

The Baptism of The Lord



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Baptism of the Lord and "Ordinary" Time

"Ordinary Time" when used in the context of the liturgical year has a very specific meaning, very different from its usage in common parlance. The Church's liturgical year contains various specific or "proper" liturgical seasons such as Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. These seasons and feast days focus on and celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ and His gift of salvation. Apart from these seasons which have their own very distinctive character, there remains in the yearly cycle of celebration and prayer, those weeks [either 33 or 34] that do not celebrate a specific mystery of Christ. Especially on Sunday, these days are devoted to the mystery of Christ in its fullness and depth. This period in the Church's liturgical year is called: Ordinary Time. So, Ordinary Time is hardly ordinary in the common use of the term. By ordinary, we mean the focus is not on a particular mystery but the entire mystery of salvation, exploring its depth and various applications to daily life. The Scriptures, liturgical prayers and celebrations of Ordinary Time are intended to direct our own daily, personal prayer and unite us more closely to the mystery of Christ.

Each week in Ordinary Time, a particular quality or aspect of the mystery is presented for reflection and prayer. The Baptism of the Lord, while it is a major feast day, begins Ordinary Time because it marks the beginning of Christ's Public Ministry after his Baptism in the Jordan by John. The first cycle of Ordinary Time runs from the Baptism of the Lord to Ash Wednesday, which begins Lent. The second cycle of Ordinary Time begins after Pentecost and continues to Advent.

Gratitude for Christmas Generosity to the Parish

It is apparent that many parishioners and worshippers made a special effort to be generous to the parish by way of their Christmas collection. We are deeply grateful, particularly because Christmas time like the Summer time is marked here at St. AJ by extremely decreased attendance which impacts our Sunday offerings. For those who have been away during the holidays, please know that we would still welcome and need any Christmas contribution you might still want to make. Hopefully, you will see the needs in the parish that call out for your generous support and the need in your own heart that wants to express gratitude to Almighty God by being a generous giver to His church, your spiritual family. If you want to make a special gift, please go to the parish list on the parish webpage.

Register for Marriage Preparation – Now Online

Engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage can register for Family Life Office programs at our website: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/famlife/marriage.htm#couple>. Choose a date and location for marriage preparation (either a four-session program or weekend retreat), and register online using a credit card. Registrations will still be accepted by mail, but the new online system provides a convenient way for couples to begin the important process of preparing to enter into the Sacrament of Marriage. Couples who need assistance or have questions about marriage preparation should contact the Family Life Office at 215-587-5639 or famlife@adphila.org

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, January 9

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

Sunday, January 10

The Baptism of the Lord

10:00AM Mass *Virgil Tabasco*

Catholic Forum Resumes today January 10 - after 10:00AM Mass

11:30AM Mass *David and Kathleen Windsor*

5:00PM Mass *Tara M. Carlino*

10:00PM Mass *Students and Staff Members of Area Universities*

Monday, January 11

7:30AM Mass Resumes today – Penn Newman Center

Tuesday, January 12

12:05PM Mass (Penn Newman Center) *Joseph A. DiNinni*

12:05PM Baptism (Church) *Lucia Paloma Moore GLS*

Wednesday, January 13

12:05PM Mass *Thanksgiving to St. Anthony & St. Jude*

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

Friday, January 15

No 7:30AM Mass

Saturday, January 16

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*



Special Second Collection Next Weekend

Next weekend – January 16 and 17 - the Second Collection will be dedicated to assist the Church's international social ministry by funding the work of six agencies: Catholic Relief Services; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.; the Holy Father's Relief Fund; Migration and Refugee Services; Justice, Peace and Human Development; and the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church. In addressing today's global realities, resources raised by this annual collection make possible much needed humanitarian aid to poor and suffering people. In this concrete way, through prayerful and financial support, we express our compassion, generosity and solidarity with the needy of the world.

Upcoming Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes – January and February 2010

The Family Life Office offers regular NFP classes throughout the Archdiocese. This is a great opportunity for engaged or married couples to learn about the Church's teaching on the gift of human sexuality, the meaning of responsible parenthood, and a safe, effective, and morally acceptable method for spacing children. Upcoming NFP two session classes are held on Jan. 22 and 29, from 7:30-9:30 pm at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown, PA; and Feb. 3 and 10 (two session class), from 7:30-9:30 pm at St. Ignatius Church in Yardley, PA. For more info and to register for a class, call 215-587-3516 or e-mail tseyfer@adphila.org.

Some New Year Wisdom

To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in the doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God.

Mother Teresa

Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.

Mother Teresa

