

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

Tithing Income: March 22, 2009	\$ 7,556.00
March 23, 2008	\$ 5,605.15
Children's Offerings	\$ 9.00

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be to help with expenses related to the Middle States Accreditation process, which is happening at SHS in April. Expenses include printing of the report, housing of and food for the visiting team, and other miscellaneous expenses.

From the pastor: Today the Church begins "Passiontide." It is a time when we focus more on Christ's sacrifice for our redemption. Tithing regularly helps us be always conscious of the Lord's Sacrifice for us, as we sacrifice for others through giving back 10% of all we have and receive. It is one incredible way that God invites us to join in His Sacrifice – and invites us to share in the rewards as well. Thank you for your faithful response to the personal sacrifices God asks in offering Him your regular, weekly tithing.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "Tithing gives me that certainty that God is with me all the way. . . [that] I should not be afraid. That feeling is nice!"

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 5th grader said: "I helped my Mom get groceries for my Great Uncle." A couple of 4th graders said: I spruced up the yard and flower gardens for spring, I gave money to a classmate for the book fair." A kindergartner said: "I fed the dogs." A 6th grader said: "I helped my neighbor do her homework." A 7th grader said: I lent a friend money so they could buy lunch."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: The parents had spent a good bit of time during Lent talking with their 3 children about Jesus, His death and resurrection, and that what we do with our Lenten penance is unite ourselves with Jesus and His self-giving sacrifice. Although the children were young, the parents talked with them about dying to self for the good of others. They explained that when the eldest, Aaron, is upset with his little brother, rather than hit him, he should "die to self." One day after school the 3 kids were particularly feisty and no matter what Mom said, they were at each other. After repeated warning to behave, the kids kept bickering. Finally, patience having been lost, Mom grabbed Aaron to put him in the "time-out corner," at which point Aaron looked up and said, "Mommy, what happened to the Paschal Mystery?"

Good question! In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus gave us three different descriptions of the Paschal Mystery: the grain of wheat must die to produce good fruit; to lose our life we must hate it; we must follow Jesus as servants. All three images lead us to the basic truth of the Paschal Mystery: by dying to self for the good of others we come

to new life. The goal of Lent and of all Christian living is voiced in the Gospel: "We would like to see Jesus." We truly "see" Jesus when we are faithful to *His* law written on our hearts. The "new covenant" that God writes "upon our hearts" is spelled out in the Gospel in an unexpected way. The law is not precepts merely to be obeyed, but is a way of life. And this is His "law": become the seed that dies, the life that loses itself, and the servant who follows. Our lives glorify God when we willingly give our lives for the sake of others. Our continual response of dying to self strengthens our ability to die. As Jesus was obedient to His Father, we are to be obedient to Jesus: de to self. Thus we learn obedience and receive new life as we take up the habit of dying to self for the good of others.

About Liturgy: Welcome to Passiontide! This week, the liturgy makes a distinct "shift." Throughout Lent we have been focusing on our own spiritual lives through the traditional practices of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. While these continue, the liturgical life of the Church shifts from general themes of conversion and renewal to a focus on the Passion of Christ. You see this shift in several ways: the statues and images are covered; the Stations of the Cross in our display have changed from the first 7 Stations to the last 7 Stations. The two weeks of Passiontide begin today, the 1st week being known as "Passion Week," and the 2nd week as "Holy Week."

Today – Passion Sunday – memorializes the increasing antipathy against Christ from the Jews who would not accept Him and accused Him of sorcery and of being blasphemous and possessed by a devil. Today, statues and sacred images (except for the Stations of the Cross) are veiled with purple cloth and they remain covered until the Gloria of Holy Saturday, at which point Lent ends and Eastertide begins. Catholics are encouraged to cover statues and icons, etc., in their homes for the same time period.

This veiling of the statues and icons stems from the Gospel reading in the Pre-Vatican II cycle of readings on Passion Sunday (John 8:46-59), at the end of which the Jews take up stones to cast at Jesus, Who hides Himself away. The veiling also symbolizes the fact that Christ's Divinity was hidden at the time of His Passion and death, the very essence of Passiontide.

At the Gloria during the Easter Vigil, Lent ends and Easter begins: the statues are unveiled at that time in one of the most glorious liturgical moments of the entire Church year, a moment that affirms His divinity and proclaims that "He is risen!"



Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009: As we draw close to Holy Week and our annual contemplation of our Lord's loving Sacrifice on the cross we also realize that Jesus left us an example. He calls us to follow in His steps in faith, hope and charity. Through our sacrifices in the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal, we can share in the Church's mission of making His salvation and love known, particularly here in our own parish. Generosity to the Lenten Appeal, motivated by faith, is a gift of charity and an expression of the Lord's gift of salvation through His cross. Thanks to all of you who have already participated. To date we have raised \$44,667 toward our goal of \$ 33,200. Letters have gone out to those who have not yet had the opportunity to participate. Thank you for your overwhelming response and generosity to the annual Lenten Appeal.

Public Comment sought on Federal Regulation that protects conscience rights of health care providers : The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is inviting public comment on a proposal to rescind an important December 2008 federal regulation that protects the conscience rights of health care providers. Help protect the rights of our Catholic health care professionals & institutions. To access links and make a comment (or to get more information) please go to the US Bishop's Website: www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection. Note that comments must be posted by April 9, 2009. The website provides a simple form letter, all you need to do is fill in your name and address. The rest is already down for you.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Lenten Penance Service: TODAY, March 29 at 3pm here at Sacred Heart. (6:30pm at St. Jude in Mifflintown). There will be several priests here to assist in the celebration of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. **If you plan to celebrate the Sacrament before Easter, please use this opportunity.**



Lenten Mission – Learning from Archbishop Fulton Sheen – THIS WEEK: April 2, 3 & 4 Don't forget about our upcoming mission with Fr. Apostoli. Many people are very excited about having this well-known personality come to our parish. The times for the mission are: Thursday, April 2 at 7:30pm; Friday, April 3 at 8am & 7:30pm; Saturday, April 4 at 8:30am. 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.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Thursday, April 2. Providence

The Parish Advocacy Committee for and with People with Disabilities suggests that, if at all possible, meetings of the various parish committees be held at the new office on Brown Street. The new office is accessible for those parishioners whose disabilities do not allow them to attend meetings in the church basement. Also, meetings in the school cafeteria create difficulty because items stored in the entranceway at the accessible basement door have to be moved every time someone using a wheelchair must enter. Since the new office is accessible and can be used at night as well as during the day, the Parish Advocacy Committee humbly makes this suggestion. If you wish to use the new office for meetings, please contact Marie Bender, the Parish Secretary, at 242-2781 or email: mbender@sacredheartlewisstown.com.

The next meeting of the Parish Advocacy Committee will be held on Monday, March 30, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., in the new office on Brown Street. It is not too late to become a member of this committee. We welcome all who are interested in finding ways to encourage greater participation among our parishioners with disabilities. We are continuing to work on an Action Plan due to the Diocese in May. Please call Mary Lou Sigler at 667-2890 if you have any questions, or come to the meeting.

Women's Guild – Saturday, April 4 8:00 am Mass. Note: our meeting will be after the 8:30 am Parish Mission.

Help needed driving van: If anyone is interested in driving the van to pick up parishioners for Sunday Mass at the 11am please call the parish office.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Parish Youth Present Living Stations: The 2nd grade students of Sacred Heart School will be presenting the "Living Stations" on Friday, April 3 beginning at 7pm in the church. All are invited as the Stations of the Cross come alive for us through this presentation of the Living Stations.

First Friday Adoration: Friday, April 3 from 9am (following Fr. Apostoli) until 6:45pm when we'll have Benediction. A signup sheet is in the entryway.

Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available to memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: Dates available: April 26

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in loving memory of J.D. Stine from the Ahern family.

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. The next available date is First Communion, May 1-2.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, March 29

7:30 AM Terry Attivo

11:00 AM Charles Lennartz

Monday, March 30

7:00 AM Elizabeth Buskirk

Tuesday, March 31

7:00 AM Roy Starnowsky

Wednesday, April 1

7:00 PM Intention of Gary McCoach

Thursday, April 2

7:00 AM Jane Morino

9:00 AM SHS

Friday, April 3

7:00 AM Oattie Olnick

Saturday, April 4

8:00 AM Robert Thompson

4:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday)

7:30 AM Albert Attivo

11:00 AM Marjorie Kaufman

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

April 5 – Mel Reed

April 12 – Dave Kaniecki

April 19– Russell Krug

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

22 – CCD / 9am

22 – St Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / Church

24 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

26 – RCIA / 7pm / office

27 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / cafeteria

29 – CCD / 9am

29 – Penance Service / 3pm / church

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

31 – Bible Study / 7pm / office

April

1-3 – Fulton Sheen Parish Mission – Fr. Andrew Apostoli

2 – RCIA / 7pm / office

5 – Palm Sunday (11am Mass begins at school)

MORE THAN AN AUCTION NEWS

Auction Items Needed: We are looking for any type of donations for the silent or oral auction. To donate an item

call B.J. Newcamp at 436-9572 or beedgewolf@aol.com

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(w) or 242-1673 (h))

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)

Doors open at 11:00am and food will be served at 11:30am. 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.

Plants Needed: We need your help again this year with donations for the plant sale. Please bring your donation in a disposable container with a description to the auction the day before (4/25) or the day of the auction (4/26). If you need information contact Patti Fleegal (248-2209) 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, 2nd prize is \$50, 3rd 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. Forms are in the vestibule. Any questions, call the parish office.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010: We begin with a visit to Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Then we complete this “once-in-a-lifetime” journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Package price is all-inclusive out of Newark (EWR): approximately \$4,600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. **Information and registration forms are now available on the parish website.**

Need help with lawn work this spring & summer? Nolan Schaff (one of our high school age parishioners) is available to assist you with lawn mowing and other outdoor work. If you could use help, please contact the parish office and we will get you in touch with Nolan.

Discount Tickets are available for purchase to parishioners and their families at a significant savings.



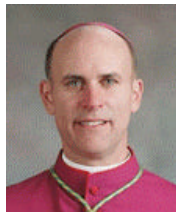
Regular admission tickets for adults are \$51.95; **our price is \$28.50; a savings of 45%**. Regular admission for children (ages 3-8) and Seniors (ages 55-69) is \$30.95, our price is \$24.00. Regular admission for Seniors age 70+ is \$20.95, our price is \$19.95. Tickets are valid any day the Park is open during the regular public season. Orders must be received at the parish by April 20th. Parishes will receive tickets by May 19. Forms are available in the vestibule of the church or at the office.

Husbands, Fathers, and Disciples: Diocesan Conference for Men – Deadline is March 30!!!

Saturday - April 4, 2009 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Cardinal Keeler Center, 4800 Union

Deposit Road, Harrisburg. Keynote Address by Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Speaker and Author, on *The Role of Catholic Men in the New Evangelization*.

Featured Workshops and Speakers: *Chaste and Fruitful Living for Men* – Mr.



Christopher Chapman; *Spiritual Headship: Basic Principles for Being a Good Husband and Father* - Deacon Michael Grella; *Ethics in the Workplace* – Dr. Greg Burke; *Life of Prayer for the Busy Man* – Fr. Peter Hahn; *Saints for Husbands and Fathers*

– Mr. Ryan Bolster and Mr. Jim Gontis; *Road to Cana* – Mr. Anthony Buono and Fr. Edward Connolly; *Panel Discussion on Marriage*. Registration Fee: \$25 (includes continental breakfast and lunch). Sacrament of Penance available during lunch break. Registration forms available at



www.hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804, ext. 229

EDUCATION

Relay for Life and Research: I don't believe there is ever a good time to address this issue, but with President Obama's decision to support and fund embryonic stem cell research (which kills innocent human life for the sake of "research") it seems now may be better than any other.

According to their website, "Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everyone in a community an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people from all walks of life have fun while raising much-needed funds to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment."

The Relay promotes a wonderful cause – help for people who suffer or have suffered from cancer. However, the American Cancer Society is also supportive – extremely supportive – of research to which we, as Catholics, are morally opposed.

Frontline, the official newsletter of the Susan G Kormen Breast Cancer Foundation, stated in their fall 2006 edition: "Embryonic stem cells (derived from embryos that develop from eggs that have been fertilized in vitro and then donated for research purposes) have the potential to give rise to many different types of tissue. Because of this, embryonic stem cells are currently considered to have the most potential for use in the regeneration of diseased or injured tissues. Another potential role is providing a better understanding of cancer development." The organization's support for the destruction of human life – for solely the purpose of research – is undeniable.

In addition to the American Cancer Society's consistent support for human embryonic stem cell research, the Society refuses to acknowledge the abortion/breast cancer link and declines to even support the idea that doctors should mention it to their patients. Finally, and most recently, the American Cancer Society has awarded financial grants to Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading provider of abortion

It cannot be denied that the *Relay for Life* supports many good causes and is a great source of support for many people who suffer from cancer. However, as Catholics who defend human life, we must stand united against any and all groups who support embryonic stem cell research. If you have or do support the *Relay for Life*, perhaps you may want to reconsider your support – especially this year, when the *Relay* is funneling much of its funding to research, including embryonic stem cell research.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

SHS Lenten Class Projects: Grade 2: Each student received a poster with 40 stepping stones for Lent. An act of love is on each stepping stone. Each day, they are encouraged to do at least one act of love. After their parents put their initials on these stepping stones, they are supposed to glue them to the poster. These stepping stones will create a path that leads to the tomb where they will meet our resurrected Jesus. This project is due April 10.

Grade 3 They have a bulletin board with a cross and footprints on it. As the students do a random act of kindness, or make a sacrifice, a white tissue flower will be put on the cross. By the end of Lent, they hope to have a beautiful white Resurrection Cross to celebrate the Easter season.

Neumann Scholarship applications are now being processed. This is the first step for new and returning families to qualify for any financial aid for the coming school year. Applications must be postmarked by April 1. Families must be registered to apply for this scholarship. Please contact Sue Parzanese (447-2002) or the school office (248-5351) for more information.