

Third Sunday of Lent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve Lent and the Lukewarm

A weight watcher facilitator once said to our group that you can easily undermine your desire to drop problem pounds by focusing on others who are heavier than you and saying to yourself – “At least I’m not that bad.” The focus should not be on others, but on your own goals. I think we undermine our spiritual integrity and growth in a similar manner by believing that even though we are lukewarm, God is happy with us because we are not as bad as many others we know or hear about. It is not uncommon for me to talk with people about their spiritual lives and hear them try to occupy some moral high ground by saying, “Well, I haven’t murdered anyone” or “I haven’t been unfaithful;” as if it is OK to come before the Lord with what we haven’t done. Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus call people to spiritual or moral mediocrity. Being lukewarm actually is scary when we consider the words of the Risen Christ in Revelation: 3:15-16: **“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”** [Our contemporary derogatory understanding of "lukewarm" comes from this passage.] There is no nice way to say “spit” which in the Greek connotes gagging or retching. It is the only time, to my knowledge, that this word is used in the New Testament.

Here are some characteristics that would be part of the spiritual profile of Spiritually Lukewarm People [SLP]:

- SLP don’t experience any real transformation in their lifestyles because of their spiritual beliefs and practices.
- SLP go to church regularly, not because they want to worship, but because church attendance is expected.
- SLP automatically assume that because they go to church they are the good soil of which Jesus speaks in the parable of the Sower.
- SLP are charitable so long as giving doesn’t involve any risks to their lifestyle or standard of living.
- SLP, when in conflict, will chose what is popular and safe, over what Gospel living would require, caring more about what people think of their actions and decisions, rather than what God thinks.
- SLP may be moved by the stories of spiritually heroic people but believe that such actions are only possible for saints and not for ordinary people like themselves.
- SLP rarely if ever share their faith with neighbors, co-workers and colleagues, or friends.
- SLP will use the secular world and not the Gospel, as a barometer to guide and judge their conscience and moral actions.
- SLP will allow Jesus to be a part of their lives, but never allow Him to have any real control of their lives.

Stations of the Cross – Fridays at 5:15pm in Church

ParishPay: The numbers of on-line contributors using ParishPay are increasing. We thank you!

Visit – the Jacobium Gathering Space for updates & info.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, March 6

2:30PM Wedding Thomas McCoy and Kate Grahsler GLS
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Mass *Intentions of the Gatto and Seminole Families*

Catholic Forum Today- March 7 - after 10:00AM Mass

11:30AM Mass *Intentions of Wing Yee Yuen*
5:00PM Mass *Raffaella Evangelista*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Wai Lan Chow*

Monday, March 8

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Lawrence Motyka*

Wednesday, March 10

12:05PM Mass *William Crossley*
12:30PM to 2:00PM Church open today. Please ring Rectory bell.

Friday, March 12

No 7:30AM Mass
5:15PM (Church) Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13

4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*



Next week: SECOND COLLECTION for Drexel Newman Spring Service Trip

As you know, the 2nd collection on the third Sunday of the month is given to the two Newman Centers to help with their maintenance and programming. However, it is our tradition to dedicate the March Second Collection exclusively to assist Drexel Newman’s alternative Spring Break. This year students from Drexel Newman, accompanied by Fr. Vince Morabito, will again travel to the St. Michael Indian School in Arizona, where they will be engaged in service to the Navajo students and will share worship and prayer with them. St. Michael was founded by St. Katherine Drexel and is currently staffed by Blessed Sacrament Sisters. Please pray for them as they go about their good works. {Next month’s 2nd Collection will be given exclusively to the Penn Newman Center.}

Parish Lenten Evening Mass: March 16 at 7:30PM

Please join us for a special evening Mass on Tuesday evening, March 16 at 7:30 pm in Church. This midway point is a good time to refresh and rededicate our Lenten desire to embrace more deeply the grace of Lent as a time of purification and enlightenment. It will be a special time for our RCIA members who have been preparing since September to be received into the Catholic Church because they will be presented with the “Creed” and the “Our Father.” Your presence will provide a wonderful witness and support for them.

Lenten Stewardship: A good time to put your gifts of time, talent and treasure at the service of your parish. Lent is a good time to consider increasing your weekly donation as a personal Lenten sacrifice and as an act of sacrifice and participation and solidarity with the work of the St. Agatha-St. James whose vital mission is: **Word, Work and Witness in University City.**

Next Week: Hospitality Sunday – Join Us for Lent

Those of you who are shy and don’t feel comfortable meeting your fellow parishioners can come to Hospitality in the Parish Hall as a Lenten Penance. Those of you who are always too busy to spend time with fellow parishioners can do the same. Should there be anyone who doesn’t like his/her fellow parishioners, you can also do Lenten penance at Hospitality.

The Lord is kind and merciful. Psalm 103