

## The Baptism of the Lord January 13, 2008

### Stewardship is a way of life.

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

Tithing income: January 13, 2007	\$ 2,048.50
Income for January 14, 2006	\$ 1691.00
Income for January 15, 2005	\$ 2000.00
Student Offerings	\$ 6.00

**Next week's tithing:** Next weeks tithing will go to help support Lillian Meldrum's mission trip to Fatima.

**From the pastor:** Tithing means giving 10% of your income back to God. So, it isn't accurate to use the word "tithing" when you really mean "donation" or "gift" or (sadly) even "tip." Real giving is a free gift from you back to the God who has given you EVERYTHING. And you know what? You will always receive much more than you give! You don't believe me? How will you know unless and until you try it?

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "The shouts of Christmas joy have subsided and we are back in the real world. Would that every day were Christmas. But we cannot forget the gift of the Christ Child ever for it proved how much God loves us. My tithing envelope is just a sliver in the sea of hope, but I toss it in each week to let God know He can count on me."

**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 went to a friend's mom's birthday party." A 4th grader said, "I helped my mom with my grandmom." A 1st grader said, "I matched the socks for my mom."

**Building Fund / Construction Update:** This week Steve Graham, Matt Tornambe, John Hepner and I will be traveling to the Scranton area to look at some possibilities for pews in our new church. It seems very promising and could save us in excess of \$25,000 (versus purchasing new pews). As you can see, new parking continues to be added and is available for use as soon as it is completed. You can also see that the walls are going up! One of the biggest struggles has been locating sewer lines in our buildings. This has caused a delay in some aspects of the project, but this week's beautiful weather has allowed us to once again be working ahead of schedule.

**Weekly Reflection:** In our culture the economy identifies us as consumers and our mission is to buy. The entertainment industry identifies us as spectators and our mission is to "tune in." This is far different from our identity and mission as followers of Jesus.

Baptism identifies us as God's beloved children and our mission is to follow Jesus. The symbolism of the water already says how our own identity is to play itself out in our mission. Plunged into the baptismal waters, we die to our old self; rising from the waters, we enter into the new life baptism promises. Baptism inaugurates us into the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

This dying and rising is the "stuff" of our Christian living. What enables us to continue to say yes to such living is that we know the dying always leads to rising, death always brings life. We know this with certainty because Jesus was baptized, His identity as beloved Son was revealed, He was faithful to His mission to bring forgiveness and justice, He died and then rose. The pattern of Jesus' life is the pattern of our own lives.

Paschal Mystery living is as concrete as Jesus' life and mission. For example, like Jesus, we are living justly when we die to selfishness and rise to the needs of others. Like Jesus, we are "showing no partiality" when we die to judgments and categorizing our labeling others and rise to seeing all people as beloved children of God. Like Jesus, we do good when we forgive; we heal others when we offer kind instead of words that tear down, or help another without being asked.

**About Liturgy: Parish Baptisms:** Because of the number of baptisms and the timing of births, it is impractical to have baptism only at the Easter Vigil and the Sundays of Easter. Our parish offers two different opportunities to celebrate Baptism: within Mass and outside of Mass. There is also a preparation process for people requesting baptism for their children – to help them understand their obligations and responsibilities as Christian parents. Even though our current situation does not allow us to have Baptisms on Sunday mornings after Mass, we can celebrate them during Mass or after Mass on Saturday evenings, or at other times as necessary. For information on the Baptismal Preparation Class please call Mary in the parish office.

#### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sat. Jan 12** – (1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30)  
6:30pm (bilingual) – Ann Coyne

**Sun. Jan 13** – (Is 42:1-7; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17)  
9:15am – People of the Parish / Los Feligreses

**Mon. Jan 14** – (1 Sam 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20)  
9:00am – Marcella Genis

**Tues. Jan 15** (1 Sam 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28)  
**Wed. Jan 16** – (1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39)

**Thurs. Jan 17** – **St. Anthony, Abbot** (1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45)  
**Fri. Jan 18** – (1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12)

9:00am – Mary Coder  
**Sat. Jan 19** – (1 Sam 9:1-4; 17-19; 10:1; Mk 2:13-17)

6:30pm (bilingual) – Sam Callipare  
**Sun. Jan 20** – (Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34)

9:15am – People of the Parish / Los Feligreses



CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** All members of the parish are invited to join with other Christians of our community as we pray for unity. The service will be held next Sunday, January 20 at Messiah Lutheran Church at 3pm. The theme of the service will be "God's Manifestations." Please join us!

**Annual Diocesan Pro-Life Mass:** This year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of legalized abortion in our nation. Bishop Rhoades will celebrate the annual diocesan Pro-Life Mass on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at 11:30 AM at Saint Philip the Apostle Parish, Millersville. All are invited to come and join the Bishop in prayer for the sanctity and protection of all human life. For additional information please call 657-4804 x327.

**January Food Pantry Needs:** dish soap, all purpose household cleaners, deodorant, lotion, shaving cream, first aid, medical and feminine hygiene products. Thanks for your continued support. To volunteer contact Kathy Queitzsch @ 436-9718.

The Office of Worship will present **SACRED SONG 2008: The Words We Sing - A Workshop for Directors, Cantors, Choirs, and Musicians** on Saturday, January 26, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg. This workshop will discuss the role of music in expressing our faith and will include a choral reading of the best of the newest music from liturgical publishers. Participants will go home with several pieces of new music to add to their choral library. Registration Fee is \$15 which includes resources and refreshments. *For a Registration Form go to* [www.hbgdiocese.org/worship](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/worship) or call the Office of Worship at 717.657.4804 x353.

#### Week at a Glance in our parish:

<b>Sunday</b>	CCD/10:30am/parish house
<b>Monday</b>	School Board of Education/6:30pm/Sacred Heart
<b>Friday</b>	Construction Meeting/10am/parish house Spanish Prayer, Praise/5pm/church
<b>Saturday</b>	Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house Confessions/5:30pm/church Mass/6:30pm/church

**The Sacred Heart School Board of Education** meets tomorrow, Monday, January 14 at 6:30pm in the first floor faculty room. All members of the parish and school communities are welcome.

**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 rediscovery. 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 18-20, 2008** at the Precious Blood Spiritual Center in Columbia, PA. Let us reserve a place for you. For information call Tom or Patty (717) 938-8229 or 1-800-470-2230.

**Divorced? Separated?** Healing Hearts A ministry of Holy Spirit Parish in Palmyra. A support Group for those coping with divorce or separation. Meetings on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Contact Steve @ 473-8049 for more information.

**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.

**The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg** will be giving a presentation concerning marriage, divorce and annulment from the Catholic perspective. This presentation will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced persons who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process, and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends who are divorced. This session will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 7pm in the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, extension 304, or email [tribunal@hbgdioces.org](mailto:tribunal@hbgdioces.org).

**Catholic Schools Week: January 27-February 2. Catholic Schools Light the Way.** The schedule for the week is:  
**Sunday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Parish:** Pancake breakfast and basket raffle from 8am until 12:30pm. Opening Mass @ 11:00am. Skating Party 4:45-6:45pm at Carousel Skating Rink.



**Monday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Community:** Alumni speakers at the school. Pep Rally. Service Project (students will make cards for community shut-ins).  
**Tuesday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Vocations:** Mass with Bishop Rhoades @ 9 00am. Bishop Rhoades visits our classrooms and speaks with SHS students. Mr. Storm's spaghetti lunch @ 11:30am.

**Wednesday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Students:** Dress down day. Reading buddies & game afternoon. Ice cream sundaes at end of the day. **Thursday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Future:** Cake Decorating. Open House 6:30 to 8:00pm with "Hands That Sing" opening and a Cake Auction of the student decorated cakes. Students will also be decorating candles to sell at open house (all monies raised from candles goes to the missions). Volunteer Recognition Day. **Friday: Catholic Schools Light the Way in our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers:** Special treat for school bus drivers in the morning. Teacher/staff appreciation lunch. SHS Alumni supervise students at lunch and recess. Closing Prayer service. YMCA night 6-8pm (full gym, rock wall, and pool).

**Sacred Heart School invites all parishioners, parents and grandparents, and prospective families to attend these events.** Reservations are needed at the school office for the Spaghetti Lunch by Friday, January 25. A brochure will be available next week with more specific times for those events that are not specified.

**Abortion and Catholic Social Teaching** by Rev. Thomas D. Williams, L.C. When the 2004 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* first fell into my hands some months before its promulgation, one pleasant surprise was the text's specific treatment and forthright condemnation of abortion in the context of human rights and, also, of the family as the sanctuary of life. The disconcerting fact is that, more commonly, the topic of abortion is seen as falling outside the discipline of Catholic Social Doctrine as it is taught in most seminaries and universities.

This is due in large part to the relatively few references to abortion in the corpus of social encyclicals, beginning with Pope Leo XIII's groundbreaking 1891 letter *Rerum Novarum*. Of all nine widely recognized social encyclicals, the word "abortion" appears a scant four times, and none treats it in any depth.

In part, this silence stems from the relatively recent advent of abortion as a large-scale ethical problem. With the development of medicine's ability to kill as well as to heal, the number of abortions has risen alarmingly in the past four decades. Therefore the first mention of abortion in a social encyclical appears only in 1971, in Pope Paul VI's *Octogesima Adveniens*. Here Paul mentions abortion in the context of Malthusian solutions to the unemployment problem (no. 18). *To be continued...*

What have you done for your marriage today?

[www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org)

#### 2007 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

If you wish to receive a tax statement, please fill in the information below and drop this form in the collection basket or send to the rectory. Statements will be mailed to your home. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_