

MAY 23, 2010 – PENTECOST

A Tithing Parish

STEWARDSHIP

Tithing – God’s Plan for Giving

Envelopes	\$14,986.20
Loose Cash	553.00
Non-Member Checks	365.00
Poor Box – Little Sisters of the Poor	187.69
Seminarians	<u>525.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$16,616.89

YTD July 1 through April 30, 2010

	Actual	Budget
Operating Income	\$890,887	\$883,841
Operating Expense	<u>825,704</u>	<u>851,282</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	65,183	32,559

Think of time as a priceless gift; develop an awareness of its incomparable value and examine your conscience in this light. Are you using your time according to God’s plan, or are you throwing it away? If tomorrow were never to dawn, what would you do for God today? (Stewardship, May 2010)

POOR BOX

The Poor Box for the month of May will benefit Little Sisters of the Poor. The funds will help give loving care and respect to low-income elderly.

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of May 23

Sunday	8 am	William J. Clark †
	9:30 am	For The Community
	11:30 am	George Hummel†
Monday	12:10 pm	Communion Service
Tuesday	12:10 pm	Fr. Christopher Rangers†
Wednesday	12:10 pm	Mel Wright†
Thursday	12:10 pm	Marian Flynn†
Saturday	5 pm	Ed Harbin†
Sunday	8 am	Rita Travis†
	9:30 am	Dr. Rosario Guerzon Tablang†
	11:30 am	For The Community

†Deceased

CCSFX Prayer Chain-contact Rick Rider –
rrider82@msn.com

PARISH EVENTS

Week of May 23, 2010

Today! Sunday, May 23

- 10:45 am Intercessory Prayer
- 10:45 am Rosary
- 10:45 am Baptism Prep
- 12:45 pm Youth Ministry Core Team Meeting

Monday, May 24

- 10:15 am Bible Study
- 7 pm City of God Prayer Group Core Team Meeting

Tuesday, May 25

- 9:30 am CSS-Theology of the Body
- 1 pm Adult Faith Formation Meeting
- 7 pm Into the Heart

Wednesday, May 26

- 7:15 pm AA Meeting
- 7:30 pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday, May 27

- 7 pm Choir Practice

Friday, May 28

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, May 29

Mass: 5 pm

Sunday, May 30

- 10:45 am Intercessory Prayer
- 10:45 am Rosary
- 12:45 pm Youth Ministry Core Team Meeting

AA Meeting – 7:15 pm on Wednesdays in Parish Office conference room. <http://www.baltimoreaa.org> or call 410-663-1922 (24 hour hotline).

REMINDER:

The Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, May 31** in observance of Memorial Day. The office will reopen at 9 am on Tuesday, June 1, 2010.

Pastor's Corner –

Dear Parishioners:

Pentecost is often called "The Birthday of the Church" in the sense that it marked the first public showing, the celebration of the Church's amazing identity and mission for all to see. As a Church, we are a diversity of cultures, backgrounds, and languages never heard of in history, but all fully united as one in the worship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

If, by some miracle, you and I have found the grace to believe these mysteries, then it's party time! We are blessed to know who we are, and whose we are. But Pentecost wasn't the opening day of an exclusive country club, and sometimes Catholics have been guilty of leaving this impression. Do we feel even a tinge of self-satisfaction? Are we irritated or angry with "those people who play golf or ride their bikes on Sunday morning instead of coming to church"? If so, maybe we've lost our way. We can then become the haughty, arrogant phonies who drive people away from the Church. We must be merciful to others, and ask the Holy Spirit to "Heal our wounds, our strength renew."

The Church of Jesus Christ is His living body, and Pentecost is the day we receive our mission from Jesus: to do, through the Church, the great work we cannot do on our own. We should jump with joy at receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which help us to place ourselves at the service of the world. As St. Paul says, our mission leads us from gifts, to service: "...there are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings, but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." Pentecost should give us a new reverence for the wild and wonderful workings of the Holy Spirit. Let's be grateful that the Spirit "blows where it will," to produce different results in different people.

May our good God bless you and your families with His richest blessings!

In Christ's love,

Fr. Frank

Next Sunday's Readings	
May 30, 2010	
<i>1st Reading</i>	PROVERBS 8:22-31
<i>2nd Reading</i>	ROMANS 5:1-5
<i>Gospel</i>	JOHN 16:12-15
The readings will be more meaningful and familiar if you take the time to read them before Mass.	

R.C.I.A.
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." *Matthew 28:19*

Spouse? Child? Parent? Relative?
 Co-Worker? Neighbor? Friend?

City of God Prayer Group, Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9 pm in the Chapel. Contact Mary Alice Spadaro – maryalicespadaro@comcast.net



FAITH FORMATION for Children

Pat Allshouse (pallshouse@ccsfx.net)
Middle School – Joanie Carlson
(carlsonj@notredameprep.com)

SUMMER CAMP – *Sherlock Combs and the Case of the Missing Hands* – August 16-20, 2010

- What’s camp all about? – the mystery of the Holy Spirit
- Who is camp for? – all parish children entering Kindergarten through 7th grade.
- Where is it held? – The O’Dwyer Retreat House from 9 to 12 on August 16-20.
- Why should you and your children come? – Because Camp helps you meet new CCSFX parish members...builds community, teaches our children about our faith and serving others...and is FUN!
- How do you sign up? – Registration information can be found in our annual Faith Formation Booklet available online at www.ccsfx.net or by contacting Pat Allshouse or by picking one up from the basket in the coatroom.

NEEDED FOR CAMP – Adults, Teens, Campers

- CAMPERs – sign your kids up TODAY
- MUSIC – teens who play an instrument and are willing to jam with our Camp Band & teens /adults willing to sing
- DRAMA – teens to be part of our Openings & Closings...mimes and speaking roles
- ADULTS – leaders – art; movement; games; service; classroom; snack; parking

If you can help, or for more information, please contact Pat Allshouse (pallshouse@ccsfx.net) or call 410-785-0356 x17 today.

MARY’S GARDEN UPDATE

Thanks for responding. Looks like May, June & July are covered for watering and weeding Mary’s Garden. Still need a few volunteers for ONE WEEK during August. See the sign-up in the Gathering Space or contact Liz Scarbrough (essquirrel@yahoo.com; 410-472-1141) or Amy Bateman (amybateman@comcast.net; 410-828-6246) Today!



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

MONTH TWO – Developing Baby – “Fantastic Changes”

In the first two months of life your spiritually adopted baby has been developing all of her external features and internal organs. Her brain began functioning at about the 40th day of life and can now be measured on an EEG. Her mother can hear her heartbeat on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Milk-teeth buds became present, her hands and feet are forming and it has been reported that a two-month old baby can suck her thumb. Your spiritually adopted baby is moving around in her safe womb-haven though her mother cannot yet feel these movements. From this important month of fantastic changes, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines her body, but everything she needs to survive once she is born is already present by the end of her eighth week of life.

Your spiritually adopted baby has now entered the time period of greatest danger to her life for most abortions are performed during the second month. Please continue your daily prayers for your special baby and her mother and father during this very critical time. Please pray also for a good and loving family and friends to support all of them.

Thank you from your Gospel of Life Committee but even greater thanks are yours from your spiritually adopted baby.



HEALING MASS

Sponsored by the City of God Prayer Group

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Celebrant: Fr. Abel

Come for healing in body, soul and/or spirit

For yourself or for another.

Healing Ministry Prayers available after Mass.

Call Mary Alice Spadaro at 410-560-7192.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Contact Deacon Don

deacondon@ccsfx.net or 410-785-0356 x12

GOSPEL OF LIFE

Project Rachel Fundraiser: Have fun participating in the Vera Bradley/Longaberger Basket Bingo while helping women and men who have suffered abortion trauma and need the financial support to participate on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat. Please join us at St. Clements Church, 1212 Chesaco Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21237 on Saturday, June 12th at 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm). Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. For further information and tickets, call Kathy Parkerson at 410-788-4961.

Month of May: During this month of May, devoted to our Blessed Mother, may all mothers imitate the love Mary bestowed upon her Son, and may Jesus and Mary guide them daily as they love and sacrifice for their children.

Pregnant, Need Help? Call the Gabriel Network at 1-800-ANGEL-OK
Suffering Post-Abortion Stress? Call Project Rachel at 1-800-286-4224
www.sfxforlife.org

PARISH GENERAL MEETING – Report

Included with this bulletin is a report of the proceedings at the Parish General Meeting on May 11, 2010. All members of CCSFX were invited to attend in order to review and vote upon the goals, objectives and budgets for each of the nine committees; the proposed 2011 parish budget; a revised Philosophy of Giving; and, proposed relocation of the Church tabernacle. Despite a somewhat disappointing attendance (70), the discussion was both lively and stimulating. Clearly, there is a need for the membership to reach out (evangelize!) to others to increase our numbers and for current members to exercise their responsibilities as “owners” in terms of “time, talent, and treasure.” While we are a vibrant faith community, we can always improve in our efforts to be the welcoming, serving hands of Christ!

Mission & Planning Committee

LITURGY CORNER

In last Sunday's liturgy, we celebrated the return of Jesus Christ to the Father in heaven. But Jesus was not simply going away and deserting the disciples who had been following him for some three years. In fact, he told them “. . . I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in [Jerusalem] until you are clothed with power from on high.” Maybe they understood and maybe they didn't, but they did what they were told and gathered together and waited.

And that is where the great feast of Pentecost comes along. “Great” because it marked the occasion of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them. The Holy Spirit . . . guide, counselor, advisor, advocate, and more . . . all that Jesus had promised. As today's First Reading indicates, the Holy Spirit came upon the original disciples (and now upon ourselves). The presence of the Spirit provided the inspiration for them (and us) to work out the means by which the words and deeds of Jesus could ultimately be shared throughout the world.

The Holy Spirit continues to counsel us even today, as the Church wrestles with some challenging problems of immense importance. Noteworthy through it all, however, is the fact that human beings are going to have to figure out the best ways to address those current challenges. The Holy Spirit is among us, but human beings must arrive at and take appropriate actions. The Spirit came upon the disciples that first Pentecost. As did the disciples, now we must humbly accept whatever divine counsel we receive and then get to work.

Pentecost completes the fifty days of the Easter season. Tomorrow brings us back to Ordinary Time, but we sort of ease into it. Ordinary Time or not, we still have two special Sundays before the green vestments come out again. They are special, in that they connect us to the Easter mystery, but not to the Easter season. Offhand, anybody remember what these Sundays are and what they are about? (Now is a good time to break out those *Exploring the Sunday Readings* bulletin inserts.)

PARISH GENERAL MEETING

May 11, 2010

A SUMMARY

Following a welcome and prayer by Fr. Frank Brauer the session was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Bob Friday, chairperson for Mission & Planning Committee and moderator for this Parish General Meeting.

Approximately 70 members of the CCSFX actively participated in the meeting. The assembly was reminded that the PGM, intended to be an exercise of the “ownership” model embodied in the Philosophy of Governance, includes the opportunity for members to discuss and vote on major issues, e.g., the budget, committee goals and objectives, etc. The vote by the assembled members serves as an advisory to the pastor who is ultimately responsible for final decisions, according to Church Canon Law and the policies of the Archdiocese.

Agenda:

1. Committee Goals & Objectives, with proposed budgets, were presented via PowerPoint (these materials had been posted on the community website and available in hardcopy for review in the Gathering Space for several weeks prior to the PGM).

- Goals & Objectives for all nine committees, along with their proposed budgets, approved by the Finance Committee, were approved by the voting membership.

Special notes:

- The overall budget for the parish underwent a reduction in view of reduced revenues over the past several years.
- In order to meet essential expenses and maintain a balanced budget, the Facilities & Grounds eliminated their “contingency budget.” Funds will need to be found in the event of unanticipated emergencies. Further, a number of budget requests, including roofs over external stairwells (fire exits) to prevent snow blockage, updating of the A/V system in the Church, wooden door & carpet replacements, etc. were designated as “unfunded.”
- Faith Formation may be limited in areas of its customary operation by reason of 2011 budget cuts and a \$10,000 reduction for 2010.
- Liturgy Committee services, which include hospitality in the Gathering Space after Masses, will need to seek additional funding as volunteer donations of refreshments by community members have not been forthcoming. The estimate is for an additional \$2,500, increasing their budget to \$5,000. With this amended amount, members voted to approve the Liturgy budget.

2. Budget FY 2010-2011 (An insert in a recent Sunday bulletin.) The projected end of year budget for 2010 is \$1,046,629 with a projected operating deficit of \$2,300. The budget proposed by the Finance Committee FY 2011 is \$1,032,906, a reduction of \$13,723, reflecting reduced revenue projections. Open discussion ensued about the need to increase the level of “giving,” concerns over membership loss, and possibly employing a fund raising firm to assist in this matter. No concrete solutions emanated from the discussion, however conversation about the need for evangelization to bring in new members permeated the remainder of the evening. The proposed parish budget was voted approval, but concerns about “giving” and the reduced community membership will command further attention.

3. Philosophy of Giving Lively discussion surrounded the proposed revised Philosophy of Giving, which focuses on the responsibility of “owners” to support the community by their gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure, although some expressed the opinion that “time” and “talent” should not be included in this philosophy of giving. The revised document includes a new concept of “dedicated fund raising” in an effort to “support projects and causes not covered or envisioned in the ordinary...operating expense budget.” Examples could include items not funded in Facilities & Grounds. Some members spoke to this as being a radical departure from the philosophy and spirit of the original community understanding of the ownership model and its incumbent responsibilities. Others, while not objecting to the revision, expressed concern as to what kinds of fund raisers would be suggested, which projects would be deemed outside ordinary operating budget, and by whom and by what process would these decisions be made. It was recommended that specific fund raisers with a targeted project be brought first before the Unified Committee Meeting and then, if approved, be presented to the Finance Committee. Logistics will need to be refined. With this recommendation, the revised Philosophy of Giving was approved.

4. Relocation of the Tabernacle In response to concerns expressed by members about the undistinguished location of the Church tabernacle, and possibly a resulting lack of respect and reverence, relocating the tabernacle to a more central, prominent area in the sanctuary has been proposed. Historically, the present tabernacle was deemed to be “temporary,” for use during weekend Masses, with the permanent tabernacle being in the Chapel. The proposed relocation would include moving the statue of the BVM to the vacated niche and purchasing a St. Joseph statue. It was opined that the tabernacle relocation would provide a “teachable moment” as regards reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. No cost is anticipated in this relocation as the present tabernacle would be used. While a majority of members voted to allow planning for the considered relocations to move forward, a significant number of others expressed disapproval.