

Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: April 19, 2009	\$ 2093.92
Income for April 20, 2008	\$ 1892.00
Income for April 22, 2007	\$ 1965.50
Student Offerings	\$ 1.50

Next week's tithe will be for our parish debt. We've promised to keep you updated on our parish debt. Steve Graham, Fr. Bateman & Fr. Thoms recently met with the diocese to discuss our debt. Here is the summary: The total cost of the building project was \$ 829,850. The parish paid (including from parish savings) \$ 395,200. There was also a donation from ECI (due to the "collapse") of \$ 25,000. We then received two loans from the diocese for \$ 300,000 and also \$ 73,847. This left a difference of \$ 60,800 which was taken from our parish operating account. As a result of our meeting with the diocese, our parish has been given a 3^d loan in the amount of \$ 60,000 which puts that amount back into our operating account. We assured the diocese that, as a parish, we are doing everything we can to end the fiscal year with a positive cash balance in our operating account. At the same time, we have been making payments on our debt somewhere in the area of \$ 15,000

Cost of building project: \$ 829,850

St. Jude has paid: \$ 395,200

Loans from the diocese of approximately: \$ 393,000

This amount is LESS than 50% of the project, which is in accord with diocesan guidelines. Thanks to ALL of you for your commitment to our capital campaign and your faithfulness in fulfilling your pledge. We have a LONG way to go, but we are on great, solid footing for the future.

From the pastor: Christ's kingdom is one of liberty and love. He cannot rule us unless we freely give Him our lives in a spirit of love. Our material gifts to God are our way of pledging our time and talent and our very lives for the glory of Christ, Our King. Thank you for your weekly tithe, your pledge of loyalty.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "Father, my wife and I have learned the very real spiritual component of tithing. We read and listened to testimony after testimony revealing how the Lord really 'takes over' and enables the tithing program to almost take care of itself. What's truly remarkable is the 'money part' of tithing becomes an afterthought when compared to the spiritual richness and other blessings that have flowed from our commitment to tithe."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: An 8th grader said, "I babysat my brother." A 5th grader said, "I went to my friend's game and supported her." A pre-K student said, "I gave my brother the gloves I wanted."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Despite the reports of the two Emmaus disciples (opening lines of the gospel) and other eyewitnesses as well, when Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples they "were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost" (gospel). Similar to last Sunday with Thomas, Jesus invites the disciples to "Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself." "Look...touch...see." How concretely Jesus relates to the disciples.

How understanding? How quickly their terror was changed to incredulous joy! How amazed they were as this risen One ate before them the "piece of baked fish." It is as though Jesus is doing everything possible to help the disciples understand how real this new life of resurrection is. Then Jesus brings it home to the disciples in specific terms to which human beings can readily relate. His death and resurrection were not isolated events only in the life of Jesus; they have meaning for all Jesus' disciples. The reality of his passing over from death to life is carried forward by those who witness to these things: repentance and forgiveness of sins.

It is perhaps surprising that repentance and forgiveness (acts we much more readily associate with Lent) figure so prominently in all three readings assigned to this Third Sunday of Easter. The readings suggest to us that we, unlike the disciples to whom Jesus appeared after the resurrection, cannot "Look...touch...see." But Jesus gives us another and just as concrete a means to come to belief in the new life of resurrection. For repentance and forgiveness are themselves encounters with the risen Lord, and invitation to greater belief, and an experience of our own resurrection.

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus invites all the disciples to do what (in John's gospel last Sunday) he had invited Thomas to do, "Touch me," so that they might come to believe in his resurrection. This belief, however, is not passive. Our belief in the risen Lord is made visible when we "preach in his name" the kind of repentance leading to the new life of forgiveness. We "touch" Jesus today when we repent of our sins and forgive others—an encounter with this same risen Lord that makes him present in our world today. Jesus "was made known" in the breaking of the bread and in repentance and forgiveness. This is risen life: "You are forgiven." This is our witness to the resurrection: "I forgive you."

Sacrament of Penance: Much is being written in the Catholic press these days about the demise of the Sacrament of Penance---too few are making use of this sacrament of healing, especially a private confession between the typical twice-a-year (Advent and Lent) communal penance liturgies in our parishes. Perhaps part of the problem lies in a rather narrow understanding of this sacrament—that it is about acknowledging sins. This is true, but it is only one dimension of the sacrament. Far more important is that our seeking and receiving forgiveness, our firm resolve of repentance, and our doing some penance as an expression of our desire for conversion are all opportunities for encounters with the risen Christ.

Like all liturgy, the Sacrament of Penance makes present the Paschal Mystery. Perhaps we focus too much on the dying aspect of this mystery (confession of sins) and not enough on the rising (encounter with Christ and the restoration of our relationship with God). Like all sacraments, the Rite of Reconciliation includes a proclamation of the word, even when it is celebrated as private confession. Perhaps a good practice would be to reflect on some New Testament passage on forgiveness for a significant time before confession; perhaps this Sunday's gospel would be a good choice since it reminds us so well of the connection of forgiveness and risen life. Since this is the 3^d and last Sunday of Easter for which the gospel selection proclaims a resurrection appearance, this would be a good Sunday to mark our calendars for times for us to receive the Sacrament of Penance. This is one way to prolong the Easter celebration into Ordinary Time.

PARISH NEWS

As CCD comes to a close for this year I offer profound thanks to all our catechists who have given SO much of their time and talent to share the richness of our Catholic Faith with your young people –

and prepare them for the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Also, many thanks to Karen Thome for working so hard in coordinating the program. May God bless all of you for your commitment and sacrifices.

Attention CCD Parents: Don't forget!! Even if CCD is over for the year, it is still an obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every single weekend. The Church continues to teach that purposefully missing Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is *mortal sin*. As you have brought your children to CCD all year, so continue to teach them the importance of our faith by bringing them to church all summer long!

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 28th at 6:30pm in the social hall.

In the goodness of your prayers please remember Matt Tornambe who is recovering at home. I'm sure he'd appreciate hearing from some of his parish family to let him know of your prayers and concern for him:

Matt Tornambe, RR 1 Box 423, Port Royal, PA, 17082.

St. Jude 50th Anniversary Celebration POSTPONED. Due to a lack of participation, our parish celebration of our 50th anniversary has been postponed. No date has yet been set for our celebration. Watch the bulletin.

CAP (Caring About Parishioners) needs you! CAP has been doing great things for the parishioners of Saint Jude's Church by providing meals, gifts, prayers, etc. to those who have lost a loved one, had a baby or is just in need of a little caring. In fact, we have been doing so much that we need some more volunteers to help out. Please consider volunteering! A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you think you are already signed up, please check and make sure I have your name on the list. With more help, we will be able to do even more for those in our parish. Thank you and God Bless! Contact Elizabeth Armstrong with questions or if someone you know needs CAP call 527-4869.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. April 26 – (Acts 3:13-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5; Lk 24:35-48)

9:15am – Elizabeth Wesneski

Mon. April 27 – (Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29)

9:00am – Barbara Sofranck

Tues. April 28 – (Acts 7:51-8a; Jn 6:30-35)

Wed. April 29 – (Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40)

Thurs. April 30 – (Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51)

Fri. May 1 – (Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59)

9:00am – Anne Kivlin

Sat. May 2 – (Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69)

5:00pm (English) – Mildred Rocco

6:30pm (Spanish) – Conrad Kambie

Sun. May 3 – (Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18)

9:15am – Millie Lunger

Altar Server Workshops: All altar servers are asked to attend 2 of the three Saturday workshops: the last one is scheduled for May 9th from 9-11 a.m. Children who have received First Holy Communion are also welcome to attend as new servers. Questions: call Fr. Thoms: 436-6722. Fr. Thoms will be scheduling a "make-up" session for the week he was delayed.

Cleaning Help: Now that we have this beautiful new church, we need help keeping it clean. I am working on a schedule, and am hoping to get enough families to volunteer their time so that they may only have to clean one or two weekends a year. I will be in the social hall with the sign-up sheets, please stop over and sign-up for a cleaning weekend.

Items needed for Women's Guild Yard Sale: As you are doing your spring cleaning, please remember that the guild is having a yard sale on Saturday, May 16th and would appreciate donations of unwanted items. Remember, your "trash" *could* be someone else's "treasure!"

First Holy Communion: Next weekend our parish will celebrate First Communion with our 2nd graders during the 6:30pm Spanish Mass AND the 9:15am Sunday Mass. Remember that many family members of our First Communicants will be here visiting us. Offer them a warm welcome!

OTHER NEWS

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010: If you have thought about joining us on this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, be sure to pick up a brochure in the pamphlet rack in the entryway (or you can also view the brochure online at www.StJudeMifflintown.org). Make sure to note the deadline for submitting your deposit! Don't get left behind! Dates for this program are July 14-23, 2010 and package price is all-inclusive out of Newark Airport – approximately \$ 4600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. If you would like more information, please contact Fr. Bateman.

Food Pantry Needs for April Any non-perishable food item, first aid supplies, over the counter pain and cold medicine, bandages, anti-biotic ointments, Q-tips and feminine sanitary napkins.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

WHERE WOULD YOU BE TODAY WITHOUT YOUR CATHOLIC EDUCATION? If you are in a position to financially assist local families to send their children to Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Fr Bateman, Sister Marie, or Sue Parzanese would like to hear from you. An "Adopt A Student" Program is being considered so that those whom God has blessed can "financially" adopt a child who would like to attend our Catholic school. Perhaps you could consider it as your 5% tithe to other charities? If you are a product of Catholic Education (or if your children are), please search your heart to assist our parish children in this way - You will be blessed!

"More Than An Auction" TODAY!!! Doors open at 11am at the Reedsville Youth Park. Cash raffle (top prize of \$1000)! Live auction begins at 1pm. You can view some auction items on Sacred Heart's Website (www.SacredHeartLewistown.com). Many silent auction items, food, kids games, entertainment. Come and support YOUR parish school.