

The Conversion of Saint Paul

January 25, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: January 18, 2008	\$ 2505.00
Income for January 20, 2007	\$ 2487.23
Income for January 21, 2006	\$ 1940.20
Student Offerings	\$ 7.35

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (a diocesan collection) This society is an international association for the assistance by prayers and alms of Catholic missionary priests, brothers, and nuns engaged in preaching the Gospel in heathen and non-Catholic countries.

From the pastor: I won't bombard you with comments about bills and needing to make ends meet – in these economic times, we are all well aware of this need. It's not my job to beg you for money for lights, heat, water, insurance, etc. It IS my responsibility to remind you of God's invitation to tithe. And last weekend the parish finance council shared these concerns with you. Are you giving back to God in gratitude for God's goodness to you? This is a question on which we should all reflect. Thanks to all who regularly offer God their thanks through their weekly tithing.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "It's scary to think we can afford to tithe: 3 kids, a house payment, cost of living, etc. But if I believe everything else the Bible tells me, why shouldn't I believe God when He tells me to tithe? We are willing to take the *leap of faith*; every week I pray we survive – and we do."

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 Pre-K said, "I helped clean the room." A 2nd grader said, "I cleaned off the plates." A 2nd grader said, "I tied a classmate's shoe."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: The great English churchman, theologian and writer, John Cardinal Newman, meditated on how Paul's conversion prepared him for his missionary role: "...his awful rashness and blindness, his self-confident, headstrong, cruel rage against the worshipers of the true Messiah, then his strange conversion, then the length of time that elapsed before his solemn ordination, during which he was left to meditate in private on all that had happened, and to anticipate the future – all this constituted a peculiar preparation for the office of preaching to a lost world, dead in sin. It gave him an extended insight, on the one hand, into the ways and designs of Providence, and, on the other hand, into the workings of sin in the human heart, and the various modes of thinking in which the mind is actually trained."

So much of the story of the early Church can be traced back to the contemplative and enthusiastic heart of Saint Paul ignited by his intimacy with the Risen Lord. Saint Paul understood how sin works in human nature and how the Holy Spirit can completely transform habits of corruption. Saint Paul also understood how to influence non-Christian and anti-Christian mindsets with charity so as to be able to be an instrument of another mind's enlightenment.

The best way we can celebrate this special "Year of Saint Paul" is to go to the Risen Lord and ask Him about what deep and intimate conversion of life He is calling us to. We know from Paul's life that at the heart of conversion is a surrender to the love

of the Risen Lord. Any interior movement leading from pride to humility, anger to mildness, greed to detachment, lust to a chaste spirit, envy to joy in the talents of others, sloth to zeal, gluttony (including internet, television, cell phone and Blackberry glutton!) to temperance is a surrender to the power of Christ's love within. This love allows us to let go of the fear of surrendering completely to Christ so that we can see others with the eyes of Christ.

About Liturgy: The Conversion of Saint Paul: As part of the 2008-2009 celebration of the special year devoted to St. Paul, today Catholic parishes mark the traditional Jan. 25 feast of the Conversion of St. Paul even though it falls on a Sunday this year. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued a decree saying Pope Benedict XVI, "in an extraordinary manner," has given permission for parishes and churches to use the prayers and readings for the feast day instead of those for the third Sunday of ordinary time. The decree was released back on May 30 at the Vatican. Generally, the Mass texts for feasts such as the Conversion of St. Paul are not used when the feast day falls on a Sunday. "The apostle St. Paul, who proclaimed the truth of Christ to the whole world," and who converted after having persecuted followers of Christ, "always was and still is venerated by the faithful, especially in this particular year," which marks the 2,000th anniversary of his birth, the decree said. For that reason, "only for the year 2009," Pope Benedict has decided that parishes may use the prayers and readings for the feast day Jan. 25. Because the feast day Mass does not include a second reading, the second reading from the third Sunday of ordinary time should be used and the Creed, often not recited at Mass was used.

PARISH NEWS

A prayer chain is a wonderful way to support others by praying for their needs. Requests do not have to be for parishioners and they do not have to be very specific. If you are concerned about the confidentiality of a request, just describe it in general terms. Examples would be "a special intention" or "a friend's child". If you would like to participate in the prayer chain or request a prayer you can contact Frances Schilling at 463-3078 or Robin Scannella at trscannella@embarqmail.com

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Jan 25 – Conversion of St. Paul (1 Cor 7:29-31;)
9:15am – John Zangrilli

Mon. Jan 26 – Sts. Timothy & Titus (Tit 1:1-5; Lk 10:1-9)
9:00am – David Constable

Tues. Jan 27 – (Heb 10:1-10; Mk 3:31-35)

Wed. Jan 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas (Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20)

Thurs. Jan 29 – (Heb 10:19-25; Mk 45:21-25)

Fri. Jan 30 – (Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34)
9:00am – Nicholas Macri

Sat. Jan 31 – St. John Bosco (Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41)
5:00pm (English) – Phillip Pressler
6:30pm (Spanish) – People of the Parish

Sun. Feb 1 – (Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28)
9:15am – Giuseppe Amato

Fr. Thoms goes on Mission Trip: This Thursday Fr. Thoms will be headed to El Salvador for a one-week mission trip to attend to the needs of the poor in that country. Many of the Spanish-

speaking parishioners at St. Jude are from El Salvador, so this mission trip (which Fr. Bateman made 3 years ago) provides a wonderful opportunity – both pastorally and spiritually. Please remember him and the mission team in your prayers.

Ecumenical Service TODAY at St. Jude beginning at 3 p.m. In keeping with our Lord's prayer "that they might be one" (see John 17:11), we pray for the unity of all Christian into the one flock of Christ. Come join us!

Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Supper: St. Jude Knights' 3rd annual Spaghetti Dinner is this **Friday, January 30, 2009 4-7pm** in the church social hall. The meal is all you can eat and includes spaghetti with homemade sauce and meatballs, Italian sausage, salad, Italian bread, and an assortment of homemade desserts. Please come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the fundraising efforts of our Knights. \$6.00 for adults; \$3.00 for children 6-12; children 5 and under free.

EDUCATION

Pennies for Life: Remembering this week the anniversary of the infamous Roe V Wade US Supreme Court decision which deprived pre-born children of legal personhood, our parish is participating in the Pennies for Life program. We ask every parishioner (children and adults) to bring pennies equal to each year of their lives to church or school during the month of January. The pennies will be counted on January 31 and a check for the amount sent to the Respect Life Office. The pennies collected will help mothers who are poor and or afraid to have their babies. They will provide medicine, food, clothing and shelter for the babies' mothers and help them to learn how better to care for their babies. Thank you for your support!



Special Vespers for the Year of Saint Paul: Bishop Rhoades invites you to join him for *Solemn Vespers on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul* tonight, Sunday, January 25, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Saint Patrick Cathedral. This special event, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, will witness to Saint Paul's work and zeal leaving no stone unturned for unity and harmony among all Christians. A prelude concert by choirs from local Orthodox Churches will begin at 4:15 p.m. Greek Orthodox Father Demetrius Nicoloudakis will give the Vesper's homily.

Ladies Guild Meeting: The parish Ladies Guild meets on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30pm in the social hall.

Did you sign up on T&T to help with the "cleaning crew?" We need your help! Now that Bob Auken has gone off to college, we need to initiate our cleaning crew to clean the church on a regular basis. Dolly Marencic is chairing the committee and has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, January 27 following the Ladies Guild meeting (about 8pm). If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Dolly.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Skate for Success: The students and faculty of Sacred Heart School will be "Skating for Success" at the Carousel Skating Rink on Sunday, January 25, to kick off the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Each student has sent out 10 sponsor letters to family and friends asking for their support of this event. If anyone

in the parish would like to support this event, or sponsor a student or teacher, please pick up a sponsor sheet in the church vestibule and send it to school with your donation by February 6th. Our goal for this event is \$10,000, so every donation will help. **Thanks for all you do for SHS!**

Catholic Schools Week! Today, January 25 begins our annual celebration of Catholic Schools. This year's theme: "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." A brief outline of the weeks events follows, but the full brochure and all the information is on the parish & school websites. Get involved!

Sunday, Jan 25 – Celebrate our Parish

Pancake Breakfast 8:30am – 1pm.

CSW Opening Mass – 11am

Skating Party / Skate for Success – 4:45pm, Carousel

Monday, Jan 26 – Celebrate our SHS Spirit

Dress down day; T-shirt decorating

Pep Rally – 1pm, cafeteria

Tuesday, Jan 27 – Celebrate Service to the Community

Community Service Projects

Wednesday, Jan 28 – Celebrate our Students

Mismatch Day, Reading Games

Mr. Storm's Famous Spaghetti Lunch – 11:30am

Ice Cream Social – 2pm

Thursday, Jan 29 – Celebrate our Future

School Mass – 9am

Cupcake & Cookie Decorating

Open House – 6:30-8pm

Friday, Jan 30 – Celebrate Faculty, Staff & Volunteers

Bus Drive Appreciation Day

Faculty & Staff luncheon

Prayer Service – 2pm

Saturday, Jan 31 – Celebrate SHS

YMCA Night – 5-7pm

What is 3rd grade doing? As we begin a new year, 3rd grade also begins a new Language Arts theme: "Getting the Job Done." They will read stories that will help them understand the importance of the things we do. Along with reviewing spelling and grammar skills, this will also lead into writing some comparing and contrasting paragraphs. In Math they will review counting money and telling time. Then it will be on to learning multiplication facts. This is a very important concept in 3rd grade. We will be making flashcards, and parents are asked to review them with their children each evening for reinforcement – after all, "Practice makes Perfect." As the facts are mastered, the students will be creating a "multiplication sundae" bulletin board with the hopes of enjoying a real ice cream sundae in the end. WE will discuss the Christmas season in Religion and then move on to our study of the Holy Trinity, how we worship in church and prayer. Finally at the end of the month, we will celebrate a fun, activity-filled Catholic Schools Week.

2008 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 or drop it to the parish. Statements will be mailed to your home. Thank you.

Name _____

Address _____

