

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



For Your Reflection

Secular or Sacred Culture

Most religious and thinking people know that there has been a seismic shift in our culture from a basically Christian and religious based culture to a secular one. However, no one has adequately understood the implications of this shift for individuals and for the culture as a whole, especially in the area of morality. There are many ways to bump up against this bias toward secular values that have eclipsed Christian moral values. You might pay attention to the arts and cinema and how rarely, if ever, you encounter a movie that features a holy person, i.e. someone whose life is focused on God/Christ. One of recent memory is Mel Gibson's offering: "The Crucifixion of Christ" which certainly features a holy main character; but this movie was not made nor circulated without opposition and severe criticism. We remember "A Man for All Seasons" which actually won best picture in 1966 where the main character is a saint, Thomas More, who was executed precisely for his total embrace of Christ. But since then, holiness as such gets short shrift in cinema, drama, or art and music.

Perhaps this accounts for the pre-occupation of young people today with Superheroes, and the cinematic and financial successes of superhero movies such as Superman, Batman, Spiderman, X Men, and others of that genre, which offer us heroes who are willing to do battle against evil. We can include also movies like Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, Star Wars and Star Trek which are conceived and structured around the story of the battle of good and evil where evil is defeated by the sacrifice of courageous men and woman.

Many so called religious-themed movies and books cast the Church as the anti-hero and offender of goodness, as an amoral agent with its own selfish agenda [think Da Vinci Code, the Golden Compass, and the myriad of other spin-offs that depict the Church covering up the real story of Jesus which is different from the Jesus story portrayed in the Gospels]. Going against this tide are the recent books by Anne Rice who is well known for her Vampire Chronicles but wrote two books of historical fiction on Jesus of Nazareth and a personal confession of her atheism and recent return to her faith as a Roman Catholic. If this culture is going to get a good look at holiness and how it can inform and transform life, it will have to glimpse it in the lives of active Christians who have chosen to be disciples of Christ, faithful members of His body, the Church, and who live in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Church is Open on Wednesdays

The main Church is open by request for visits and prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2 PM. If the Church side door (Rectory side) is locked, please come to The Center and ask to be admitted to the Church. .



This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, August 21

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 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 22

10:00AM Mass *Rose & Joseph Candeloro and Maryann DeMarco*
Catholic Forum meets today after 10:00 Mass in The Center.
11:30AM Mass *In Memory of Mrs. Daniel W. Dietrich II*
5:00PM Mass *Peace & Comfort for Wan Lan Chow*
No 10:00PM Mass for Summer – Resumes Sunday, September 5

Monday, August 23

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

Tuesday, August 24

12:05PM Mass *In Memory of Kathryn and Michael*

Wednesday, August 25

12:05PM Mass *In Memory of Mrs. Daniel W. Dietrich III*
12:30PM to 2:00PM Church open by request – ask at The Center

Friday, August 27

No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel on Fridays during Summer term

Saturday, August 28

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

Arranging For an Announced Mass

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 academic year or job hunt.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Do you want to become Catholic? Has anyone in your circle expressed interest in learning about the Catholic Faith? Are you already Catholic but have not yet received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist? The Church is issuing to all an invitation to "Come and See" what it would be like to know more about Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith and perhaps go on to be received into the fullness of the Catholic Church. Every year in September, Saints AJ begins a new RCIA journey that will lead candidates to Easter and full incorporation with us at the Lord's Eucharist. This September, Saints AJ is offering a new ongoing Inquirers' group. Now is your opportunity to be an evangelist and relay this invitation to others. If interested in the RCIA or the new Inquirers group, please check out the RCIA web page on the Parish web site www.saintsaj.org and/or contact the RCIA Coordinator at saintsajrcia@hotmail.com

CATHOLIC FORUM meets each Sunday after the 10 AM Sunday Mass in the Newman Center with coffee and treats. We are a small but enthusiastic group of parishioners who gather to reflect on the day's Liturgy of the Word and how to make it real in our lives. We are not Bible scholars but just earnest Catholics engaging the Word of God. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.