

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time June 22, 2008

### **Stewardship is a way of life.**

#### **Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:**

Tithing income: June 15, 2008	\$ 1529.00
Income for June 17, 2007	\$ 1645.50
Income for June 18, 2006	\$ 1451.10
Student Offerings	\$ 3.15

**Next week's tithe** will be to help those affected by the recent earthquake in China and Typhoon in Burma. The funds will be sent to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for distribution.

**From the pastor:** As Catholics, we "hear" a lot of talk about money. Maybe that's because so few actually "listen." Frequently, I tell others of the generosity and sacrificial giving of the people of Lewistown and Mifflin County. Your love of Sacred Heart is clearly demonstrated in your financial commitment to our parish. May God bless you one hundred-fold for your tithe.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "Tithing is the ultimate act of faith. . ."

**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 1<sup>st</sup> grader said, 'I did God's word.'

**Don't forget:** mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 27 at 9:15am** for our dedication and our Eucharistic Day with our closing service at 5pm followed by the picnic pot-luck.

**Weekly Reflection:** The Gospel describes two opposing worlds: concealed/revealed, secret/known, darkness/light, kill body/cannot kill soul, whispered/ proclaimed, small coin/worth more. Disciples live in both of these worlds when faithful, and in only one world (the one of darkness and sin) when they are unfaithful. Why do we choose to be faithful and yet are not afraid? Because God has announced our worth and will care for us. These images lend some concreteness to the demands of living the Gospel (and liturgy). It is not enough to come to church Sunday after Sunday and hear the challenge of the Gospel; faithful disciples take up the challenge, surrender to God's care, and know they will be fruitful because God is with them. If we proclaim the Gospel, there will be opposition and persecution. For the vast majority of us this doesn't mean censorship or physical hardship. It does mean that we must set aside our own desires and preferences in order to surrender to the good of others. Concretely, this might mean reaching out to the one who has wronged or denounce us even when he or she has admitted no wrongdoing. It might mean the teen withstanding peer pressure to do something wrong. It might mean speaking the truth in a difficult situation or cleaning up one's language. Living the liturgy means choosing the world of light – the world offered by Jesus – and living it no matter what the cost.

**About Liturgy – The Preparation of the Gifts:** The altar is prepared at the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The *corporal*, a white linen cloth, is unfolded over the altar cloth already in place. When all is ready, the faithful bring forward the offerings of bread and wine. Money and gifts for the poor are also collected and brought forward; these are put in a suitable place away from the altar. The procession is accompanied by the offertory song. Even when there is no procession, singing may accompany the rites of preparation. The priest places the bread

and wine on the altar, praying silently as indicated in the Missal. He may also, if there is no singing, say aloud the prescribed formulas. He then bows low, praying silently, "with humble spirit and contrite heart" (cf. Daniel 3:39-40). The priest may then incense the offerings, the cross and the altar. The clouds of incense rising in the presence of God are a sign of the Church's prayer. The priest may also be incensed, in recognition of his sacred ministry, and the people too, by reason of their baptismal dignity. The priest then washes his hands, praying silently, "Wash me of my iniquity, Lord, and cleanse me from my sin" (Psalm 50:2).

#### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sun. June 22** – (Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5:12-15; Mt 10:26-33)

9:15am – Carmen Cannon

**Mon. June 23** – (2 Kg 17:5-8; 13-15, 18; Mt 7:1-5)

9:00am – In Honor of St. Jude

**Tues. June 24** – Nativity of John the Baptist

(Is 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80)

**Wed. June 25** – (2 Kg 22:8-13, 23:1-3; Mt 7:15-20)

**Thurs. June 26** – (2 Kg 24:8-17; Mt 7:21-29)

**Fri. June 27** – (2 Kg 25:1-12; Mt 8:1-4)

9:00am – Joan Berkoski

**Sat. June 28** – St. Irenaeus (Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Mt 8:5-17)

**Sat. June 28** – Evening Vigil of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

(Acts 3:1-10; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19)

6:30pm bilingual – Barbara Burger

**Sun. June 29** – Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

(Acts 12:1-11; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19)

9:15am – Kenneth Zimmerman

**Ask Father Thoms: Dear Father Thoms:** Don't you think Cain got off easy for killing his brother, Abel? No fine, no jail time, no death penalty. So he became a nomad, big deal! --*Perplexed Bible Reader*

**Dear Perplexed Bible Reader:** The fact that God did not put Cain to death for killing his brother shows us how "God desires not the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live". This should help to refine our Pro-Life stance to be from natural conception to natural death. That is to say, we should be concerned about all the life issues, with abortion, to include here a stance, by and large against the death penalty (see Pope John Paul II's Encyclical, The Gospel of Life). The key difference here being that abortion is *intrinsically evil* (always and everywhere wrong), while the death penalty is justifiable in certain very limited circumstances.

**The Year of St. Paul: June 28, 2008 – June 29 2009:** Plenary Indulgence for Bi-millennium of St. Paul. According to a decree made public in May, Benedict XVI will grant the faithful Plenary Indulgence for the occasion of the two-thousandth anniversary of the birth of the Apostle Paul. The Plenary Indulgence will be valid throughout the Pauline Year which is due to run from 28 June 2008 to 29 June 2009.

"With the imminence of the liturgical Solemnity of the Prince of the Apostles", says the decree, "the Supreme Pontiff ... wishes, in good time, to provide for the faithful with spiritual treasures for their own sanctification, that they may renew and reinforce ... their purpose of supernatural salvation from the moment of the First Vespers of the aforementioned Solemnity, principally in honor of

the Apostle of the Gentiles the two-thousandth anniversary of whose earthly birth is now approaching.

"In fact, the gift of indulgences which the Roman Pontiff offers the Universal Church, facilitates the way to interior purification which, while rendering honor to the Blessed Apostle Paul, exalts supernatural life in the hearts of the faithful and spurs them on ... to produce fruits of good works".

The means to obtain the Plenary Indulgence are as follows: "All Christian faithful - truly repentant, duly purified by the Sacrament of Penance and restored with Holy Communion - who undertake a pious visit in the form of a pilgrimage to the papal basilica of St. Paul on Rome's Via Ostiense and pray in accordance with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, are granted and imparted Plenary Indulgence for the temporal punishment of their sins, once they have obtained sacramental remission and forgiveness for their shortcomings.

"Plenary Indulgence may be gained by the Christian faithful, either for themselves or for the deceased, as many times as the aforementioned acts are undertaken; it remains the case, however, that Plenary Indulgence may be obtained only once a day.

"Christian faithful from the various local Churches, under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion, prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) and completely unattached to any form of sin, may still obtain the Plenary

Indulgence if they participate devotedly in a religious function or in a pious exercise held publicly in honor of the Apostle of the Gentiles: on the days of the solemn opening and closing of the Pauline Year in any place of worship; on other days determined by the local ordinary, in holy places named for St. Paul and, for the good of the faithful, in other places designated by the ordinary".

The document concludes by recalling how the faithful who, "through sickness or other legitimate or important reason", are unable to leave their homes, may still obtain the Plenary Indulgence if, with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin and with the intention of observing, as soon as they can, the usual three conditions, "spiritually unite themselves to a Jubilee celebration in honor of St. Paul, offering their prayers and suffering to God for the unity of Christians".

**Sacred Heart Parish Plans Special Opening to "Year of St. Paul:"** On Sunday, June 29 the Year of St. Paul will begin. Pope Benedict has extended to the entire Church a Plenary Indulgence to those who, on the solemn opening of the year, "participate [in a place of worship] devotedly in a religious function or in a pious exercise help publicly in honor of the Apostle of the Gentiles." To this end, Sacred Heart Parish will celebrate a special holy hour (including evening prayer and a litany to St. Paul) in honor of this great Apostle of the Gentiles on Sunday evening, June 29 beginning at 7pm. Join us!

**VBS Sign-up, Dates & Times:** We are now "officially" signing up children to pick up their flight plan and meet their very own guardian angel and other exciting Biblical characters whose lives were transformed by angels at St. Jude's summer VBS. Our program, *Parachute with the Angels and St. Catherine Labouré*, will be held Monday through Friday, August 4-8, from 6:15 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. The program is for children who have completed pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. You can get more information and register your children immediately after Mass from now until June 30 at the VBS table in the back of the church. If you want a registration form mailed to you call Karen Thome, 694-3607. *Please complete*



a registration form to confirm your interest even if you previously signed the pre-planning sheet, so that we know how many are still committed now that we have firm dates.

**Helpers Still Needed for VBS:** We have teachers and leaders for most areas, but we are still in need of helpers for our VBS. If you are able to help us out or if you have questions, see Karen Thome after church or call her at home, 694-3607.

**Retreat Opportunity:** The annual retreat sponsored by Corpus Christi Parish will be held on the campus of Mt. St. Mary's University, Emmitsburg, MD on the weekend of August 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday evening until early Sunday afternoon). Included are 2 nights lodging and 6 good meals, which are incidental to a most enjoyable spiritual experience. If you've never attended a retreat or it's been a long time since your last one, why not take a chance and "treat" yourself this year? Father David Hereshko will lead us this year and "satisfaction is guaranteed". A minimal reservation deposit of \$60 will hold your room. For information call Fred Gers: 248-9504 or 250-0086.

**Change in Saturday Evening Mass Schedule:** After consultation with the parish pastoral council and Bishop Rhoades, I've decided to make a change to the Saturday evening Mass. This change is, I believe, the best pastoral approach to a difficult situation. Effective Saturday, August 2, the 6:30pm Mass will be celebrated completely in Spanish and we will try adding a 5pm Mass in English. Confessions will be heard from 4:45pm on Saturday afternoons. Just as there are English speakers who will not attend the Bilingual Mass because it is bilingual, there are Spanish speakers who will not attend. However, there are other churches who are "stealing" the Hispanics to their communities by telling them that it's the same as Mass (which it is not) and by offering them a service completely in Spanish. Special celebrations (Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Eucharistic Devotions, the dedication of the new church) will continue to be bilingual. While we want to be able to provide a Saturday evening Mass in both languages, there is great 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 to determine if we will make the change permanent. We do want to provide for everyone's spiritual needs. We hope that this change in schedule will do just this.

**Teachers Needed NOW for CCD Program:** We are looking for adults to teach our Catholic faith to the children of our parish beginning in September. Because of the time it takes to get the necessary clearances required by the diocese, **it is imperative that we recruit new teachers now.** We have openings for teachers who prefer to teach alone as well as for those who would like to share a class with another teacher. If you think you are not qualified for this job, think again. This is an opportunity not only to evangelize your faith, but also to grow in it. The lesson plans in our teachers' guides contain detailed and scripted instructions, Bible and Catechism references, and related activities for every lesson. The program also has inspiring and well-written textbooks, companion student workbooks with many excellent reinforcement activities, and pre-made tests for evaluating students' progress. You can do it! Contact Karen Thome for more information at 694-3607 or [kkthome@wildblue.net](mailto:kkthome@wildblue.net)