

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: June 28, 2009	\$ 1467.00
Income for June 29, 2008	\$ 1472.00
Income for July 1, 2007	\$ 1610.50
Students	\$ 2.75

Next week's tithe will be for the Building Fund

From the pastor: If your spiritual life is bogged down in apathy, indifference or failure to produce fruit, make God your priority through tithing and see the difference. Thank you for being a dedicated tither.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: This is a real act of faith for me! One thing I have discovered about myself is that I never brought God into my finances. This is a very important area for me, and I am glad that now God is a part of it.

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 Kindergartener said, "I helped to install a new door on the rectory". A 3rd grader said, "I helped water the flowers every night." A 4th grader said, "I made my dad a birthday cake."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Many of us face misunderstandings and rejection in our daily living. We might make a comment to someone which is taken the wrong way. Our values and lifestyle might turn people away from us. No matter who is involved in the misunderstanding and rejection, it always hurts. It hurts even more so when the hurt comes from someone close to us—family and friends. Shockingly, in this Sunday's gospel Jesus encounters resistance and rejection "among his own kin and in his own house." This, because Jesus' words and deeds went beyond his neighbors' understanding of who he was ("the carpenter"). Similarly, who we think Jesus is determines our response to him: resistance or faith. Jesus' hometown neighbors were "astonished" at his teaching, wisdom and mighty deeds: "Where did this man get all this? We are amazed along with Jesus: Can they not hear his teaching, recognize his wisdom, and see his mighty deeds? Jesus is amazed at the townspeople's lack of faith because they are rejecting the very thing that brings them life.

Jesus came to his "native place" offering gifts of wisdom and healing. Amazingly, the townspeople "took offense at him." God continually offers us what we need for life, but we often resist it. *Our receptivity* to how and through whom God speaks to us, however, is *decisive*. Our receptivity is key for hearing God's word and receiving the gifts of healing which God offers. The rejected prophet has no power to influence the behavior of the people (see first reading); Jesus is unable to work miracles for those who do not believe in him. God always offers new life; it is for us to recognize and receive it. Our very receptivity to God's presence and gifts is an act of faith, and this is decisive for whether we receive God's ultimate gift of eternal life. On the other hand, our rebellion, obstinacy, lack of faith (all really the same thing) keep us from recognizing Jesus.

The shock of the gospel is the weight that our faith or lack of faith has. God never pushes salvation on us; it is a faithful gift, but one freely given and only asking of us a free response. Jesus "was not able" to perform miracles in his hometown because of his townspeople's lack of faith. Yet, as the first reading reminds us, God will carry on in spite of our rebellion or lack of faith ("they shall know that the prophet has been among them"). God never quits on us or abandons us; it is we who choose to resist or have faith. It is we who choose... is Jesus able to perform any mighty deed or not?

About Liturgy: Second reading during Ordinary Time: Since the second reading during Ordinary Time is not chosen to accord with the gospel and first reading but is a semi-continuous reading from one of the letters of the New Testament, we suggest that the short form (when given as a choice, such as on this Sunday) always be proclaimed. This is not to say that all of Sacred Scripture isn't important, for surely it is. It does remind us that the centerpiece of the Liturgy of the Word is the gospel and that the first reading and responsorial psalm are specifically chosen to relate to it. During the festal seasons even the second reading accords with the rest of the Liturgy of the Word, often being a theological commentary on the feast or season.

This Sunday we begin reading from the letter to the Ephesians and will complete it on the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time. This letter stresses the unity of the church and the Body of Christ (see chapters 1 and 2) as well as the church's mission to the world and the gifts given to fulfill this mission (see chapters 3 and 4). It is a good letter to begin reading on this Sunday when the gospel relates Jesus' sending the apostles on their mission. The letter to the Ephesians is not without its admonitions to right living, either (see chapters 5 and 6). This letter is a good blueprint for Ordinary Time the church sent on mission living rightly. This characterizes our journey with Christ.

PARISH NEWS

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. July 5 – (Ezek2:2-5; Cor 12:7-10, Mark 6:1-6)

9:15 am Earl Ober

Mon. July 6 – (Gen 28:10-22a, Matt 9:18-26)

9:00 am – Jacene Licciordillo

Tues. July 7 – (Gen 32:23-33, Matt 9:32-38)

Wed. July 8 – (Gen 41:55-57; 42-7a; 17024a, Matt 10:1-7)

Thurs. July 9 – (Gen 44:18-21, Matt 10:7-15)

Fri. July 10 – (Gen 46:1-30, Matt 10:16-23)

9:00 am – Geraldine Weinzierl

Sat. July 11 – St. Benedict (Memorial) – (Gen 49:29-32, 50; 15-26a, Matt 10:24-33)

5:00 pm (English) – Special Intention of Chuck Slusarczyk

6:30 pm (Spanish) – Thomas Newkirk

Sun. July 12 – (Amos 7:12-15, Psalm 85:1-14, Eph 1:

9:15 am – Fred Mitchell

Please mark you calendar! We will be celebrating 40 hours on Sunday, July 26th. Final plans are not yet made, but please set that date aside to join us for this celebration

Finance Council will meet at 6:30pm in the Social Hall, followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7:00pm.

CRE Needed: Karen Thome is no longer able to coordinate the CCD program and has officially resigned. 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. For those seriously interested, please call Mary at 436-6722.

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Proper attire in Church: Let us give God his due by dressing appropriately for Mass each week. Shorts, flip-flops, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, sleeveless t-shirts and the like are not worthy of the Liturgy. Let's not let the heat of summer keep us from wearing "our Sunday best". Thank you.

We would like to invite all parishioners of St. Jude to the Rummage Sale on July 25th, 2009 at Reedsville Youth Park Building. It starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Drop off of donated items are at the office on Brown St. Or at McCusker's (optometrist) next to The Subway in Lewistown. Gordon Parker can be contacted at 248-3643 or 667-9714 also Theresa Dybach 667-6893. Nearly new or new items will be accepted. Pink flamingoes, fishing rods, jeans, books, aquariums and lava lamps are a few of the items no longer being used at home so, throw them our way!

Mount St. Alphonsus Pastoral Center, located in the Hudson Valley in New York State, and one of the largest Roman Catholic centers in the world, announces its upcoming programs:

Heal the Healers Retreat: Tuesday-Wednesday, June 16-17. \$80. A retreat for healthcare workers.

Day of Prayer: Wednesday, June 17 from 9:30am-3:00pm. \$20, includes lunch. Overnight accommodations available.

Religious Sister's Retreat: Sunday-Friday, June 21-26. \$325.

Strengthening Our Faith Retreat: Friday-Sunday, June 26-28. \$160

Church Music Lover's Retreat: Friday-Sunday, August 28-30. \$160

Nature Retreat: Friday-Sunday, August 28-30. \$180

Mount St. Alphonsus is located on the banks of the Hudson River in the Village of Esopus, NY. Thousands of people from around the northeast make a pilgrimage to the Mount each year. Reservations and deposits are required for all programs. For more information, please visit www.VisitTheMount.com, or call (845) 384-8000.

There will be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC on Saturday, October 24, 2009, to begin the Diocesan Marian Year, October 2009-October 2010. The cost is \$35.00, meals not included. The bus line is Trustworthy Travel and the bus will be a Fullington. Contact Sacred Rectory at 242-2781 to make your reservations, any questions can be directed to Dottie Peiffer 9248-1804 or Nora Torquato, (667-6551). The schedule will be as follows:

9:00 – 10:00a.m. – Arrival – Cafeteria and Gift shop will be open for early arrivals.

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. – Sacrament of Penance- Lower Level – Adjacent to the Crypt Church

9:45 a.m.- Prelude Concert

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. - Welcome and Tour of Faith

10:45 a.m. – Holy Sacrifice of Mass- Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Celebrant and Homilist

12 Noon – 3:00 p.m. – Free Time – Lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, Private Prayer, Shopping at Shrine Book Store and Gift Shop, Self-Guided Tour of Basilica

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Sacrament of Penance – Lower Level – Adjacent to the Crypt Church

2:00 p.m. – Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary – In the Language of the Diocese in Select Chapels of the Shrine

3:00 p.m. – Marian Celebration – Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Crowning of an Image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Reverend Michael W. Rothan, Homilist

4:30 p.m. – Departure

For additional information, go to www.hbgdiocese.org



HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY

