

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Thoughts to Reflect Upon

Taking Stock

The business world operates on the fiscal year which runs from July 1 to June 30 rather than the traditional calendar year which begins January 1. As we are now one month into the new fiscal year, businesses have taken stock of their financial performances and made plans for a new year based on the previous year's outcomes. It wouldn't be stretching it too much if we took advantage of this new fiscal year to take stock of our performance in one particular and important area of our personal spiritual lives and our communal involvement in our parish family. That one area is stewardship. We can do that by asking the question:

How alive was my faith last year?

A critical and vital part of your lived faith is stewardship. Would you care to prayerfully examine your Catholic stewardship by reflecting on these questions:

- * Have you been faithful in your attendance of worship services?
- * If you are involved in a parish group or ministry, how committed were you to fulfilling your responsibilities and duties? Can you look back without any misgivings?
- * Have you volunteered your time and talent in areas where you know help is needed?
- * Have you fulfilled your financial responsibilities to your parish family?

How Can I Arrange

For an Announced Mass for My Intention?

There are many opportunities for anyone interested in obtaining announced Masses during the fall season. Please call 215-386-9732 and leave your name and number. We will call you to arrange for Masses to remember beloved friends and family, deceased or living, or for any particular intentions, in gratitude for favors granted, or for any particular intention, such as for loved ones' health, or for a successful fall term.

The Church is Open on Wednesdays

While the main Church is not being utilized for the Summer, it is open for visits and prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2 PM. You can utilize a self-guided tour brochure or you can stop in at the Newman Center after the 12:05 pm Mass and ask for a personal tour or simply request entrance into the Church for private prayer and reflection. We are happy to accommodate you.

In the quiet of a summer Wednesday, you can note the beautiful statues in St. AJ which have been professionally cleaned in the past year, as have the side altars. We are hoping to do the same with our main altar, if possible. Another completed project – the creation of gathering spaces off the center aisle in the rear on the left and right hand sides. St. AJ doesn't have a "Narthex" - a gathering space in the rear of church. At the end of the pews, there was a limited, tightly confined space and then - Chestnut Street. Now these two spaces will accommodate small gatherings, presentation tables and displays, liturgical space for such events as Easter fire, blessing of palm, procession formation, and various other activities that require space that previously we did not have.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, July 31

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

The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 1

10:00AM Mass *The Candeloro & Zagrosky Families*
Catholic Forum meets today after 10:00 Mass in Newman Center.
11:30AM Mass *In Memory of Mrs. Daniel W. Dietrich II*
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners and Benefactors*
No 10:00PM Mass for Summer – Resumes Sunday, September 5

Monday, August 2

No 7:30 AM Mass for Summer – Resumes Tuesday, September 7
12:05PM Mass *In Praise of God*
1:00PM Mass Celebrated at Drexel Chapel Monday - Thursday

Tuesday, August 3

12:05PM Mass *In Memory of Richard and Beth Ann*
1:00PM Mass *In Thanksgiving for Blessings Received*

Wednesday, August 4

12:05PM Mass *God's Blessing on Jocelyn*
12:30PM - 2:00PM Church open by request - ask at Newman Center

Thursday, August 5

12:05PM Mass *Special Intentions*
1:00PM Mass *In Memory of Raymond and Florence*

Friday, August 6

12:05PM Mass *Perpetual Memorial Society of St. AJ*
No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel on Fridays during Summer term

Saturday, August 7

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

Catholic Service Services – Be a Foster Parent

At present, there are over 4000 children in foster care in Philadelphia in need of safe, temporary, homes. Catholic Social Services is looking for single or married adults to become foster care parents of children of all ages and races. To learn more, call 215-587-3960 and consider making a lifetime of difference.

Engaged?

Sign Up Early for Marriage Preparation!

The Sacrament of Marriage is, in the words of Pope John Paul II, "an intimate communion of life and love." Your wedding day should be joyful and fun—but it is *one day*. *Marriage is a lifetime*, and the Church requires engaged couples to participate in a period of preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage either at the parish or through programs offered by the Archdiocese through the Family Life Office. Marriage preparation is not simply a requirement to be fulfilled; it is an important time of anticipating not only what will come on the wedding day but on every day thereafter. Engagement—and marriage preparation—provides you with time to meditate and talk with each other about the meaning of the sacrament, and the difference inviting Christ into your relationship will make for your marriage. The Family Life Office offers 4-week sessions, as well as two retreat options. Call 215-587-5639 or email familife@adphila.org. OR – The Penn Newman Center offers a Fall and Spring Pre-marital Preparation Day. Please contact the priest who is handling your wedding arrangements.

Programs fill up quickly, so contact your parish or the Family Life Office, as soon as you set your wedding date, to register for a Marriage Preparation program!

Take "5 Minutes for Marriage"

Visit www.youranswer matters.com & www.pa4marriage.org