

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 22, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: February 15, 2009	\$ 1689.25
Income for February 17, 2008	\$ 2338.00
Income for February 18, 2007	\$ 2153.00
Student Offerings	\$ 4.25

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the building fund.

From the pastor: Thank you to all those who have committed themselves to tithing and for the time and talent that you offer for the good of St. Jude Parish. Those of us who have not yet committed to tithing or to giving of our time and talent, this Lent affords a wonderful opportunity of grace to do so.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: The Lord must have a bigger shovel than mine—much bigger! I mean to tell you that He can never be out done in generosity.

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 4th grader said, "I helped clean snow off of cars." A 6th grader said, "I helped my brother make his bed." A Pre-K said "I got fresh water for the animals."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: We are all familiar with "iconic" brands, names so familiar there is immediate recognition. For example, Cheerios and Wheaties have almost become recognizable for cereal in general: "Have you had your Wheaties this morning?" Some brands are so recognizable that the brand name is added to our everyday vocabulary; for example, "Kodak" has become identified with camera or film. Connected with these recognizable brand names is the common sense approach not to change anything in the marketing—can one imagine Cheerios not being in a yellow box? In marketing, the attitude is "don't challenge the mother lode!" If the ploy works, leave it alone; don't change it. Yet, often change is good for us. This Sunday's first reading and gospel both speak of change in terms of something new happening—divine forgiveness.

As the gospel story unfolds, we come to see that the man carried to Jesus on a mat actually suffered from two types of paralysis: physical (he was carried to Jesus by others) and spiritual (Jesus forgives his sinfulness). Jesus looks beyond the physical paralysis of the man, and offers him the deeper healing he really needs: forgiveness. Like the actions of God toward the Israelites (see first reading), Jesus frees the paralytic (and us) from the past and opens a brand new start in life. Forgiveness makes possible seeing something new that is happening. What is new is a whole new relationship with God—in the first reading God speaks of a "people I formed for myself." God desires such intimacy with us that forgiveness becomes an expression of divine presence, for in the first reading God announces that God wiped out Israel's offenses "for my own sake." Transgressions cause a breach in the relationship; God always acts to heal the breach, so long as we turn back to God.

Along with the crowd in the gospel, we are astounded each time Jesus acts in the same way to forgive us. Forgiveness is a divine act and presence that evokes a response of praise and announcement that something new is happening. What is the "something new" that this

gospel announces? That Good News is forgiveness and that God's forgiveness offers us a new start in life.

The Sacrament of Penance: Lent begins this Wednesday, and so it is timely to reflect on the Sacrament of Penance. There is much talk in the Catholic publications these days about the demise of this sacrament, how it is not being frequented enough. Many parishes offer communal penance liturgies during Lent; a good Lenten resolution might be to put aside whatever else falls on the calendar date for that evening and avail oneself to this sacrament.

Too much of the Sacrament of Penance is thought of in terms of lists of sins. Certainly our sinfulness—weakening or breaking our relationship with God—is the "matter" of this sacrament. But far more happens that mechanically reciting a list of sins. First and foremost this sacrament is an opportunity for a personal encounter with Christ and the celebration of divine mercy. It is an opportunity to praise and glorify God for always being willing to restore an intimate relationship with us humans. It gives us a chance to publicly announce that the reign of sin is vanquished and the reign of God is upon us. Our very coming to church to celebrate this sacrament is a proclamation of the Gospel—not by words, but by our deed.

Perhaps if we would cast this sacrament in the positive light of God's forgiveness, mercy, and desire for a restored relationship with each of us, more parishioners would celebrate this sacrament. Our churches ought to be packed—people spilling out the doors onto the streets, eager to celebrate God's mercy, eager to proclaim their own share in divinity. When God's forgiveness and mercy are so powerfully felt—carried over in the forgiveness and mercy we extend to each other—then it might be difficult to contain our "Alleluia" even during Lent.

Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009 The weekend of March 7-8, our parish will conduct the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal Campaign using the In-Pew Program. It works like this. I will speak for a few minutes about the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal after a brief homily. Then, I'll ask a member of our Lenten Appeal Team to walk through the program with you. The ushers will then assist you with the Response Envelopes and 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 that weekend prepared to make your pledge. You do not have to bring a check or cash to Mass that weekend for the In-Pew Program since coupon booklets will be sent out again this year – allowing you to spread your pledge payments out over a period of months. If you want to make a down payment or pay in full, that's fine, too. Thank you so very much! **This year's goal (actually assessment from the Diocese is \$8,700.** Your help will enable us to reach (and even exceed) this goal. Thank you for your generosity to the work of Diocesan Church.

PARISH NEWS

Ash Wednesday Mass: Masses on Ash Wednesday will be at 9am and 7pm. During each Mass, ashes will be distributed.

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent (except March 13 – because of Confirmation), we pray together this wonderful devotion following the Way of the Cross. You are invited to join us each Friday at 7:30pm throughout the season of Lent. Join us!

St. Jude Parish Celebrates 50 years in Juniata County: This year marks the 50th anniversary of our parish. The parish was dedicated by Bishop Leach on April 5, 1959 – so April 5, 2009 (Palm Sunday) will be our 50th Anniversary as a parish! Several anniversary events are being planned including a special service and dinner. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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

St. Jude Knights of Columbus Annual Lenten Fish Dinner: St. Jude Knights' annual Friday fish dinners will be from **February 20, 2009 to April 3, 2009** 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.

The Knights offer their thanks to everyone who in any way helped with the spaghetti dinner; your contribution was greatly appreciated.

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 24th at 6:30pm in the social hall.

Combined Confirmation Choir Practice will be held at St. Jude's on Wednesday, March 4th at 7pm for our parish Confirmation on Friday, March 13th at 7 p.m. at St. Jude Thaddeus Church. Anyone who is able to attend is invited, so that we have some representation from St. Jude's Choir.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Feb 22 – (Is 43:18-25; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12)

9:15am – Kenneth Fike

Mon. Feb. 23 – (Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29)

9:00am – Catherine McPhillips

Tues. Feb 24 – (Sir 2:1-11; Mk. 8:11-13)

Wed. Feb 25 – (Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

9:00am – Terry Lee Romberger

7:00pm – Attilo Donati

Thurs. Feb 26 – (Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25)

Fri. Feb 27 – (Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15)

9:00am – Russel Bohner

Sat. Feb 28 – (Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32)

5:00pm (English) – Edward Badenschatz

6:30pm (Spanish) – Jean Christian

Sun. Feb 22 – (Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15)

9:15am – People of the Parish

AROUND TOWN

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, 1020 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. Information about the trip will soon be posted on our parish website: StJudeMifflintown.org.

The Annual Women Afire Retreat will be held at **Malvern Retreat House, in Malvern, PA, March 27-29**, in the Family Life Center. *Stirring into Flame the Gift of God* is the theme of the retreat, directed by the Women Afire team of Anna Iatesta, Kathleen McCarthy, Anne McGlone and June Piola. Fr. Stephen DeLacy will also direct this retreat; music by Grammy nominee, Marty Rotella. Inspirational preaching, teaching, healing services and quiet time just for women. Delicious meals! Register by calling 610-644-0400 or register online at: www.malvernretreat.com Come as an individual or with your parish group. All are welcome!

Lenten Mission at Sacred Heart, Lewistown – Learning from Archbishop Fulton Sheen – April 2, 3, & 4, 2009: We all remember watching Archbishop Fulton Sheen on TV. Join us as we remember him and reflect on his words during our Lenten Mission. Our preacher will be Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR (probably know through his appearances on EWTN) who was a personal friend of Archbishop Sheen. More information coming soon. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Sacred Heart "More Than An Auction" Raffle Tickets: Again this weekend Sacred Heart of Jesus School will be making available to parishioners of St. Jude the tickets for the Annual All Cash Raffle sale held during the school's *More Than An Auction Event* which will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2009 at the Youth Park in Reedsville. We ask each family of St. Jude Parish to buy or sell 1 booklet of 10 tickets in support of the parish's mission of Catholic education. Tickets are \$5.00 each or \$35.00 for a booklet of 10. Top prize for the raffle is \$1,000! We had a great response last year, so we hope we can count on your support again this year!

New!! "More Than An Auction" A new event will be held in conjunction with the "More Than An Auction". We will hold a parish 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 would like to donate an item call B.J.Newcamp at 436-9572 or email beedgewold@aol.com.

There will be a SHS Financial Aid Night / Prospective Family Open House on Tuesday, February 24, from 5:30 -7:00pm in the school for anyone interested in information on financial aid of registration, who may need help filling out the applications. Call the school at 238-5351 for additional information.