

Fourth Sunday of Easter



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Prayer of Discernment:

“How can I know where God is leading me?”

Most Catholics feel certain that they would cooperate with the Holy Spirit if they were able to access the guidance the Spirit offers, but a common complaint is that God is not always so clear and forthcoming about His plans and His will for us. People often say: “When I ask for enlightenment about the path I need to take and what choices I need to make, all I get is darkness and silence on God’s part.” Well, here are a few discernment “guidelines” that might help us to be more attentive to God’s will.

1. Prayer of discernment presumes that you are a praying person. Persons who don’t pray and who don’t seek the Lord’s regular presence in prayer cannot expect to suddenly hear the Lord’s call inviting them in a particular mode or direction. Their inner spiritual ear is not attuned to the Lord’s voice speaking in the depths of the heart.
2. Classical discernment guidelines unequivocally maintain that the Lord would not be calling you to a path or direction that is intrinsically immoral or foolishly reckless or contrary to what God has revealed in the life and message of Jesus.
3. Discernment requires that you be cautious around a call that leads you to fulfill a strong ego desire. The need for ego fulfillment can cloud God’s desire.
4. If the call you are discerning involves a compulsive, driven side to it, this is a caution. It can be difficult to discern God’s will when inner compulsions and mandates are operating.
5. Sometimes, after much prayer, strong uneasiness and apprehension over a particular path lessens and you can experience an increasing sense of peace and joyfulness. A path that continually generates strong fears may indicate such a direction is not “of the Lord.”
6. Never think that discernment is going to result in absolute certainty around the Lord’s inner promptings. The “lust for certainty” is the enemy of authentic faith, true love, and real wisdom.
7. Directions and paths that are discerned must be submitted to ongoing discernment because certain paths can only reveal their authenticity by their fruitfulness over the passage of time.

“Indeed you are my lamp, O Lord! The Lord brightens my darkness.”
2 Samuel 22:29

Catholic Home Missions Appeal: 2nd Collection

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal is dedicated to strengthening the Church here at home. It is sponsored by the United States Bishops’ Committee on the Home Missions. It supports Home Missions from the Deep South to the Western Mountains and beyond. With your support, mission parishes will have greater opportunity to support seminarian training, religious education and other important pastoral functions that will ensure their growth in the faith. This weekend is your opportunity by your prayers and financial support to be part of the Church’s mission outreach to the poor and needy here in the United States.

We are His people, the sheep of His flock.
R sponsorial Psalm Psalm 100

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, April 24

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Parishioners & Benefactors*

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25

10:00AM Mass *Lena M. Rabena*
Catholic Forum Today in Parish Hall – After 10:00 AM Mass
11:30AM Mass *Frances Gill Kazmierczak*
12:45PM Baptism *Alessia Carmela Lentini SJM*
5:00PM Mass *The Orlando and De Renzo Families*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students & Staffs at Area Universities*

Wednesday, April 28

12:05PM Mass *In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell.

Friday, April 30

No 7:30AM Mass

Saturday, May 1

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Parishioners & Benefactors*



Easter Decorations – A Thank You

Many people took the time to express their appreciation for how beautifully the church was decorated for Easter. That was made possible because of the generosity of all those who used their Easter Flower Envelope and financially contributed to the effort; and because Palma, Don and Michelle spent much of Holy Saturday morning and afternoon arranging the flowers and constructing the art and environment. We are also grateful to Palma and Don for their efforts to make Hospitality Sunday happen once a month.

Heritage of Faith - Vision of Hope Commitment Weekend - This Week

St. AJ has completed two of the three phases of the Archdiocesan Development program: Heritage of Faith-Vision of Hope. During 2008-09, the parish dedicated its second collection to this fund-raising initiative. In the Fall, the second phase kicked off by inviting certain parishioners, whose commitment and generosity help sustain us all year, to make a major pledge over 3 or 5 years. The third and final phase of this program will occur this weekend, when everyone will be invited to exercise their financial stewardship and make a pledge over 3 or 5 years, where the amount of the pledge would be payable at intervals of your choosing.

A portion of your pledge will benefit the stated goals of the Archdiocese while 35 cents of every dollar of your pledge will remain here at St. AJ to meet our local financial goals which involve personnel and capital project needs. The parish goal, set by the Archdiocese, is \$155,000. Our efforts over the last 18 months in parts 1 & 2 have yielded \$26,131. The Parish share of this amount - \$9,146 – is already available to use for these goals.

Social Networking with the Archdiocese

The Department of Media Affairs is pleased to announce some Archdiocesan social media initiatives. Stay connected & informed.

- Become a “fan” of Cardinal Rigali on *Facebook* at www.facebook.com/CardinalRigali
- Follow The Catholic Standard & Times on *Twitter* at www.twitter.com/CSTPhiladelphia and on *Facebook* at <http://tinyurl.com/ya6we34>, or on the newspaper’s web site: www.cst-phl.com
- Stay in the know on all the latest happenings in the Archdiocese: www.twitter.com/ArchCommPhila