

Third Sunday of Advent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Advent and Its Themes

Advent is a season of anticipation and expectation. Advent introduces us to people of faith and expectation, people who live their lives trusting in God's advent into their lives. In these first two weeks, we have heard from the prophet Isaiah who sees a future time when God's reign will prevail. In the second half of Advent, John the Baptist arrives literally caught up in the newness of God's intervention. Finally, at the Immaculate Conception and the last days of Advent, Mary, the towering figure of Advent, is center stage - Mary, whose cooperation with the Spirit, ushers in God's advent in the person Jesus Christ.

Since the time of God's fulfillment has already dawned but is not yet complete [what theologians call the "already-but-not-yet"] we stand in anticipation of God's saving action. It is this anticipation, supported and strengthened by faith, which shapes our minds and hearts and our yearning for God's Trinitarian life. The Gospels of Advent instruct us on ways of anticipating God's action in our lives through Christ.

1st Sunday of Advent: *What it means to be a Pilgrim People*

2nd Sunday of Advent: *The need to Prepare the Way*

3rd Sunday of Advent: *Rejoice at the nearness of God*

4th Sunday: *The imminent coming or Advent of Emmanuel – God in our midst*

Advent and Weekday Mass

One of the best ways of celebrating Advent and preparing for the birth of the Savior is to attend weekday Masses in addition to Sunday. Attending weekday Mass offers a fountain of grace for our Advent hearts. The weekday scripture readings are some of the most beautiful and poignant passages in the Old and New Testaments, and rich material for mediation and prayer.

Merry Christmas to your Parish, St. AJ

Please give thought and prayer to making your annual Christmas offering to St. AJ. You can see the needs in the parish that call out for your generous support and the need in your own heart to express gratitude to Almighty God by being a generous giver to His church, your spiritual family. In your desire to be caring and thoughtful to so many people at this time, don't forget us.

Advent Adult Faith Formation Presentation

After the 10 AM Mass today, at Catholic Forum, Fr. Steve will offer some thoughts on fashioning your personal spiritual environment to support and challenge your commitment to be an authentic disciple. Refreshments available.

Annual Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

The Annual Retirement Fund Collection is this weekend, Dec. 12 and 13. The role of consecrated religious in the history of the American Church offers a truly remarkable witness. With great enthusiasm, and often in difficult and trying circumstances, these men and women have undertaken the challenge of bringing Christ's salvific message and comfort to so many people. So many of us and our parents have been personally influenced by a religious at some point in our faith journey. Once again your generous support for our devoted brothers and sisters in this Retirement Fund for Religious Collection is our opportunity to say "Thank You." Please remember them gratefully in your daily prayers and continue to pray also for those who are currently discerning a vocation to the religious life.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, December 12

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *God's Blessing on Jacques and Majuite Sarry*

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

10:00AM Mass *Josephine Kuliniec*

After 10:00AM Mass Catholic Forum Downstairs in Parish Hall

11:30AM Mass *Anna & Vincent McCafferty, Mary & Raymond*

McLease, Robert Hogan & Marie Brennan

5:00PM Mass *Anthony Evangelista*

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of the Members of the St. AJ Community*

Monday, December 14

No 1:00 PM Masses at Drexel until Monday, January 11, 2010

Tuesday, December 15

7:30AM Mass *Emma Mann*

7:00PM RCIA Meeting Penn Newman Center

Wednesday, December 16

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

Friday, December 18

No 7:30 AM Mass on Friday

Saturday, December 19

2:00PM Wedding *Erin Wade and Christian Ticehurst* SJM

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Nicholas Pipino – 17th Anniversary*



This Sunday - 2nd Sunday Hospitality

Reminder: Today, the 2nd Sunday of the month, there is hospitality in the parish hall after the 10 am & 11:30 am Masses. All are welcome.

Two New Donations – Thank You

1. 2nd Artistic Stained Glass Replacement Window on 38th Street Side

Two separate donors have each pledged half the amount of a 2nd window [the cost of one replacement window is \$2250.00]. The basic stained glass design of the second window will replicate the design of the first window that is already in place with the central symbol changing. The symbol for this second window is a Scallop Shell in honor of St James.

2. The Nord C2 Combo Organ

Dr. Peter Scoles will donate the Nord C2 in honor of his 21st wedding anniversary. Knowing that our choirs desired the musical support of a fine organ sound, and knowing too that it doesn't appear that we will be able to sustain the renovation of our Kilgen Pipe organ in the near future, this new instrument (cost \$3000) will be a very fine interim option. It has only been on the market for one month and supports the newest technology which can produce beautifully the sound of a **baroque pipe organ**. This compact instrument would be placed in the choir loft and used in all those musical situations which would benefit from a high clarity organ sound, especially on holidays, holydays and other festive liturgies, such as weddings, and funerals. With this instrument situated in the loft, the choirs could do more work from the choir loft without having to drag the current Clavinova keyboard up to the loft and back down - a danger to the instrument and to movers.

[For those who may be familiar with "organspeak," the C2's pipe organ has a total of 21 stops, distributed across the Swell (9 stops) manual, the Great (9 stops) manual, and the bass section (3 stops). The pipe organ is sampled, using Nord's leading sampling technologies for real-to-life sound.]

Two Parish Masses for Christmas

Vigil Mass – December 24 at 8:00 PM

Christmas Day – December 25 at 10:00 AM