

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Are You HAPPY?

One of the three inalienable rights granted every American by the constitution is the freedom to pursue happiness. This culture seems to have modified that slightly into the right to be happy. One of the criticisms of post-modern Americans is our mentality of "entitlement." We think and behave as if we are entitled to things for which our predecessors actually had to work. Happiness is one of those things. Many in our culture are engaged in a relentless, compulsive pursuit of happiness as if it were a goal we are capable of achieving. According to *Psychology Today*, there were 4000 books published in the last year on happiness. Compare this to 50 in 2000. As one critic said of this obsession, Americans have "panted, chanted, and visualized while trying to be really, really cheerful."

There are plenty of statistics that indicate that our preoccupation with our own happiness isn't working. One study shows that while women were happier than men in 1972, they are not now. Social scientists are working on why the positive thinking movement is failing, and why we are not happy, and what can be done about it. Of course, it occurs to no one that maybe our culture's plummeting happiness quotient might just be connected to our equally obsessive compulsion to push God out of our lives, out of our politics, out of our schools, and out of our minds.

Good Catholic and Gospel thinking will immediately tell you that this endless pursuit of happiness is flawed because it is all about self: my happiness, my well being, my needs – me, my, and mine. Happiness according to the saints can never be the primary goal or it will collapse on itself. Happiness and joy is a secondary effect of caring about others. Or as Jesus would say: loving the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.

World Mission Sunday: October 18

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday. This is our opportunity to be in close solidarity with the men and women who are working in mission lands to make Jesus known and loved. It is our chance to manifest our baptismal identity on behalf of all those in mission lands who are impoverished and in need of our attention and assistance. The second collection next week is for this important cause.

We are a ParishPay Parish

St. Agatha-St. James is an Automated On-Line Giving Parish. Please join ParishPay! Go to the parish webpage - www.saintsaj.org - and select the ParishPay link. When you arrive at the donor page, you can thoughtfully and prayerfully chose your monthly offertory contribution. Please remember the first box on the page - your offertory gift - is a "monthly" contribution. Some people who wanted to give \$5.00 dollars a week, put \$5.00 in the offertory box, which means their weekly gift becomes \$1.25.

Reminder: Main Church Open on Wednesdays

The main Church is open for visits and prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2 PM. Please ring the Rectory bell.

Centering Prayer

For information about Centering Prayer and to learn when it occurs at St. AJ, call Tom Connolly at 484-995-4046.

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, October 10

4:00PM Confessions in Church

5:30PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, October 11 The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass *Intentions of Parishioners & Benefactors*

11:30AM Mass *Intentions of the Gatto & Seminole Families*

5:00PM Mass *Anthony Evangelista*

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of the Ministry Volunteers of St. AJ*

Monday, October 12

No 1:00 PM Mass at Drexel Newman today

Tuesday, October 13

No 1:00 PM Mass at Drexel Newman today

Wednesday, October 14

12:30PM to 2:00PM **Church will be open today.**

Thursday, October 15

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Minh-Tu Nguyen*

Friday, October 16

No 7:30 AM Mass on Friday

Saturday, October 17

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

There is still time for you to sign up for this year's RCIA meetings on Tuesday evenings. For all those seeking to enter the fullness of the Catholic Church (new Christians, Christians from other faith traditions, and Catholics needing Confirmation). See the RCIA page of the parish web site, or contact saintsajrcia@hotmail.com for information.

CATHOLIC FORUM TODAY after 10 AM Mass

Held every Sunday after the 10 AM Mass, downstairs in the Parish Hall. Join us for a discussion of today's "Word" and its value to you. It is an opportunity to meet new Catholic friends - coffee and donuts also. ALL ARE WELCOME!



Lector Training Sessions

The final lector training session is this Wednesday, October 14 at 7 pm in church. If you signed up to become a lector and did not attend the first session, you need to come to this one

Natural Family Planning Classes – October and November 2009

The Family Life Office offers regular NFP classes throughout the Archdiocese. These classes are especially helpful for those who are preparing to marry or for couples already married who would like to newly learn NFP or to take a refresher course. Upcoming NFP classes are October 15 and 22, 2009, from 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Margaret Church in Narberth, PA; October 15 and 22, 2009 (in Spanish), from 7:00-9:00 pm at St. Alice Church in Upper Darby, PA; and on November 14 and 21, 2009, from 10 a.m.-Noon at The Provincialate of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer in Huntingdon Valley, PA. For more info and to register for a class, call 215-587-3516 or e-mail tseyfer@adphila.org.

Priesthood Discernment - Weekend Retreat

There is a discernment retreat on October 16-18, 2009, for young men, ages 16 to 24, at the St. Charles Seminary. Information is available @ www.HeedTheCall.org.

Collections for Sunday 10/04/09

1st Collection: \$ 2592.00

2nd Collection: \$ 519.00 (Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope)