

The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

A Sad Experiment

Perhaps you have heard of Joshua Bell. He is a Classical Music superstar solo violinist with 30 albums. His recent Vivaldi, the 4 Seasons, was hit number one on the Classical Chart immediately after release. He provided the soundtrack for the movie "The Red Violin." He is also a renowned crossover artist sharing the stage with Josh Grobin, James Taylor, and Sting. His concert instrument is a magnificent, one of a kind, 3.5 million dollar Stradivarius.

On a cold January morning in 2007, in a Washington DC Metro Station, Joshua Bell, incognito, played six Bach pieces for 1 hour as approximately 2000 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. During that time, a few people stopped for brief intervals; only six people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. Two days previously, Joshua Bell sold out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100. Interestingly, a number of children stopped, taken by the music, but in every instance, parents forced them to move on. Basically, no one noticed, no one applauded, nor was there any recognition of this mega talent of one of the best musicians in the world, nor the incredible, unique beauty that poured out of his violin.

This "experiment" - Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station - was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about how or if we perceive beauty in a commonplace environment, and do we stop to appreciate it. Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context? You can make your own conclusions and personal applications from this experiment - I hope you will. But one inevitable question arises for me, from a spiritual standpoint: if we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, on one of the most magnificent instruments ever created by human hands, what else are we missing or ignoring in our daily, compulsive, stressed-out lives? What else or who else are we not hearing or perceiving?

You can watch this experiment and hear the music in a time lapse two and one-half minute video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnOPuO_YWhw.



Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses: All weekend Masses are now in the Church Building.

Saturday: Vigil Mass 5:30 pm

Sunday: 10 am, 11:30 am, 5 pm, & 10 pm

Daily Masses The 7:30 am Daily Mass in the Penn Newman Center is reinstated as of Tuesday, September 8.

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 am & 12:05 in Penn Newman Center, 1 pm in Drexel Newman

Fridays: 12:05 in Penn Newman, 1 pm in Drexel Newman NB. No 7:30 am on Friday

Saturday Morning: 9 am in the Penn Newman Center

Labor Day Mass:

Monday, September 7 at 9 am in the Penn Newman Center.

Centering Prayer

To learn about Centering Prayer, please call Tom Connolly at 484-995-4046.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, September 5

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

4:00PM Confessions in Church

5:30PM Vigil Mass *St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

Sunday, September 6 The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass *Rodolfo Faelnar*

11:30AM Mass *Intentions of David K. Taylor*

5:00PM Mass *Warren Jochem*

10:00PM Mass *God's Blessing on Wai Lan Chow*

Monday, September 7 Labor Day

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Katie Campion-Motyka*

No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel this week

Tuesday, September 8

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of Paul Yost*

12:05PM Mass *Bridgie Doherty*

Wednesday, September 9

12:05PM Mass *God's Blessing on the Nedumcheril Family*

12:30PM to 2:00PM **Church is open today for prayer & visits.**

Friday, September 11

No 7:30 AM Mass on Friday until further notice

Saturday, September 12

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Larry Riley*

4:00PM Confessions in Church

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Anton & Mary Ann Dreslin*

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Do you or someone you know want to become Catholic or learn more about the Catholic Faith? The Church invites all who are yearning to know Jesus and his Church to "Come and See". The information / kick-off session for inquirers for this year's RCIA is Tuesday, September 22, 2009, from 7 to 8:30 PM at the Penn Newman Center. Now is your opportunity to be an evangelist and relay this invitation to your networks. Anyone interested in the RCIA should check out the RCIA page of the parish web site www.saintsaj.org or contact the RCIA Coordinator at saintsajrcia@hotmail.com.

CATHOLIC FORUM TODAY after 10 AM Mass

Join us for a one-hour spirited discussion of today's "Word" (scripture / homily) and its value to you. In the Parish Hall downstairs following the 10 AM Mass. With coffee and donuts. Feed your body and your soul. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hospitality Sunday: Next Sunday

Next Sunday, September 13, the second Sunday of the month, we will begin our Hospitality gathering after the 10 and 11:30 am Masses. Please come and enjoy beverage, baked goods and some St. AJ camaraderie. If you would like to contribute a baked item to share, please bring it to Mass and a member of the hospitality team will take it and prepare it for the festivities. If you want to be a member of the hospitality group, talk to Palma Marinas, the Hospitality Coordinator; she will be glad to hear from you. Weather permitting, Hospitality will be on the Rectory porch.

Black & Indian Missions - September 13

Since 1884, parishes of the United States have expressed their solidarity with African-American communities through their contribution to the Collection for the Black and Indian Missions. This collection offers assistance for various programs of pastoral outreach and evangelization throughout the US and locally here in the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

Praise the Lord, my soul! Praise the Lord!

Spiritual Thank You's, Memorials, & Personal Intentions

Our parish offers several "spiritual" ways in which you can say thank you to someone, remember someone in a special way, honor someone living or deceased with a memorial, or bring your own intentions and needs to a special spiritual focus. Personal intentions can be about almost anything such as grace needed for a difficult decision, for guidance, for health, for a good semester, in gratitude to God for a favor, or an appeal to God for a special favor.

1. Have one of the daily or Sunday Masses offered for a person[s], living or deceased, or your own personal intentions.
2. The six-month memorial candles at the Sacred Heart Shrine and the Holy Child Shrine can be utilized in the same manner.
3. If someone is deceased, particularly a friend or family member, you can enroll that person in the **St. Agatha-St. James Perpetual Memorial Society**. The enrollment list is accessible from the parish website.
4. Ask about a donated gift in memory of a loved one.

For more information, please call the Rectory at 215-386-9732 and speak to our office manager, Carole.

Religious Jubilarian Celebration

On Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 11:00 AM

Cardinal Rigali will be the presiding celebrant at the Annual Religious Jubilarian Liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, for the religious sisters, priests, and brothers of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who celebrate their Silver, Golden, or Diamond Anniversaries in 2009. Nearly 300 religious observe their Jubilees this year, representing over 15,000 years of dedicated witness and service in the Church. You are cordially invited to join in this celebration at the Cathedral Basilica as a sign of gratitude to these religious.

Day of Recollection with Dr. Scott Hahn

On Saturday, Sept. 19 Dr. Scott Hahn will offer a day of Recollection at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary from 9 am to 5:30 PM. Dr. Hahn is professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville and an internationally known speaker and teacher and author of over ten books and numerous articles. The day will conclude at 4 pm with Mass with Cardinal Rigali as principal celebrant and homilist. Fees: (includes lunch) \$40.00 general admission; \$15.00 college students; no charge for priests, sisters and seminarians. Checks payable & sent to: St. John Neumann Chapter, CUF
183 Hillcrest Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19118

For more info – Visit www.cuf.homestead.com/cuf.html.

Workshop: Pastoral Care for Alzheimer's Patients

The Department of Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities will sponsor a workshop entitled *Pastoral Care for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease*. It will provide tools and resources for those interested in supporting individuals with Alzheimer's and their family members. Date: Saturday, September 26 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Archdiocesan Office Center, 222 N. 17 St., Philadelphia (parking available on premises). To register, contact Janell Lavender or Sr. Kathleen Schipani @ 215-587-3530 or email: pcpddeaf@adphila.org.

All Weekend Masses - in Church as of September 5-6

Newman Center Notes

Penn Newman Center 3720 Chestnut Street
www.newman.upenn.edu

Drexel Newman Center 30 South 33rd Street
www.drexelnewman.org

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 12:05pm Penn Newman
St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level
Mon-Fri 1:00pm Drexel Newman
St. Katharine Drexel Chapel – 2nd Floor

Beginning September 21, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available weekly at Drexel Newman on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:00pm.

Beginning September 21, Eucharistic Adoration will be offered weekly at Drexel Newman Center on Thursdays from the conclusion of 1:00 pm Mass until 4:00 pm.

Drexel Newman: University Break Schedule

In observance of the University Break between terms the Center will be **closed** from September 7 through September 20. The regular schedule will resume with the first day of the Fall Term on Monday, September 21.

A Baby's Breath 4th Annual Run for Life:

Johnny's Run for Life

Sunday, October 4, 7:30 am-10:30 am
Wilson Farm Park, Wayne, PA

This event includes Mass, a 1-Mile Fun Run, and a 5K Run! To register & for more info, please contact [Marybeth Toscani](mailto:Marybeth.Toscani) or visit www.ababysbreath.org/run.asp. You do not need to be a runner to attend...all are welcome. This year's Run is dedicated to the memory of Johnny Williamson, a pro-life Drexel University student.

Penn Newman: Spiritual Mentoring/Direction

Spiritual mentoring/direction is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a professional minister to speak about your life. Several mentors are available to Penn undergraduate and graduate students. See www.newman.upenn.edu.

Grad Student Service Opportunity: Tutoring

Grad students and young professionals are invited to participate in a tutoring program for children from K-4th grades at Annunciation BVM Church in South Philly. The children are primarily Mexican immigrants who are just learning English, and consequently placed below grade level in local schools. The church will have regular weekday tutoring sessions when school begins again in the fall. Contact Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

Prayer Resources

Penn Newman invites you to check out our webpage with several links to resources designed to enhance your spiritual life. Go to www.newman.upenn.edu, Click on Activities, then Prayer & Spirituality, then Prayer Resources.