

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 13, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: July 6, 2008	\$ 2177.00
Income for July 8, 2007	\$ 2333.00
Income for July 9, 2006	\$ 2551.00
Student Offerings	\$ 5.00

Next week's tithe will be for various expenses related to the socials during our church dedication and Eucharistic dinner.

From the pastor: Brian Jones and Bertrand Picard were the first people to fly around the world in a hot air balloon. They won a prize of \$1 million. In the course of the trip, they flew over some very poor countries. So they agreed to donate half of the prize to the poor. Brian Jones and Bertrand Picard have the right idea. We are in this world not just to 'fly over' people in need, but to make a difference. Tithing is our way of making a difference, of giving some of what we receive to God and to those in need.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I think tithing is the best thing that happened in our church. I have prayed and I know this is God's will. It is the right thing to do, give to God first. I want to add that I was just watching TV about Padre Pio and thought. . . if we take his motto, PRAY, HOPE, AND DON'T WORRY," all will be OK."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A Pre-K said, "I helped my sister do the dishes." A 6th grader said, "I helped with the kids while my mom was in the hospital." A 10th grader said, "I helped mom set up the internet for her laptop."

FINAL Construction Update: Your hard work is truly paying off. THANK YOU to everyone who worked every single day this past week to get everything ready for the building inspector. In his words, "You're good to go." Our pew-crew continues finishing touches installing the kneelers and a few other items. Now, other detail work can begin. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication. Let's move into a new church!

Eucharistic Devotions and Dedication of our New Church: On Sunday, July 27, Bishop Rhoades will dedicate our new church.

At the same time, our parish celebrates her Annual Eucharistic Devotions. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin after the 9:15 Mass of dedication and will continue until the closing service at 5pm. The Rev. Mr. Jonathan Sawicki, one of our newly ordained deacons, will be our homilist for the Eucharistic Devotions. As is the parish custom, the services are followed by a "pot-luck picnic" on our parish grounds. Plan to spend some of your time in adoration of our Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar and join us as we begin a new phase in our parish history – the construction of our new church!

Weekly Reflection: The images of this parable include sower, seed, and soil. If we see ourselves as the sower, the parable takes us in the direction of learning to know God and having union with God. We ourselves are the ones who spread the Word of Good News. This is discipleship! If we see ourselves as the seed, it reminds us that we sow God's Word wherever we are, by word

and example. This is discipleship! If we see ourselves as the soil (which is the tendency), we are directed to examine the cars and distractions of our lives to see if they stand in the way of open eyes and ears and hearts. Thus the parable touches our lives in terms of knowing God and doing as God wills, being faithful disciples, and being fertile so God's Word can be fruitful. The closer we come to Jesus the more layers of interpretation are opened up; the less we know Jesus, the more obscure is the parable or the more literal will be our interpretation. But most of all, we want to live our lives confident of the outcome, "achieving the end" God intended. We want to *be* both an abundant harvest as well as help to bring it about.

About Liturgy – Hearing God's Word: Some people criticize our Catholic liturgy as having too many words. It's too easy to put ourselves on "automatic pilot" and respond without really thinking, allow our minds to wander during the prayers, and even participate in a whole Liturgy of the Word without hearing what is proclaimed. This Sunday's Gospel challenges us truly to hear God's word so that Word is sown inside us and bears fruit in our Christian living wherever we live and work. Using a resource (such as "Magnificat" or a "St. Joseph Sunday Missal" or the link on the parish website to daily Mass readings) and preparing to hear God's word is one way to prime ourselves to tune into the proclamations and appropriate them into ourselves. When we hear, we've already lived! God is gentle in the invitation to hear the Divine Word. But we need to be forceful with ourselves in preparing to heart it and make it our own.

Minister "re-training" for new church: As we prepare to move into our new church, it is necessary to retrain our liturgical ministers about procedures and "how-to's" in the new church. In the fall, we will be hosting a morning retreat for ALL liturgical ministers (date TBA). However, we need *immediately* to instruct **altar servers, EMHC's and ushers** about new procedures in the new church. There will be 2 training sessions – attendance at only one is required for these ministers. They will be held on Wednesday, July 23 at 8pm and Saturday, July 26 at 10am. Please mark your calendars appropriately. Thank you.

Rehearsal for Dedication Liturgy: On Saturday, July 26, there will be a rehearsal for EVERYONE who has ANY role in the liturgy of dedication. The rehearsal begins at 7pm. It is *imperative* that everyone involved be in attendance.

Dear Father Thoms: When I was growing up, I remember how, after communion, we all watched as the priest placed the Eucharist back in the tabernacle. Then, as the doors were closed, we all sat down at once. The priest then went to the altar and removed the chalice and other vessels. But here, we do it differently. Here everyone waits until the *priest* sits down and then they all sit down at once. Is one more correct than the other? I always felt, growing up, that our sitting down as the tabernacle doors were close was a sign of respect and devotion to the Eucharist. Here we seem to show that respect and devotion more to the priest. I'm kind of confused as to when we really should be sitting down after communion. – "Sit or don't sit – that is the question."

Dear "Sit or don't sit – that is the question": This is a very good question, as I have heard it asked by not a few parishioners. Whereas in actuality there is no directive per se in the church documents that really helps us here. My own opinion is that your experience growing up to sit when the tabernacle door is closed directs our devotion to the Eucharist. While the priests are appreciative of the respect that the people show them, "there is a

time for every purpose under heaven." The end of Communion is a time to be showing reverence to Jesus in the Eucharist. This does not de-emphasize at all the essential role of the priest in confecting the Eucharist—he is the *instrument* through which God brings Himself to us. One could remain kneeling until the Prayer After Communion, one could sit right after he or she returns to the pew (if kneeling was a problem physically), or one could be seated when the tabernacle door closes—it is a personal devotion at this point. Let us all make sure that our hearts are kneeling to Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament always and everywhere! – Father Thoms.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. July 13 – (Isaiah 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23)
9:15am – Virginia Doster
Mon. July 14 – **Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha** (Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34-11:1)
9:00am – In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
Tues. July 15 – **St. Bonaventure** (Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24)
Wed. July 16 – **O.L. Mt. Carmel** (Is 10:5-7, 13-16; Mt 11:25-27)
Thurs. July 17 – (Is 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30)
Fri. July 18 – (Is 38:1-6, 21-22; Mt 12:1-8)
9:00am – Barbara Burger
Sat. July 19 – (Micah 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21)
6:30pm Bilingual – Robert Sabato Jr.
Sun. July 20 – (Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43)
9:15am – Robert Stuchel

Changes to Weekend Schedule: On Saturday, June 26, there will be NO 6:30pm Mass so that everyone can attend the dedication Mass the next morning. Then, our new Mass schedule begins the following weekend, August 2: **4-4:45pm Confessions; English Mass at 5pm; Spanish Mass at 6:30pm.** Please be sure to make note of these new times. I believe this to be the best pastoral solution to various issues. It is important that we continue to work together as ONE parish with different languages, so English-speakers may attend Spanish Mass and Spanish-speakers may attend English Mass. We are ONE parish and all are welcome to any Mass. Major celebrations (Easter Vigil, Dedication of a Church, Holy Thursday, etc) will continue to be bilingual. There is, however, the concern that we may not be able to staff a 5pm Mass (lectors, ushers, servers, EMHC's, etc). There is also a concern about how many people would actually attend this Mass. During the first few months, we'll be evaluating this new 5pm Mass to see how many people are attending and if we can staff it. We hope that this change in schedule will provide for everyone's spiritual needs.

Week at a Glance in our parish

Saturday Wedding / 2:30pm / new church
Spanish Choir Practice / 5:30pm / parish house
Confessions / 5:30-6:15pm / church
Bilingual Mass / 6:30pm / church

Ladies Guild sponsors "White Elephant Table": The Guild will be having a table at the Mifflintown Community Days on July 19. As they did last year, they will have a "White Elephant" table. Donations of small items that you no longer need/want, but that may be interesting to someone else, will be accepted until July 18. You may bring them to church or leave them at the parish house.

Eucharistic Dinner Baskets: The baskets which will be raffled off during the Eucharistic Dinner on July 27 are in the back of the church for you to examine. Tickets may be purchased for \$1 each or \$5 for 6 from now until the picnic, when the drawing will be held. As always, the Ladies Guild thanks you for your support.

The CCD program is in need of teachers. We have openings for Kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades. It takes time to get the clearances required by the diocese; therefore, we need people to commit as soon as possible. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important mission."

World Apostolate of Fatima: The Harrisburg Diocesan Division is sponsoring the Our Lady of Fatima Mini-Conference on Saturday, August 2, 2008 at the Cardinal Keeler Center, Union Deposit Rd, Harrisburg. Michael LaCorte, Executive Director of the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, will show films regarding the Fatima message and its relevance in our world today. Mr. LaCorte will be bringing the Odessa Pilgrim Virgin Statue. There is a very special story regarding the Odessa Statue. The program starts at 9:30am with Mass followed by recitation of the Rosary, the film presentation, a discussion, lunch, and a special preview of the unreleased Film on Our Lady of Fatima. Please come to *Listen, Learn, and Live the Fatima Message*. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend and neighbor. Seating is free but limited. For reservations contact: Joseph Barone 717-823-3383.

The "Fair Worship Choir" is looking for members! The worship service will be Sunday, August 31 at 5:30pm on the Frankhouse Field. Those who would like to sing are asked to come to rehearsal at the Port Royal Lutheran Church on Wednesday, July 30 and Wednesday, August 27 from 7-8pm. Please email kcunningham@embarqmail.com to let him know you'll sing.

A Snapshot of Marriage In The US: Did you know...

- People are getting married later in life. The median age for males is 27; for females it is 25.
- In a given year nearly half of all marriages are second or third marriages for one or both partners.
- The marriage rate (annual number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried adult women) continues to decline. It has dropped 50% (to 45.6) in fifty years.
- The marriage rate for African-Americans is considerably lower than for any other U.S. population group.
- Marriage trends for people in the age range of 35 to 44 suggest more lifelong singlehood.
- From 40% to 50% of Catholic marriages are between a Catholic and a non-Catholic; regional averages may be higher or lower.
- Virtually all Catholic dioceses require some form of marriage preparation for couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church.
- Within the first few years of marriage nearly half of all inter-church (interdenominational) couples become same church because one spouse or both change religious affiliation.
- Roughly two-thirds of both married men and married women rate their marriages as "very happy."

Get more information at www.ForYourMarriage.org.

