

Fifth Sunday of Easter



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Next Sunday is Mother's Day

The celebration of Mother's Day dates back all the way to ancient times, but the idea of a public recognition and celebration was first considered in 1872. Julia Ward Howe, author of the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," proposed Mother's Day as a day dedicated to peace. But it was Ann Jarvis of West Virginia, however, who really pushed for a national day to honor mothers. On the second anniversary of her mother's death, Jarvis asked her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to celebrate a day to honor mothers. Her mother had died on the second Sunday in May. The church obliged and the following year, the city of Philadelphia joined in the celebration. By 1911, thanks to a campaign by Jarvis and her supporters, almost every state celebrated Mother's Day. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. Other countries also celebrate Mother's Day, but some on different days.

Each of us will celebrate this day depending on our own unique circumstances but one thing should be universally accepted - for Catholics anyway - prayer is certainly an important part of loving and honoring our mothers, living and deceased. We will never really know how many hours our mothers have spent in prayer for us, imploring God to watch over us and sustain us with His Divine love. Having a Mass offered for her, in her memory if she is deceased and for her intentions if she is alive, is a wonderful way to add to this day of honor and love.

Heritage of Faith - Vision of Hope Completion of final phase

St. AJ has now completed the three phases of the Archdiocesan Development program: Heritage of Faith-Vision of Hope. We thank those who participated last week in the commitment weekend and made pledges, and we thank all those who contributed in any way over the last 18 months to this important stewardship initiative.

Catholic Charities Appeal – "You gave me Help and Hope"

Please be generous in the second collection today which is dedicated to the Catholic Charities Appeal. Each year, the Catholic Charities Appeal raises much needed funds to support social service programs provided by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Through your generous support, the Appeal provides hope and gives help to almost 250,000 people each year. 100% of the funds raised in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia benefit the people in the five-county region. Since 2000, the Appeal raises an average of \$8.5 million each year. Today, the Catholic Charities Appeal funds over 80 social service organizations.

Special Collection for Our Own Music Ministry
Our St. AJ Music Ministry - comprised of four unique choirs and instrumentalists - serve the liturgy and all of us by offering their gifts to help us worship. As they give to us all year long, next Sunday we will have an opportunity to give back to them. They have some basic needs - purchasing new sheet music, updating copyright permissions – so we have decided to dedicate **the 2nd Collection next Sunday** to our music program to show our appreciation for all they do.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, May 1

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2

10:00AM Mass *Edith Saraullo*
Catholic Forum Today in Parish Hall – After 10:00 AM Mass
11:30AM Mass *The Orlando and de Renzo Families*
Baptism Kian Christopher Mirzai SJM
5:00PM Mass *The Intentions of the Gorka Family*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students & Staffs at Area Universities*

Monday, May 3

12:05PM Mass *Rosemary Lorenz*

Wednesday, May 5

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

Friday, May 7

No 7:30AM Mass
12:05PM Mass *Members of St. AJ Perpetual Memorial Society*

Saturday, May 8

9:00AM Mass *Pro-Life Liturgy and Vigil*
12:00 Noon Baptism *Elsa Marja Tokarczyk GLS*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Helen Mansfield*



Weekend Summer Mass Schedule Changes

Beginning the weekend of **May 22-23**, the weekend Summer Mass schedule changes will go into effect. Those changes are:

5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass is discontinued for the summer months and will resume the weekend of Labor Day.

10 PM Sunday Mass is discontinued for the summer months and will resume the weekend of Labor Day.

Saturday Confessions at 4:00 pm preceding the Vigil Mass are discontinued for the summer months. Confessions are available by request from any priest – or you can call the rectory for an appointment.

Prayers for Students

We know our students are experiencing the annual stress of final exams. Stress is a huge part of the experience of both college and life, so it's something we all have to deal with but we don't have to let stress get the best of us in school or in life. If you research the net for tips to deal with stress, you might find these:

1. Avoid stressful people during exams

even if they are your friends. Stress actually is contagious.

2. Eat healthy and exercise

This is a no-brainer, but it's a wonder how many people forget it.

3. Just say NO...politely

to people who want to take up your time.

4. Force yourself to take breaks

For every hour or so that you work, take a 10 or 15 minute break. This gives your brain a little rest and will help keep you more focused when you are actually doing work.

5. Visualize it all going right

Positive visualizations work. Imagine yourself taking the test and feeling confident that you know all the information. When test-time rolls around, it's time to get yourself into confidence mode.

6. Prayer

What isn't mentioned in these on-line tips, as you might expect is....prayer. So let's add it. We are not talking about prayer as a substitute for study of course, but prayer that unites you with Christ and his Spirit of love and wisdom that enables you and to be your best self. As a parish community we will all pray for your success and well being in this exam time.