

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion April 5, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: March 29, 2009	\$ 1999.16
Income for March 30, 2008	\$ 1897.30
Income for April 1, 2007	\$ 2788.50
Student Offerings	\$ 7.00

Building Debt Update: This past week Fr. Bateman, Fr. Thoms and Steve Graham met with the diocese to finalize our loans to the Diocese. We have borrowed a total of \$ 433,848 from the Diocese. We have already paid \$40,000 on that debt. In addition, we have paid approximately \$29,204 of expenses out of our capital campaign fund for various bills for the church (\$13,522 for the tile, \$1780 for various expenses; \$760 for carpet, \$11,200 for the sound system; \$1942 for the cabinets behind the altar). So our current outstanding debt to the diocese is \$393,848. This amount represents less than ½ of the total expenses – which is the diocesan requirement (that we can only borrow ½ of the cost) – which we did. What the diocese does not know, however, is that we've paid (on our own) nearly \$30,000 for those other expenses. We can be VERY proud of all our efforts and work – and that we have managed such a great task. Your financial commitment to the Capital Campaign is greatly needed and appreciated.

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be to help pay our subsidy to Sacred Heart of Jesus School.

From the pastor: The strength of a parish perhaps lies in the faith of the people who believe that their church can be a vital and continual source in our connections with God and His people. Tithing can give us that vested interest in being a part of and supportive of all activities and programs that are centered in St. Jude Parish.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: We have lived paycheck to paycheck for many years, most of the time there were more bills than paycheck, however, the Lord always provided. We decided to start tithing the beginning of this year, even though the current economic situation has strained our budget considerably. We had some large bills that need paid, but no money to pay them. This morning, we received money unexpectedly that was more than enough to cover the bills. The Lord is most generous indeed!

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 1st grader said, "I helped Dad clean the garage." A Kindergartener said, "I helped carry groceries from the car." A 5th grader said, "I shoveled the tree house steps off, so we could sleep out." A 1st grader said, "I helped my older brother pick up his football cards."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Ann was to make her First Holy Communion, and when it came time for family catechesis, four-year-old Christian was brought to the session, too. Much to the parents' surprise, Christian was good as gold throughout the entire time. More than good-Christian seemed to be rapt in attention during the whole hour. After they got into the car to go home, Dad complimented Christian on his stellar behavior and asked him, "What did you pay such close attention to?" Christian answered his dad with another question,

"Daddy, why did the teacher keep saying my name so often?" Perhaps this was the first time Christian was confronted with the fact that he shared his name with so many others. We all, in fact, call ourselves Christian because we have the common identity of Body of Christ. Growing into this identity and acting consistent with its demands is a lifelong task. This was no less true for Jesus and the disciples, too.

On this, Palm Sunday, we proclaim two contrasting gospels, both declaring something quite different about Jesus' identity and both indicating to us just how utterly consistent Jesus was with who he truly was. Yet Jesus' "disciples did not understand" (gospel at the procession) that Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was not about immediate acclamation and glory ("Hosanna...king of Israel") but about a glory realized only through the cross: "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Jesus humbled himself to become human, "Even (to) death on a cross." (second reading). In the passion account, Jesus shows us how humbly and completely he embraced humanity: he submitted to denial, betrayal, abandonment, torture, mockery, crucifixion. As disciples of Jesus, we, too, are called to humble ourselves. We are to bend our knees before Jesus (see second reading). Even more like him, we are to bend our knees in humility before one another.

Mark paints a vivid picture of the sufferings of Jesus. At the same time his passion account-and even his whole gospel-rises to a crescendo in the centurion's amazing proclamation of faith "Truly this man was the Son of God!" The one both hailed and derided as kin of the Jews, the one crucified is finally revealed in his deepest identity as Son of God. His mission is accomplished - in the shedding of his blood he gives his blood as the new Fruit of the vine in which we all share each time we commemorate him. We might "roll a stone against the entrance of the tomb" where he lay dead, but we cannot contain his true identity and mission.

Why choose John 12:12-16 as the gospel at the procession with palms? Two choices are given for year B for the gospel proclaimed before the procession with palms; it would be natural that the selection from Mark be used since this is the year we proclaim Mark. Yet we suggest that the Johannine selection be proclaimed because it clearly sets out the tension about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem: the crowd greets Jesus with joyful accolades due to the one whose arrival they perceive to be the messiah-king, but this entry into the City of David is not the moment of Jesus' glory. The "disciples did not understand" that Jesus' glory could only be achieved by suffering and death; death on the cross leads to the glory of the risen life.

This tension marks the vicissitudes of our own Christian living. We are willing to follow Jesus—but we would like it to be an easy road to glory. Contrary, Christian living is the hard work of proclaiming the gospel by the way we live, a proclamation such that people can see us and, seeing how we live, proclaim, "Truly this person reveals the Son of God!" We cannot stress enough in our reflection and our preaching that this tension is a critical one, one that reminds us of the reality of the cross.

Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009: It is with deep gratitude that both Bishop Rhodes and myself thank you for your devotion to the 2009 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. To date we have raised \$14,150.00 toward our goal of \$8,700.00. Just as Jesus demonstrated His love for us in his willingness to suffer, this Lent we have an opportunity to continue His loving ministry through the sacrificial gift we are willing to make to this year's Appeal. We must never tire of demonstrating our love for the Lord by loving and helping our brothers and sisters most in need.

PARISH NEWS

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.

St. Jude Parish Celebrates 50 years in Juniata County: Did you see the banner on the way in to church today?!?! Our parish celebration has officially begun! Can you believe, 50 years? We have SO MUCH for which to be thankful. We will officially celebrate our 50th parish anniversary on Sunday, May 3 @ 3 pm. We will have a special Evening Prayer of Thanksgiving and a parish pot-luck supper (meats & drinks provided) to celebrate. Sign up sheets are in the social hall.

The Anniversary committee is asking anyone that has pictures or memories of the parish from the past 50 years that they would like to share to contact Mary Zangrilli (436-2936) or Dave Treaster (436-2968).

The Women's Guild will sponsor an Easter Egg hunt for children ages 1 to 12 after 9:15am Mass on Easter Sunday. Please bring a container in which your child can collect the eggs! **Eggs Needed:** We will need filled plastic Easter Eggs for the hunt, if you would like to donate any, please leave them in the kitchen. Thank you.

Has your address changed? Help! The county is reassigning addresses. If your address has changed, if you have moved or have a new telephone number, PLEASE let us know! Anytime we do a mailing there are always pieces of mail returned because addresses have changed. Don't forget to keep your parish up to date on your contact information. Thank you.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. April 5 – (Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47)

9:15am – Frank & Mary Schilling

Mon. April 6 – (Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11)

9:00am – Charles Eichman

Tues. April 7 – (Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-38)

Wed. April 8 – (Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25)

Thurs. April 9 – (Ex 12:1-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15)

7:00pm – People of the Parish

Fri. April 10 – (Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; Jn 18:1-19:42)

3:00pm – Celebración de la Pasión del Señor (Spanish)

7:00pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English)

Sat. April 11 – Easter Vigil

8:00pm – People of the Parish

Sun. April 12 – (Acts 10:34-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9)

9:15am – People of the Parish

Please mark your calendars: The Women's Guild is going to host a "Movie Night" in the social hall on April 24th at 6:30pm. More information will be available in the coming bulletins!

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!"

OTHER NEWS

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. A fulfillment of a promise to God for sparing this village from the black plague, every villager participates in this presentation, which is done on a magnificent scale every 10 years. Your pilgrimage begins with a visit to Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Complete this "once-in-a-lifetime" journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau and come to know Scripture in a new light. 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 interested, please contact Fr. Bateman. Flyers are in the pamphlet rack or available on the parish website: StJudeMifflintown.org.

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.

Discounted Hersheypark Tickets: Discounted tickets are available to *Hersheypark* to parishioners and their families at a significant savings. Regular admission price is \$52.95 for adults; *the discounted price is \$ 28.50 (a savings of 45%)*. Regular admission for children (ages 3-8) and Seniors (ages 55-69) is \$30.95; *the discounted price is \$ 24.00*. Tickets are valid any day the Park is open during the regular public season. Orders must be received at the parish by April 20. Parishes will receive the tickets by May 19. Order forms are available in the pamphlet rack at the entrance.

Welcoming People Next Week: Don't forget that we will have lots of "strange" people here next weekend for Easter. Perhaps if they feel at home and welcomed, they will continue to come each weekend. Our parish is truly a family, let's welcome back our long-lost brothers and sisters.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

"More Than An Auction" A new event will be held in conjunction with the "More Than An Auction". We will hold a rummage sale on Saturday, April 25th at the Reedsville Youth Park. Start saving or stacking your stuff. Any questions, call Gordon Parker at 667-9714 (H) or 248-3643 (W).

Auction Items Needed: We are looking for any type of donations to be auctioned off for the silent or oral auction. If you can donate an item call B.J.Newcamp (436-9572) or beedgewolf@aol.com

The BRAVO Foundation, with the recommendation of Senator Jake Corman, has announced that they have \$10,000 in Scholarships for Sacred Heart School available for eligible families for the 2009-10 school year! A family of 4 can earn up to \$70,000 annually and still be eligible for this scholarship. Applications are available in the school office, however, if you applied for the Neumann Scholarship, you do not need to reapply for this scholarship. If you did not apply for Neumann, a \$21 fee is required for application.