

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life. Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: July 19, 2009	\$1708.75
Income for July 20, 2008	\$1730.50
Income for July 22, 2007	\$1160.50
Students	\$ 2.00

Next week's tithe will be for the Missionary Appeal.

From the pastor: The strength of a parish perhaps lies in the faith of the people who believe that their church can be a vital and continual source in our connections with God and His people. Tithing can give us that vested interest in being a part of and supportive of all activities and programs that are centered in Seven Sorrows Parish.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: I began truly tithing at the beginning of this year, I use to put in what I thought was plenty for the church, but I decided to keep track of what I spent in one week on "junk" (candy, soda, magazines, etc). At the end of the week I was truly amazed at the amount of money I blew on nothing, I decided to not just buy randomly, and at the end of that week, I had saved enough money to truly tithe & I have been doing this ever since. Not only do I get a great sense of peace from this, but I also have lost 10 lbs!

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 3rd grader said, "I helped my mother hang the laundry outside." A 5th grader said, "I watched my little cousin, while my aunt made cookies." A 1st grader said, "I picked flowers for my neighbor."

Pastor's Column

THE SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION

Clip out this column, make copies, and pass it around to non-practicing Catholic friends and relatives (actually, you can do that with all of my columns). Otherwise I'm preaching to the choir.

Despite producing a priest (me), my family was not super-devout. There was little family prayer, no extra devotions, few religious symbols around the house, my father was Lutheran, and I went to public elementary school. But my mother, sister, and I would never dream of missing Mass on Sunday – even on vacation. It was a no-brainer. Automatic. We just went.

That was true of most Catholic families in those days; about 80 per cent went to Mass every Sunday. The downhill slide began in the late 1960s and is now about 30 per cent nationwide.

Despite decades of this laxity I'm still amazed at the casual attitude many Catholics have toward the Sunday Mass obligation; sometimes even parents with children. It is still grave sin to deliberately skip Mass on the weekend without good reason (e.g., illness). This goes back to Old Testament rest and worship Sabbath rules, the rationale for which still applies: God deserves

your undivided attention one day per week, when the entire worshipping assembly gathers to praise Him. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" (Ex. 20:8). This continued with the New Testament Sabbath celebration, the Eucharist, about which the Lord said "Do this in memory of me." The Catechism of the Catholic Church says of Sunday Mass attendance "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (CCC #2181).

Private prayer or personal faith alone does not suffice. Come Sabbath, God rejoices seeing His people together, assembled in His honor. To miss insults Him.

Since it is grave sin to deliberately miss even one weekend Mass without good reason, confession is necessary before receiving communion. We can't skip a multitude of Sundays and then come strolling up for communion on Christmas, Easter, for a funeral or wedding, without confession first. And remember, confession means firm purpose of amendment, i.e., a resolve not to commit the sin again. In this case, that means a resolve to resume attendance every Sunday.

Of course, we should want to come to church out of love for God, who has given so much, especially His Son's body and blood. Come Judgment Day, I am scared for parents who do not instill this loving obedience into their children – "whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a millstone fastened round his neck and to be drowned into the depth of the sea" (Mt. 18:6). So, see you in church!

Fr. Bill

PARISH NEWS

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. July 26 – (Jer 23:1-6, Eph 2:13-18, Mark 6:30-34)

9:15 am – In Honor of Edward Bolger

Mon. July 27 – (Es 12:5-18, Mt 12:38-42)

9:00 am – Joseph Karpency

Tues. July 28 – (Ex 14:14-21, Mt 12:46-50)

Wed. July 29 – St. Mary Magdalene (Mem) – (Ex 16:1-15, John 20:1-18)

Thurs. July 30 – (Ex 19:1-17, Mt 13:10-17)

Fri. July 31 – (Ex 20:1-17, Mt 13:18-23)

9:00 am – In Honor of Donor

Sat. July 25 – St. James Apostle (Feast)

(Cor 4:7-15, Mt 20:20-28)

5:00 pm (English) – MaryLou Mastropole

6:30 pm (Spanish) – People of the Parish

50th anniversary celebration is August 29, 2009, beginning with a bilingual mass, at 5:00pm We are fortunate to have Bishop Rhodes as celebrant. The 6:30pm Spanish Mass for the day has been canceled. The Mass will be followed by a pot-luck dinner. The church will provide meat and beverages, but, we ask that you bring a **large** casserole (we have invited many priest to celebrate with us). Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome table. **Please, set that date aside and plan to join us for 50th anniversary Jubilee.**

Celebración del aniversario cincuentenario (50 años): de la Parroquia, San Judas Tadeo que se llevará a cabo el 29 de agosto del 2009, comenzando con una misa bilingüe. Tendremos la dicha de tener nuestro Obispo como celebrante de la misa. No habrá misa a las 6:30 p.m. Después de misa en el salón será una cena. La iglesia va a proveer carne y bebidas, y les pedimos a todo el mundo que traigan algo de comer para compartir. Favor de inscribirse en la hoja que se encuentra en el salón.

St. Jude's Annual Blood Drive: Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will be held on Saturday, August 15th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Social Hall. Donors and volunteers needed. To make an appointment to donate blood please call: 1(800)GIVE LIFE. Donor questions: 1(800)54 BLOOD. To volunteer, please contact Bill Gerberich @ (717)436-9545.

We know that many of you have had your address changed, please notify Mary in the office so that she can update the Parish census.

Cambio de dirección: Favor de avisar a la secretaria, Mary Zangrilli, si usted ha mudado y tiene una nueva dirección. Eso también ayuda con la inmigración y no les perjudique.

CRE Needed: We are seeking someone to fulfill this much-needed role in our Parish for the good of our children and youth and their formation in the Catholic Faith. We are also in need of four (4) catechists! If you are interested in either of these positions or have questions, please call Mary at 436-6722.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS for August :
Fresh Garden Produce, shampoo, lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, laundry detergent, & dish soap.

Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Because this falls on a Saturday, August 15, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have a Vigil Mass on Friday, August 14th, @ 7 p.m. There will be no 9 a.m. Mass that Friday.

A picture of the collapse: If anyone has a picture of the collapse of the church at the beginning of its construction, please drop it in the collection in an envelope or give it directly to Dave Treaster. He can be reached @: (717)436-2968.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

Sacred Heart School is accepting registrations for the new school year. We have openings in Grades K-5. We invite our families to enroll their children in our parish school where they will receive an excellent education in major subjects as well as a strong foundation in their Catholic faith. Tuition assistance is available. We accept both Catholic and non-Catholic students. Call the school office to arrange for a tour or to receive further information about our school and its programs. Contact: Sr. Marlene at 248-5351

To our present school families...

For your calendar: Sacred Heart School will reopen for the 2009-2010 school year on Wednesday September 2nd at 8AM. School

uniforms are to be worn; children are to bring a lunch the first three days of school.

Families who may need school uniforms may contact the school to make arrangements to visit our uniform "boutique" which provides good but used uniforms .

Month of July: School Office Hours: Tues, Wed and Thurs 9-12. If you need special assistance or want to register, then please call: (717) 248-5351, leave a message and someone will contact you as soon as possible. Thank You.

Horario de la escuela Católica Sagrado Corazón en Lewistown: martes, miércoles y jueves de 9 a.m. – 12 mediodía. Si necesite ayuda o quiere inscribir a su hijo/a, favor de llamar a: (717)248-5351, deje su nombre e un mensaje breve y le llamara alguien de la escuela lo más pronto posible. Gracias.



The Multiplication of the Loaves and the Fishes.