

## The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

### Two Anniversaries Worth Remembering That Foster Unity and Dialogue

The Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs reminds us of two significant anniversaries this Fall. This November marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. During its existence from 1961 to 1989, the Wall stopped almost all emigration and separated East Germany from West Germany for more than a quarter of a century. The Wall included guard towers lining large concrete walls circumscribing a wide area (later known as the "death strip") containing anti-vehicle trenches, "fakir beds" and other defenses. After its erection, around 5,000 people attempted to escape circumventing the wall, with estimates of the resulting death toll varying between 98 and 200. The people of Germany who prayed for unification at candlelight vigils are remembered with gratitude for their faith and perseverance in the face of persecution. We continue to remember all those in the world who still must live their lives under persecution.

October 31, 2009 marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification by the Lutheran Federation and the Pontifical Congregation for Promoting Christian Unity. The Joint Declaration has also been accepted by the Methodists. In a further Protestant convergence, there will be altar and pulpit sharing between the Lutherans and Methodists in the near future.

### World Mission Sunday: Today

On this World Mission Sunday, we have the 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 today is for this important cause.

### We are a ParishPay Parish

St. Agatha-St. James is an Automated On-Line Giving Parish. Please go to the parish webpage - [www.saintsaj.org](http://www.saintsaj.org) - and select the ParishPay link. When you arrive at the donor page, you can thoughtfully and prayerfully choose your monthly offertory contribution. Thank you to all our new members who have taken the time to sign up and embrace their stewardship calling and responsibility. Since we started Kick-off two weeks ago, ten new members have chosen automated online giving.

### 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.

### Spiritual Opportunity

The Visitation Nuns at 5820 City Line Avenue (between 59<sup>th</sup> Street and Cardinal Avenue) cordially invite you to celebrate the triduum of 7:30 pm Masses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, December 10 – 12, 2009. Please mark your calendars. All are welcome.

## This Week at St. AJ

### Saturday, October 17

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*  
4:00PM Confessions in Church  
5:30PM Vigil Mass

### Sunday, October 18 The 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass *Josue B Gepty*  
11:30AM Mass *Doris Riley*  
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of Parishioners & Benefactors*  
10:00PM Mass

### Monday, October 19

12:05PM Mass *Robert Campion*  
1:00PM Mass *William J. Friel*

### Wednesday, October 21

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

### Friday, October 23

No 7:30 AM Mass on Friday  
12:05PM Mass *Vicente, Viliam, and Jaime Dychiao*

### Saturday, October 24

9:00AM Mass  
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](mailto: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!



### Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope

**Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope** is the fundraising initiative that combines the capital needs of the Archdiocese with the needs of the local parish. This initiative is in its third year and is enjoying the success that was anticipated. St. Agatha – St. James is among the third wave of parishes that are now entering the program. Our goal established by the Archdiocese is \$155,000. So far we have collected about \$10,000 by allocating the non-dedicated Second Collections to this Campaign. We will continue to do that throughout the coming year. Our parish is entitled to one third of whatever we collect. We will provide more information shortly about our parish plan for **Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope**.

### Marriage Preparation Schedule Now Online

The Family Life Office is now publishing the Archdiocese's Marriage Preparation Program schedules exclusively online. Pastors, parish staff and couples can access the schedule and registration form by visiting the Archdiocesan website at <http://archphila.org/evangelization/famlife/marriage.htm#couples>. A partial schedule of dates for 2010 is online now, including the four-session program and the Marriage Preparation Retreat at: <http://archphila.org/evangelization/famlife/2010archregmarpreses.htm>. Local couples preparing for Marriage are also reminded that the Penn Newman Center offers Pre-Cana classes once each semester. Please call the Penn Newman Center for more information.

*Lord, let Your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in You.*