

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: July 13, 2008	\$ 1655.00
Income for July 15, 2007	\$ 2080.50
Income for July 16, 2006	\$ 1908.89
Student Offerings	\$ 2.60

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

From the pastor: Over the past few months, you have been ever so faithful in offering your tithe to God. Not only has the collection been consistent (down a little as it always is in the summer), but the economy and fuel prices have made all of our financial lives more difficult, you've been paying on your Capital Campaign pledges AND donating other things toward the new church. Your goodness and faithfulness and generosity and hard work have strengthened my faith. Thank you for being so faithful!

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I honestly tried to analyze all of the real blessings we have been given, financially and spiritually, and so I made a commitment to implement this concept. I admit it wasn't easy, but since we have integrated tithing into our life, it has worked. I am asking you to pray about it and discuss the idea with your family and make your best decision. God will direct and provide you with a way to accomplish what you've decided to do."

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 dad play baseball." A 1st grader said, "I played with others." A 1st grader said, "I made supper."

Eucharistic Devotions and Dedication of our New Church: Next 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 on the Altar (a signup sheet is on the "Welcome Table" and join us as we begin a new phase in our parish history – the construction of our new church!

Weekly Reflection: What is the good news here for our daily living? True, some of us have a tendency to live in fear of God's judgment; we might think of ourselves only as weeds to be burned. We know that, to be sure, in our daily living there will be times when we fall short of the demands of the Gospel. But the rhythm of the Paschal Mystery – dying always includes rising – invites us to look beyond the immediate moment, see the possibilities for repentance in our lives, trust in God's leniency and mercy, and be open to God's loving kindness. The weeds will grow. But God is

patient. If we remember that the seed grows and leaven makes the dough rise, we are assured that death leads to life. This is Paschal Mystery living at its best! Another consideration, of course, if that some have such a lax conscience and attitude that God's judgment is not something they think about or are concerned about. These folks need to recall the Gospel exhortation: "Whoever has ears ought to hear." There is always time and need for repentance! This is why it is such Good News to hear this Sunday: God is kind and merciful, and patient beyond expectation.

About Liturgy – Mastery over Liturgy (Part 1) Because the Liturgy makes present the Paschal Mystery and is the celebration of the whole Church, no local parish or liturgical community has complete freedom to do "whatever they want" with the liturgy. The "mastery" over Liturgy actually unfolds in different ways and at different levels. First, each Liturgy or Rite has an *editio typica*, that is, an official text, which is promulgated (usually in Latin) by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome; which, in turn, is translated (in English by I.C.E.L., that is, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy); and approved. Then each conference of bishops (usually a country) makes appropriate pastoral adaptations for a particular country, which must also be approved by Rome. With the *editio typica* and because of the pastoral adaptations of a conference, some legitimate options and various are part of every Rite.

Second, texts and norms must be interpreted. This is not so easy as it might seem. For example, the United States bishops have determined that a profound bow is the appropriate sign of reverence and respect we make before receiving Communion (rather than a genuflection or sign of the cross). Two interpretation questions arise: what does a "profound" bow look like and when is it made? Because of the need for interpretation, variations in how this directive is implemented in the various dioceses occur.

Then, there are those times when the *editio typica* gives NO direction, such as what to do after receiving Holy Communion and when to sit down again. And so, in this case, each individual is free to decide for him or herself what posture they will adopt after communion. Conversely, when receiving communion, the "profound bow" is the appropriate and uniform sign of reverence before receiving Holy Communion. (*continued next week*)...

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 you 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: If a couple that was baptized and married in a non-Catholic Christian church later divorced, and then wanted to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church, is their first marriage recognized as valid in the Catholic Church? If so, can they marry at all? – Hoping for Help.

Dear "Hoping for Help": The first basic principle here to commit to memory is: "The marriage of two validly baptized Christians doth a sacramental marriage make." That is to say, when we admit the validity of the baptism of two Christians who in turn marry, they live in a sacramental marriage (in the eyes of the Catholic Church, and presumably in the eyes of God). [Although for Catholics to marry, additional rules must be followed which are meant to help preserve the dignity of the Sacrament of Marriage.] Now, even though Protestants do not speak of marriage as a sacrament, they still have the same reality (a rose by any other name smells just as sweet). Marriage by any other name is still a sacrament and would therefore need to be annulled in order for the said parties to re-marry a Catholic. So, in answer to your question, "can they marry at all?" the answer would be: before receiving an annulment from that prior marriage, even though it was "Protestant," they could not marry in the Catholic Church. If the said party receives the annulment, which essentially says that the relationship never reached the level of a sacrament, then they could marry in the Church. The fact is, as we know painfully from human experience, that marriage is not automatic— even between two validly baptized Catholics! Nevertheless the marriage is always *presumed to be valid* until determined otherwise. –Father Thoms.

MASS SCHEDULE



- Sun. July 20** – (Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43)
9:15am – Robert Stuchel
- Mon. July 21** – (Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12:38-42)
9:00am – Barbara Burger
- Tues. July 22** – **Mary Magdalene** (Micah 7:14-20; Jn 20:1-18)
- Wed. July 23** – (Jer 1:1, 4-10; Mt 13:1-9)
- Thurs. July 24** – (Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17)
- Fri. July 25** – **James, Apostle** (2 Cor 4: 7-15; Mt 20: 20-28)
9:00am – Robert Stuchel
- Sat. July 26** – **Joachim & Anne** (Jer 7:1-11; Mt 13:24-30)
6:30pm – NO MASS – 7pm rehearsal for dedication liturgy
- Sun. July 27** – (Neh 8:1-6, 8-10; Eph 2:19-22; Mt 16:13-19)
9:15 – People of the Parish

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.

Knights of Columbus, St. John's Council, 100th Anniversary Mass: This coming Saturday, July 26, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, the Bishop of Harrisburg, will be at Sacred Heart in Lewistown to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their KofC council. All are invited to celebrate this momentous occasion by joining them at the celebration of the Eucharist in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings which our Knights of Columbus are to our parishes. Congratulations!

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.

Sr. Felice Donelin, S.C.C. has been reassigned by her community to a new ministry in Williamsport. Sr. Felice has been a wonderful addition to our CCD and RCIA programs and has been a comfort and aid in visiting our homebound parishioners. We wish Sr. Felice well as she begins a new ministry. We will have an opportunity to say goodbye to Sr. Felice during our Eucharistic Dinner on July 27. Her new assignment begins July 28.



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