

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

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday our bulletin had to be sent in early, therefore the collection amounts were not available. They will be in the next bulletin on December 6.

**Next week's tithe will be for St. Vincent dePaul**

**From a Pastor:** "Every once in a while it is important to take a little extra time to thank you for your continued support of St. Paul Church. As you know, your weekly contributions are the sole support for our parish and it is only through your generosity that we are able to maintain our buildings and grounds and, at the same time and most importantly, minister to our community. Thank you especially for your concern and zeal in making up your donations even when you are unable to attend weekend Mass. And a special 'Thank You' to all who contribute their time and talents . . . It takes the dedication of many faithful parishioners to keep our ministries alive and well. Your care, concern and commitment are evident and greatly appreciated. May God bless you!"

Rev. Victor J. Mazza - **St. Paul, Clifton, NJ**

**Comments on tithing from the pew:** To see how God works in making our ends meet is just another of many small miracles we see performed each day. However, we do not give in order to make ends meet. That is merely the by-product. We love to give to God and to His Church so that we may continue to receive His graces.

**A parishioner**

Rev. Edward J. Keating, Jr.

**St. Pius X, Selinsgrove, PA**

**My Good Deed for the Week:** Here's what several young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A 1st grader said: "I gave trick or treat candy to POP." A 5<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I made my parent bed yesterday." A 7th grader said: "I did the laundry for my Mom when she hurt her back." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I helped my Mom price her yard sale stuff." A Pre-K said: "I raked leaves with my Dad."

## **Pastor's Column**

### **Sterilizations and Church Teaching**

It sometimes happens that Catholics get sterilizations in order to avoid another birth in the family. Often this action is done out of ignorance of church teaching and so a clarification can be helpful.

Starting with basic principles, the Bible teaches that our bodies are holy. St. Paul says "present your

bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind." (Rom. 12: 1-2)

He further says that we belong entirely to God. "None of us lives to himself and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Rom. 14:7)

Combine this with Pauline teaching that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. He says "Do you not know that you are God's temple?...For God's temple is holy and that temple you are." (1 Cor. 3:16-17)

Remember, also, that a basic God-given function of our bodies is to produce other human beings. "Be fruitful and multiply," God said to Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:22). That adds to our bodies' holiness.

Now, any sacred object, like a chalice or a cross, is to be dealt with respectfully. You handle with care. You don't casually alter its purpose or basic design.

The same is true of our bodies. Deliberate or direct sterilization, for the purpose of eradicating our fruitful, fertile nature, is an attack on a God-given gift of making new life. It is seriously offensive to God. Pope Paul VI wrote in 1968's encyclical *Humane Vitae* "Equally to be condemned, as the magisterium of the Church has affirmed on many occasions, is direct sterilization, whether of the man or of the woman, whether permanent or temporary." (#14)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says "Except when performed for strictly therapeutic reasons, directly intended amputations, mutilations, and sterilizations performed on innocent persons, are against the moral law." (#2297)

Surgery or medical procedures, carried out for necessary health reasons, may have the secondary, unintentional effect of rendering the patient sterile. That can't be helped and is morally permissible. Direct, intentional sterilization, however, is mortally sinful.

For good reasons, couples may decide to avoid another birth in the family. The morally permissible way to do that is not contraception or sterilization, but Natural Family Planning (NFP), which means limiting intercourse to the times when the woman is naturally infertile in her monthly cycles, the subject matter of another column.

Those who have had direct sterilizations should repent before God in the Sacrament of Penance. Anyone with further questions should consult a priest. Let's not be conformed to the world in this matter, but be transformed by the renewal of our minds, presenting our bodies, temples that they are, as a spiritual sacrifice to God.

Fr. Bill

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### **Youth Group** upcoming events:

1. Christmas party TBA.
2. The March for Life, January 22 & 23. Get off school and join us for this educational trip!

**After the 8:00 am Mass on Saturday, December 5,** the **Ladies Guild** will go to Honey Creek Inn for breakfast.

Those attending are asked to bring a canned good for the St. Vincent DePaul's Christmas basket project.

Please call Timi Wills 248-1955 or Dottie Peiffer 248-1804 to make a reservation.

### Adult Bible Study

**Where** – Sacred Heart of Jesus business office

**When** – Every Tuesday, January 12, 2010 until Easter

**Time** – 7pm to 8:30pm

**Subject** – A Journey through the Bible

An excellent introduction to the Bible. This is a great way to “**get your feet wet**” and learn how to begin Bible study.

All welcome. Phil Quinn 667-6507

**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will be decorating** a pavilion at Derry Township Park, for the **Shining Light Through Darkness Theme**. We will have the gray pavilion near the Little League field. If you would like to help, or want to donate white or red lights, come to the park on December 6 from 2-5pm. The entire park will be on display from December 12 to January 9. For questions call Connie Quinn, 667-6507,



**Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will meet Thursday at 7pm – December 3** – Topic of discussion – The Lord's Prayer. Forgiveness.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**November**

**29 – NO CCD**

**December**

1 – No Bible Study/ Will continue January 12, 2010

2 – Choir Practice / 7:45 pm / church

2 - Adult Ed / 7:45pm / church basement

3 – RCIA / 7pm / Parish Office

3 – Ice Festival/ SHS children sing / evening

4 – Ice Festival

4 – All Day Eucharistic Adoration / Holy Hour / 7pm

5 – Ice Festival

6 – CCD / 9am

6 – Parents confirmation meeting / 9:30 am / Church

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

**Beginning Sunday, November 29, St. Vincent DePaul will be collecting grocery items for the church's Christmas Baskets to be given out to the needy on December 20. The following is a list of the items needed:**

Cranberry Sauce

Boxes of Stuffing or Bread cubes to make stuffing

Peas, Corn, Green Beans

Cake Mixes, Frosting

Items for making pies

Canned Fruit, Sweet Potatoes

Box Potatoes

Tea Buns

Also needed are turkeys if you have one to donate.

Please bring your items to the sacristy of the church.



**We will collect food items on November 28 & 29, December 2 & 3. On December 12 & 13 we will be taking monetary donations to purchase turkeys and anything else we may need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

**If there is anyone in the parish that would need a basket please call the office. Your name will be kept in strict confidence. Also if you know of anyone who may benefit from a basket please call the office.**

**Confirmation Kids!!! St. Vincent DePaul needs your help. If you need church hours this would be a good way to help. Come on December 20<sup>th</sup> when we distribute the Christmas baskets in the church basement.**

**Van Transportation to Mass:** The following is the van schedule

December 6 – Russell Krug

December 13 – Dave Kaniecki

December 20 – Mel Reed

### LITURGICAL NOTES

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

**Sunday, November 29 – (First Sunday of Advent)**

7:30 AM Joe Hallinger

11:00 AM Joseph Boova

**Monday, November 30 (St. Andrew the Apostle)**

7:00 AM Margaret Johnson

**Tuesday, December 1**

7:00 AM Paul Wright

**Wednesday, December 2**

7:00 PM Kathleen Mary

**Thursday, December 3 (St. Francis Xavier)**

7:00 AM Madeline Wear

9:00 AM SHS

**Friday, December 4 (St. John of Damascus)**

7:00 AM Stella Fisher

**Saturday, December 5**

8:00 AM Paul Wright

4:00 PM Intention of the Zannino family

**Sunday, December 6 (Second Sunday of Advent)**

7:30 AM Glenn Hassinger

11:00 AM Deceased of the Battista family

**Memorialize Sanctuary Candles:** The following dates are available: December 6,

**The Sanctuary Lamp** this week is in loving memory of Mary & James McMenamin from the Tice family,

**Memorialize Flowers:** If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (pulpit) please call the parish office to schedule. The next available dates are: December 6, 13, 20.

## COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Marriage Annulments** - The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving a presentation in your area concerning divorce and annulments 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 December 10, at 7pm, in the Cardinal Keeler Center of the diocesan office building in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, extension 304 or email: [tribunal@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:tribunal@hbgdiocese.org)

**Nominate someone for this years Brotherhood Award.** The person nominated should have demonstrated through religious community work, or other humane expressions, the qualities that embrace Brotherhood. The process is easy. Just pick up an application form at any area financial institution. Complete the form and mail to: Mifflin County Roundtable of Christians and Jews, PO Box 1136, Lewistown, PA 17044. Entry deadline is Tuesday, December 15.

**If you paid attention to the media,** you would think that those who oppose embryonic stem cell research and a host

of other laboratory-created life techniques are “anti-science.” But this is not a science debate. It’s a debate about ethics, morality and what is right and wrong. (Wesley Smith, NRL News, June 2008)

“**Vianney**”, the live one man presentation of the life of St. John Vianney, Universal Patron of Priests, will be offered by Leonardo Defilippis on Saturday, December 5 at 2pm and 7pm in the auditorium of Trinity High School, 3601 Simpson Ferry Rd, Camp Hill. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$3 for anyone under 16 years of age. Please mark you calendar for this wonderful presentation. Tickets may be picked up at the parish office.

*Lend an Ear* - Listen to “**Catholic Perspective,**” an award-winning program of news, information and inspiration from a Catholic Perspective! Tune in Sunday mornings on WIEZ-AM 670, Lewistown at 8am. “**Catholic Perspective**” is brought to you in part by The Catholic Communication Collection and your parish.

**Perohi and Soup** – St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church will be selling Perohi and homemade soup for the pre-Christmas fast. The sale will be in the parish hall at 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg. The perohi will be sold frozen for \$5.50 per dozen. Fillings available will be: Potato & cheese, cabbage, sauerkraut, prune and farmer’s cheese. Soup will be available to eat in or to go. Sales will be on Wednesdays on December 2, 9, 16 for noon to 6pm. Call 652-1415 or visit [www.stannbyz.org](http://www.stannbyz.org) for more information.

**Mount St. Alphonsus**, located in the Hudson Valley in New York State, and one of the largest retreat centers in the world, announces its upcoming programs:

**Advent Music Festival Come** enjoy our popular program and usher in the Christmas Season by hearing the Mount’s choir sing loved seasonal hits. Wednesdays, Dec. 2nd & 9th at 7:30pm. Donations accepted.

**Advent Directed Retreat** Friday-Sunday, December 4-6, 2009. Trained spiritual directors offer guidance to help participants integrate various aspects of their spiritual lives and offer support for their ongoing journey of faith. Cost: \$180 (plus \$60 paid directly to Spiritual Director).

**Loving and Protecting Creation** Saturday, December 12, 2009 10am-3pm. Our environment and ecology will be looked at from a biblical and Christ-centric point of view. Presented by Fr. Tom Deely, C.S.S.R.. Cost: \$35, includes lunch.

Mount St. Alphonsus is located on the banks of the Hudson River in the Village of Esopus, NY. Thousands of people from around the northeast make a pilgrimage to the Mount each year. Reservations and deposits are required for all programs. For more information, please visit [www.MountSaintAlphonsus.org](http://www.MountSaintAlphonsus.org), or call (845) 384-8000.

**The Adult Daily Living Center**, located at 505 Harvard St, Lewistown, provides supervised activities in a secure setting to persons age 60 and older from Mifflin & Juniata Counties. Participants benefit from the center by staying mentally, physically and socially active through group and individual activities. The center is licensed by the PA Dept. of Aging. Center hours are 7:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Participants may attend from 1-3 days per week, full or half days. A hot noon meal is provided. Since there is currently a waiting list for state funds, please consider the following private pay options. This is a wonderful cost-effective solution to help elderly persons have meaningful days as well as to provide respite relief for their caregivers.

Full Day \$46

Half Day \$23 (up to 4 hours)

Transportation can be arranged through the Call-A-Ride program, or you may arrange for your own transportation.

To schedule a tour or receive additional information, please call 242-0492 **Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 8:00am to 4:00pm**

**CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK AT ST. JUDE:** The Women's Guild of St. Jude Thaddeus Church in Mifflintown is sponsoring a Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12, 2009, in the church social hall from 9 A.M. to Noon (or while supply lasts). Purchase an empty container for \$8.00 and fill it with your choice from a wide variety of homemade Christmas cookies. Each container will hold 34 dozen cookies, depending on the size and shape of the cookies selected. Homemade candies will be on sale, and there will be a White Elephant table offering a variety of Christmas articles. Come early to get the best selection. Doors open at 9 A.M. sharp.



## SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels** continue to be collected by the school. Both can be placed in the container at the front of Church or delivered to school. The Labels help us to update playground equipment and the Box Tops bring in cash to pay for other school enrichment items. Thank you for your participation.

**Reminder to Parents:** for inclement weather decisions check the school website or TV/radio stations as noted in the Parent Handbook

**“Please circle Jan 30<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for “Savor Flavors From Around the World”.**

Treat your taste buds to delicious foods from various cultures. Enjoy entertainment provided by Tommy Wareham...or you may join in and be part of the entertainment.

**Tickets are \$50** and are available at Calkins Automotive, The Downtown OIP & Grill, and the Parish office.

Come celebrate and support Sacred Heart School and Catholic Education. Questions can be directed to:

Sue Reinke, Crista Bobb, Yvonne Hopple, Claire Acker, or Jacque Bennett

**Wednesday: Dec 2** school reopens after Thanksgiving Break

**December 2:** Advent devotions

**Thursday December 3:** Early Dismissal 11:30am with parent conferences beginning at 12:30-6PM

**School Children will be singing** at the Court House beginning at 7PM at the Ice Festival

**Friday December 4:** Children will walk to town to visit the Ice Festival displays; SHS will host a craft booth for children at the Ice Festival, 6-8PM

**Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup>:** SHS Night at Hoss's--Eat and present your card and school will receive a percent of total--Cards available at school and at parish office.

**Thank you to families** who contributed to our recent Thanksgiving Food Collection and Social! Our donations will be used for the St. Vincent de Paul Society's Christmas baskets.

**Advent Family Project** School families will be offering baby items to be given to women/children in local shelters. We hope to fill a large crib of baby items such as baby soap, powder, shampoo, bibs, baby crib toys, etc Items can be delivered to school. We prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Divine Babe by giving to local babies in need. Thank You

