

First Sunday of Advent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

The Holy Season of Advent

This Sunday begins the Advent Season, offering us the opportunity to spiritually prepare for the birth of Christ. Of course, the managers of our consumer economy have been gearing up for Christmas for weeks already, inundating us earlier and earlier with holiday jingles, advertisements, and sales, creating in us the needs that will satisfy their need for money. 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. If you are already becoming uptight and anxious about the holiday and obsessive about all that has to be done and accomplished, then you are already out of synch with what it is all about. Instead of being filled up and blessed on Christmas morning because of your spiritual Advent attitude and approach, you are already being set up to be stressed out and depleted when Christmas arrives, once again finding yourself the stooge of Madison Avenue's shallow glitz and glamour.

Mark your Advent Calendars Now

1. Parish Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 7 at 7:00 PM in Church

2. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8: Mass Schedule
7:30 AM , 12:05 PM, 5:15 PM, and 7:00 PM
All Masses in Church

Check out our Parish "Wish List"

Our parish Wish List has been a wonderful way to offer people ideas and opportunities on how they can help the parish. The Wish List contains various items the parish needs but we are not in a position financially to obtain. Many of these items can be donated as a memorial in memory of or in honor of someone. It can be donated as a gift in another's name in lieu of some other gift. We have been pleased with the number of items already donated by friends, benefactors and parishioners. Please check out the Wish List and consider participating. The Wish List is accessible from our parish website: www.saintsaj.org. Please visit and see if there is something there that you might want to contribute.

Welcome Bishop Senior

Next Sunday, December 6, we welcome our newest Auxiliary Bishop, Timothy Senior, who will join us to celebrate the 10:00 PM Mass. One of Bishop Senior's many jobs is "Regional Vicar for Philadelphia South." He wants to visit the parishes in Philadelphia South Vicariate and has expressed a particular interest in St AJ and our outreach to university students at Penn, Drexel, USP, and Walnut Hill College. He is looking forward to sharing his ministry and message with us as he has heard so many good things about the participation and enthusiasm of our student congregation.

Reminder: The main Church is open for visits and prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 - 2 PM. Ring Rectory bell.

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; to You, I lift my soul.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, November 28

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Parishioners and Benefactors*

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

10:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

11:30AM Mass *Marian "Honey" Chambers*

5:00PM Mass

10:00PM Mass

Monday, November 30

12:05AM Mass *Special Intention for Trish and Justyn*

Tuesday, December 1

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

Wednesday, December 2

12:05PM Mass *Juan Chico*

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

Thursday, December 3

7:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Friday, December 4

No 7:30 AM Mass on Friday.

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Barbara Do*

1:00PM Mass at Drexel Newman *Perpetual Memorial Society*

Saturday, December 5

9:00AM Mass

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Parishioners and Benefactors*

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA meetings are held on Tuesday evenings for those seeking to enter the fullness of the Catholic Church. See the RCIA page of the parish web site or contact saintsajrcia@hotmail.com.

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 to meet new Catholic friends – with coffee & donuts. All are most welcome.

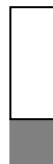


Parish Bulletin Advertisers

We encourage you to patronize the supporters of our parish who advertise on the back page of our bulletin. Some have discount coupons within their ads. Visit them and mention St. AJ. Thanks!

We are a ParishPay Parish: Goals & Expectations

St. Agatha-St. James is an Automated On-Line Giving Parish. Go to the parish webpage - www.saintsaj.org - and select the ParishPay link. 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.



GOAL = 100 Registered

Present number registered - 23

Quote for your prayerful reflection and appropriation:

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.

Antoine de Saint Exupery