

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – April 13, 2008

### Stewardship is a way of life.

#### Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: April 6, 2008	\$ 2147.75
Income for April 8, 2007 (Easter)	\$ 1687.50
Income for April 9, 2006 (Palm Sunday)	\$ 2608.00
Student Offerings	\$ 14.50

**Next week's tithing** will be toward expenses for an outdoor sign promoting the marriage initiative, asking all who pass by our parish "What have you done for your marriage today?" [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org)

**From the pastor:** A parishioner said to me, "I am seeing the spiritual effects of tithing." I believe that joy and thanks are blossoming like the flowers in our gardens because we have become a tithing parish that acknowledges that all is gift. Echoing the words of St. Paul, I say, "I give thanks to God for all of you."

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "This time of year, tax time, is a great time for me to review my commitment to tithing. As I prepare my tax return I am able to see if I have truly given my tithing (10%) to God and other charities. Then, if I'm lucky enough to get a tax return, I have another opportunity to tithe and share my good fortune with God and others."

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I played ping pong with my family." A 1<sup>st</sup> grader said, "I played with others and sang." A 4<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I cleaned for my mom."

**Building Fund / Construction Update:** Things continue to progress. The drywall is being installed on the ceilings, insulation has been installed, walls are going up – it's so exciting! As announced last weekend, if you would like a pick-up load of topsoil, you are welcome to take one from the West Parking Lot (behind the current church in the new parking area). Any donation you may wish to make to the parish for the topsoil would be accepted. We have scheduled another town meeting for **Monday, April 21 at 7pm** to continue our discussion of carpet & tile colors. The meeting will include a tour of the new church. All are invited!

**Weekly Reflection:** This Gospel assures us that the risen One, the Good Shepherd, is truly there for us, calls us by name, and leads us to abundant life. Thus does Jesus model for us how we, too, are to be both gate and shepherd. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reading gives us a practical blueprint for our shepherding: patience in suffering, doing good, return no insult or threat, hand ourselves over for the good of others. This may seem like a tall order; and it is. However, Jesus is always there, walking "ahead of" us, guiding us toward being good shepherds ourselves. WE are reminded this Sunday that our simple, everyday actions of being faithful to the Gospel are how we live out our baptism, our entry into following Jesus. When we embrace our baptismal commitment we enter through Jesus the gate into a life of being gate and shepherds for ourselves.

**Reflections from Fr. Bateman on Vocation Sunday:** Here in the United States, Good Shepherd Sunday is also observed as Vocation Sunday. It is appropriate today to talk about the idea of following the voice of the Good Shepherd in terms of discerning a vocation to the ordained ministry or the consecrated life. Just last week I was talking

with a priest friend who is the vocation director for his diocese. He was talking to a young man interested in the priesthood, but his mother told him he was "not allowed" to enter seminary. Bishop Dattilo often told the story of brothers who were serving Mass for him. He said to their mother, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if one of your sons became a priest?" Her reply was, "Over my dead body!" We really do not yet have an understanding of the seriousness of the vocation crisis. I speak not from the perspective of self-preservation, but of genuine concern for the Church in the United States. Many parents express the same attitude as those quoted above: they simply do not want their children to be priests or religious sisters. What we need today is a renewal of the generous spirit of families which always promoted religious and priestly vocations among their children. When I was young, my father always told me, "Son, you can be married or single or a priest, and whatever you choose we'll be happy for you and proud of you." That meant a lot in my own vocational discernment, knowing that my parents would support me. I encourage you to speak with your children about discerning their vocation – about listening to the voice of the Good Shepherd calling them to a way of life.



**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Sun. Apr 13</b> – (Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20-25; Jn 10:1-10) 9:15am – Frank Flaherty
<b>Mon. Apr 14</b> – (Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18) 9:00am – Vita Evola
<b>Tues. Apr 15</b> – (Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30)
<b>Wed. Apr 17</b> – (Acts 12:24-13:5; Jn 12:44-50)
<b>Thurs. Apr 17</b> – (Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20)
<b>Fri. Apr 18</b> – (Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6) 9:00am – Brook Hollister
<b>Sat. Apr 19</b> – (Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14) 6:30pm – Les Kessinger Sr.
<b>Sun. Apr 20</b> – (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12) 9:15am – Earl Ober Jr.

<b>Week at a Glance in our parish:</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	CCD/10:15-11:30am
<b>Saturday</b>	Spanish Baptism Prep Retreat/ 9am-noon/church Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house Confessions/5:30-6:15pm/church Bilingual Mass/6:30pm/church

**Mother's Day Pot-Luck:** The Spanish Community of our parish has organized a Mother's Day Pot-Luck on Saturday, May 10 following the 6:30pm Mass. Everyone in the parish is invited to come celebrate our Mothers. All you need to do is sign up at the welcome table and bring a covered dish to share.

**Food Pantry; We** celebrate this time of year and all that Jesus gave for us. What does he ask in return? Only to love our neighbors as ourselves. Food Pantry needs for April: canned spaghetti and ravioli, dish soap, all purpose household cleaners, laundry detergent, deodorant, lotion, and shaving crème. To volunteer to help at the food pantry call: Kathy Q at 436-9718.

**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month: Five Steps to Safer Environments:** The Dioceses of Harrisburg mandates that all people who work with children and youth in our parishes and

schools must undergo child abuse prevention training. The training details five steps to prevent child abuse:

1. Know the warning signs of an inappropriate relationship with a child.
  2. Control access to children by carefully selecting the adults who work with children and youth.
  3. Monitor all programs for the safety of children and youth.
  4. Be aware of and sensitive to what is going on in the lives of children.
  5. Communicate concerns to the appropriate person in authority.
- The diocese maintains a toll free telephone number for reporting suspected sexual abuse of a minor within the context of the Church: 1-800-626-1608 (717-657-4804, ext. 276), in addition to encouraging reports to the Pennsylvania Child Abuse hotline: 1-800-932-0313. For more information about Youth Protection in the diocese visit: [www.hbgdiocese.org](http://www.hbgdiocese.org)

**El Coro necesita miembros nuevos! ¿Disfruta cantar? ¿El coro te necesita!** El coro practica los sábados a las 5:30pm en la casa parroquial.

**Comida en celebración de las Madres:** El sábado, 10 de mayo, la parroquia celebrará el Día de las Madres con una comida de "pot-luck" después de la Misa. Traiga un plato para compartir. Hay una lista para indicar que asistiría. ¡Todos están bienvenidos!

**Faithful Citizenship Reading & Discussion Questions Readings from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States:**

**Part 5 – Solidarity:** We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions and requires us to eradicate racism and address the extreme poverty and disease plaguing so much of the world. Solidarity also includes the Scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us—including immigrants seeking work, a safe home, education for their children, and a decent life for their families. In light of the Gospel's invitation to be peacemakers, our commitment to solidarity with our neighbors—at home and abroad—also demands that we promote peace and pursue justice in a world marred by terrible violence and conflict. Decisions on the use of force should be guided by traditional moral criteria and undertaken only as a last resort. As Pope Paul VI taught: "If you want peace, work for justice" (*World Day of Peace Message*, January 1, 1972) (no. 53).

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have there been any particular experiences in your life that have helped you to understand and experience the reality of solidarity with those whom you do not know personally?
  - 2) How can you practice solidarity in your daily life?
  - 3) Once your vision of "sister & brother" has become global in scope, how do you personally avoid feeling overwhelmed by the thought of being in solidarity with so many who are in need of so much?
  - 4) How does the principle of solidarity relate to your role as a citizen?
  - 5) How do you think your parish community might best go about the task of building a sense of solidarity among its members?
- More information is available on "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" at: [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org).



**Paradise School For Boys** in Abbotstown, PA is planning an August reunion celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are trying to contact as many former residents as possible. If you or someone you know was a resident, please contact Jim Eck at 637-6481 or email him at [jim21131@embarqmail.com](mailto:jim21131@embarqmail.com)

**Quo Vadis Days:** June 22-26 at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, MD. Join young men from throughout the Diocese in learning how to listen to and discern God's greatest calling in your life – to be His beloved son. No matter the vocation to which God calls, he wants you to be His son. Come and listen to the Lord's voice in your life. The week includes conferences, recreation, fun and fraternity with other young men serious about listening to and for God's voice. For more information please contact Fr. Bateman at the parish office or Fr. LaVoie at 657-4804 or [FrLaVoie@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:FrLaVoie@hbgdiocese.org). Financial scholarships are available for anyone who wishes to attend.

**Vacation Bible School at St Jude:** This summer we want to start a vacation bible school at St. Jude as an extension of our religious education program. Catholic VBS materials with lesson plans, music, and craft and skit ideas are available, as many other parishes around the country have been holding VBS for some years now. To make this happen, we need committed parishioners to help plan, organize, and teach. To plan, we also need to know the level of parent interest. There are two sign-up sheets on the bulletin board at the back of the church. One is for those who think they would be able to help out. The other sign-up sheet is for parents who have children from pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade interested in a Catholic VBS program at St. Jude for their children. So that we will have ample planning time, **please let us know your willingness to participate by Sunday, April 13, 2008.** (By indicating your interest, you are not committing; we realize the dates we ultimately schedule for our VBS may not fit into your summer schedule.) If you have questions or want more information, contact Karen Thome, 694-3607.

**Celebrating the Dignity and Vocation of Women: A Day of Reflection May 3, 2008.** Whether you are a high school student, single, married, widowed, an empty-nester, mother, grandmother, consecrated or religious, this day of reflection is for you. The writings of Pope John Paul II call on ordinary women to develop & use their extraordinary gifts. Following the example of Our Lady, women have the special mission to bring Christ to the world through their love & self-giving service to others. This day of reflection will offer you the opportunity to spend time reflecting on your special vocation as a Catholic woman. Registration starts at 8:30am the Liturgy with Bishop Rhoades begins at 9:00am. To register call 717-657-4804, ext.316

**Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States:** This week, our Holy Father arrives in Washington, D.C. for his first pastoral visit to the United States. Both Fr. Thoms and myself will be concelebrating the Mass with Pope Benedict on Thursday in Nationals Stadium in Washington, thus there will be no Mass at Sacred Heart on Thursday. Please remember the Holy Father in your prayers this week, that he may be a Witness of Hope to the people of our nation. You can follow the Holy Father's visit online at [www.uspapalvisit.org](http://www.uspapalvisit.org).

**Congratulations** to Dustin & Megan (Fitzgerald) Miller who were married yesterday Sacred Heart Parish in Lewistown.

