

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

From Fr. Jim – Advent Grace

Second Sunday of Advent: Advent is a time of anticipation and preparation - spiritual preparation – and we should be setting aside time for prayerful waiting. “The Just Judge will bestow a crown of righteousness on those who eagerly await His coming.” 2 Timothy 4:8. As we pray, we reflect on the coming of our Lord on that first Christmas and on the time when Jesus will come again in glory: “Behold, the Lord will come, and all His holy ones with Him; and on that day there will be a great light.” Zechariah 14:5, 7. Prepare for Christmas by giving generously in service to God and others as Christ gave of Himself to God and His brothers and sisters.

God's blessings to each of you.

Advent Weekday Masses: A good way to celebrate Advent and prepare for the birth of the Savior is to attend weekday Masses in addition to Sunday. The weekday scripture readings are beautiful and poignant passages and offer rich material for meditation and prayer.

The Immaculate Conception of the BVM: Thursday, Dec. 8, a Holy Day of Obligation when we honor the Blessed Mother who waited on the Lord, trusted in the Lord and surrendered totally to God's will and ways. The Masses in Church will be at 7:30AM, 12:05 PM, and 5:30PM. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00PM on each of three college campuses: Drexel, Penn and USci. Contact the appropriate Newman Ministers for details.

Advent Penance Weekend: December 10 and 11: Enter into Advent Grace by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation during our Advent Penance Weekend. Confessions will be held in Church after each Mass next Saturday, Dec. 10, and Sunday, Dec. 11. Everyone is welcome! Plan to prepare for the Christmas Season in the right spirit. Come to Confession! You will feel great!

This Week at Saints Agatha and James

Saturday, December 3

4:00PM – 5:00PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30PM Saturday Vigil Mass In Memory of Nicholas Pipino

Sunday, December 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30AM Mass In Memory of Mildred Cole
11:30AM Mass Visitors and Friends of Sts. A and J
5:30PM Mass Students and University Community Members
9:00PM Mass In Memory of Helen “Lynn” Theresa Bower

Tuesday, December 6

7:00PM Holy Hour St. Bede Chapel, Newman Center

Thursday, December 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

7:30AM Mass in Church
12:05PM Mass in Church
5:30PM Mass in Church
9:00PM Mass 3 sites on Campuses of Drexel, Penn and USci

Saturday, December 10

Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:00PM - 5:00PM Fr. Benjamin

Celebrants for the Weekend Masses, December 10 and 11

Sunday, December 11 **Third Sunday of Advent**

5:30PM Saturday Vigil Mass Fr. Benjamin
9:30AM Sunday Mass Fr. Jim
11:30AM Sunday Mass Fr. Benjamin
5:30PM Sunday Mass Fr. Jim
9:00PM Sunday Mass Fr. George

Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection: This annual collection is scheduled for next weekend, Dec. 10 and 11. We are reminded how important this effort is on behalf of men and women religious who serve the Church so well and who witness so dramatically to God's kingdom in our midst.

PARISH COUNCILS

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: Meet in Newman Center's lower level after 7:30AM Mass Tuesdays. We seek to promote the integration of faith with our academic lives and to foster a sense of Catholic community in the campus setting. **December 6:** “The Diplomat – the Tragic Silence of Pius XII” by Eamon Duffy. *Commonweal*, Nov. 4, 2011, pp. 11-13 (rescheduled from Nov. 22). For more info, 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; Psalms 6 for December 7. Contact Charlotte Ethier at ethiercc@aol.com for more info.

HOSPITAL MINISTRIES

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

Rev. George L. Strausser, Director of Hospital Ministries
gls.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 have begun 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*

The Church of Saints Agatha and James

for English speaking countries. This past week we sang a revised Mass setting during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Many thanks to Elizabeth Broadwell for her work on the music supplements which can be found at the back of our hymnals. This week we will also begin using our worship aids to learn the new text of the *Confiteor* and implement the congregational response, "And with your spirit." If you would like to make a *Donation* to help offset the cost of these *pew cards*, please contact the Parish Office for details. Next week we resume including an insert in our bulletin, which I hope you find helpful in addressing some of the questions concerning our revised liturgy. 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: Search "Drexel Newman" on Facebook to connect with the community!

Get Connected! Learn about upcoming events. Email Mike Chovanes at Drexelnewman@gmail.com to join the list.

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.

Small-group Leaders Needed! Are you a Drexel student willing to facilitate 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.

Holy Day Mass on Campus! Dec. 8, 9PM, Houston Hall's Golkin Room (2nd Floor). All Mass times/sites, pg. 1, Bulletin.

Newman Brunch: Join us on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 12:30PM for a brunch with the Newman community! This is a free event.

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

Cor Retreat: All Penn sophomores, juniors or seniors 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
uscience.newman@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 uscineyman@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! US ci Students welcome - no reservation necessary!