

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time February 3, 2008

### Stewardship is a way of life.

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

Tithing income: January 27, 2007	\$ 1,792.50
Income for January 28, 2007	\$ 1,779.00
Income for January 29, 2006	\$ 1,459.00
Student Offerings	\$ 8.00

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will be the Propagation of the Faith Membership Appeal. Please use the envelope which was in your packet. For more information:

**From the pastor:** The aim of a disciple is to be Jesus. All of us live our spiritual lives in a material world. Why do people share their tithing with the church? We give to help others be Jesus. In seeking to bring the love of God into every life we touch, you be Jesus; in seeking God's will in all things, you be Jesus; in embracing the Spirit of humility that opens up new possibilities for reconciliation and healing, you be Jesus.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "I have been tithing for many, many years. Lots of good has come from it in my life. Things that seemed very bad turned to very good happenings. I could tell of any number of good things from business, family, to health and then some! Keep up the good work, Father!"

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

**Building Fund / Construction Update:** THANK YOU to all who went to Ashley yesterday to bring back our "new" pews. Your help is greatly appreciated. We have also secured a "new" organ for the church: Sacred Heart is purchasing a "new" organ and is donating their current organ to St. Jude (including transportation and installation) as a gesture of fraternity and support as we build our new church. Please extend your thanks to Sacred Heart Parish for their kind donation. Walls will go up this week (a slight delay due to weather and wind last week). On Thursday trusses will be installed. By next weekend, we'll see a building framed! If anyone is in need of topsoil, we have lots. Please let us know or we will sell the topsoil we have.

**Weekly Reflection:** The contrast in the opening verse of the Gospel between the crowd (a large, unspecified group) and Jesus' withdrawing to go up a mountain to teach His disciples (a smaller, select group) connect well with the remnant mentioned twice in the first reading from the prophet Zephaniah. God indeed calls us to blessedness. To be faithful to this identity means that we live out of our blessedness without counting the cost. WE are the remnant. We live to "seek justice, seek humility," we "do no wrong" and "speak no lies" because God has claimed us and given us our identity. None can disturb us because we are claimed by God. The kingdom of heaven is already at hand in us, the blessed remnant. Few of us are called to an extraordinary self-sacrifice, but all of us are called by Christ to live the blessedness God has bestowed on us. Our challenge is to take the ordinary things of everyday life and, by our own self-giving for the good of others, make them extraordinary. In this is the kingdom of God at hand.

**About Liturgy: Ordinary Time & Second Readings:** Notice that the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians is somewhat of a sequential reading during these first weeks of Ordinary Time in year A. Except rarely and by chance does the second reading relate to the other readings for a Sunday in Ordinary Time. After one New Testament letter has been completed, another is assigned and read sequentially. This principle for assigning 2<sup>nd</sup> readings during Ordinary Time is different from festal times when the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading breaks open the mystery of the feast or season.

**Rite of Sending:** Next Saturday, February 9, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending during the 6:30pm Mass with our Spanish-speaking Catechumens (those who are preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil). They will be asked to "Enroll their Names" and we will send them to Bishop Rhoades who, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, will officially welcome them into the Church as Catechumens and their final period of instruction before they receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

**Palms to Ashes:** Each year, the palms from the previous Palm Sunday are burned to create the ashes used on Ash Wednesday. You are invited to bring in your palms and place them in the receptacle in the entryway. **Please, NO "twisty ties" or rubber bands.** Just place the palms in a paper bag and put them in the receptacle. Thank you. Today is the last day palms will be accepted.



**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.

#### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sat. Feb 2 – Presentation of the Lord / Candlemas Day**  
(Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40)  
6:30pm (bilingual) – William Marencic

**Sun. Feb 3 –** (Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a)  
9:15am – People of the Parish / Los Feligresis

**Mon. Feb 4 –** (2 Sam 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20)  
9:00am – Mildred Rocco

**Tues. Feb 5 – St. Agatha** (2 Sam 18:9-19:3; Mk 5:21-43)

**Wed. Feb 6 – ASH WEDNESDAY – Day of Fasting**  
(Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

9:00am – Santana Varda  
7:00pm (English) – William Marencic  
8:30pm (Spanish) – Intention of Virginia Doster

**Thurs. Feb 7 –** (Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25)

**Fri. Feb 8 –** (Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15)  
9:00am – Mary Coder

**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

**Ash Wednesday – February 6:** There will be three Masses here for Ash Wednesday: 9am & 7pm (English) and 8:30pm (Spanish). Masses at Sacred Heart are at 7am, 12noon, & 7pm.



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

**Stations of the Cross:** Each Friday during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm.

**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>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday – Day of Fasting and Abstinence</b> <b>Mass: 9am, 7pm (English), 8:30pm (Spanish)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Fish Fry/4-7pm/social hall Spanish Prayer, Praise/5pm/church 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

**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 in the parish office. Registration fee: \$15.00.

**It's time for the Fish Dinners! HELP!** 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...* 2. Another factor distinguishing abortion as a social phenomenon is the sheer *magnitude of the problem*: an estimated 46 million abortions performed worldwide each year, a figure that alone makes abortion a social problem of staggering proportions. "Humanity today offers us a truly alarming spectacle," wrote Pope John Paul, "if we consider not only how extensively attacks on life are spreading but also their *unheard of numerical proportion*" (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 17; emphasis added). An isolated murder would be a social problem, but one of limited proportions. A serial killer would pose a more serious social problem still. But yearly killings in the millions cry out for immediate and decisive action. The volume of abortions underscores the social nature of the problem, and makes abortion one of the most serious social justice issues of all time.

3. A third factor separating abortion from other justice issues is its legal status. Unlike other instances of massive killing of human life, like terrorism or serial killing, which stand clearly outside the law in advanced nations, abortion enjoys *legal sanction*. It involves the systematic, hygienic, *legal* elimination of human life. Pope John Paul wrote of the novelty of such "*scientifically and systematically programmed threats*" (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 17). Later, he remarked on the peculiarity of abortion as a legal right. After listing a series of terrible threats to human life, such as poverty, malnutrition, war, and the arms trade, he contrasted these with a new class of threats to life. Not only are these new attacks on life no longer considered crimes, he wrote, but "paradoxically

they assume the nature of 'rights,' to the point that the State is called upon to give them *legal recognition and to make them available through the free services of health care personnel*" (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 11).

4. A fourth distinguishing aspect of abortion is its arbitrary division of human beings into those worthy of life and those unworthy. Abortion deals not with the random killing of unrelated individuals, but with the *circumscription of an entire class* of human beings (the unborn) as non-persons, excluded from the basic rights and protections accorded to all other human beings. In this way abortion mimics the great historical tragedies of all time, which always began with the denigration of an entire class of people as unworthy of life or freedom.

Historically the greatest social evils perpetrated on humanity—genocide, racism, abortion, anti-Semitism, sexism, slavery—have always violated the principle of equality, relegating an entire sector of the human family to an inferior status, with a dignity lower than the rest. Since human rights flow from human dignity, once dignity is called into question equal rights cannot but share in the same fate. If human dignity depends on anything other than simple membership in the human race—be it intelligence, athletic ability, social status, race, age, or health—we immediately find ourselves having to distinguish between persons who count and those who don't. As John Paul wrote: "How is it still possible to speak of the dignity of every human person when the killing of the weakest and most innocent is permitted? In the name of what justice is the most unjust of discriminations practiced: some individuals are held to be deserving of defense and others are denied that dignity?" (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 20). *To be continued...*

**Prayers:** Thanks from Fr. Bateman to all who have been remembering his grandmother (Virginia Doster) in prayer. She came home, is comfortable and at peace with Hospice managing her care. We continue to remember the following in prayer: the Marencic and Coder Families; Jennifer Stryker; Ed Truitt.

**Soup, Salad & Sermon with Bishop Rhoades:** You are invited to 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, 4800 Union Deposit Road, 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. Learn about this remarkable program that assisted 658 people last year by helping to 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. Catholic Charities' Interfaith Shelter for the Homeless provides an array of services and case management to those families in need. As well, we are the only FEMA approved homeless shelter in the area. Please join us for lunch on March 6. Kindly RSVP your attendance to Jeanne Troy, Dir. of Development (657-4804 x284) or [jtroy@hbgdiocese.org](mailto: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.

LENT'S COMING!

