

Third Sunday of Easter

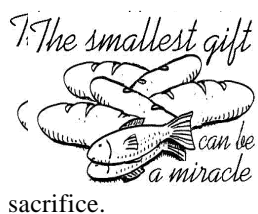
April 18, 2010

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: for April 11, 2010	\$2052.00
Student	\$4.25
Income for April 12, 2009	\$1995.59
Income for April 13, 2008	\$1620.25
Parish Debt	\$359,371.00

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 helped my sister make cookies." A 3rd grader said, "I helped my pap clean his basement." A 6th grader said, "I took out the garbage and hosed the cans out."



Paying the tithe to the LORD is not opposed to loving.

Look at the story of Cain and Abel. Abel offered God a sacrifice. God accepted Abel's sacrifice. Abel offered God a sacrifice, God rejected Cain's sacrifice.

WHY? It's simple. The Bible tells us that Abel offered God the firstlings of his flock and the fat portions thereof. That means that Abel offered God HIS VERY BEST OFFERING.

Cain by contrast, merely brought God an offering of the fruit of the ground. God rejected Cain's offering. WHY? That is because unlike Abel, Cain did not offer GOD THE VERY BEST of his crop.

Cain got so mad that God accepted Abel's offering but not his own attempt that, instead of repenting, he murdered Abel his brother.

If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and body we will want to offer him as much as we can, even over and above 10% of our money. And we also to offer God our **time** for prayer, devotion, evangelization, everything.

Feed my lambs

Today, as we enter into the Easter season, we realize that these fifty days are also a preparation for the great feast of Pentecost. The Gospel this Sunday opens to us yet another encounter the disciples had with the Risen One. Towards the end of the passage (John 21:15-17) Jesus gives Peter a chance to redeem himself, after he had denied the Lord three times with a curse. He said, Peter, do you love me more than these? Peter responds to this question and the Lord repeats it a third time which troubles Peter. Catholics see in this passage Christ imparting to Peter the responsibility of stewardship over the entire flock, the Church. Matthew 16: 18-21 also conveys this meaning. As Pope, or spiritual father, Peter is being called upon, with all of his successors, to shepherd the Lord's flock. Right after this passage the Lord predicts that Peter will be martyred for Him.

Pope Benedict XVI, as the successor of St. Peter, is our Pope with responsibility over the Church. He is also experiencing attacks from many corners in order to bring him down. I, for my part,

find it ironic that those who do not believe in his divine authority to act as head of the Church are angry because he did not exercise it. There are those throughout the world who are bringing charges against him now for decisions he made as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith when he was Cardinal Ratzinger. My prayer is that transparency and openness continue to be forthcoming in relation to all matters regarding the sexual abuse of minors, while respecting the rights of both the victims and the accused. The Church has come a long way in this regard due to the scandals over the past couple of decades. May the purification and sanctification of the clergy continue!

I also pray that "across the board" in all sectors of society the sexual abuse of minors be prevented and to PROSECUTE where individuals have violated not only the divine and civil law, but also the dignity of the victims. I am recalling the case in Denver, Colorado, wherein the State wanted to relax the statute of limitations in these cases exclusively for Catholic priests. Archbishop Chaput was open to the relaxation and urged that it be for all institutions. The Public School teacher's unions then went ballistic and essentially shut down the case. Is there a cover up of sexual abuse of minors in the Public School system as well?

The Lord was clear that "it would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to harm any of these little ones" (Luke 17:2). Let us be clear that the sexual abuse of minors--BY WHOMEVER--is both a serious sin that cries out to God for vengeance and a crime which demands civil prosecution.

--Father Thoms

MASS SCHEDULE



Sunday, April 18 - Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32, 40-41; Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
9:15 am--People of the Parish

Monday, April 19 -- Acts of the Apostles 6:8-15; Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; John 6:22-29
9:00 am -- Vincenzo Passalacqua

Tuesday, April 20 - Acts of the Apostles 7:51-8:1; Psalm 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21; John 6:30-35

Wednesday, April 21 - Acts of the Apostles 8:1-8; Psalm 66:1-7; John 6:35-40

Thursday, April 22 - Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40; Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; John 6:44-51

Friday, April 23 - Acts of the Apostles 9:1-20; Psalm 117:1-2; John 6:52-59
9:00 am -- Maureen Walsh

Saturday, April 24 - Acts of the Apostles 9:31-42; Psalm 116:12-17; John 6:60-69

5:00 p.m. -- Earl Ober Jr.

6:30 p.m. -- Paulette Barnes

Sunday, April 25 - Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100:1-5; Revelation 7:9, 14-17; John 10:27-30
9:15 -- Judith Perez

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

The Altar Flowers this weekend are in loving memory of Rick Berrier,, given by his family.

Parish Council Elections: Would you like to take an active role in advising our pastors on parish issues? Would you like to share in fellowship and prayer with other parishioners? Would you be willing to offer two hours or less of your time each month to do this? Serving on parish council may be for you! We meet the first Monday of the month for two hours or less, and recently decided not to meet during the summer months. If elected, you would serve a three-year term from June 2010-June 2013. There is minimal work in between meetings. Current council members are asking around to see who might be interested in being nominated. However, we don't want to miss asking someone who is interested in serving. Please consider volunteering your services by notifying us of your willingness to be placed on the ballot in May. If you would like to ask questions before volunteering, please feel free to call Chairperson **Terri Kromel at 436-9552** or Vice-chair **Joe Boyd at 436-8793**. Thank you!

During the month of May only, there will be no Monday 9AM Mass. Instead we will have Mass on Tuesdays at 9AM. Father Thoms is going to be helping at another church Sunday evenings. We will still have Friday, 9:00 AM Mass as usual.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discount tickets to Hersheypark are available for their purchase to parishioners and families at a significant savings. Regular admission price is \$52.95 for adults but our special price is \$29.90 – a savings of 45%. Regular admission for children (ages 3-9) and Seniors (ages 55-69) is \$31.95 but our special price is \$24.50. Regular admission for Seniors age 70+ is \$20.95, but our special price is \$19.95. Tickets are valid any day *Hersheypark* is open during the regular public season. Orders must be received at the parish by Monday April 26, 2010. Parishes will receive tickets by Tuesday May 25, 2010. If interested contact the church office at 436-6722 or Mary at 363-0997.



The Penn State Chamber Singers will be presenting a concert at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Lewistown, PA, on Tuesday, April 20th at 7:30. This will be the Chambers Singers fourth visit to Lewistown and to Sacred Heart Church. Please come and enjoy an evening of excellent music in a space especially suited for this event.

Directed by Christopher Kiver, the Chamber Singers comprises up to 24 students. Performing a variety of repertoire from all historical periods, the Chamber Singers focus on works from the Renaissance period, the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The Chamber Singers regularly sing throughout Pennsylvania, have performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and been broadcast on WPSU public television.

Golden Anniversary? Fifty Years Married?

Were you married in 1960? In honor of your 50th Wedding Anniversary, there



will be a special mass and reception on **Sunday**, June 6, 2010, at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill. To receive an invitation, please contact the parish office.

Summer Programs and Adventures in New England: The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, located one hour north of Boston, has an array of summer programs for students and adults alike. The Collegiate Program for High School Students offers a challenging introduction to the liberal arts, the history of New England and the Catholic tradition. Offering three college credits, The Catholic Leadership Institute examines inspirational leaders while also providing a means to develop your own leadership skills in the great outdoors and through a service project. Lastly, The Way of Beauty Atelier offers art programs for those of all ages in Iconography and Naturalistic Drawing. For more information, please visit: www.thomasmorecollege.edu/summer or contact Mark Schwerdt in the Admissions office at (800) 880-8308.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to register for the 2010-2011 school year AND receive scholarship monies! Thanks to the support of Sen. Jake Corman, Sacred Heart School has received a gift of \$12,500 from the Bravo Foundation for scholarships for the coming school year. We are still accepting registrations for grades K – 5. Please call the school to set up a visit!

Please don't forget to put down on your schedule Sunday, April 25th for our More Than An Auction event at Reedsville Youth Park, 11 a.m. to 4 p. m. There will be food, fun, games, oral and silent auctions, and raffles, all to benefit Sacred Heart School. We are adding a chicken barbeque this year and asking people to buy tickets for it ahead of time, after Mass or at the office, although you can buy on site too, while supplies last.

Congratulations to Joey Rupert, grade 4 winner of the school spelling bee. Joey will rep SHS at the diocesan bee in May. **Grade 4** class enjoyed a trip to the state capitol in Harrisburg. This trip was made in conjunction with their social studies classes .

April 19: Junior Achievement classes for Grade 4 will begin.

April 20: Grades 4 and 5 will go on a wellness field trip to the local Giant to learn about proper nutrition. Development Meeting. 6PM

April 22: School Mass 9AM

April 23: Reconciliation for grade two preparing for First Communion.

Wellness Committee has issued a daily Keep Moving sheet asking students for daily minutes of exercise. Students who complete the program and return the sheet will receive an award.

All classes have prepared beautiful baskets and special class items for the Auction. Come and join us for a fun day supporting SHS Parish and School. Date: April 25th at Reed Park