

Thirtyfirst Sunday - All Saints Day in Ordinary Time

November 1, 2009

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: Oct. 24, 2009	\$2145.00
Income for Oct 26, 2008	\$2000.00
Income for Oct. 28, 2007	\$1682.50
Students	\$ 1.00
Parish Loan	\$378,049.00
Payment	\$ 4,000.00
Balance	\$374,049.00

Next week's tithe will be for the Building Fund.

From a pastor: "As I finish my time of stewardship of the parish, I give thanks to God for leading us to God's Plan for Giving. It truly has been a blessing for us in many ways. Thanks, as always, to all who are faithful stewards and good tithers."

Rev. Alexander Masluk

Our Mother of Sorrows, Phila., PA

Comments on tithing from the pew: August 6, 2006 "I'm glad we've begun tithing. We've doubled our giving. It was about time. I guess we needed to be motivated. It's definitely the right thing to do. We would like to know what's being done about 'tithing the tithe'. Have we given any donations to the poor?"

A parishioner

Rev. Msgr. J. Peter Cullen

St. Aloysius, New Canaan, CT

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 5th grader said, "I helped my pap put away his lawn furniture". A 1st grader said, "I cleaned up my room without being told to." A 3rd grader said, "I helped my mother make brownies."

Pastor's Column

"O DEATH WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY...?"

O death, where is your sting?" St. Paul asks those questions in 1 Cor. 15:55. We do too, especially on Nov. 1, The Feast of All Saints; and Nov. 2, The Feast of All Souls. These are the days of our dearly departed loved ones, whom we remember in prayer and charity. The after life is possible because of Christ's own death and resurrection, conquering death, opening for us the gates of glory.

On Nov. 1, we celebrate those in Heaven, especially the canonized saints, gathered around God's throne, praising Him and interceding for us. Yes, we can address them in prayer, asking them to take our concerns to God Himself. Hebrews, chapter 12, says that "we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses" (v. 1). It also says "You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, to the Heavenly Jerusalem, and innumerable angels...to the spirits of just men made perfect..." (vs. 22-23).

If we have come to them (or "drawn near" to them, as another translation says), can we not talk to them? We ask one another for prayer in this life. Can we not, in Jesus Christ, ask those in the next life (the heavenly life) for prayer as well?

Of course we can. This is not idolatry or worship of false gods, as some say. We know that saints are not gods but simply

human beings who have made it to their heavenly goal. Praying to them does not disrespect God's sovereignty but glorifies it. God shares intercessory prayer power with His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the prime intercessor before the Father. Christ then shares that power with us and with the saints in Heaven.

Speaking of intercessory prayer, Nov. 2nd reminds us that we can pray for the souls in purgatory. Purgatory is a temporary state of purification for those judged saved by God but first in need of purification from certain minor sins and selfishness before entrance into glory.

We don't know a lot about Purgatory. Sacred Scripture is vague on it. Christ speaks of a prison house from which you will not be released until "you have paid the last penny" (Lk. 12:54-59). Some say St. Paul obliquely refers to it in 1 Cor. 3:15.

Information on Purgatory mostly comes from Sacred Tradition. From the Church's authoritative teaching (church councils, etc.), we know that it does exist, that those there undergo a type of holy suffering (perhaps a fire of some sort), and that we can help them by Masses, prayers, sacrifices, and good works applied to them. The graces which they receive, relieving them and eventually leading them to Heaven, flow ultimately from Christ's death and resurrection. Nov. 2 reminds us of all this.

These glorious and beautiful truths have been somewhat twisted, this time of year, into the ghoulish and macabre themes of Halloween (a word meaning "All Saints' Eve"). I've often thought that vampires and ghouls, etc., are false perversions of the resurrection from the dead that we all face at the Last Judgment. Let's celebrate that resurrection now – and be ready when it comes.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. Nov. 1 – (Rev 7:2-14, John 3:1-3, Matt 5:1-2)

9:15 – Edward and Ann Kivlin

Mon. Nov. 2 – Isaiah 25:6-9, Rom 6:3-9, John 6:37-40

9:00 am – Sandra Neff

Tues. Nov. 3 – Rom 12:15-16, Luke 14:15-24

Wed. Nov. 4 – **St. Charles Borromeo (Mem)**

Rom 13:8-10, Luke 14:25-33

Thurs. Nov. 5 – Rom 14:7-12; Luke 15:1-10

Fri. Nov. 6 – Rom 15:14-21; Luke 16:1-8

9:00 am- Mildred Rocco

Sat. Nov. 7 – Rom 16:3-27, Luke 16:9-15

5:00 pm (English) – Paulette Barnes

6:30 pm (Spanish) – Bud Frey

(Rev 7:2-14, John 3:1-3, Matt 5:1-2)

Sun. Nov. 8 - (Kings 17:10-16, Heb 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44)

9:15 – People of the Parish

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

CCD parents, beginning next Sunday, November 8, 2009, please come into the back of the social hall via the red doors, instead of the narthex, to pick up your children at the end of classes. This will remain in effect for the remainder of the CCD year. Thank you.

CENA EN ACCION DE GRACIAS

Viernes el 27 de Noviembre después de la celebración de oración a las 5 p.m., en la sala de la parroquia.

PARISH THANKSGIVING DINNER

This event will be held Friday, Nov. 27, in the parish hall, after the 5-6 p.m., Spanish praise and worship service. All are invited.

Christmas Cards: Christmas cards are available in the social hall as part of the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. Your support is appreciated

Singers are needed for the 9:15 Mass on Christmas Day. Please help us in presenting a joyous liturgy on this happy day. For information see Kathy Nash (436-5021)

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

THE TREASURE TREE WILL BE UP OCTOBER 31st

Starting Saturday, October 31, parishioners will be able to participate in the Treasure Tree Project, named for SHS's theme for this year: "Catholic Schools - Treasures for Life." This project will benefit the SHS Angel Fund, which provides scholarships and financial assistance to families whose children attend Sacred Heart School. This year, the need for financial assistance **has already surpassed** the funds available in the Angel Fund. Although the fund will continue to receive donations through the Tuition Dollars Program throughout the year, these donations may not be enough to make up for the current shortfall. Here's how the Treasure Tree will work:

Yellow Apples in various amounts from \$25.00 - \$500.00 represent a **one-time donation** to the Angel Fund to be made any time in the next 6 months. **Donors can place their name in the book to pledge their donation, or simply send their donation to the parish or school office when able.**

Red Apples in various amounts from \$30.00 - \$270.00 represent **actual amounts the Angel Fund has pledged monthly to families to supplement their tuition payments.** Donors who choose these apples are pledging to make **monthly contributions over the next 8 months** to "sponsor" these families at SHS. **Donors need to place their name in the book** to pledge their donation, unless they wish to remain anonymous. Contact Sue Parzanese at the Sacred Heart parish (242-2781) office to make a confidential donation.

Donations to the SHS Angel Fund are accepted at any time during the year, however, if you are able, we encourage you to participate in this program. Consider using your 5% tithe to other charitable organizations to participate, if possible. Thanks for your support of SHS!

Be sure to check out our new advertising signs at the Parish Office, at St. Jude's Parish and in other places of our local area. Kudos go to the Development Committee for this effort.

Planning for Catholic Schools Week HSA Meeting, Monday November 2, in school 6-7PM; all parents are welcome to attend.

Nov 3: Grades 3-5 Art Club After School Activity 2:45-3:45

Nov 5: 9AM School Mass

Nov 6th: Fire Prevention Assembly

Campbell Soup Labels: Collection has resulted in new play items and wagons for the playground. Thank you to all donors; please place labels in the collection boxes in church or school or simply drop them off at the school office.

Book of the Dead – All Sacred Heart School families are invited to include the names of family loved ones in our school Book of the Dead. These will be remembered in our daily morning prayer at school.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fundraiser to offset costs for People to People Student Ambassador, Gregory McDorman.

The McDorman family is selling daily number raffle tickets for the month of December. The winning number is determined by the three digit Pennsylvania lottery number drawn at 7 pm. Three numbers per ticket, 31 chances to win, \$10 per ticket. Prizes are Longaberger products which include baskets, totes, picture frames, and some pottery. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, or would like more information, please call Elena at 717-667-2263.

St. Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten 2nd Annual Basket Bonanza Raffling off a Flat screen TV and a Wii!!!!

This will be held at the St. Cyril School Gym, 580 Railroad St., Danville, on Saturday, November 14, 11am. Drawing begins at 1pm. Tickets for baskets must be entered before 1pm. You do not need to be present to win.

- ? \$7 for a pack of 25 tickets at the door.
- ? Raffles \$1 each or 6 for \$5
- ? Over 30 themed baskets!
- ? Food available
- ? 50/50

For more information or to purchase tickets call the school office at 570-275-1505

Perhaps true sainthood consists of accepting challenges and relying on God to rise above them. A pregnant woman pressured and confused feels abortion is the only solution. Yet in the struggle against this temptation, there is always grace to do what is right. "God will not let you be tested beyond your strength. Along with the test, he will give you a way out of it so that you may be able to endure it."
(1Cor. 10:13)

Buy dinner and support seminarians and their vocations: The Fishers of Men dinner will be held at the Cardinal Keeler Center Friday, November 13, with hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$150 per plate, with proceeds supporting the Bishop Joseph T. Daley Scholarship Endowment Fund, which reduces educational costs for our 26 (that's a lot - yay!) diocesan seminarians. At the dinner, you will meet many of our current seminarians, studying for the priesthood. If you are coming, please register on line at www.hbgdiocese.org/fishersofmen. Deadline is Nov. 3.