

Easter Sunday



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Alleluia & Happy Easter To Parishioners, Students and Friends



The priests and staffs of the Rectory and the Newman Centers at Drexel and Penn wish all of our parishioners, students and their families, and the friends and benefactors of St. AJ a Happy and Blessed Easter. It is a special privilege for the priests to remember all of you and your families during our Easter Masses and throughout this Holy Season.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

A significant part of the liturgy on Easter Day is the renewal of our baptismal vows. Like so many liturgical and devotional practices it is easy to "go through the motions" and enter such opportunities of grace in a mindless manner. Part of the renewal involves a renunciation of Satan. Unfortunately, so many people in our contemporary culture are prone to ask "Satan Who?" as if the Evil One is a vestige of a mentality and world view long outdated. Even though we have a tsunami of tangible evidence for the raw presence and power of evil in our world, we still tend to ignore the darkness that is enveloping us as superficial and easily remedied. This is an indulgence and we should know better. Here is a quote that may help us re-think the importance of rejecting Satan:

"To reject Satan is not to reject a mythological being in whose existence one does not even believe. It is to reject an entire world view made up of pride and self affirmation of that pride which has truly taken human life from God and made it into darkness, death and hell. And one can be sure that Satan will not forget this renunciation, this rejection, this challenge, "Breathe and spit upon him!" A war has been declared. A fight begins whose real issue is either eternal life or eternal damnation. For this is what Christianity is about. This is what our choice ultimately means."

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, Russian priest & author (1921-83)

Collegiate Confirmation: This Saturday, April 10

This coming Saturday at the 5:30 Vigil Mass, we welcome His Excellency Joseph McFadden, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, who will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Catholic students from area colleges and universities.

Easter is Seven Weeks

The Church cannot contain its joy and celebration of Easter to one day. What our culture calls Easter and relegates to a single day of bunnies and eggs, the Church calls Easter Sunday, the first day of 50 days that end with the solemnity of Pentecost. During this Holy Season of Easter, the scriptures and the daily and Sunday liturgies examine the central mystery of our faith in all its varied disunions and aspects.

This Week at St. AJ

Holy Saturday, April 3

7:30PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 4

10:00AM Mass *Ava Kinney Griffiths*

No Catholic Forum Today – April 4 - Easter Sunday

11:30AM Mass *Dolph J. Tokarczyk*

5:00PM Mass *Robert and Anita Knecht and Lyn Brinker*

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

Monday, April 5

7:30AM Mass in Church through Thursday, April 8

12:05PM Mass in Church through Friday, April 9

Wednesday, April 7

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

Friday, April 9

No 7:30AM Mass

12:05PM Mass *Members of the St. AJ Perpetual Memorial Society*

Saturday, April 10

9:00AM Mass in Church *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Collegiate Confirmation/Bishop Jos. McFadden*



An Easter Welcome to Our New Catholics

The Catholic Community of St. AJ offers congratulations and continued prayerful support to our RCIA Elect, who have completed their seven month journey of faith and discernment and received the three sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Church - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist - at the Easter Vigil. We also welcome those RCIA Christian candidates who were already baptized in other faith traditions and have chosen full communion in the Catholic Church, also at the Easter Vigil by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. We acknowledge as well those Catholic participants who completed RCIA so that they might be sealed by the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Congratulations and Great Gratitude to John Dill, our Parish RCIA Coordinator

We extend congratulations and gratitude to our RCIA Coordinator Mr. John Dill who has worked tirelessly in all phases of the RCIA, from its preparatory and organizational phase to its implementation over seven months. In addition to all the behind the scenes labor, John has also been a true model and mentor to our catechumens and candidates. John has exemplified and modeled Christian living and enthusiasm for learning, and he has personified what it means to be an involved and hospitable parishioner of St. AJ parish.

Your Easter Offering / Sacrifice: Thank You

As we know, our church building has been undergoing continued "resurrection" over these last several years, thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners and friends. Some of the renewal is visible [statues, windows, gather spaces]; some is not [roof, heating system lighting, and the ongoing painting and patching]. We are so grateful and blessed. Maintenance and new tasks are always necessary. It is in the spirit of Easter joy and gratitude that I humbly ask that you remember your church and parish by being especially generous in your Easter offering, honoring our work and honoring God, the giver of all good gifts.

Have Mass Celebrated for your Intentions

Easter is a good time to offer a Mass to remember a loved one, remember an anniversary or a birthday, or pray for a special intention. Please contact the rectory to schedule an Easter Mass.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.