

Feast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ The King



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Abortion - The "Big" Picture

Abortion is in the news again. No surprise. It has become a major issue in the congressional struggle to pass a health care reform bill – splitting support between those who won't vote for health care that doesn't include benefits to cover elective abortions, and those who will not vote for a bill that does include benefits to cover elective abortions. We know the "small" picture about why the Catholic Church opposes elective abortion: the choice to terminate a pregnancy by a direct attack on the fetus is a moral evil and must be opposed. While we understand this aspect of the Church's opposition to abortion, and the political ramifications of our pro-life posture, we often miss the "big" picture of why the Church opposes abortion: because it is a direct attack on the heart and soul of the United States of America.

Let me explain further by a personal example. Several weeks ago, I was called to Children's Hospital to baptize a 2 day old infant who was dying. I was deeply moved by the faith of the parents, their profound pain at losing their child, their gratitude to God and to me, and their gratitude to the hospital staff for the dedicated, tireless yet unsuccessful efforts to save their baby.

Upon leaving I stood outside CHOP for a reflective moment and looked around at the imposing health care megaplex that surrounded me: the number of hospital buildings, the new construction, the millions of dollars [maybe billions] in technology, education, jobs, careers, salaries, research – all existing in this one special area of our city that is totally dedicated to valuing and saving the lives of our precious infants. This incredible, monumental healthcare system shouts out one overwhelming truth as clearly as possible: we *love* babies; we value and prioritize the preciousness of embryonic life, and we will do as much as we humanly can, and devote as much money and resources as we can to caring for infants and children.

Equally obvious in our health care system is the painful reality that we are also just as ready and willing to treat embryonic life as a throw-away commodity and dispose of the remains as medical waste. Given this situation of opposing alternate realities regarding the meaning and value of the human fetus, do we really think that the heart and soul of this country can survive this self-serving, deceitful, schizophrenic assault?

We should at least stop kidding ourselves. Abortion is not just a political football to be tossed back and forth between liberal and conservatives, or a private matter to be resolved between a woman and her physician. Abortion is damaging the heart and soul of America – causing us to live in a society that is splitting in half around its most fundamental moral and mental truths and values. We are becoming a nation with a national mental disorder. Is it any wonder that Americans are the major consumers of anxiety and stress reducing medications, as well as indulging more frequently in psychiatric, new age, self help, recovery, and all manner of healing therapies – because our heart and soul is being cleaved, trying to live in a society that is trying to hold together schizophrenic states of reality regarding the unborn: precious and sacred versus disposable commodity.

RCIA

At today's 10 AM Mass, we welcome four individuals into the **Order of Catechumens**, a step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The four are Darlene Douger, Kiddi Nguyen Vu, Michael Nguyen, and Rafi Rahman. This is a major step of faith for them, and the entire parish is called to support them in their continuing faith journey toward receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil next year. Please pray for them.

The Lord is king. He is robed in majesty.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, November 21

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Seth Stone*
2:30PM Wedding Larry Leso – Elena Huang SJM
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Thomas Holton*

Sunday, November 22 Feast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ The King

10:00AM Mass *Ann Massey*
11:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
5:00PM Mass *Intentions of the Stone Family*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*

Monday, November 23

12:05PM Mass *God's Blessing on Rosalyn*

Tuesday, November 24

12:05PM Mass *Rosamma and Joseph*

Wednesday, November 25

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

No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel Newman Center

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day

9:00AM Mass *Parishioners and Benefactors of St. AJ*

Friday, November 27

9:00AM Mass - only Friday Mass

Saturday, November 28

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Parishioners and Benefactors*

Today, November 22 - Feast of Christ the King

The liturgical theme for this final Sunday is the coming of end times. Our attention is drawn to the final coming of Jesus when all creation will welcome its true king. We are reminded of our own personal end time, of the approach and inevitability of our death and encounter with Christ the judge and redeemer. While these themes may not be pleasant for certain people, it is important to spend time being aware of our own mortality and the fleeting aspect of all worldly possessions and accomplishments. Human life as we all know is a journey. It is important for us to take stock of the final destination of our journey, Heaven. In all journeys course corrections are needed and re-commitment is often necessary. These last days of the Church's year are excellent opportunities to meditate on such course corrections and renewal possibilities.

Windows 8 – [Not Microsoft] but St. AJ

In case you haven't noticed, the first new artistic replacement window on the 38th Street side of the church, on the sidewalk level, has been installed. Hopefully you will take the time to look at it and appreciate its beauty. Try to imagine how the façade of the church building will look when all 8 windows are completed. This project will enhance not only the church building itself; it will enhance University City in general and will make a dramatic statement about the Catholic presence in this area – active, strong, community conscious, and here to stay and wanting to make a difference. After all our parish mission statement is: **“Word, Worship and Witness in University City.”**

This completed window, including artwork, labor, materials, installation and removal of previous window, costs \$2,250. We are hoping that parishioners and benefactors will want to donate towards the remaining seven windows, perhaps in memory of or in appreciation or gratitude of someone.



Happy Thanksgiving - Mass Schedule

An appropriate way to begin your Thanksgiving Holiday is to attend Mass and give thanks to the Giver of all good gifts, Almighty God. The word “Eucharist” means - thanksgiving. **Mass Schedule:**

Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 26 – Mass at 9:00 am Penn Newman
Friday, November 27 - Mass at 9:00 am Penn Newman Center
Saturday, November 28 - Mass at 9:00 am Penn Newman Center