

Seventh Sunday of Easter



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

“I don’t like anybody very much!”

As a kid, I remember that there were certain people that everybody liked: people like the president, the Pope, certain sports figures, certain teachers in school, certain T.V. personalities like newscasters and meteorologists, or movie actors and actresses. There seemed to be certain things or events that everybody in general liked also: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and the World Series. Now it seems to me that everybody dislikes everybody else and everything else. If I mention the color “blue,” there will be people who will vehemently vent their anger on “blue” and blog long into the night to justify why “blue” should be eradicated from the face of the earth.

We seem to have left niceties like “matters of preference” behind and replaced ordinary differences of opinion with extreme dislike and even hatred for points of view that are different or opposite from our own. It seems to be the case that our minds and hearts have shrunk to such a degree that there is only room inside for one perspective – Mine! And my sense of self is so fragile that I cannot tolerate anyone or anything that might oppose my truth or my need, however myopic and limited they might be.

Every day I read editorials and op-ed pieces in which people put forth differing opinions and attitudes with absolute intolerance and character assassination for those who would dare think or feel differently. Not good. There are three pillars of our society which are fundamentally oriented to service, caring, and the benefit of individuals and the common good: religion, politics and science. Rather than work together to enhance the human community and Planet Earth, our home, these three entities are more often at war with one another. Neo Darwinian evolutionary biologists are damning to hell [which they don’t believe in] religious believers who are intelligent design proponents. Church leaders are trying to excommunicate pro-choice politicians; liberal politicians are trying to silence Catholic Bishops. Meanwhile, more people with a cause against the Church are joining the “let’s throw the Pope under the bus” campaign. “Green” scientists and senators who are worried about global warming are attacking scientists and senators who want to drill for oil in Alaska or in the Gulf or mine for coal in Pennsylvania. And on and on.

Bottom line for me is that our country and our global community is seriously flawed and dysfunctional, dissipating our energies and resources fighting with each other while the common good and the health and vitality of the planet and its natural resources are literally going down the drain. If religion, politics and science, the pillars of common sense and common respect and dignity, cannot get it together, then they and we will soon be replaced, and I shudder to imagine, by what.

Newly Ordained Priests for Philadelphia

Congratulations and God’s blessing upon the six young men who were ordained yesterday by Cardinal Rigali at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul for service to the Church of Philadelphia. Please keep them in your prayers today as they celebrate their first Masses and prepare to take up their first priestly assignments and perform the sacred work of ordained ministry in the Catholic Church. Please continue to pray for more vocations to the religious life.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, May 15

9:00AM Mass *Paul Watson*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *University of Pennsylvania Baccalaureate 2010*

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 16

10:00AM Mass *The Gatto and Seminole Families*
Catholic Forum Today in Parish Hall – After 10:00 AM Mass
11:30AM Mass *Ava Kinney Griffiths*
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners and Benefactors*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students & Staffs at Area Universities*

Monday, May 17

12:05PM Mass *Gail Carney*

Tuesday, May 18

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Elizabeth and Al Michalek*

Wednesday, May 19

12:05PM Mass *Juan Chico*
12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell.

Thursday, May 20

12:05PM Mass *Jackie Gallagher*

Friday, May 21

No 7:30AM Mass

Saturday, May 22

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
NO 4:00PM Confessions for Summer – By Request or Appointment
NO 5:30PM Vigil Mass for Summer – Resumes Saturday, Sept. 4



Alert: Summer Mass Schedule Changes

Beginning next weekend, **May 22-23**, the Summer Mass schedule changes will go into effect.

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

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

Saturday Confessions at 4:00 pm are discontinued for the summer months. Confessions are available by request – or call the Rectory for an appointment.

7:30 AM Weekday Mass (Monday – Thursday) will be discontinued for the Summer beginning Monday, May 24. The 7:30 AM Mass will resume Tuesday, September 7.



Next Sunday, May 23 – Feast of Pentecost

As recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, it was on the 50th day after Easter that the apostles were praying together and the Holy Spirit descended on them. They received the “gift of tongues” – the ability to speak in other languages – and immediately began to preach about Jesus Christ to Jewish people from all over the world who flocked to Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. Christian Pentecost became not only a commemoration of the Holy Spirit’s visit but also marks the birth of the Christian Church. Pentecost is always about seven weeks after Easter Sunday, or 50 days after Easter, including Easter Day.

The Lord is king, the Lord Most High over all the earth.