p.m. Greek Orthodox Father Demetrius Nicoloudakis will give the Vesper's homily.

Adoption Informational Meeting Catholic Charities Adoption Services will be presenting a free informational meeting. An orientation meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 p.m. for those interested in learning about their three adoption programs, including Infant, International, and SWAN (Statewide Adoption Network). The meeting will be held at 806-C South 29th Street in Harrisburg. Refreshments will be served. Catholic Charities is open to families of all faiths. Readers are asked to register for the meetings by calling Gwen at 717-564-7115 or by e-mailing gpeifer@hbgdiocese.org.

"Incline your ear and come to Me." This is National Vocation Awareness Week. If you think you may be called to serve as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, Call Father Raymond LaVoie (717) 657-4804 or email frrlavoie@hbgdiocese.org



Pro- Life Event- Joe Scheidler , renowned pro-life activist, will speak on "The Spiritual Dimension of the Pro-Life Movement" at the Cardinal Keeler Diocesan Center ,4800 Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg, on Friday , January 16,2009 at 7:30pm. The event is free of charge. On Saturday, January 17, the Traditional Latin Mass will be offered by Fr Parrinello at 9AM at St Lawrence for pro-life intentions, followed by a prayer vigil at the Hillcrest Abortion Mill. After Mass, Mr. Scheidler will attend the prayer rally and work with sidewalk counselors at the abortion clinic. email sue_scdoller@embarqmail.com or call 717-960-9675 for further info. Please consider attending one or both of these important events!

