

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



For Your Reflection

Striving For The Common Good

2010 is a year of on-going mid-term primaries in the US, culminating in the mid-term election on November 2. Having reflected on Pope Benedict's Encyclical Charity in Truth earlier this month (August 8), perhaps we are well-advised to keep The Holy Father's words in mind this fall. The words "politics" and "politician" have dual personalities in our culture. On one hand, politics and politicians represent the best of democratic America – men and women who are elected in a free society who are charged with the responsibility and the noble task of serving the "common good." But, as we know, there is another side to these terms. The public and the media often use the terms politics and politicians in a negative way: politics – to speak about the process which actually frustrates the common good in favor of special interests; and politicians - to refer to men and women who are less concerned with the common good and more concerned with narrow, self-serving agendas, sometimes sadly to the point of becoming corrupted by them. The term politician is often used to identify someone not as a servant of the common good but as the antithesis of a highly moral public servant.

Perhaps, as Americans, we have become too accustomed to partisan politics that are divisive and distorted by excessive self-interest. May we continue to be surprised and outraged when we hear about widespread corruption or criminality in our political process. We should never assume that it is "business as usual."

The public should expect its public servants to actively work for the public good and to support legislation that could bring great benefit to the common good.

The common good should remain a viable goal on the floors of Congress. It is the responsibility of our governmental, social, and economic institutions to protect the common good and not surrender to partisan and special interest groups. Hopefully, common good legislation that has to do with protecting citizens, environmental protection, cleaner air and water, consumer protection from wildcat banking and financial practices, and other efforts and reforms aimed at corruption and self-interest spending, will be seriously considered by legislators, and our elected officials will consider themselves accountable to the common good rather than simply to partisan constituencies.

Let us praise and give thanks to Pope Benedict XVI, who courageously reminds us in his third Encyclical, Charity in Truth, that the purpose of our public and social institutions is to desire the common good and to strive for it, because it is a requirement of justice and charity. His words are truly prophetic in this narcissistic society. May we join him in whatever ways we can to hold our leaders accountable to serve the common good.

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. Please come to The Center and ask to be admitted to the Church. .



This Week at St. AJ

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

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 29

10:00AM Mass The Candeloro and Zagrosky Families
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 In Honor of St. James
No 10:00PM Mass for Summer – Resumes Sunday, September 5

Monday, August 30

No 7:30 AM Mass for Summer – Resumes Tuesday, September 7
12:05PM Mass In Honor of St. James
1:00PM Mass Celebrated at Drexel Chapel In Honor of St. James

Tuesday, August 31

12:05PM Mass In Honor of St. James
1:00PM Mass In Honor of St. James

Wednesday, September 1

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church open by request – ask at The Center
12:05PM Mass In Honor of St. James
1:00PM Mass In Honor of St. James

Thursday, September 2

12:05PM Mass In Memory of James and Jayne
1:00PM Mass Celebrated at Drexel Chapel Monday - Thursday

Friday, September 3

12:05PM Mass St. AJ Perpetual Memorial Society
No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel on Fridays

Saturday, September 4

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass

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 you wish.

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.

God, in Your goodness, You have made a home for the poor.