

Solemnity of Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles June 29, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: June 22, 2008	\$ 2227.00
Income for June 23, 2007	\$ 1480.00
Income for June 24, 2006	\$ 1068.00
Student Offerings	\$ 5.00

Next week's tithe will be for the building fund.

From the pastor: The Christian whose trust in Jesus is growing daily thinks in terms of Christ's love and blessings. He knows that he has received more than he deserves and he desires to respond appropriately. **Growing** Christians know that the grace of Christ enables them to look at life and rearrange priorities so that an increased giving of money becomes possible out of seemingly unchanging financial resources. The Church isn't seen as one more demand or charity which receives a slice of a small pie, but a vehicle which provides a viable and profound channel through which the Lord works. Thank you for helping your parish do the work of the Lord through your faithful, weekly tithe.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I used to be afraid to tithe because I was afraid that I could not pay my bills. I thought I had to be 'careful', even in giving to the Lord. But I was forgetting something so important. What I was trying to be careful with was from the Lord in the first place. I am not afraid to tithe anymore because I know that God is watching over me."

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 4th grader said, "I helped mom move stuff out of the way." A 1st grader said, "I helped feed Uncle Jimmy's and Uncle Mike's animals." A pre-k said, "I did chores."

Building Fund / Construction Update: As you see, the outside of the building is nearing completion, and the inside is progressing just as well. Statues and the crucifix have been moved into the new church. The flooring is complete. Pews are being installed. Everyone has really pulled together to make the building of our new church such a great success.

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: Repeated imprisonment didn't silence Peter or Paul; both preached the Good News of salvation in Christ until their final suffering and death. Both were able to do so because Christ "stood by [them] and gave [them] strength." So it is for us. Christ strengthens us to preach boldly and faithfully. Such living will bring us, too, to receive the "crown of righteousness" (2nd reading). Faithful disciples are always rescued by God; however, Divine rescue isn't necessarily from pain or suffering in this life or the threat of death, but is always about being taken safely to the heavenly kingdom. This is the victory that we celebrate this day. We may not proclaim Christ in great speeches, as did Peter and Paul, but we do proclaim Christ every day by the way we live. Self-giving and surrendering ourselves to God's will bring us the same victory shared by Peter and Paul.

About Liturgy – First Century Rome's Political Situation: Imperial Rome had a long history, sometimes glorious and

sometimes brutal. It was supposedly founded by Romulus in 753 B.C. For the next six centuries a series of wars brought Rome from a small land power to a great world empire. Originally government was by a senate and Rome prospered both economically and culturally, but a series of civil wars introduced corruption and ended the prosperity. In 49 B.C. Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon River and entered the city of Rome; he introduced reform and attempted to bring back prosperity during another five years of civil war that followed.

Caesar finally defeated Pompey the Great and in 45 B.C. became the dictator of the Roman Empire for life; but he was assassinated in 44 B.C. Octavian became ruler of the united Western and Eastern empire in 29 B.C. and two years later received the title "Augustus." He once again introduced reforms, especially to restore the ancient morality, for which the Romans were noted, and the ancient religious festivals. The senate was re-established for Rome itself and some of the more peaceful provinces; the frontier provinces were controlled by legates who were appointed by Augustus himself. This is something of the political situation in which Peter and Paul found themselves.

It is known for certain that Peter eventually went to Rome, became its first bishop, and died there in 67 A.D. by being hanged upside down on a cross. Paul was converted about the year 34 A.D. and spent the better part of his Christian life as a missionary to Cyprus and Asia Minor and then founded a number of churches. In 60 A.D. he came as a prisoner to Rome, was released two years later, once again did some missionary work (possibly going to Spain), was again taken prisoner in Rome, and was beheaded in 67 A.D. toward the end of Nero's rule.

Friday is the Fourth of July, the birthday of our country. There will be one Mass that day at 9am.

MASS SCHEDULE



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

Mon. June 30 – (Amos 2:6-10, 13-15; Mt 8:18-22)

9:00am – Msgr. Lawrence Ovefbaugh

Tues. July 1 – (Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Mt 8:23-27)

Wed. July 2 – (Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; Mt 8:28-34)

Thurs. July 3 – Thomas, Apostle (Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29)

Fri. July 4 – (Amos 8:4-6; 9:12; Mt 9:9-13)

9:00am – Robert Sabato Jr.

Sat. July 5 – (Amos 9:11-15; Mt 9:14-17)

6:30pm **Spanish** – Ernest Kleeber

Sun. July 6 – (Zech 9:9-10; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30)

9:15am – People of the Parish

Sacred Heart Parish Plans Special Opening to "Year of St. Paul:"

Today the Year of St. Paul begins. 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) at 7pm this 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 Laboure*, 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 6th 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.

Week at a Glance in our parish

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

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 1st (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: 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. **CORRECTION:** Effective Saturday, August 2, the 6:30pm Mass will be celebrated completely in Spanish. Just as there are English speakers who will not attend this 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. Fr. Thoms and I both recognize that it is not possible to please everyone with this decision, but we all believe this is the best solution to the issue. One important fruit of the bilingual Mass these past 3 years has been the sense of community which has been built between the English & Spanish speaking communities. It is important that we continue to find ways to foster this community. I ask your understanding as to why this decision was made.

Teachers needed 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. 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 tests for evaluating students' progress. You can do it! Please prayerfully consider volunteering to participate in this most important mission of our parish. Contact Karen Thome for more information at 694-3607 or kkthome@wildblue.net.

Register for 2008-09 CCD Classes: We are now registering students for our 2008-2009 religious education classes, Pre-K through 8th grade. Children who have been attending CCD classes at St. Jude will automatically be registered for this year's program. Only those who have not previously attended classes at St. Jude are required to register. The Pre-K class is for 4-year-olds who will be attending kindergarten in September 2009. Please contact Karen Thome to register your children for CCD classes, 694-3607 or kkthome@wildblue.net.

CCD Parents, please return CCD Textbooks: Many of the CCD student textbooks from the Faith and Life series were not returned to teachers. Please ask your children for their books and drop them in the box labeled "CCD TEXTBOOKS" near the coat rack in the foyer of the church. Only the textbooks need be returned; the activity books are yours to keep. Thank you.

Dear Father Thoms: A friend and I were having a conversation regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation. She said someone told her that they did not have to go to confession because in receiving the body and blood of Christ their sins are forgiven. Can you please give us the facts on this? I did read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that the Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins. Thank you for your comments on this. **–Searching Sinner. Dear Searching Sinner:** First of all it is good to point out that the Eucharist "cleanses us from past sins." We are missing a key distinction here, though, namely the difference between *mortal* and *venial* sins (see 1 John 5: 16-17). The fact is the Eucharist cleanses us from *venial sin*. "*Mortal sin* destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God's law; it turns man away from God, who is his ultimate end and beatitude, by preferring an inferior good to him" (Catechism of the Catholic Church – CCC – 1855). "*Venial sin* allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it" (CCC 1855). Now that we have that distinction established, let us look to St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians in his reprimand about the way they are celebrating the Mass: "Every time, then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes! This means that whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily sins against the body and blood of the Lord. A man should examine himself first; only then should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup. He who eats and drinks without recognizing the body eats and drinks a judgment on himself" (11:26-29). In a word, to receive Holy Communion when we are conscious of having committed serious sin that we have not confessed is called a *Sacrilegious Communion*—wherein we are compounding sin upon sin. You are correct in pointing out from the Catechism of Catholic Church that "the Eucharist *preserves us from future mortal sins*" (1395). In the same paragraph from the Catechism, however, it points out what I am referring to above, namely, "The Eucharist is not ordered to the forgiveness of mortal sins – that is proper to the Sacrament of Reconciliation." **–Father Thoms**