

Fourth Sunday of Lent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Hospitality and the Nature of the Church

Today is "Hospitality Sunday" but whether you come to the Hall for refreshments or not, you should know that hospitality is a central reality in what it means to be "Church." First of all, there is a way to understand Jesus Christ Himself as "The Hospitality of God." In the Incarnation, God enters into our human condition. Jesus, the apex of divine hospitality, is both the humble guest who must depend on our welcome for Him to enter, and the gracious host who welcomes us, outcasts and sinners, within His Sacred Heart and eventually into heaven. Christ is the embodiment of God's hospitality, which we call salvation. Salvation, as it is most often described in the Bible, is an invitation to a banquet. It is hard to understand the Eucharist without appreciating it as Jesus' table fellowship where each of us has been freely and generously offered a special and personal place at table with the Lord of life and love.

Those of us who partake of Jesus' fellowship are empowered to practice reciprocal openness, receptivity, communion, and compassion to others. The values and attitudes of this spirituality of hospitality characterize the life of a true disciple and make the Kingdom of God present. To receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the altar and not try to work for Holy Communion within the Church runs the risk of becoming a hollow gesture. It would be another form of taking the Lord's name in vain. Using the Lord's name in a vulgar manner is only one way to take His name in vain. A more common way is to take God's name in a superficial and empty way, having no intention to allow His name to touch and transform our lives. Receiving and giving hospitality is a good way to begin to grow in God's spirit.

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Friday, March 19, 2010 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. The obligation to abstain from meat is not binding on this Feast Day. The solemnity of a feast overrides Friday Lenten observance. This day is also the baptismal name day of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. Remember to pray for him on his special day.

On-line contributors through ParishPay – Numbers are Increasing

At various times throughout the year, we emphasize the importance of stewardship and how the dedication of time, talent, and treasure fosters the health and viability of our beloved parish, and also, the spiritual well-being of individual parishioners. One of our most important stewardship initiatives over the last two years has been automated on-line giving through ParishPay. By way of an update, the numbers of persons who are contributing regularly through ParishPay is slowly but steadily increasing and it is making a difference. Thank you to those of you who have chosen to participate and an invitation once again to others to think about fulfilling your financial responsibility to St. AJ by registering with ParishPay – which you can do from our parish website: www.saintsaj.org,

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

Visit – the Jacobium Gathering Space after Mass (on your right as you exit Church) for interesting updates and important information about St. AJ.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, March 13

4:00PM Confessions

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

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Catholic Forum Today - March 14 - after 10:00AM Mass

11:30AM Mass

5:00PM Mass

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students at Area Universities*

Monday, March 15

12:05PM Mass *Lynne Falcone*

Tuesday, March 16

7:30PM Parish Lenten Evening Mass *Intentions of RCIA Members*

Wednesday, March 17

7:30AM Mass *Paul Watson*

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Melissa Murphy*

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell.

Thursday, March 18

12:05PM Mass *Jewel DiLullo*

Friday, March 19

No 7:30AM Mass

12:05PM Mass *Juan Chico*

5:15PM (Church) Stations of the Cross – all are welcome

Saturday, March 13

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

4:00PM Confessions

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



This 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, Worship, and Witness in University City.**

Today is Hospitality Sunday – Come join us for Lent!

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Psalm 34