

Fifth Sunday of Lent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Lenten Reflection

Psalm 51 is one of the great penitential psalms in the Hebrew Scriptures and therefore a good source of meditative material for Lent. The following reflection was prepared by Sister Joyce Rupp, a well known spiritual author and retreat director. These thoughts come from her book: *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*. I thought it could be a fruitful prayerful exercise for us in these remaining Lenten weeks.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, open and receptive, so that I may embrace the many ways you choose to visit my life.

Create in me a clean heart, cleared of the refuse of old battles with others and deadly opposition with myself.

Create in me a clean heart, freed from the clutter of cultural enticements, so that I can enjoy the beauty of life's simple things and relish the gifts I so easily take for granted.

Create in me a clean heart, bathed from harsh thoughts, shame, and perfectionist tendencies, warmly welcoming others with the embrace of non-judgment.

Create in me a clean heart, brushed free of frantic busyness, so that I will have time to dwell with you in the listening space of solitude and silence.

Create in me a clean heart, rinsed of the residue of false messages about my identity, enabling my inner goodness and light to shine through all I am and do.

Create in me a clean heart, cleansed of anxiety and lack of trust, restoring in me an enduring faith in your abiding presence and unconditional love.

Create in me a clean heart, scrubbed of racism and prejudice, drawing me toward all as my sisters and brothers.

Create in me a clean heart, washed with your mercy and strengthened by your love, helping me to move beyond whatever keeps me from union with you.

Create a clean heart in me, God. Dust off the unmindful activity that constantly collects there. De-clutter my heart from harsh judgments and negativity. Wash away my resistance to working through difficult relationships. Rinse off my unloving so the beauty of my generous and kind heart can shine forth. Remove whatever keeps me from following in your compassionate footsteps. Amen.

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.**"

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 20

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

4:00PM Confessions

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

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Catholic Forum Today - March 21 - after 10:00AM Mass

11:30AM Mass *Mary Jo Young*

5:00PM Mass *Rev. Ralph F. Firmeno, SAC*

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

Wednesday, March 24

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

Friday, March 26

No 7:30AM Mass

12:05PM Mass *Mary Campion*

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

Saturday, March 27

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

4:00PM Confessions

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



Mark Your Calendars

1. Lenten Parish Penance Service: A good way to bring your Lenten penitential journey to fruitful conclusion is to participate in the Lenten Penance Service on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 30, at 7 pm in Church. In addition to the four parish priests, we will have a visiting confessor. This is the last opportunity to celebrate Reconciliation before the Easter Triduum.
2. Easter Triduum
Holy Thursday: April 1, 7:30 pm in Church
Good Friday: April 2, two Services: 3 pm and 7:30 pm in Church
Easter Vigil: April 3, 7:30 pm in Church

Help Feed the Hungry Walk/Run Against Hunger

The Community Food Program of Nutritional Development Services invites you to join our Team #8 at the Walk/Run Against Hunger on Saturday, April 10th at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. People from the five counties of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will gather to raise funds to feed our hungry children, families and seniors. Your contribution to Team #8 will help us to provide nutritious meals and groceries to our most vulnerable neighbors in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Last year, Community Food was able to provide over 2 million meals to the hungry in our community. Checks can be made out to Walk Against Hunger and mailed to Denise Hopkins, NDS, 111 S. 38th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. For further information, contact Denise Hopkins by phone at 215-895-3486 ext.712 or email: dhopkins@ndsarch.org.

Happy Update on the 38th Street Windows Project

In the November 22 bulletin we reported that the first new artistic replacement window on the 38th Street side of the Church, on the sidewalk level, had been installed. By now all of you have taken the time to look at it and appreciate its beauty. We asked you to try to imagine how the façade of the Church building would look when all 8 windows are completed. Many of you did! We are happy to announce that all eight windows have been pledged/donated and we are filled with gratitude to all our donors. This project will enhance not only the Church building itself; it will enhance University City in general and will make a dramatic statement about the Catholic presence in this area - active, strong, community conscious - here to stay and wanting to make a difference. After all, our parish mission statement is "**Word, Worship and Witness in University City.**"