

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 27, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

The amounts for the contribution for December 20th were not available at the time the bulletin was printed.

Next week's tithe will be for Aid to the Catholic Church in Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America & Africa.

From a pastor: The parish story of tithing has become a spiritual statement of growing support of St. John the Evangelist's pastoral programs and an expanding catalogue of other charitable causes. Every week another person or couple inquires about how to 'sign up for the envelopes.' We appreciate all our contributors and we pray that the tithing spirit will capture the heart of every last one of our parishioners."

Rev. Msgr. Neil Graham

St. John the Evangelist, White Plains, NY

Comments from the pew: "For the past month or so, I have been praying to St. Jude, who has helped me, and to God, to let me know His will. . . So here I am joining the parish and the first thing I see is tithing. I wonder if this is God's will? The thing I most want my son to learn (and he's not there yet) is the joy of loving and giving. God's greatest gift to us is each other. We certainly are our brothers' keeper, and I guess I haven't been immune to the argument that the church could be doing more for the poor and the sick with its money. At any rate, I have been lacking in my personal relationship with God. I guess trying to live like Jesus is not enough (although I'm sorely lacking in my efforts there, too.) I guess the faith is the thing, and I guess if tithing will help me with that, I guess I better try it."

A parishioner

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Duane

St. John of the Cross, Roslyn, PA

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 5th grader said, "I got a ladder from a tree stand." A 1st grader said, "I got an egg for my brother." A Pre-K said, "I helped saw a tree."

Pastor's Column

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

The above title is the exact same title for the next bulletin column, immediately following. Why? It's because I want to draw attention to it. And why is that? It's because that next column is a great prayer tool for every week of the year.

That column is a list of the daily Mass Scripture readings for the upcoming week. Concentrate especially on the upcoming Sunday readings, in this case, Sunday, Jan. 3. Those are the weekend Mass of obligation readings; the Sunday Mass readings, in other words.

Do you find Mass boring at times? Well, spend a part of your daily prayer time at home, reading and thinking about those

Sunday Mass readings. We're now printing them ahead of time for that very reason. When you hear those readings at Mass, you won't hear them cold anymore, as if for the first time. No, you will already be familiar with them. At home, you've already "chewed" on them, thought about them, prayed through them.

How? Well, you sit down in your room, Bible in your lap, bulletin next to you, and you look up those Sunday citations one-by-one. Say a prayer first, asking the Holy Spirit's help to understand. Then read each passage slowly, devoutly. Close your eyes and think about what you've read. Pray: "God, what do you want to tell me through these readings?"

The first (Old Testament) reading is usually on the same theme track as the Gospel (the final reading). So, play a little game. See if you come up with the same general theme as the priest preaching the homily that Sunday. See if you come up with the same everyday practical life applications as he does. This makes things more interesting. You tend to become more involved mentally and spiritually.

Make it fun for the whole family. Do family prayer sessions, with kids taking turns reading the Bible passages out loud. Hold a discussion on what it all means. Hint: Jan. 3 is Epiphany, so it's the wise men, the first pagan Gentiles to be let in on the good news. The first reading predicts this outreach to everyone, not just Jews, and the second reading underscores all that.

You can do the same with weekday readings as well. Have fun. And enjoy Sunday Mass more.

Fr. Bill

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Dec. 27 – (Sam 1:20-28, John 3:1-2:21-24, Luke:2:41-52
9:15am – Helen Barbush

Mon. Dec. 28 -1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8;
Matthew 2:13-18

9:00am – George Mizii

Tues. Dec. 28 -1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Matthew
2:13-18.

Wed. Dec. 30 -1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke
2:36-40

Thurs. Dec. 31 -1 John: 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; John
1:1-18

7:00 p.m. – Andrew Lee Green

Fri. Jan 1 – Micah 4:1-4; James 4:1-10; Psalm 72:1bc-2, 3-4, 7-8,
12-13, 18; Matthew 5:20-24

9:15 am – Vincenzo Pasalaqua

Sat. Jan 2 – 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-
28

5:00 pm (English) – Mildred Rocco

6:30 pm (Spanish) – Thomas Hause

Sun. Jan 3 - Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

9:15 – Nickolas Pauly

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

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.

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.

A vision for the future: "By seeking holiness and using the gifts God has given us to accomplish His will in our lives, we are contributing mightily to that kingdom we all long for, where there will be no more crying or pain or death. Certainly no abortion. No euthanasia. No assisted suicide. No deep freezing of embryos as though they were merchandise. And no destruction of human life in the name of science." Cardinal Justin Rigali, 1/21/08

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retreat for couples Experiencing Difficulty – Is your marriage tearing you apart? Rediscover the joy in your marriage. Retrouvaille (Ret-tro-vy) is a French word meaning discovery. Retrouvaille is a program, which helps to restore communication and trust in a marriage. If you feel helpless or trapped by frequent conflicts, please know that hundreds of couples have been helped. Call us and give yourselves another chance. The next program will be held January 22-24, 2010, at the Homewood Suites in Mechanicsburg, PA. Let us reserve a place for you. For information call Tom or Patty (717) 938-8229 or 1-800-470-2230.

Nurse, EMT, or Paramedic in the Lewistown Area. Are you interested in helping elders in your community stay at home? If so, you may be eligible to participate in Penn State's REACH Network. Responsibilities include seeking out home dwelling elders aged 65 and older who are eligible for the program, scheduling home visits, and performing home safety assessments.

Research training and a stipend will be provided. For more information, call Leigh Gordon at 717-248-9618 (Monday – Thursday) or 717-531-1717 option 4 (Friday)

Principal investigator is Thomas E. Terndrup, M.D., Department of Emergency Medicine. This research has been approved by the Institutional Review Board, under federal regulations, at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Donations Needed for El Salvador Mission Trip

The main purpose of Hope International Services Inc, is to provide short term medical trips to the country of El Salvador San Salvador. Our services include: Medical clinics, Health education and counseling, outreach services for street children, disaster victims & poor communities, supporting orphanages. Because of a reduction in funding for medical supplies, the organization is in need of the following Medical Supplies: 4 boxes of tongue depressors, 4 bags of cotton balls, 4 first aid kits, 4 ace bandages, 4 4x4 gauze packs, 4 boxes of band-aids, 4 pints of Hydrogen Peroxide, 4 boxes of Vaseline petroleum jelly adaptec gauze, 20 tubes of Triple Antibiotic ointment, 40 tubes of Clorimazole fungus cream, 40 bottles of Tears/Eye solution, 59 Prenatal vitamins, 200 children's vitamins, 100 adult vitamins, 10 cans of infant formula (POWERED), no glass or liquid. 500 Hygiene Packs (a must): Hygiene pack consists of travel size: wash cloth, soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste. The 5 items will fit in a sandwich baggie. Due to shipping costs, it is very important to have all 5 items in a sandwich baggie. Clothing: Socks – all sizes including infants, new colored t-shirts with sports symbol for ages 5-12 yrs. For orphans (approx 50)

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 Jacque Bennett.



