

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 22, 2009

### Stewardship is a way of life.

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

Tithing income: March 15, 2009	\$ 2452.34
Income for March 16, 2008	\$ 2242.00
Income for March 18, 2007	\$ 1638.07
Student Offerings	\$ 3.00

**Next week's tithing:** Next week's tithing will be for the Juniata County Food Pantry.

**From the pastor:** Because we as a parish have adopted tithing as the way to return to God a portion of what He has given us, He continues to show me as your pastor that He will meet our needs and will not be outdone in generosity. Several of you have come forward in the last few weeks to volunteer to help me with the business of the parish and I am most appreciative. You are a sign to me that Jesus is in charge and is holding each of us in the palm of His hand.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** It seems like God has a bigger shovel than me, because every time I give until it hurts, He seems to way out do me in generosity.

**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 student said, "I helped my gram fold the towels." A 4<sup>th</sup> grade student said, "I taught my little brother how to write his name." A 6<sup>th</sup> grade student said, "I cooked dinner for my family."

### FROM THE PASTOR

**Weekly Reflection:** A parish was having a Lenten mission, and for four nights precious, beautiful, freckle-faced fourth-grader Anna came to church with her mom and dad. She was especially attentive when Father explained how baptisms were celebrated in the early church. Unlike her parish, in the early church the baptismal font was large, the one to be baptized stepped down into the pool, and was pushed down and held under three times, "In the name of the Father," "and of the Son," "and of the Holy Spirit." At the end of the mission Father asked her what she learned, having come so faithfully and been so attentive. Without missing a beat, she answered, "In the fourth century they dunked people." In fact, all of us at baptism were "dunked"—if not literally, then metaphorically. The faith/belief mentioned in both the second reading and gospel allude to our self-surrender at baptism, which begins a life lived as followers of Christ. Even more: at baptism we are plunged into Christ's death so that we might rise to new life with him (see Rom 6:5). This dying and rising mystery is the paschal mystery. Through it we are joined to Christ in his work of salvation.

The gospel for this Sunday takes us to the dying and the cross so that those who believe "have eternal life." The mystery lies in this: "God so loved the world" that even when we are still "dead in our transgressions" (second reading) and "prefer[ ] darkness" (gospel), God sends the Light of life to us. The gospel challenges us to the kind of firm belief that leads us to "live [ ] the truth" and walk in light. It challenges us to the kind of firm belief that even enables us to die to ourselves. This gospel, coming in the middle of Lent (this is traditionally called "*Laetare*" Sunday), is a reminder of what Lent is truly about and, indeed, what our whole Christian living is about.

The words "believe" and "light" occur five times each in this gospel and the two words are not unrelated. The light (=Christ)

enables us to see; in John's gospel, seeing is believing. Our coming to the light to see and believe is expressed in "works...done in God." God's work is this: to die to self so that we can be raised to new life. God demonstrates great love for us by sending the Son to be lifted up on the cross and then raised to eternal life and glory. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing the work of God—dying and rising, conforming ourselves so completely to Christ that we cooperate in his very work of salvation.

**Best way to prepare for the liturgy:** Because Scripture and the Lectionary are open to many interpretations, it is especially important that we reflect on the Scriptures before we come to Sunday Mass so we can be ready to hear God's word with all its depth and richness. The best preparation for the Liturgy of the Word is by reading the Sunday Scriptures—especially the gospel—over early in the week before and then see how God's word begins to play itself out in our daily living. Let the word challenge us to die to ourselves every day so that we might more perfectly live the truth that only comes from God's light.

There is no substitution for good preparation of liturgy and the best preparation is by the way we live. A wonderful celebration of liturgy will be greatly aided by preparing well to hear the word on Sunday and by the kind of Christian living that evidences we are consciously trying to live God's word in our everyday lives. This is when liturgy comes alive and is, indeed, a true celebration.

**Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009:** I again thank you for your generosity to the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. We have raised **\$11,200** toward our parish goal of **\$8,700.00**, we have surpassed our goal by \$2,500.00, this amount will come back to our parish if everyone honors the pledge they made. By doing our part to give generously to those who are in need and are suffering continues to share Christ's love by supporting the mission of the Church through this year's appeal.

### PARISH NEWS

**Thank you!** To the Ushers, the Cleaning Crew, the Women's Guild, the altar servers, the catechists (CCD teachers) and all those who made this year's Confirmations at Saint Jude such a wonderful success. Congratulations again to the following youth who were confirmed: Salvatore "Paul" Amato, Salvatore "Paul" Capobianco, Ethan "Francis" Davis, Patrick "Patrick" Fitzgerald, William "Francis" Giaratanna, Alexandra "Cecilia" Manbeck, Daniel "Thomas" Mitchell, Luke "Christopher" Nanna, Joseph "Joseph" Newcamp, Gracen "Faith" Schilling, Morgon "Catherine" Treaster.

**Stations of the Cross:** Each Friday during Lent we pray together this wonderful devotion following the Way of the Cross. You are invited to join us each Friday at 7:30pm throughout the season of Lent. Join us!

**St. Jude Parish Celebrates 50 years in Juniata County:** Did you see the banner on the way in to church today?!?! Our parish celebration has officially begun! Can you believe, 50 years? We have SO MUCH for which to be thankful. We will officially celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> parish anniversary on Sunday, May 3 @ 3 pm. We will have a special Evening Prayer of Thanksgiving and a parish pot-luck supper (meats & drinks provided) to celebrate. The parish photo directory is also a part of this celebration and the committee is hard at work to provide ways for us to celebrate all year long!

**The Anniversary committee** is asking anyone that has pictures or memories of the parish from the past 50 years that they would like to share to contact Mary Zangrilli (436-2936) or Dave Treaster (436-2968).

**St. Jude Knights of Columbus Annual Lenten Fish Dinners:** St. Jude Knights' annual Friday fish dinners continue through **April 3** in the church social hall. The meal is all you can eat – pay at the door: \$9.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children 6-12. Children 5 and under are free. Come and enjoy a delicious meal while supporting the fundraising efforts of our Knights.

### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sun. Mar. 22** -- (Ex 20:1-17; Cor 1:22-25; John 2:13-25)

9:15am – Frank Schilling

**Mon. Mar. 23** – (Is 65:17-21; John 4:43-54; Psalm 27:1-14)

9:00am – Vita Evola

**Tues. Mar. 24** – (Ez 47:1-9; John 5:1-16; Micah 7:7-9)

**Wed. Mar. 25** – (Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; John 1:1-14)

**Thurs. Mar. 26** – (Es 32:7-14; Micah 7:7-9; John 5:31-47)

**Fri. Mar. 27** -- (Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Micah 7:7-9; John 7:1-30)

9:00am – Helen Mackrella

**Sat. Mar. 28** – (Jerm 11:18-20; Micah 7:7-9; John 7:40-53)

5:00pm (English) – Anne Kivlin

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

**Sun. Mar. 29** – (Jer 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-15; John 12:12-26)

9:15am – In Honor of Allie Manbecks Confirmation

### OTHER NEWS

**The Annual Women Afire Retreat** will be held at **Malvern Retreat House, in Malvern, PA, March 27-29**, in the Family Life Center. *Stirring into Flame the Gift of God* is the theme of the retreat, directed by the Women Afire team of Anna Iatesta, Kathleen McCarthy, Anne McGlone and June Piola. Fr. Stephen DeLacy will also direct this retreat; music by Grammy nominee, Marty Rotella. Inspirational preaching, teaching, healing services and quiet time just for women. Delicious meals! Register by calling 610-644-0400 or register online at: [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com) Come as an individual or with your parish group. All are welcome!

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010:** Experience the Passion Play surrounded by the beauty of the Bavarian hills in the village of Oberammergau, Germany. A fulfillment of a promise to God for sparing this village from the black plague, every villager participates in this presentation, which is done on a magnificent scale every 10 years. Your pilgrimage begins with a visit to Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Complete this "once-in-a-lifetime" journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau and come to know Scripture in a new light. Dates for this program are July 14-23, 2010 and package price is all-inclusive out of Newark Airport – approximately \$4600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. If interested, please contact Fr. Bateman. Information about the trip will soon be posted on our parish website: [StJudeMifflintown.org](http://StJudeMifflintown.org).

**Food Pantry Needs for April;** Any non-perishable food item, first aid supplies, over the counter pain and cold medicine, bandages, anti-biotic ointments, q-tips and feminine sanitary napkins.

**Lenten Mission at Sacred Heart, Lewistown – Learning from Archbishop Fulton Sheen – April 2, 3, & 4, 2009:** We all remember watching Archbishop Fulton Sheen on TV. Join us as we remember him and reflect on his words during our Lenten Mission. Our preacher will be **Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR** (probably know through his appearances on EWTN) who was a personal friend of Archbishop Sheen. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Discounted Hersheypark Tickets:** Discounted tickets are available to *Hersheypark* to parishioners and their families at a significant savings. Regular admission price is \$52.95 for adults; *the discounted price is \$ 28.50 (a savings of 45%)*. Regular admission for children (ages 3-8) and Seniors (ages 55-69) is \$30.95; *the discounted price is \$ 24.00*. Tickets are valid any day the Park is open during the regular public season. Orders must be received at the parish by April 20. Parishes will receive the tickets by May 19. Order forms are available in the pamphlet rack at the entrance.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**New!! "More Than An Auction"** A new event will be held in conjunction with the "More Than An Auction". We will hold a parish rummage sale on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Reedsville Youth Park. Start saving or stacking your stuff. Any questions, call Gordon Parker at 667-9714 (H) or 248-3643 (W).

**Auction Items Needed:** We are looking for any type of donations to be auctioned off for the silent or oral auction. If you can donate an item call B.J.Newcamp (436-9572) or [beedgewolf@aol.com](mailto:beedgewolf@aol.com)

**Sacred Heart School Registration Information:** SHS is currently accepting applications for grade K – 5 for the 2009-2010 school year. *Neumann Scholarship applications* are now being processed. This is the first step for new and returning families to qualify for any financial aid for the coming school year. Applications must be postmarked **by April 1**, but to avoid possible disqualification due to missing or incorrect information, we recommend sending it ASAP! Families must be registered to apply for this scholarship. Please contact Sue Parzanese (447-2002) or the school office (248-5351) for more information.

**The BRAVO Foundation,** with the recommendation of Senator Jake Corman, has announced that they have \$10,000 in Scholarships for Sacred Heart School available for eligible families for the 2009-10 school year! A family of 4 can earn up to \$70,000 annually and still be eligible for this scholarship. Applications are available in the school office, however, if you applied for the Neumann Scholarship, you do not need to reapply for this scholarship. If you did not apply for Neumann, a \$21 fee is required for application. Deadline for application is April 1, 2009.