

1st Sunday of Lent February 10, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: February 3, 2008	\$ 1867.50
Income for February 4, 2007	\$ 2575.00
Income for February 5, 2006	\$ 1809.00
Student Offerings	\$ 6.25

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be toward our Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal goal.

From the pastor: One of my greatest anxieties as Pastor has been how we would pay all of our bills, especially now as our building is going up. I had to be reminded that it was not my Church; it was God's Church, and that God had a plan to make it work. It involved a spirit of gratefulness (to God) and cooperation (with God) from the people who were part of the parish. You see, there was always money to pay the bills. It's just that many times it was in the pockets of some of the parishioners!

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "My wife and I learned, Father, 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 tithing."

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 6th grader said, "I played with my little sister." A 3rd grader said, "I helped my neighbor take down her decorations." A 1st grader said, "I helped my mom do the dishes."

Building Fund / Construction Update: Once again WE NEED YOUR HELP to retrieve the remainder of our "new" pews. We need the help of ANYONE who is able to travel to St. Leo's Parish in Ashley, PA (about a 2 1/2 hour trip) on Saturday, February 16. We'll be loading the pews from the former church in a tractor trailer and then coming back to Mifflintown. If you have a drill, please bring it along. We'll be leaving St. Jude at 7am Saturday and returning at approximately 4pm. If we carpool, we'll save gas. If you can help, please contact Steve Graham. Thank you!

Weekly Reflection: We are never immune to temptation; it is real. Temptation always brings choice, decision and greater self-knowledge. Thus, Lent is a time for us to get up close and see, to grapple with the temptations in our own lives and how they shape our own self-knowledge. Good choices help us conform more perfectly to Christ and help us be faithful to our baptismal identity as the Body of Christ. Sinful choices sidetrack us on our salvation journey and weaken our identity as the Body of Christ. Penitential practices that are proper to Lent are not about suffering for the sake of suffering; instead they are meant to expand us beyond self-preoccupation to new self-knowledge, which leads us to concern for the good of others. Lent is a time of conversion, a time when we become more perfectly who we are – the Body of Christ. This is Lent's challenge and invitation.

About Liturgy: Liturgy's Temptations: Yes, temptation is found everywhere, even in our liturgical gatherings to give worship,

praise and thanks to God. What are some of the temptations that might challenge us during Mass?

- We might be tempted to come to Mass totally unprepared in mind and spirit.
- We might be tempted to come to Mass more interested in greeting friends and neighbors and catching up than in praying and worshipping.
- We might be tempted to come to Mass and not take sufficient time to calm ourselves down and place ourselves in God's presence.
- We might be tempted to leave home with *just* enough time to make it to church on time, then arrive late on a regular basis.
- We might be tempted not to pick up a hymnal and join our voice with others' in the assembly in praising God in song.
- We might be tempted to regard the Mass' texts as repetitious and boring rather than make the effort to enter into prayer.
- We might be tempted to criticize what we don't like rather than marvel at how God is present to us and desires to transform us.
- We might be tempted to... (*fill in your own temptations*)

Celebrating the Sacrifice of the Mass takes a great deal of effort. It means that we come with the attitude that it is God alone whom we serve and this Mass helps us do that better. At the same time, we must learn to be gentle with ourselves. When temptations come that entice us to focus on something other than worship of God, we simply pull ourselves back to the task at hand: giving ourselves over to God in thanksgiving and praise so God can transform us into ever more perfect members of the Body of Christ.

Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal: Next week our parish will conduct the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal Campaign using the In-Pew program. It works like this. Father will speak for a few minutes about the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal after a brief homily. Then, I'll ask a lay leader to walk through the program with you. The ushers be sure that everyone has a Response Envelope. We'll take a few minutes to fill out the Response Envelopes together. Then, the ushers will collect the envelopes with a special separate pass of the basket and bring your commitments to the altar with the offertory gifts. Please come to Mass next weekend prepared to make your pledge. This year's goal is **\$8,600**. You do not have to bring a check or cash to church next weekend for our In-Pew Program since coupon booklets will be sent again this year. If you want to make a down payment, or pay in full, that's fine, too. Thank you very much for helping us reach our parish goal.

Pilgrimage to Poland/Rome: There are still approximately 10 seats available for our parish pilgrimage "in the Footsteps of John Paul" to Poland and Rome. If you had been thinking of joining us, there is still time! Please contact Fr. Bateman for complete information or check the parish website.

Fr. Jason to Visit: It is true; Fr. Jason will be here to visit us for just over a week. He'll be arriving on February 20 and returns to India on March 3. At Fr. Jason's insistence, Fr. Bateman will "take advantage" of Father's visit to get away for some rest. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Jason!

Lenten Ecumenical Services: Each Wednesday evening at 7pm. This week the service is at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Pastor Gay Rider offering the Lenten message.

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm. Fr. Bateman & Sr. Felice will be taking turns leading us in the Stations during Lent.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sat. Feb 9 – (Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32)

6:30pm (bilingual) – Grace Puma

Sun. Feb 10 – (Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11)

9:15am – Ken Fike

Mon. Feb 11 – O.L. Lourdes (Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46)

9:00am – A special intention

Tues. Feb 12 – (Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15)

Wed. Feb 13 – (Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32)

Thurs. Feb 14 – Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Es 12-25; Mt 7:7-12)

Fri. Feb 15 – (Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26)

9:00am – Mary Frances O'Day

Sat. Feb 16 – (Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48)

6:30pm (bilingual) – Frank Schilling

Sun. Feb 17 – (Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tim 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9)

9:15am – People of the Parish

St. Jude Knights of Columbus Annual Lenten Fish Dinner: St. Jude Knights' fish dinners have begun, and go until March 14, 2008, in the church social hall. The meal is all you can eat and includes fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, puddings, and a selection of homemade desserts. Pay at the door: \$9.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. Please come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the fundraising efforts of our Knights.

Week at a Glance in our parish:

Sunday	CCD/10:30am/parish house
Friday	Building Meeting/10am/parish house Fish Fry/4-7pm/social hall Spanish Prayer, Praise/5pm/church Stations of the Cross/7:30pm/church
Saturday	1 st Penance/9-12:30am/church, social hall & house Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house Confessions/5:45pm/church Mass/6:30pm/church

A Course on Introduction to Morality will be offered here at Sacred Heart Parish on Saturday mornings (March 1, 8 & 15) from 8:30am until 12 noon. Prior registration is required – contact Marie Bender at Sacred Heart office. Registration fee: \$15.00.

It's time for the Fish Dinners! The Knights of Columbus are looking for help with the upcoming fish dinners. They need: youth to help serve (a sign up sheet is in the back of the church); Knights or men to work set-up, clean-up and at the fryers; women to make your delicious deserts. Please speak to Joe Schilling.

Abortion and Catholic Social Teaching by *Rev. Thomas D. Williams, L.C. Continued...* 5. Abortion even distinguishes itself from related questions of medical ethics, such as euthanasia and assisted suicide, by the absence of any possibility of *informed consent*. The status of the unborn as voiceless and most vulnerable adds a further dimension to discussions of the morality and gravity of abortion. Here the bioethical category of "autonomy" cannot be applied, since unborn children have no way of speaking for themselves.

6. Finally, abortion differs from other major social ills such as unemployment and divorce because of its relative *invisibility*. Not

only are the victims themselves voiceless, but those who profit from abortion have no interest in speaking publicly about it; nor, generally, do the mothers and families who are the secondary victims of abortion. Even our legislators are squeamish about frank discussions of the phenomenon of abortion, and pro-life advertising is banned from most network television. Abortion takes place behind closed doors, and is hushed in public. As in the case of slavery, ending the social injustice of abortion relies mainly on the courage and willingness of persons and institutions not directly involved in abortion to speak out.

Catholic social thought offers two distinctive elements to the abortion debate. First, it lays a bridge between moral theology and public discourse. In its long experience dealing with social questions, the Church has sought not only to set forth the Christian truth in all its richness, but to influence Christians and all people of good will in building a civilization of justice and love. To this end, Catholic Social Teaching often employs a natural-law vocabulary directed to all persons of good will, and frames its arguments using accessible concepts and constructions that can be brought to bear on moral discourse in a non-confessional environment.

Second, perhaps more than any institution in the world, the Church in its social teaching has developed a series of *principles* to address the complex moral questions in the social order. As new situations have arisen from the rapidly changing socio-political landscape, the Church has shown admirable elasticity in accommodating new states of affairs while ever defending the essential dignity of the person and the family. *To be continued...*

Soup, Salad & Sermon with Bishop Rhoades: Join Bishop Rhoades and Catholic Charities for our 3rd Annual "Soup, Salad and Sermon" on Thursday, March 6 at 12 Noon at the Cardinal Keeler Center of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Soup, salad and bread will be provided and a free will donation to benefit Catholic Charities Interfaith Shelter for Homeless Families will be taken. This remarkable program assisted 658 people last year by helping keep families intact during a time of crisis. Hear from people who have used our program: why they needed it, how it helped and where they are today. Homelessness affects all of us. Catholic Charities' Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless provides an array of services and case management to families in need as they rebound from the loss of their home. We are the only FEMA approved homeless shelter in the area. Please join us for lunch on March 6. RSVP your attendance to Jeanne Troy (657-4804 x284) or jtroy@hbgdiocese.org no later than March 1, 2007. Seating is limited to 140 people, so please respond quickly.

Food Pantry needs for February: Canned fruit, OTC pain and cold medicines, diapers sizes 4-6 only, wipes, baby lotion, baby powder, diaper rash ointment. Volunteers are needed. Contact Kathy Queitzsch to volunteer 436-9718.

Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment: The Pennsylvania Legislature is considering SB 1250, which will amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, and will prevent civil unions, which are in effect the same as marriage. Your state representative and state senator need to hear from you that marriage makes a difference. Log on to www.pacatholic.org to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out www.youranswer matters.org for more ideas about how you can get involved in the effort to protect and preserve marriage.

What have you done for YOUR marriage today?