

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent February 24, 2008

### **Stewardship is a way of life.**

#### **Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:**

Tithing income: February 17, 2008	\$ 2338.00
Income for February 18, 2007	\$ 2153.00
Income for February 19, 2006	\$ 1633.90

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

**From the pastor:** Thank you for your sacrificial support of our parish every weekend. Since it was also Valentine's Day this past week, we can talk about a love gift, a gift of love which is always sacrificial because it has to be the best we have even when it hurts a little. Now we're in Lent, and we focus on the Lord's sacrifice for us. It didn't "hurt"? With His 100% sacrifice in mind, our dedicated 10% will keep us on the path to giving our all for Him.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "It has taken me a whole year to get up the courage to begin this [tithing]. I started it as a Lenten sacrifice and I have decided to continue. I feel wonderfully free."

**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 5<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I helped pappy clean his house." A 4<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I mopped the kitchen floor for dad." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I made breakfast yesterday morning."

**Building Fund / Construction Update:** As you can see, they have taken a different approach to the building, constructing the "narthex" area (connector building) first. The new trusses have already arrived. Next week we'll be meeting with the architect to begin discussion of a color scheme. After we receive his recommendation, we'll be holding a "parish meeting" to help narrow down the color choices and discuss pew configuration, so please watch the bulletin for information about this meeting. We invite and welcome your participation in this process! All the pews are here in Mifflintown. Now we need to begin planning for the process of refurbishing and rebuilding some of the pews – not that they are in bad shape, they are not – but damage during transport (stacking pews on top of others) certainly has caused *some* damage which will need to be repaired. We are moving right along and are on target for a July 27, 2008 dedication with Bishop Rhoades!

**Weekly Reflection:** The source of our own living waters is found in the Baptismal font. There we are plunged into the death of Christ. There we receive a share in Divine Life. The living waters of Baptism promise eternal life for those who are faithful to Baptism's commitment and live faithfully their identity as members of the Body of Christ. We "thirst" when we distance ourselves from Christ and choose our own wills over God's. Our "thirst" is satisfied when we surrender ourselves to the refreshment of the living waters of God's word and live with Christ at the very center of our being. These living waters challenge us to acknowledge our sinfulness and find a new life in Christ. This is the conversion Lent opens for us. This is the conversation we must enter. Unlike the Samaritan woman at the well, we will not come face-to-face with Jesus at a well to have a chat

about identity and everlasting life. But we do meet Him every time we gather for Eucharist and listen to His word and feast at His table. There, week after week, we encounter our identity and receive the gift of everlasting life.

**About Liturgy: Lenten Gospels and Baptism:** Many parishes have implemented the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This Sunday is the occasion for the first scrutiny. The Gospels for the next two weekends all are chosen because they have baptismal motifs. The Scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance and have, above all, a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. These rites should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all. This year our parish has 4 Catechumens, all of whom are members of the Hispanic community. They will receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

**Lenten Penance Service:** Sunday, March 9 at 3:30pm here at St. Jude (6pm at Sacred Heart in Lewistown).

There will be several priests here to assist in the celebration of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter. If you plan to celebrate the Sacrament before Easter, please use this opportunity. Thank you.



**Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal:** Thank you to all who have contributed to the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. To date we have raised \$9,108, exceeding our parish goal of \$8,600. This week we will begin contacting those who have not yet responded. During this season of Lent, we give to those who suffer by offering our prayers and financial generosity, for "Whatever you do..."

**Lenten Ecumenical Services:** Each Wednesday evening at 7pm. This week the service is at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Leedom offering the Lenten message.

**Letter of Resignation from Tom Parrish:** "It is with deep regret that I submit my resignation from the St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Council. The four years that Karen and I spent in Mifflintown were wonderful years especially because the parishioners of the parish were so open and receptive. We both regret we will not be there to see the new church. Although we will no longer be with the people of St. Jude's at Mass and other gatherings they will always be in our hearts and our prayers. God Bless!"

**Note from Father Bateman:** the Parrish's recently moved out of the area. We will miss them but know that we hold one another in prayer. According to the by-laws for the Council,

it is the responsibility of the pastor to appoint someone (after consultation with the Council) to complete the remainder of Tom's term. We will discuss this at our next parish council meeting on Monday, March 3.

#### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sat. Feb 23** – (Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32)

6:30pm (bilingual) – Esther Meyers

**Sun. Feb 24** – (Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42)

9:15am – Dolores Zangrilli

**Mon. Feb 25** – (2 Kg 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30)

9:00am – Giuseppe Amato

**Tues. Feb 26** – (Dan 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35)

**Wed. Feb 27** – (Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19)

**Thurs. Feb 28** – (Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23)

**Fri. Feb 29** – (Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34)

9:00am – Ralph Thome

**Sat. Mar 1** – (Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14)

6:30pm (bilingual) – William Marencic

**Sun. Mar 2** – (1 Sam 16:1-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41)

9:15am – Joseph Saia

**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.

**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:**

<b>Sunday</b>	CCD/10:30am/parish house
<b>Tuesday</b>	Women's Guild/6:30/church
<b>Friday</b>	Building Meeting/10am/parish house Fish Fry/4-7pm/social hall Stations of the Cross/7:30pm/church
<b>Saturday</b>	Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house Confessions/5:45pm/church Mass/6:30pm/church

**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.

**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@hbgiocese.org](mailto:jtroy@hbgiocese.org) no later than March 1, 2007. Seating is limited to 140 people, so please respond quickly.

**Join the Fight to Protect Marriage:** Over the years and across cultures and very different religious beliefs, marriage has been and still is the foundation of the family. The family, in turn, is the basic unit of society. Thus, marriage is a personal relationship with public significance.

Courts in nearby states have redefined marriage as something other than a relationship between one man and one woman. Precisely because the family is the primary cell of human society we all must be involved in establishing the definition of marriage which reflects the values of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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](http://www.pacatholic.org) to send a message telling your legislators to support the marriage amendment, and check out [www.youranswer matters.org](http://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?**

**Living Wills & Advance Health Directives:** In December of 2007 the Bishops of Pennsylvania released a question and answer booklet entitled, *What You Should Know about Advance Health Care Directives*. In that document the Bishops remind us that "death is not to be feared as the end of our existence, rather it is the doorway to our eternal destiny." They encourage Catholics to plan ahead for the end of earthly life by signing a living will and health care power of attorney.

A living will is a written document that gives instructions about how you want to be treated if you are terminally ill and cannot speak for yourself. A health care power of attorney is a written document that names a specific person to make health care decisions for you. Together these documents are considered an advance health care directive.

For Catholics, health care decisions should be made in the light of our Faith. A Catholic must consider the sanctity and dignity of life when discussing and planning an advance directive. Having an advance directive gives a Catholic a way to profess the Faith and helps to ensure that the decisions about the care received, when he or she cannot speak or decide, are made in accord with Catholic religious beliefs. A link to the document can be found on the parish website: [www.StJudeMifflintown.org](http://www.StJudeMifflintown.org).