

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

Tithing Income: March 1, 2009	\$ 8,278.00
March 2, 2008	\$ 8,530.00
Children's Offerings	\$ 10.00

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the charitable works of our parish St. Vincent DePaul Society. Your generosity helps them to reach out to those in need. If you would like to offer them part of your "other" 5% tithing (or any parish tithing) just put it in an envelope marked with the appropriate tithing so we know where to direct it.

From the pastor: Last week, Bishop Rhoades appointed me to a "Diocesan Stewardship Committee." During the meeting I shared what I truly believe to be the secret to our successful tithing program: "tithing the tithing." It is a HUGE financial risk to take 10% of every week's collection and "give it away." Yet, I truly believe it is the secret of success and the reason why, even in very difficult times, our collection has remained pretty much unchanged. It is a beautiful reflection of YOUR trust in God in offering Him your weekly tithing. May God reward you for your trust in Him and His promises.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I believe that tithing's time has come and will be a part of a spiritual renewal for our parish. Our family has begun to tithing 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 tithing, in addition to their financial gift: A 5th grader said: "I took the sheets off the bed for my Grammy." A kindergartner said: "I shared my D. S. with a friend." Several 4th graders said: "I bought a webkin for a friend who lost hers, I helped trim goat hooves, I helped my Grandma." A 6th grader said: "I helped a friend with her homework." A 1st grader said: "I slept in my bed."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Little children can be so simple, literal and naïve – often it brings a chuckle to us as we watch them. Sometimes when children don't want to hear what their parents tell them, they put their hands over their ears, as if pretending not to hear excuses them from obeying. Lent is a time for us to remove our hands from our ears, listen to God, and learn again how to respond in obedience.

Abraham stands as a model of what it means to *listen to God and obey*: "Here I am" he answered. Even flesh and blood could not keep Abraham from turning his eyes away from God – he was totally "devoted...to God." In fact, had he not continued listening, he would not have heard, "Do not lay your hand on the boy." Abraham was so "devoted...to God" that he not only heard and obeyed

God's original command to sacrifice his beloved, only son Isaac, but also continued to *listen* to God, so heard the messenger's command not to harm him.

Like Abraham, we don't know in advance what this listening might ask of us nor how our perception of God's will might change. We do know that Jesus' listening obedience to His Father's will led Him to death. Disciples go where Jesus goes. If we are faithful to our journey, we know that we will share in Jesus' death, but also in His glory. The death of Isaac means no future for Abraham – no posterity. The death of Jesus means life for everyone. In listening to Jesus, we are hearing God's will and opening ourselves to the new life promised by His resurrection.

About Liturgy: Lenten Sundays: There are many reminders during the Lenten Sunday Masses that we are observing a penitential season. The readings at Mass bring to mind Lenten motifs and spur us on to fidelity in penance. Our Lenten Masses are less celebrative than even the Masses during Ordinary Time; for example, we kneel for the Penitential Rite and sing the *Kyrie*, there is no *Gloria*, no alleluia, and less exuberant instrumentation. The penitential violet purpose of the vestments and other appointments keep reminding us that we are in a penitential season, as well as the simplicity of the environment and the lack of flowers. Nevertheless, Sundays during Lent are actually not Lenten days at all. At a time when the symbolism of 40 was heightened, the beginning of Lent was pushed back to what is now Ash Wednesday so there would be 40 fasting days (hence, the period of Lent is actually *longer* than 40 days). The Sundays of Lent are still days on which we celebrate the Lord's resurrection – as each Sunday is a "little Easter." In our liturgical celebrations we see the Paschal Mystery rhythm. Lent is a time to practice the discipline of dying to self, yet we still have one day a week on which we always celebrate the new life promised by Jesus' resurrection. What might be ways we can truly celebrate new life even on Lenten Sundays, without getting out of the spirit of Lent?



Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009: Thanks to all of you who contributed to the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal this weekend. Next week we will provide another opportunity to make your contribution by using an abbreviated version of the "In-Pew" program. We thank you for taking advantage of this convenient method of making your Lenten commitment to this annual appeal, which saves our volunteer's from needing to use their time

to contact people individually. I'm sure that we are now well on our way toward making our parish goal (actually assessment from the Diocese) of **\$33,200**. Your help enables us to reach (and even exceed) this goal. Thank you for your generosity to the work of the Diocesan Church.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

More Information on our Lenten Mission – Learning from Archbishop Fulton Sheen - April 2, 3 & 4, 2009

I've spoken several times this past week with Fr. Apostoli, and he is excited about coming 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.

Lenten Penance Service: Sunday, 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. Thank you.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Thursday, March 5: Reconciliation: Mercy & Justice. Continual Conversion & Penance.

Knights of Columbus Fish Sandwich Sale: Fridays during Lent the Knights of Columbus will be selling fish sandwiches for \$3.00 each in the school cafeteria. Sandwiches will be sold 3-6pm. Call in orders are accepted after 3pm at 248-5351.

LITURGICAL NOTES

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 would be First Holy Communion the weekend of May 1-2.

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

The Sanctuary Lamp this week is in loving memory of Stephen Michael Stravolo on the 20th year of his passing from Chris & Mike Nowark.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, March 8

7:30 AM People of the Parish
11:00 AM Gaetana Cole

Monday, March 9

7:00 AM Deceased members of the Battista family

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 AM Michelle Renninger

Wednesday, March 11

7:00 PM Margaret Ortiz

Thursday, March 12

7:00 AM Lenora Buckley
9:00 AM Charles Lennartz

Friday, March 13

7:00 AM Judith Gers

Saturday, March 14

8:00 AM Ottie Olnick
4:00 PM Richard & Elizabeth Showers

Sunday, March 15

7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry
11:00 AM Joseph Miriello

*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

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

March 15 – John Potts
March 22 – Dave Kaniecki

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

8 – CCD / 9am
8 – St. Monica Prayer Group / 7pm / church
10 – Bible Study / 7pm / office
11 – Choir Practice / 7:30pm / choir loft
11 – Confessions / 7:30-8:15 / church
12 – RCIA / 7pm / office
13 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria
13 – Stations of the Cross / 7pm / church
13 – Confirmation / 7pm / St. Jude Church
15 – CCD / 9am
15 – St. Monica Prayer Group / 7pm / church
16 – St. Vincent DePaul / 7pm / cafeteria
17 – Bible Study / 7pm / office
18 – Liturgy Committee / 7:30pm / rectory
18 – Confessions / 7:30-8:15pm / church
19 – RCIA / 7pm / office
20 – Fish Sandwich Sale / 3-6pm / school cafeteria
20 – Stations of the Cross / 7pm / church
21 – SVDP free meal / 11am / school cafeteria

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(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)

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.

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.

Plants Needed: 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 Patti Fleegal at 248-2209 or 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:

Experience the Passion Play surrounded by the beauty of the Bavarian hills in the village of Oberammergau, Germany. 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 and come to know scripture in a new light. Package price is all-inclusive out of Newark (EWR): approximately \$4,600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. If interested, please contact Fr. Bateman at the parish office.

To All My Friends at Sacred Heart – Thank you so much for the flowers for my 100th birthday and all the prayers and kindness. Dorothy Ammerman

Lenten Luncheon & Reflection: The Lewistown Ministerium is sponsoring luncheons and reflections each Wednesday at 12noon during the season of Lent. Each week a different church is sponsoring the luncheon & reflection – which is always held at First Baptist Church on 3rd Street. Our own parish will be sponsoring the event on Wednesday, March 25. Our “funeral luncheon” group will provide the meal and Fr. Bateman will offer the reflection. The entire event is less than one hour (so you can get back to work). Take a few minutes during lent to reflect and grow in the Lord. This is another opportunity.

A Conference on the Teaching and Mission of St. Paul will be held on March 27 – 28 at Knott Auditorium Mount St. Mary's University Registration fee is \$20.00(includes lunch) Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. Brant Pitre will be the keynote speakers. Register at www.msmary.edu/StPaul

Hershey Park 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.

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving a presentation concerning divorce and annulment from the Catholic perspective. This presentation will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends. This session will be held on March 12 at 7pm in the Cardinal Keeler center in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For more info call 657-4804 x 304 or tribunal@hbgdiocese.org

EDUCATION

Cardinal Rigali to Congress: Keep Existing Pro-Life Laws: WASHINGTON—Writing as chair of the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Cardinal Justin Rigali sent a letter on February 5 to all members of Congress, urging them to maintain pro-life provisions in the appropriations bills they must soon approve to keep government programs funded past March 5. "I urge you *not* to use this legislation to weaken or rescind longstanding provisions that protect U.S. taxpayers from being forced to fund and promote the destruction of innocent human life," Cardinal Rigali said.

"In making this plea," he said, "I am joined by millions of Catholics and others who, in [previous weeks, have sent] postcards to their elected representatives with this message: *'Please oppose FOCA [the 'Freedom of Choice Act'] or any similar measure, and retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion.'* While an extreme proposal like FOCA would overturn hundreds of pro-life laws at once, we are equally concerned that such laws may be overturned one at a time during Congress's appropriations process."

The prelate's letter highlighted several pro-life provisions, including: the **Hyde amendment** and similar measures protecting American taxpayers from being forced to subsidize abortions; the **Dickey/Wicker amendment** preventing federal funding for research in which human embryos are created, harmed and destroyed; and the **Kemp-Kasten amendment** preventing U.S. funding of organizations that support or help manage programs of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

Cardinal Rigali also called on Congress to maintain the **Hyde/Weldon conscience protection amendment**, a key measure preventing discrimination against health care providers who do not perform or refer for abortions. "Clearly 'choice' is an empty slogan if physicians, nurses and hospitals must 'choose' to provide abortions or be forced out of the health care field," he said.

"Like Congress's decision about requiring taxpayers to fund abortion, the decision whether to maintain current conscience protections could play a major role in determining whether Americans of different backgrounds, viewpoints and religions will be able to work together toward a consensus on much-needed health care reform," Cardinal Rigali advised. The entire text of the letter is available at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/rigali_2-5-09.pdf.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

What is 1st Grade doing? First grade has been busy learning at the start of the new year. We have implemented literacy centers in our language arts studies. These centers allow the class to practice their literacy skills independently or cooperatively in small teams. The students love doing their work in these groups and are learning while having fun. The centers also offer me, the teacher, the opportunity to work directly with those who need help while the rest of the class continue at their own pace. In math class we have been practicing building and reading graphs and charts. Students also learned to read

and follow directions on grid maps. As always, religion is the students' favorite subject. We have been learning how to say "Yes" to God by studying the examples of Mary and Noah. Finally, in social studies, the students created and described community service vehicles which are displayed in our hallway. They also learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his important work and sacrifice.

Sacred Heart School Registration Information: SHS is currently accepting applications for grade K – 5 for the 2009-2010 school year. Important information:

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, but to avoid possible disqualification due to missing or incorrect information, we recommend sending it ASAP! Families must be registered to apply for this scholarship. Please contact Sue Parzanese (447-2002) or the school office (248-5351) for more information.

Open House: If you missed the last few Open Houses at SHS, another opportunity for prospective families to visit the school will be held in March. **Financial Aid/Prospective Family Open House will be held on Thursday, March 19, from 5:30 – 7:00PM at the school.** Meet with the Principal, the Kindergarten teacher, an upper grade teacher, and/or the Director of Finance to answer all your questions and facilitate the completion of your registration and Neumann Scholarship application forms. If you are unable to join us, please call the school to schedule a tour of the school at your convenience.

Why Choose Sacred Heart School?

- ✍ *We create a friendly nurturing environment and challenging curriculum, which allows students to become intelligent, caring, and responsible leaders.*
- ✍ *We greatly encourage parental involvement in various areas of your child's educational career.*
- ✍ *The small student/teacher ratio allows for greater enrichment and individual attention.*
- ✍ *Our students consistently score above grade level on standardized tests. More than 65% of the alumni can be found on middle and high school honor rolls and also pursue higher educations.*
- ✍ *We reinforce the family unit, presenting timeless values and positive living to a new generation.*
- ✍ *We offer a secure and disciplined learning environment.*
- ✍ *We include growth in religious awareness and an appreciation of morals and values.*
- ✍ *We believe in providing a safe, nurturing and disciplined environment in which every child will strive for success.*
- ✍ *We prepare students to become loving and active members of their families, their church, and their community.*