

1st Sunday of Advent November 30, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: November 23, 2008	\$ 1724.00
Income for November 25, 2007	\$ 1973.00
Income for November 26, 2006	\$ 1960.10
Student Offerings	\$ 3.45

Next week's tithing will be for the Parish Debt. As of October 31, our debt with the Diocese was \$348,848; however we recently made another payment to ECI for \$53,050 and will soon pay the remainder of \$8500. Our final debt balance will be \$410,398. The 1st weekend of each month will continue to be for our Building Fund/Debt. Each month, we will keep you updated on our debt situation. You can see how important your regular campaign contributions are (which will be paying on the debt). If you have not yet made your pledge, you still can! Contact the Mary Zangrilli for a pledge card.

From the pastor: Gifts are a way of saying "I love you." All that we have is God's way of saying "I love you," and the return we make to the Lord says "I love you, too." Thank you for saying "I love you, God" through your faithful, weekly tithing.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "Recently I had my monthly bills out on the desk to begin writing checks. It really struck me that the cheapest 'bill' was what I put in my monthly envelope. I looked at all the other bills and realized that none of them give me the peace, the joy and the support that my faith gives. I hope to slowly set my priorities straight."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithing, in addition to their financial gift: "A 6th grader said, "I baked brownies." A 1st grader said, "I carried boxes down from the attic." A 7th grader said, "I helped the neighbor rake leaves."

Weekly Reflection: When the exiles returned from Babylon they quickly realized that their journey had not transformed them. Their lives, like the ruined city of Jerusalem, needed God's saving help. If we can honestly admit our need for God, the exiles' cry in the 1st reading can become our own: "Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down...that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the works of your hands." In contrast to Isaiah's lament, Paul highlights God's grace at work among us, keeping us faithful as members of Christ: "I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul reminds us that God's faithfulness is poured out on us in Jesus Christ. As real as our sin is, God's grace is more powerful. The tension between sin and grace is, in many ways, the story of our Advent celebration. In our need, we recognize that God is breaking through, but we do not always pay attention. Mark insists that the Lord comes not on our terms. The necessary attitude for us is watchfulness: "Be

watchful! You do not know when the time will come." In both our personal and liturgical prayer, we keep asking to receive the gift of noticing Christ's coming, and of receiving Him with open hearts and minds.

About Liturgy: Beginning of the Liturgical Year: This is our liturgical New Year's Day and the beginning of the year of Mark. However, the First Sunday of Advent hasn't always been the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. At first the Church celebrated only Sunday, a weekly celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Nonetheless, very early on (probably from at least the mid-second century) there is evidence of an annual celebration of the Lord's resurrection and for a long time the "beginning" of the liturgical year coincided with the Easter Vigil. It wasn't until about the tenth or eleventh centuries that Advent began to be considered the beginning of the liturgical year since, with a more historical mentality, it made sense to begin the liturgical year with the beginning of Jesus' earthly life. In this way the liturgical year with the beginning of Jesus' earthly life at His birth (Christmas was introduced in the fourth century).

However, interpreting the liturgical year historically runs a risk of celebrating the liturgy solely as a commemoration of historical events, rather than our own participation in these historical events. Instead of a historical mentality, the Paschal Mystery – Jesus' dying and rising – is at the very center of the liturgical year and provides the proper interpretive tool. This means that all the festivals of the liturgical year are meant to lead us into a greater appreciation of our participation in them through our Baptism and daily life in the redemptive mystery of Christ. Rather than "begin" with the birth at Christmas and progress toward the death at the Triduum, throughout the liturgical year we celebrate the *whole* mystery of Christ. Various seasons and festivals zero in on a particular aspect of the mystery, but we can never lose sight of the whole mystery of Jesus' birth, mission, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, and sending of the Spirit to dwell among us and within us.

PARISH NEWS

Altar Server Training: Fr. Thoms has scheduled three training sessions for our altar servers – each server MUST attend two of the three. The remaining dates are: December 6, 9:30-12noon and December 13, 12:30-3pm. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Thoms.

This Week in the Parish:

Sunday – NO CCD
Monday – Finance Council / 6pm / social hall Parish Pastoral Council / 6:30pm / social hall
Friday – ESL class / 12:30pm / parish house
Saturday – Altar Server Training / 9:30-12noon / church Spanish Choir Practice / 5:30pm / social hall

Women's Guild Christmas Cookie Walk: The Women's Guild is sponsoring a Christmas Cookie Walk on December 13, 2008, in the church social hall from 9 A.M. to Noon (or while supply lasts). Purchase an empty container for \$8.00 and fill it with your choice from a wide variety of homemade Christmas cookies. Each container will hold 3-4 dozen cookies, depending on the size and shape of the cookies selected. Homemade candies, raffle tickets for an edible gingerbread house, and other Christmas articles will be on sale as well. For more information, contact Shirley Baade at 436-2373.

March For Life, January 22, 2009: St. Jude's Parish Youth invite you to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. It is urgent that we, as Catholics who fight for the protection of the innocent unborn, make our voices heard by President Obama. If you have never been to the March, [this is the year to go!](#) Our 1 day trip will include (time and weather permitting) a short visit to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception; then, join 14,000 other young Catholics at the Rally for Life and Mass at the VERIZON Sports Arena; then we proceed to the Mall to begin the March. The Juniata County School District has granted permission for this event as an excused absence for students participating in this religious event for Thursday January 22nd. We will be traveling by bus. The bus will pickup passengers at 3:30am and return on Thursday around 9:30 pm. **Cost:** Provided 40 people go the cost is \$46.00/per person for transportation. **Meals:** are separate and are estimated at \$25.00. **Registration with \$35.00 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit is required at the time of reservation but no later than December 7th 2008** and checks should be made out to "St. Jude Youth Group." Contact Ralph or Jill Perez for the form or more information at 535-5835.

Lenten Penance Service: Sunday, December 14 at 3:30pm here at St. Jude (3:30pm at Sacred Heart, Lewistown). There will be several priests here to assist in the celebration of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. If you plan to celebrate the Sacrament before Christmas, please make use of this opportunity when there are several priests available. Thank you.



Host Families Needed: The PMEA Region III Chorus Festival will be held February 18-21 at Juniata High School. JHS is in need of housing for 187 student participants representing 11 counties and more than 40 schools. Host families would be asked to 1. Provide sleeping accommodations for three nights (Wed, Thurs & Fri); 2. Provide some type of breakfast each day for your guests; 3. Provide the Friday evening meal for your guests; 4. Provide transportation throughout the festival. If you are interested in hosting at least 2 of these chorus members, contact Kevin Cunningham at JHS or Jill Perez at 535-5835.

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Virgin of Guadalupe is NOT an exclusively Spanish celebration! She is the patroness of ALL the Americas as well as patroness of the unborn. Our parish will celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe in a special way on Friday, December 12 with Mass at 7pm followed by a pot-luck supper to celebrate this great patroness of all the Americas. Mass will be in Spanish, but a worship aid will be provided. Join us! Please sign up for the pot-luck in the social hall.

Need a good book? Deacon Rocco's books are on display today after Masses in social hall. Come and pick up any book your family would like to have. There is no charge but if you would like to make a donation to the building fund a basket will be available.

Youth Group Meeting: The regularly schedule December 7 Youth Group meeting has been changed to December 14 after the 9:15am Mass.

The Women's Guild Christmas Meal will be on December 9th at 6:30pm. The meal will be catered by Lori Hare and will be at her residence (space permitting). As always, it will be "Dutch Treat" at a cost of only \$12.50. A sign-up sheet is at the "Heavenly Gifts" counter.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION Monday, Dec. 8: the Immaculate Conception of the BVM – the Patroness of the United States of America. Catholics are obligated to attend Mass on this day. The schedule at St Jude is: 9am & 7pm. (At Sacred Heart, Lewistown: 7am, 12noon, 7pm). **Catholics are obliged to attend Mass twice this weekend: once for the Immaculate Conception and once for the 2nd Sunday of Advent.**

Commemorative Christmas Ornaments are available at the St. Jude "Heavenly Gifts." Cost is \$10.00 each – available in blue or cranberry. The would make a great gift!

Yearly Priest Retreat: This week Father Bateman takes his required yearly 5-day retreat. Please remember him in your prayers this week, as he will be remembering you.

MASS SCHEDULE



Mon. Dec 1 – (Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11)

9:00am – Honora Work

Tues. Dec 2 – (Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24)

Wed. Dec 3 – **St. Francis Xavier** (Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37)

Thurs. Dec 4 – (Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27)

Fri. Dec 5 – (Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31)

9:00am – Genevieve V. Pupo

Sat. Dec 6 – **St. Nicholas** (Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5-8)

5:00pm (English) – Mildred Rocco

6:30pm (Spanish) – Vincent Hollenbach

Sun. Dec 7 – (Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8)

9:15am – Don Regi

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Diocesan Senior Adult Ministry Council is sponsoring a one day program entitled "Achieving Spiritual Vitality as we Mature: A Day with Dr Richard Johnson" on Thursday, December 4, 2008, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, at Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. All mature adults are welcome to attend. The



registration fee for the day is \$8 and also includes a beautiful lunch as well as some enjoyable holiday entertainment. For more information or to register, contact the Diocesan Family Ministries Office at 717-657-4804, ext. 317.

Education

What Happened to the Catholic Vote? What Happened to the Catholic Vote? Continued...

Q: Was the selection of Senator Joe Biden, a Catholic, instrumental for Obama in garnering support from the faithful?

Burch: I don't believe Senator Biden's Catholicism had any significant impact on Obama's success. His faith was mentioned early on after he was selected as a running mate, but the campaign quickly dropped the references after his misguided statements on Meet the Press in order to avoid a public debate with Catholic bishops and controversies over his support for abortion. The impact of Biden on the ticket in all likelihood may be felt down the road, as the Catholic bishops must now wrestle with a vice president who publicly disagrees with his Church on several fundamental issues. *To be continued...*