

2th Sunday of Lent March 8, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: March 1, 2009	\$ 2380.00
Income for March 2, 2008	\$ 1880.00
Income for March 4, 2007	\$ 2631.50
Student Offerings	\$ 8.30

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be to help Andres Perez with his mission trip to Mexico.

From the pastor: Tithing isn't a gamble on what can be, it's an acknowledgment of what is. God has, is, and always will do for us. By tithing, we're just saying "Thank You."

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I can't believe how much tithing has helped me and my wife to 'put the house in order' financially, and how that has affected so many other areas of our married life in a positive way."

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 2nd grader said, "I helped my brother clean up." A 6th grader said, "I picked up toys." A 4th grader said, "I made get well cards for my grandpap."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Little children can be so simple, literal, and naïve; often that is what brings a chuckle to us as we observe their behavior. Sometimes when children don't want to hear what their parents are telling them, they put their hands over their ears, as if pretending not to hear excuses them from obeying. Lent is a time for us to remove our hands from our ears, listen to God, and learn again how to respond in obedience.

In the first reading, Abraham stands as a model of what it means to *listen* to God and obey: "Here I am" he answered whenever God called. Even flesh and blood could not keep Abraham from turning his eyes away from God—he was totally "devoted... to God," totally focused on listening to God and responding in obedience to the divine will. Had Abraham not *continued* listening, he would not have heard, "Do not lay your hand on the boy." Abraham was "devoted... to God" that he not only heard and obeyed God's original command to sacrifice his beloved, only son Isaac, but also continued to *listen* to God, so heard the messenger's command not to harm him.

In the gospel, when Jesus and the disciples went "apart by themselves," no doubt they were also taking time to focus themselves totally on God. Jesus' transfiguration—a glimpse of future life and glory—is the fruit of his life of *listening* obedience, a model for our own going apart to listen for God's voice. God commands us to listen to the "beloved Son." Like Abraham, we do not know in advance what this listening might ask of us nor how our perception of God's will might change. We do know that Jesus' listening obedience to his Father's will led him to death. Disciples go where Jesus goes. If we are faithful on the journey, we know that we will share in Jesus' death, but also in his glory. The death of Isaac means no future for Abraham—no posterity. The death of Jesus means a future for everyone—his resurrection, foreshadowed in his transfiguration. In his listening to Jesus, we are hearing God's will and opening ourselves to the new life promised by his resurrection.

Lenten Sundays: There are many reminders during the Lenten Sunday Masses that we are observing a penitential season. The readings at the Sunday Masses bring to mind Lenten motifs and spur us on to fidelity in penance. Our Lenten Masses are less celebrative than even Masses during Ordinary Time; for example, there is not *Gloria*, no alleluia, and less exuberant instrumentation. The penitential violet purple of the vestments and other appointments keep reminding us that we are in a penitential season, as well as simplicity of the environment and the lack of flowers.

Nevertheless, the Sundays during Lent are not Lenten days at all. At a time when the symbolism of forty was heightened, the beginning of Lent was pushed back to the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent so there would be forty fasting days (hence, the period of Lent is actually longer than forty days). The Sundays of Lent are still days on which we celebrate the Lord's resurrection. Especially on this second Sunday of Lent when we hear about the transfiguration of Jesus are we reminded that dying is always accompanied by rising. In our very liturgical celebrations we see the paschal mystery rhythm. Lent is a time to practice the discipline of dying to self, yet we still have one day a week on which we always celebrate the new life promised by Jesus' resurrection. What might be ways we can truly celebrate new life even on Lenten Sundays, without getting out of the spirit of Lent?

Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal 2009: Thank you to all who contributed to the Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal this weekend. Next weekend we will provide another opportunity to make your contribution by utilizing an "abbreviated" version of the In-Pew Program. Remember that your contribution helps us reach our goal of \$ **8,700**. We certainly understand that, with the economy, increased weekly giving and a capital campaign, this could be a difficult sacrifice. But remember that our parish "goal" is really an assessment from the Diocese – if we fail to make our goal, our parish will simply pay the diocese the remainder. So, you can see how important your participation is. If every member of the parish takes part, we'll not only make our goal, but exceed it! Thank you for your generosity to the work of Diocesan Church.

PARISH NEWS

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent (except next week, March 13 because of Confirmation), 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 50th 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.

CAP (Caring About Parishioners) needs you! CAP has been doing great things for the parishioners of Saint Jude's Church by providing meals, gifts, prayers, etc. to those who have lost a loved one, had a baby or is just in need of a little caring. In fact, we have been doing so much that we need some more volunteers to help out. Please consider volunteering! A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. If you think you are already signed up, please check and make sure I have your name on the list. With more help, we will be able to do even more for those in our parish. Thank you and God Bless! Contact Elizabeth Armstrong (527-4869) with questions or if someone you know needs CAP.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Mar. 8 – (Gen 22:1-18; Rm 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10)

9:15am – Mike & Grace Puma

Mon. Mar. 9 – (Dan 9:4-10; Pro 31:10-31; Mt 22:34-40)

9:00am – Kathleen O'Mahoney

Tues. Mar. 10 – (Jer 18:18-20, Mt 20: 17-2)

Wed. Mar. 11 – (Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32)

Thurs. Mar. 12 – (Jer 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-31)

Fri. Mar. 13 – (Gen 37: 12-28, Mt 21:33-46)

9:00am – Marie Himes

7:00pm – Confirmation Mass with Bishop Rhodes

Sat. Mar. 14 – (Micah 7: 14-20; Luke 15:1-32)

5:00pm (English) – People of the Parish

6:30pm (Spanish) – Mary Smilko

Sun. Mar. 15 – (Ex 20:1-17; Cor 1:22-25; John 2:13-25)

9:15am – Frank Schilling

Note of Thanks for response at Fish Dinner: Joe [Schilling], I personally want to compliment you on the way you stepped in at the fish dinner on Feb 20 to help Millie Lunger. Your willingness to take charge and help until the ambulance personnel responded was unbelievable. Being across the room, I thought she had just passed out. I didn't realize the seriousness until I heard Millie's husband talking on the phone and he informed his daughter that she had had a stroke. I'm sure that the Knights of Columbus and Millie's family are very appreciate of your efforts at her time of need. You deserve the gratitude of all the Knights and of our parish as a whole. Thanks, Joe. A parishioner.

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 Come as an individual or with your parish group. All are welcome!

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner: Saturday, March 21 at the Mifflintown Presbyterian Church from 37pm. Adults: \$8; Children 5-12: \$4; under 5: Free!

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, 1020 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.

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 25th 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

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. **Open House:** another opportunity for prospective families to visit the school will be held in March. **Financial Aid/Prospective Family Open House** will be held on **Thursday, March 19, from 5:30 – 7:00PM** at the school. Meet with the Principal, the Kindergarten teacher, and/or the Director of Finance to answer all your questions and facilitate the completion of your registration and Neumann Scholarship application forms. If you are unable to join us, please call the school to schedule a tour of the school at your convenience.