

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

PARISH COUNCILS

From Fr. Jim – Advent Arrives

First Sunday of Advent: This Sunday begins the Advent Season, offering us the opportunity to spiritually prepare for the birth of Christ. The genius and beauty of authentic Catholic spirituality has always been “balance.” We are called to balance the material and the spiritual - to enjoy the good things of the earth, the gifts of food and drink, festivity and fellowship, the good cheer and high spirits that are part of the holiday season - while also embracing the holy mystery of God becoming man and allowing Christ to touch and transform our lives. The Church offers the special anticipatory season of Advent to sharpen and heighten our desires and dreams and properly prepare for the Word made Flesh, so that we may focus clearly on what Christmas really means. Advent is a time of preparation – spiritual preparation. The unique grace of the Advent Season is the grace of new beginnings, of starting over, of self-emptying, in order to prepare a place inside ourselves for the coming of Christ.

Advent Penance Weekend: December 10 and 11: One of the best ways to enter into Advent Grace is by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As part of our Advent commitment to newness, we will celebrate an Advent Penance Weekend by offering Confessions in Church after each of our five weekend Masses on Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11. Arrange your schedule so you can participate in this experience. Everyone is welcome! Please plan to attend to enhance your Advent Season and to prepare for the Christmas Season in the right spirit.

God’s blessings to each of you.

Weekly Mass with Archbishop Chaput at the Cathedral: Archbishop Chaput will hear confessions at 5:30PM each Sunday and celebrate Mass at 6:30PM each Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. All are invited.

This Week at Saints Agatha and James	
<u>Saturday, November 26</u>	
4:00PM – 5:00PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30PM	Saturday Vigil Mass Parishioners and Benefactors
<u>Sunday, November 27</u> First Sunday of Advent	
9:30AM	Mass Volunteers and Ministers of Sts. A and J
11:30AM	Mass In Memory of Dr. John H. Moore, Jr.
5:30PM	Mass Visitors and Friends of Sts. A and J
9:00PM	Mass Students, Staffs, & Faculties at area Universities
<u>Monday, November 28</u>	
12:05PM	Mass In Memory of Maria Del Carmen Seara
<u>Tuesday, November 29</u>	
7:00PM	Holy Hour St. Bede Chapel, Newman Center
<u>Friday, December 2</u>	
12:05PM	Mass Members of the Perpetual Memorial Society
<u>Saturday, December 3</u>	
Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:00PM - 5:00PM Fr. Benjamin	
5:30PM	Saturday Vigil Mass In Memory of Nicholas Pipino
Celebrants for the Weekend Masses, December 3 and 4	
<u>Sunday, December 4</u> Second Sunday of Advent	
5:30PM	Saturday Vigil Mass Fr. Benjamin
9:30AM	Sunday Mass Fr. Jim
11:30AM	Sunday Mass Fr. Jim
5:30PM	Sunday Mass Fr. George
9:00PM	Sunday Mass Fr. Benjamin

Parish Pastoral Council: Fr. Jim McGuinn, Thomas Holloman, Natalie Seminole, Carole Tokarczyk

Parish Finance Council: Fr. Jim McGuinn, Eric Banecker Eileen Brennen, John Doyle, Ray Jones, Ed Nelling, Peter Scoles, Jessel Subero

PARISH MINISTRIES

ADULT MINISTRIES

TBA, Director of Adult Ministries
info@saintsaj.org

For matters pertaining to Catholic Forum, Circle of St. Bede, Connections, Legion of Mary, Outreach, Pre-Cana, RCIA, Scripture Study, Young Adults, please contact TBA.

Catholic Forum: Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering to share fellowship and reflect on the readings of each Sunday's Mass. We meet after the 9:30AM Mass near the Heritage Room in Church to walk to the Center.

Circle of St. Bede: We meet in the Newman Center's lower level after 7:30AM Mass on Tuesdays and seek to promote the integration of faith with our academic lives and to foster a sense of Catholic community in the campus setting. November 29: "C.S. Lewis on the Psalms." The discussion will be led by Peter Dodson. For more information, contact Dr. Peter Dodson at dodsonp@mail.vet.upenn.edu.

Pre-Cana: Sts. Agatha and James offers Pre-Cana Friday, March 2, 7:00PM – 9PM, and Saturday, March 3, 9AM – 6:30PM (includes Vigil Mass). The donation to Sts. A & J is \$150. For more information, write to info@saintsaj.org or call 215-386-9732 and leave your name and contact information.

Scripture Study: New members are warmly welcomed at 8:00AM on Wednesdays in the lower level of the Newman Center. We are discussing the Book of Job. Contact Charlotte Ethier at ethiercc@aol.com for more information.

HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

Rev. Benjamin Nwanonyi, Director of Hospital Ministries
OLC201080@yahoo.com

Rev. George L. Strausser, Director of Hospital Ministries
gl.s.aj@verizon.net

For matters pertaining to Hospital Ministries and Hospital Eucharistic Ministers, contact Fr. Benjamin or Fr. George.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Bruce Carlson, Director of Liturgical Ministries
bruce.carlson.jr@gmail.com

For matters pertaining to: Altar Servers, Art & Environment, Audio/Visual, Lectors, Music, Sextons, Ushers, contact Bruce Carlson at bruce.carlson.jr@gmail.com.

Liturgy Corner: We will begin implementing changes in the wording of both the spoken and sung parts of the Mass this year as a result of the Church's revision of the *Roman Missal* for English speaking countries. As a result, the parishioners will be hearing and speaking words and phrases that, at first, may seem unfamiliar or even awkward. For many people, change does not come easily. *Change* requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting. Change interrupts those

The Church of Saints Agatha and James

familiar routines. But change is also an opportunity to stop and reflect on what we are doing and come to a better *understanding of God*, Who does not change. I hope you find this week's bulletin insert helpful in addressing some of the questions concerning our new liturgical vocabulary. Additionally, this week you will see *worship aids* in the pews which we will be using to assist us during this time of transition. If you would like to make a *Donation* to help offset the cost of these *pew cards*, please contact the Parish Office for details. Peace to all!

OPERATIONAL MINISTRIES

Joseph Lamb, Director of Operational Ministries
josephlamb@comcast.net

For Business Ministries, Facilities Ministries, Office Ministries or Custodial Ministries, please contact Joe Lamb.

Restrooms: The restrooms downstairs in the Church Hall are accessed via the two stairways near the main entrance of the Church. Please follow the signs in place to guide you.

Eileen Brennen, Business Manager
eileen.brennen.mba@gmail.com

Carole Tokarczyk, Office Manager
info@saintsaj.org

Joseph Lamont, Custodian
N3vbc@hotmail.com

DREXEL NEWMAN MINISTRY

Michael Chovanes, Assistant Director, Drexel Newman
Drexelnewman@gmail.com

Alternative Spring Break! This year Drexel Newman is going to have an Alternative Spring Break to a needy area of Maryland. Sign-up is available—contact our ASB coordinator, Cathleen Kerr (cmk58@drexel.edu), for more information!

Connections I and II: Gather with others, reflect on Scripture, and spend some time in prayer. All are welcome to Connections which meets Wednesdays at 4:00PM or 9:00PM in the Interfaith Chapel, 2nd floor of Intercultural Center, 30 S. 33rd Street. Contact Drexelnewman@gmail.com.

Drexel Newman Facebook: Join Drexel Newman Facebook page to hear about upcoming events, as well as connect with the community! Search “Drexel Newman” on Facebook.

Get Connected! Learn about upcoming events. Join our email list by emailing Mike Chovanes at Drexelnewman@gmail.com.

Newman Dinner: On Thursdays at 6:00PM at the Newman Center, 3720 Chestnut St., gather with us for our weekly \$3 dinner! All Drexel Students are welcome!

Operation: Santa Claus: Join Penn Newman in a toy drive for St. Ignatius /Our Mother of Sorrows School. Help a low-income child have a happier Christmas! \$10-\$15 toy requests will be given to Drexel Students (you need to sign up first!) from teachers at St. Ignatius/Our Mother of Sorrows, and after the toys are purchased they can be dropped off at the Newman Center or the Drexel Newman Office. Email Mike Chovanes for more info or to sign up to be assigned a toy!

Small-group Leaders Needed! If you are a Drexel student and you are interested in facilitating a small group meeting, please email Mike Chovanes.

PENN NEWMAN MINISTRY

Jeff Klein, Assistant Director, Penn Newman
jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu

ALL PENN STUDENTS

Giving Tree: Penn for Life has a Giving Tree to help mothers and children at Mothers' Home. Please pick up a tag in the Newman Center. Donations should be dropped off at the Newman Center lobby by December 16. For more info, contact Catherine Imms, caimms@sas.upenn.edu or (484)798-9233.

Newman Brunch: Join us on Sunday, December 4 at 12:30PM for a brunch with the Newman community! This is a free event, but please email RSVP to Jeff Klein by November 28.

Locks of Love: We will be hosting our third annual LOL event on Sunday, April 22. To sign up to donate 6 or more inches of your hair, please email locksoflove.newman@gmail.com with your name, telephone number, and email address. Sign up by December 8th to be entered into a raffle!

Newman Dinner: On Thursdays at 6:00PM at Penn Newman, gather with us for our weekly dinner! A great meal for only \$3! The event also features Open Mic! All Penn students welcome and no reservation necessary!

Spiritual Mentoring/Direction: 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.

PENN GRADUATE STUDENTS

Grad Student Weekly Service: The University City Hospitality Coalition meal for the poor and homeless needs volunteers 5:30-7:00PM on Mondays at St. AJ's. Email Anna Smith at annasm@vet.upenn.edu!

PENN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Newman Nights: Newman Nights have moved to Thursdays, 7:15PM! NN's feature an opportunity for socializing and/or discussion on current topics. All Penn undergrads welcome! Our final Newman Night of the semester is December 1. We will have an Advent Prayer Service followed by a Christmas Party!

Cor Retreat: All Penn sophomores, juniors or are welcome to join us, January 13-15 (MLK Jr. Weekend)! It will consist of socializing, small group discussions, and ample time for prayer and reflection. Contact Jeff Klein to sign up or for more info! Cost: \$75. Deadline to register: December 9.

U SCIENCES NEWMAN MINISTRY

TBA, Assistant Director, USciences Newman
uscisnewman@gmail.com

Connections I and II: Gather with others, reflect on Scripture, and spend time in prayer: Tuesdays, 7:00PM, Whiteacre Hall, upstairs lounge or Thursdays, 7:00PM at the home of USci Newman president, Molly. Contact uscinewman@gmail.com.

Cor Retreat: Penn Newman has invited USci Newman to Cor January 13th-15th. There will be time to build community, pray, and learn about the spirituality of John Henry Cardinal Newman.

Holy Hour: USci students are welcome on Tuesday nights from 7-8PM at the Newman Center, 3720 Chestnut Street.

Newman Dinner: On Thursdays at 6:00PM at the Newman Center, 3720 Chestnut, gather with us for our weekly \$3 dinner! USci Students welcome - no reservation necessary!