

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent March 29, 2009

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

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

Tithing income: March 15, 2009	\$2429.22
Income for March 23, 2008	\$2178.00
Income for March 25, 2007	\$ 1828.00
Student Offerings	\$ 1.50

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

**From the pastor:** Your overwhelming response to tithing is a witness to your willingness to place your trust and faith in God. Thank you for your generous response to His call!! Tithing is not only for those who can afford it. Fiscally, tithing really makes no sense! But it's much more than finances and money; it's about trust in God, not ourselves. To place God first by giving Him His share regardless of our personal or local economic situation is indeed scary - it is an act of faith.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** Thank you for the very informative and thought-provoking talks on tithing. My family has committed to adopting tithing and we already appreciate the growing spirituality we are feeling.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I washed the dishes." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I held Lauren." A 1<sup>st</sup> grader said, "I tied my friend's shoe at recess." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I shoveled the sidewalk & spread salt."

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

**Weekly Reflection:** The parents had spent a good bit of time during Lent talking with their three children about Jesus, his death and resurrection, and what we do with our Lenten penance is unite ourselves with Jesus and his self-giving sacrifice. Although the children were still rather young (preschool and primary), the parents talked with the children about dying to self for the good of others. They explained that when the eldest, Aaron, is upset with his little brother, rather than hit him he should "die to self." One day after school on a rainy day the three were particularly feisty and no matter what Mom said, they were at each other. After repeated warnings to behave, the little ones still kept up the bickering. Finally, patience having been lost, Mom grabbed Aaron to put him in the time out corner, at which point Aaron looked up and said, "Mommy, what happened to the paschal mystery?"

Good question! In the gospel for this Sunday, Jesus gives three different descriptions of the paschal mystery: the grain of wheat must die to produce good fruit; to lose our life we must hate it; we must follow Jesus as servants. All three images lead us to the basic truth of the paschal mystery: by dying to self for the good of others we come to new life.

The goal of Lent and of all Christian living is voiced by the Greeks in the gospel: "We would like to see Jesus." We truly "see" Jesus when we are faithful to *his* law written in our hearts (see first reading). The "new covenant" that God writes "upon [our] hearts" (first reading) is spelled out in the gospel in an unexpected way. The law is not precepts merely to be obeyed, but is a way of life. And

this is his "law": become the seed that dies, the life that loses itself, and the servant who follows. Our lives glorify God (as did Jesus' life) when we willingly give our lives for the sake of others.

Our continual response of dying to self strengthens our ability to die. As the second reading reminds us, Jesus "learned obedience from what he suffered." As Jesus was obedient to the Father, we are to be obedient to Jesus: die to self. Thus we learn obedience and receive new life as we take up the habit of dying to self for the good of others.

**Lent, baptism, and covenant:** We know that we fail in keeping our covenant about as many times as Israel failed! If we constantly keep the terms of the baptismal covenant before us (which is why we renew our baptismal commitments each Easter), then perhaps we will allow the good terms of the covenant with God to entice us to give ourselves over to Gospel living. Lenten penance is to help us gain the discipline of dying to ourselves. Easter glory is a glimpse of what God ultimately has in store for those who keep the covenant by living the paschal mystery.

**Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009:** As we contemplate our Lord's loving sacrifice on the cross, the source of our salvation, we realize also that Jesus has left us an example. He calls us to follow in His steps in faith, hope, and charity. Through our sacrifices in the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal, we can share in the Church's mission of making His salvation and love known, particularly here in our own parish. Generosity to the Lenten Appeal, motivated by faith, is a gift of charity and an expression of the Lord's gift of salvation through His cross. Once more, thanks to all of you who have already participated in the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. To date we have raised \$13,500.00 towards our goal of \$87,00.00.

### **PARISH NEWS**

**Thank you** for your prayers and the most generous donation supporting my recent mission trip to Tijuana Mexico with Catholic Campus Ministries "Mission Mexico". Our parish's entire tithing contribution has been given to "Casa Hogar de Los Ninos" for the benefit of the orphans and improving conditions at the orphanage. Your response and generosity are greatly appreciated. I and members of our group found the experience to be humbling and spiritually rewarding as we shared our time with the children of the orphanage. Thank you and God Bless, Andres Perez.

**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.

**The Women's Guild** will sponsor an Easter Egg hunt for children 1-12 after mass on Easter Sunday. Please bring a container to put your child's eggs in.

**Needed:** We will need filled plastic Easter Eggs for the hunt, if you would like to donate some, please leave them in the kitchen Thank you.

**The Finance** committer will meet at 6pm on Monday, March 30.  
**Parish Council** will meet at 6:30pm on Monday, March 30.  
**Women's Guild** will meet at 6:30pm on Tuesday, March 31.

**Help! If your** address or phone number has changed, please let the office know. We are trying to keep all information current on our parishioners.

**Please mark your calendars:** The Women's Guild is going to host a "Movie Night" in the social hall on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. More information will be available in the coming bulletins!

**As you are** doing your spring cleaning, please remember that the guild is having a yard sale on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and would appreciate donations of unwanted items. Remember your trash could be someone else's treasure!

### **MASS SCHEDULE**



**Sun. Mar. 29** – (Jer 31:31-34, Psalm 51:3-15, John 12:12-26)  
9:15am – In Honor of Allie Manbecks Confirmation  
**Mon. Mar. 30** – (Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:1-11)  
9:00am – Vincenzo Passalacqua  
**Tues. Mar. 31** – (Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30)  
**Wed. April 1** – (Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42)  
**Thurs. April 2** – (Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59)  
**Fri. April 3** – (Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42)  
9:00am – Mildred Rocco  
**Sat. April 4** – (Jer 31:31-34; Hbr 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33)  
5:00pm (English) – Millie Lunger  
6:30pm (Spanish) – Gale Blake

### **OTHER NEWS**

**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.