

## Forth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2009

### Stewardship is a way of life.

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

Tithing income: April 26, 2009	\$ 2588.00
Income for April 27, 2008	\$ 2339.00
Income for April 29, 2007	\$ 1390.00
Student Offerings	\$ 3.25

**Next week's tithe** will be for Charitable Gifts.

**From the pastor:** Generosity in our hearts is a sign of the presence of God within us. That is part of the light that the Lord asks us to let shine into the darkness around us. Thank you for your sacrifice of tithing.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** We had just gotten married and of course we had a lot of expenses, but my husband and I talked about tithing and felt that God was always there for us and we should in turn help to support "his" church by tithing, so we did and now 15 years later and many, many blessings we are still a tithing family, and our children are following suit with their allowances.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I helped my aunt clean." A 5<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I helped babysit." A Pre -K said, "I vacuumed the hallway." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said, "I got a kids scooter off the road."

### FROM THE PASTOR

**Weekly Reflection:** "Selective hearing" is a phrase we sometimes hear. It means that we hear what we want, and "tune out" what we don't want to hear. Children have selective hearing when they can't hear a parent telling them to quit the computer game and do their homework, but they hear the parent calling them to supper. Adults hear many "voices" in the course of a day, and choose which ones to pay attention to and which ones to tune out. In the gospel this Sunday Jesus declares himself to be the "good shepherd" whose flock must hear his voice. Moreover we hear his voice must follow it. Following Jesus, as the gospel says means that we must "lay down (our) Life" for the sake of others We can do this because the Good Shepherd has already done this for us.

In this gospel parable the hired man doesn't have a sufficiently deep or committed relationship to the sheep and so he runs away when danger comes. The good shepherd, however, is the one who owns the sheep and has much more at stake than the hired hand. The good shepherd is concerned about, cares for, and protects the sheep even to the point of laying down the shepherd's life Jesus requires of us disciples the same mission-to lay down our lives (this phrase occurs five times in the gospel), too.

Shepherding, then, is serious business. It means that we cannot run away from danger like the hired man, but we must meet danger head-on for the sake of God's beloved. Because of the resurrection, we share in the new life of Christ; our entry into this new life is dying to ourselves - laying down our own lives. Jesus proclaims that he is the "good shepherd," that his flock hear his voice, and that he lays down his life for them. In the context of the second reading, however, we are more than Jesus' flock, we are "children of God" who are to "be like him." This means that we are not only sheep who hear our "Good Shepherd's voice, but we also are to become shepherds

ourselves. Transformed from sheep to shepherd, we take up the life he has laid down and take up his saving mission to shepherd others to new life.

Taking up Jesus' mission means that we actually adopt selective hearing as a way of life. Now, however, the selective hearing isn't a matter of following our own will or completing a task of our own liking. The selective hearing of Jesus' disciples is a sharpening of our hearing so that Jesus' voice is the guiding element in our daily living. By sorting through all the diverse voices we hear each day, and hearing in some of them the voice of Jesus, we know the fold to which we belong-"we are God's children now" (second reading). Hearing Jesus' voice, we know that "(t)here is no salvation through anyone else" (first reading). And we willingly lay down our own lives so that others can come to the same awesome truth: a share in Easter life, the "love the Father has bestowed on us" (second reading).

**About Liturgy: The fifty-day Easter Lectionary:** The gospels for the eight Sundays from Easter to Pentecost form a wonderfully cohesive progression from Jesus' resurrection to our taking up Jesus' mission to preach the gospel. There is movement from Jesus the risen One, to ourselves as disciples who, set afire by the Spirit, continue his saving mission in our world today.

The gospels for the first three Sundays of Easter always feature appearance accounts of the risen Lord to the disciples. During this time we focus on Jesus who has passed through death to risen life. We become convinced in our believing hearts that this Jesus is still present to us. Now, on this fourth Sunday of Easter, we are invited to reflect on Jesus' great love and care for us and be assured that he will not abandon us. On Good Shepherd Sunday during this year B, there is also a strong suggestion that we must take up Jesus' mission through our discipleship (especially pronounced in the other two readings). This notion of our taking up and continuing Jesus' mission moves us into the second half of the Easter season when the gospels explicitly focus on us as disciples. These Sunday gospels prepare us for the celebration of the descent of the Spirit at Pentecost, a Spirit who now dwells within us, conforms us to Christ, and strengthens us to take up his saving mission.

### PARISH NEWS

**Attention CCD Parents:** Don't forget!! Even if CCD is over for the year, it is still an obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every single weekend. The Church continues to teach that purposefully missing Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is *mortal sin*. As you have brought your children to CCD all year, so continue to teach them the importance of our faith by bringing them to church all summer long!

**In the goodness of your prayers** please remember Matt Tornambe who is recovering at home. I'm sure he'd appreciate hearing from some of his parish family to let him know of your prayers and concern for him:

Matt Tornambe, RR 1 Box 423, Port Royal, PA, 17082.

**St. Jude 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration POSTPONED.** Due to a lack of participation, our parish celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been postponed. No date has yet been set for our celebration. Watch the bulletin.

**Vacation Bible School at St. Jude:** Dates for our vacation bible school, St. Patrick and the Holy Trinity, are June 22 through June 26. CCD children were given registration forms in class to bring

home. Forms will be available in the social hall for those who did not get one. VBS is for children who were in Pre-K through 6th grade during this school year.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the social hall for anyone who can volunteer to help out. **We need helpers!**

### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sun. May 3 -** (Acts 4: 8-12; Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18)

9:15am – Millie Lunger

**Mon. May 4 –** (Acts 11:1-8; Jn 10:1-10)

9:00am – Intentions of Coleen Dowling

**Tues. May 5 –** (Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30)

**Wed. May 6 –** (Acts 12:24-13:5a; Jn 12:44-50)

**Thurs. May 7 –** (Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20)

**Fri. May 8 –** (Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6)

9:00am – Ron Heister

**Sat. May 9–** (Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14)

5:00pm (English) – Charles W. Eishman

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

**Sun. May 10 –** (Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8)

9:15am – Paulette Barnes

**Items needed for Women's Guild Yard Sale, May 16, 2009 from**

**9am – 2pm:** The main purpose of any yard sale is to rid ourselves of precious stuff that we no longer need or want! The purpose of **this** yard sale (in addition to cleaning out those drawers and closets) is to help reduce the church's debt for the school assessment. With this goal in mind, all proceeds from the yard sale will be given to the church for that purpose. There will be no charge for space and tables will be provided. Each person who participates will mark all their item for sale, stay at the sale (or make arrangements for someone else to stay for them) and take all of their unsold items with them at the end of the sale. If you do not want to take your items home, we will make arrangements for them to be donated to the Salvation Army. The Knights of Columbus will provide food for sale, so if you would like to donate baked goods, they would be much appreciated. Please look at this as an opportunity to turn your excess into a contribution of your time and "treasures" to benefit the monetary needs of the parish. Who Knows? We might even have some fun doing it! If interested in participating, there is a sign-up sheet on the welcome table. We would like to know how many people will be participating.,

**Mothers' Day May Procession:** On May 10 all CCD children will participate in a May Procession to honor Our Blessed Mother. Sacred Heart students who do not attend CCD at St. Jude are welcomed and encouraged to participate as well. The children will gather in the social hall next Sunday before Mass at 8:45 A.M. to line-up and receive last minute instructions. Please be on time.

There are no CCD classes after Mass on May 10. Classes will resume in the fall.

### OTHER NEWS

**Would you like to get 3.25% on your savings? Try the Diocesan Savings and Loan!** In the 1920's, Monsignor Joseph Schmidt assisted our parishes by establishing the Mission Board of the Diocese of Harrisburg, which is today known as the Diocesan Saving & Loan. Deposits invested with the Diocesan Savings &

Loan allow our parishes to borrow funds for worthy projects at below market rates over generous periods of time. In turn, your investment earns interest at higher than current bank checking and savings accounts (**currently 3.25%**), which is compounded daily, with no minimum balance requirement. You can deposit and/or withdraw funds at any time.

When you deposit money with the Diocese of Harrisburg, you invest not only in yourself, but in the whole Diocesan Church. Your funds are invested in people and programs throughout the fifteen counties of central Pennsylvania. More information on the Diocesan Savings and Loan is available in the pamphlet rack in the vestibule of the church.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010:** If you have thought about joining us on this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage, be sure to pick up a brochure in the pamphlet rack in the entryway (or you can also view the brochure online at [www.StJudeMifflintown.org](http://www.StJudeMifflintown.org)). Make sure to note the deadline for submitting your deposit! Don't get left behind! 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 you would like more information, please contact Fr. Bateman.

**Quo Vadis Days 2009 "Where are You Going?"** Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, great food, talks and more. Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg staff *QVD*. Bishop Rhoades will join us for a day. *QVD* will be held from June 14-18, 2009 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and College. Cost is free, due to generous donors. Please contact Fr. Bateman, Fr. Thoms or the Office of Vocations at 657-4804 x 282 with questions or for a registration packet.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**WHERE WOULD YOU BE TODAY WITHOUT YOUR CATHOLIC EDUCATION?** If you are in a position to financially assist local families to send their children to Sacred Heart of Jesus School, Fr Bateman, Sister Marie, or Sue Parzanese would like to hear from you. An "Adopt A Student" Program is being considered so that those whom God has blessed can "financially" adopt a child who would like to attend our Catholic school. Perhaps you could consider it as your 5% tithe to other charities? If you are a product of Catholic Education (or if your children are), please search your heart to assist our parish children in this way - You will be blessed!

**THANK YOU** to ALL who helped with Sacred Heart School's "More Than an Auction." It was a great day! We have been tallying the results this week and it appears that we'll raise about \$26,000. Many thanks to all the committee chair people, to all who donated items for the auction, who helped set up, cook and sell food, staffed booths and cleaned up – and especially to all who attended the auction and made it such a success. Thank you for supporting YOUR parish school of Sacred Heart!