

Pentecost – May 11, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

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| Tithing income: May 4, 2008 | \$1890.50 |
| Income for May 6, 2007 | \$2866.15 |
| Income for May 7, 2006 | \$1875.10 |
| Student Offerings | \$ 7.25 |

Next week's tithe will be for charitable gifts.

From the pastor: A gift is something that we do not have to give! No law requires us to give gifts to Mom on Mother's Day, but we want to express to her our gratefulness. Similarly, our gifts to God are prompted by the spirit of generosity. We give because we want to give. We give because we love. Tithing is giving God a gift...in recognition of every gift that we have received from God. Thank you for showing your gratitude for your weekly tithe.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I think tithing is the best thing that can happen to St. John's. I have prayed that we would have tithing for many years because it is so spiritual. It is the right thing to do, **to give to God first.** I know I will be blessed and so will the people who tithe. Everything is now in God's hands."

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 7th grader said, "I spent time with my family." A Pre K said, "I swept the porch." A 5th grader said, "I kept the other kids busy so my mom could get the kitchen cleaned."

Building Fund / Construction Update: This week our "new" organ arrived from Sacred Heart and you'll see it tucked away in the formal baptistery (where the statue of the Infant of Prague has been). Plans are under way for laying the flooring and working on the pews to repair any minor damage caused during transport and to repair them for installation in the new church. 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: Sometimes the presence of the Spirit is expected only in terms of extraordinary manifestations, for example, "driving wind," "tongues as of fire," "different tongues." The Spirit is also manifested in simple daily experiences, for example, "forms of service" and "peace" and "forgiveness." The Spirit is also manifested in our courage to embrace dying to self. The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples and "showed them His hands and side." Jesus' showing His "hands and side" reveals to His disciples more than His identity as the crucified and risen One. In fact, it is because of His wounds we have peace; because of His wounds we have forgiveness; because of His wounds we have been given the Spirit. Wounds are the only way to peace and the only way to faithfully take up Jesus' saving mission. In our everyday self-giving for the good of others, we are showing our own hands and side – our own wounds for the sake of new life.

About Liturgy – Gifts and fruits of the Spirit: The readings for today mention a number of gifts of the Spirit, for example, peace, forgiveness, enabled to proclaim. The New Testament itself in a number of passages lists other gifts of the Spirit (see 1 Cor 12:4-11 & 28-31; Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:7-12; 1 Pt 4:10-11) as well as the fruits of receiving the Holy Spirit (see Gal 5:22-23). None of these lists of gifts is exactly the same; we are assured that each

community is given whatever gifts it needs to build itself up to full stature as the Body of Christ (see Eph 4:11-13). Since each community is given the gifts it needs to be the Body of Christ and continue Jesus' saving mission, if we examine these lists of gifts we are given a unique insight into each of these early community. By the same token, if today we examine our own Christian communities and the gifts that are evident, we are also given a unique insight into who we are as the Body of Christ. The Gifts of a family manifest who that family is. The gifts of a parish manifest who that parish is.



Sun. May 11 – Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-13; Jn 20:19-23)

9:15am – Judith Perez

Mon. May 12 – (James 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13)

9:00am – Madesto Cribari

Tues. May 13 – O.L. of Fatima (James 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21)

Wed. May 14 – St. Matthias (Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17)

Thurs. May 15 – (James 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33)

Fri. May 16 – (James 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34-9:1)

9:00am – Paul Ritter

Sat. May 17 – (James 3:1-10; Mk 9:2-13)

6:30pm – People of the Parish

Sun. May 18 – Trinity (Ex 34:4-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18)

9:15am – Virginia Doster

Week at a Glance in our parish:

Sunday CCD/10:15-11:30am

Saturday Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house

Confessions/5:30-6:15pm/church

Bilingual Mass/6:30pm/church

Food Pantry: Please pray for the Juniata County Food Pantry and continue to support us with your donations as we try to keep food and supplies in the homes of the hungry. Our shelves are very empty, and the number of families needing help continues to increase. If you could help by donating the following items, we would be very grateful. Needs for May: Canned fruit juice, bath soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, deodorant, Lotion, Shaving Cream. Thank You! Kathy Queitzsch 436-9718.

Mass for the Polish Community will be celebrated by Bishop Rhoades on May 25, 2008, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, at 2:00 PM at St. Catherine Laboure Church, 4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg. A procession with the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass. Come celebrate this wonderful feast day in the Polish way!

Catholic Singles Retreat: Saturday, May 24, 2008 at St. Cyril Spiritual Center, Danville, PA. The retreat runs from 10:30am until 11pm. Open to Catholic singles ages 18-39. Cost is \$65 (extra \$30 if you'd like to stay overnight). Price includes lunch, dinner and snacks. There will be a social at the end of the night with DJ. Registration Deadline: 5/16/08. For More information contact Shelly (570)271-0563 or semery88@yahoo.com

Sacred Heart School Announces 2008-2009 Tuition Decrease! The Administration and School Board of Education of Sacred Heart of Jesus School are pleased to announce the new tuition fees for the 2008-2009 school years. While there was a modest

increase (3%) in the tuition for one child, the tuition rate for 2nd & 3rd children has been decreased – making a superior Catholic and private education even MORE affordable. The new yearly tuition rates (for active parishioners) are: 1st child: \$2129, 2nd child: \$1810, 3rd child: \$1267. Any other children (of the same parents in the same family) are FREE. We are proud to offer a quality education with affordable prices which support our families. For an appointment or to tour the school to inquire about enrolling your child (K-5), please contact Sr. Marie Luu, SCC at 248-5351.

VBS Organizational Meeting: There will be an organizational meeting for those who signed up to help with our vacation bible school on Sunday, May 18, in the social area at the back of the church. The meeting will begin at approximately 10:45 A.M., immediately following the Rosary, which our CCD classes will be praying in the church after 9:15 Mass. The purpose of the meeting is to set firm dates, times, and volunteer assignments for the summer program. We will also preview our 5-day VBS program, Parachute with the Angels and St. Catherine Laboure. If you have not yet signed up to help but think you may want to be involved, please come to the meeting. We need teachers, teachers' assistants, and helpers for crafts, music, games, and snacks.

What you should know about Advanced Health Care Directives: (continued) Why would I want a health care directive? By completing a health care directive, you can ensure that your wishes concerning decisions about medical care are followed if you are unable to understand, make, or communicate those decisions for yourself. Decisions which might be made under a directive include the selection or discharge of a health care provider; or the approval or disapproval of a diagnostic test, surgical procedure, program of medication, or other extraordinary means of medical treatment. An advance directive provides an opportunity for you to make it clear that you embrace Catholic values and would rely upon the authoritative teachings of the Church to guide your own decisions. Advance directives can also provide Catholics with an opportunity to provide directions regarding pastoral and sacramental care. **What happens if I don't have a health care directive?** If you do not appoint a health care agent and you are unable to understand, make or communicate for yourself, your wishes about health care may not be known to others. If this is the case, Pennsylvania law says decisions about your care can be made by a family member, or some other individual who may or may not know your specific preferences. The person the law chooses (who would be called a health care representative) may not be the one you prefer. For example, you might prefer someone other than a family member. You may have a close friend who really knows you better and would be better able to make decisions on your behalf. But, to appoint that person you must take steps to formally name him or her as your health care agent. Your health care agent or representative must make health care decisions in accordance with your instructions based upon authoritative Catholic moral teaching; but, if you do not leave instructions, the agent will have to assess the situation using whatever knowledge he or she has of your preferences and values, including your religious and moral beliefs. If your health care agent or representative does not know enough about what you would want, he or she will have to be guided by what he or she knows of your values and use his or her own judgment to deem what is in your best interest. **Can my agent authorize the discontinuation of nutrition and hydration?** Pennsylvania law presumes that an incapacitated person would not want assisted nutrition or hydration to be withheld or withdrawn unless the

person indicated a preference to the contrary specifically in writing. This presumption created in Pennsylvania law can also be overcome if the designated health care agent knows of the person's previously clearly expressed wishes to the contrary about assisted nutrition or hydration. *To be continued...*

Did you attend a Catholic school as a child? Are your children or grandchildren currently attending a Catholic school? Have you enjoyed watching Sacred Heart School grow and thrive? The number of students from our Parish that are attending our Catholic school continues to grow. In fact, out of the 16 new registrants, 9 are from Juniata County, and 6 of them are from our Parish. We are looking for parishioners interested in forming a booster club that will help strengthen our bond and ties to our school, and facilitate Parish activities and fund raising in support of our school. If you are interested call Shane Armstrong @ 527-4869.

Parish Pastoral Council Elections: Several parishioners have volunteered to give of their time and talent to serve the parish on the Parish Pastoral Council. We currently have 2 open seats for a three-year term. The candidates for you to consider are: Linus Meldrum, Garry W. Price, Pam Welsh, Jane Mort and Jodi Fitzberald. The election will be held next weekend.

Sacred Heart Auction Raffle Ticket Results: Many thanks to the parishioners of St. Jude who helped by selling raffle tickets. Our parish sold approximately 45 booklets (with a value of \$1500). Our parish goal was to sell 100 booklets in order to begin receiving a "kickback" toward our school subsidy. The raffle alone raised more than \$15,000 (up \$9000 from last year), so your participation helped make the difference! Thanks so much for your continued support of Sacred Heart School. Of the new 16 kindergarten registrants, 9 are from Juniata County – and of those 6 are parishioners of St. Jude. Only one Juniata County resident is graduating this year so the total number of St. Jude parishioners at SHS for the 2008-9 year is 17. We have 5 other students from Juniata County – thanks for continuing to spread the news the news about SHS in Juniata County.

The flowers on the altar this week are in memory of Madeline Brubaker & Delores Zangrilli from Tony & Mary Zangrilli.

Dinner by Father: Once again Fr. Bateman has agreed to prepare and serve a delicious gourmet dinner for 6. Three tickets will be drawn for the dinner with an additional prize of a gourmet basket for 2. Tickets are \$20 each and are on sale at the back table. The date for the dinner will be decided by the winners and Father. The drawing will take place, Father's Day, June 15th. The Guild appreciates your support!

Please remember in your prayers Bob Stuchel who is at home recovering from surgery.

Save the Date: Please plan on having supper at the OIP on Tyson Hill on Tuesday, May 27th. 20% of your check will be donated to SHS. All you have to do is hand in a coupon (to be given out next weekend) with your check. You will be able to have a great meal, and help the SHS students! More information next week.