

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: Dec.13, 2009	\$1212.00
Income for Dec. 14, 2008	\$1741.00
Income for Dec. 16, 2007	\$2744.50
Students	\$ 00

Next week's tithe will be for the helping hands fund.

From a pastor: An elderly man stopped at a Hearing Aid Center and asked about cost. "We have them from \$2,500 down to \$1.50," the salesperson said. "What's the \$2,500 one like?" asked the elderly man. "Well, it translates three languages and is the latest in electronics," answered the salesperson. "And what about the one for \$1.50?" asked the man. "It's this button attached to a string," the salesman said. "How does it work?" "It doesn't," said the salesperson. "But if you put it in your ear and the string in your pocket, you'll be surprised at how loud people will talk."

"As Catholics, we 'hear' a lot of talk about money. Maybe [that's because] so few 'listen'. Frequently. . . I tell others of the generosity and sacrificial giving of the people of College Point. Your love of St. Fidelis is clearly demonstrated in your financial commitment to our parish. May God bless you one hundred-fold for your tithe."

Rev. Arthur Minichello

St. Fidelis, College Point, NY

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift. A 3rd grader said, "I made cookies for the nursing home." A 1st grader said, "I gave my old toys away." A 5th grader said, "I washed the dishes."

From the Assistant Pastor:

Please take a minute to realize an earth shattering fact as we celebrate the birthday of the Savior. It is a fact which we accept without hesitation, as it has such deep meaning in our lives. Celebrating the birthday of Christ allows us to return to



Bethlehem, recount the facts offered by Luke and Matthew, express our gratitude that Christ came to us born of a virgin, destined to save us. The story is quite clear for both believer and unbeliever. It has been retold for twenty centuries. Today, let's look at it from a different perspective.

The world in which we live is filled with threats of terror, is besieged by war, familiar with natural disasters of immense magnitude and even anesthetized to the need of Jesus' saving power. We might say "Emmanuel came" but our lives are hardly changed. We might live aware of the biblical story but not be affected by its biblical significance. Our lives have not been changed. Jesus remains in the manger, the subject of a story, a beautiful one, but just a story.

The coming of Jesus occurred because the world was in dire need of change. Our relationship with God had been severed, and needed to be restored. In His wisdom He chose the Incarnation as the vehicle for saving the world, its inhabitants with our need for a

new relationship with God and one another. People lived awaiting the fulfillment of a promise. As they waited they saw more clearly the need of what was to take place. They longed to see it carried out in time. The secret of God was disclosed and is revealed again this day. "Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us."

As surely as I believe in the need, the promise and its fulfillment as I pray this Christmas day, I ask the Lord to allow us to understand what it really means for us. The gift of the Lord Himself was described in the prologue of John's gospel. "Whoever received him He gave power to become children of God."

How we receive the gift of the Father will determine the significance of Christmas 2009. May this day find us looking for the Christ, discovering Him as He appears, not only in the manger, but in those around us, those with whom I spend part of this day, those in need. May we discover Him as He reveals Himself through our bringing Him to others, and may they see Him too.

Fr. Thoms

From the Pastor:

Empire Kosher Sign: Parish Council is considering permission for Empire Kosher Poultry plant (located about a ½ mile from our Church), to put up a directional sign on the far corner of our property, near the corner of Old Route 22 and Chicken Plant road. Council passed a motion, 5-2, at their December 7th meeting, tentatively approving the plan, contingent upon approval of the final contract, to voted on at the next Parish Council meeting, Monday, January 4th @ 7 p.m. The contract would be renewable on a year-to-year basis, with either party able to terminate the agreement at the expiration of the contract year (December 31st), with Empire then removing the sign within about a month. Empire would pay the Parish \$1,200 per year for placement of the sign, payable in full at the beginning of each contract year. The sign would show the Empire logo with an arrow pointing in the direction of the Plant. Final approval, of course, is also contingent upon all municipality permits being obtained and all fees paid by Empire. As Pastor, I have talked with a parishioner who was a former company employee and is now an independent union representative of the Empire employees. He said that he believed allowing the sign would be a good thing for good relations between the Parish and the Plant, which employs many parishioners. He said that worker conditions at Empire have improved greatly over the years and that it is a good place to work. Anyone wishing to offer input on the final vote my talk to either priest, to Parish Council members, or may show up at the January 4th meeting @ 7 p.m.

Fr. Bill

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Dec. 20 -- (Micah 5:1-4, Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:38)

9:15am – People of the Parish

Mon. Dec. 21 – (Zep 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45)

9:00am – Grace Puma

Tues. Dec. 22 – (1Sam 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56)

Wed. Dec. 23 – (Malachi 3:1-24, Luke 1:57-66)

Thurs. Dec. 24 –Vigil Mass – (Isaiah 62:1-5, Apos 13:16-25, Matt 1:1-25)

6:00 p.m. – Children’s Mass –People of the Parish

8:00pm – Spanish Mass – People of the Parish

Fri. Dec. 25 – (Isaiah 62:11-12, Luke 2:15-20, Titus 2:10-11)

9:15 am - People of the Parish

Sat. Dec. 26 – St. Stephen (Feast)

(Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matt 10:17-22)

5:00 pm (English) – Russo Family

6:30 pm (Spanish) –George Gaiski Sr.

Sun. Dec. 27 –(Sam 1:20-28, John -3:1-2:21-24, Luke:2:41-52)

9:15 – Helen Barbush

***Please note that the Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve is at 6:00, not 6:30 (as it appears on the Minister schedule)**

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Please note that announcements for the December 27th bulletin must be in the office by Monday, Dec 21.

March for Life: In response to those of our own youth from grades 9th thru 12th who are either “on the fence” about going or even those who have decided not to go, many have expressed concerns about missing school and/or sporting events. Making the sacrifice to go on this pilgrimage will be a demonstration that you are not making either of these things into an idol. Those who lack motivation may indeed find that their attendance on the March for Life pilgrimage gives them the spark needed to become enthusiastic about education and physical activity! Above all, we want to witness to the sacredness of human life in the womb.

Congratulations to the St. Jude Knights of Columbus Council #10842! The council was the winner of one of the sixteen prizes in the 2009 C.O.A.L. Sweepstakes. The council purchased all the unsold tickets in our possession, and this year one of those tickets won. In lieu of the prize, the council has decided to take the cash option. These funds will be used by our council to help support our programs. G.K. Bill Gerberich

THANKS to all you wonderful cookie bakers! The cookie walk was a great success. There were so many complements on the variety, quality and quantity of your cookies. The moneys will enable the Guild to do many good works this coming year.--So until next year Thank you and Merry Christmas!

TUTORS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN’S SACRAMENTAL

PREPARATION: The CCD program is in need of adults to tutor elementary school children to receive the sacraments of First Communion, Penance, and Confirmation. Volunteers will teach on a one-on-one basis. These are children who have had little or no formal catechesis, and who, because of their age, are required by the Church to be enrolled in a children’s RCIA and receive all three sacraments at the same time. For more information, please contact Fr. Weary, Fr. Thoms, or Karen Thome, 694-3607.

Traditional Latin Mass retreat at St. Jude: We want to ascertain how many people would be interested in participating in a retreat on the Traditional Latin Mass at St. Jude. If we have enough people, we will then schedule a date and time for Fr. Frank Parrinello, Pastor of the *Mater Dei* Community in Harrisburg, to come to St. Jude and give a workshop on the Traditional Latin Mass. Following catechesis, he will offer the Traditional Latin Mass here at St. Jude on that day.

Anyone interested, please sign-up at the table in the social hall. (Signing up is not a firm commitment on your part, as we realize the ultimate date and time scheduled may not suit everyone who is interested.) Any questions, see Fr. Thoms or Karen Thome.

Christmas Cards: Christmas cards are available in the social hall as part of the Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign. Your support is appreciated.

Food Pantry Needs for December: Baby Diapers sizes. 3-6, pull-ups-all sizes, baby shampoo, baby lotion, diaper rash ointment, and wipes.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

“Please circle Jan 30th 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 Jacquie Bennett.

Our Advent Baby Items collection was a wonderful success. Thank you to all families who participated.

A Blessed Christmas season to all from the children, faculty, staff and administration of SHS.

Characteristics of an Accredited School: Devoted to its mission; accepts objective evaluation by outside evaluators, student oriented, plans for its future, examines its performance, maintains a qualified faculty and engages in on-going planning. **SHS is grateful to** all parishioners who helped with this process and who are continuing to work with the school on its goal implementations. The faculty held a celebration in the Rectory and – thanks to Farley – we had a wine and cheese without the cheese!

MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST BE WITH ALL OF YOU.

