

The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

**Another interesting and unusual fact about St. AJ**

Based on yearly "October Counts in all the parishes of the Archdiocese, it has been determined that the average parish Mass attendance is about 25 %," meaning that 1 in 4 registered Catholics are attending Masses on Sunday. Certainly, we hope for higher attendance than 1 in 4, but it doesn't look too bad when you consider the situation in Catholic Europe [France, Spain, Italy, etc.] where Mass attendance has dropped below 10 %. But a recent edition of the Catholic Standard & Times reported an incredible fact about St. AJ. Quote: **"West Philadelphia's St. Agatha-St. James had a whopping 455% attendance because of its successful ministry to non-registered Penn and Drexel students."** The article forgot to mention two other important academic institutions here – The University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and Walnut Hill College [Restaurant School] whose students also attend and are involved. The article could have also mentioned that we have many visitors: particularly family and friends of patients in area hospitals and visitors from other parishes who enjoy the quality of the worship experience here at St. AJ and are willing to travel to experience and participate. However, the main point is that we enjoy the highest percentage of Sunday Mass attendance based on our permanent residential parishioner base. Praise God.

**Mass Schedule Changes – Next Weekend**

Please note the Mass Schedule changes that will go into effect on the Labor Day Weekend, beginning Saturday, September 5. Now that we are returning to full attendance, we are adjusting our Mass schedule accordingly.

1. All weekend Masses are in the Church building beginning Labor Day weekend.
2. The Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM is re-instated as of September 5.
3. Confessions are scheduled for 4 PM in Church.
4. The 10 PM Sunday Mass is re-instated as of September 6.
5. The 7:30 AM daily Mass in the Penn Newman Center is reinstated as of Tuesday, September 5.
6. N.B. The 7:30 AM daily Mass on Fridays is discontinued until further notice.
7. Labor Day: The Mass schedule for Labor Day, Monday, September 2 is: 9 AM in the Penn Newman Center.
8. **Please Note:** There are many opportunities for anyone interested in obtaining announced Masses during the fall season. Please contact Carole at the rectory to arrange for Masses to remember beloved friends and family, deceased or living, or for any particular intentions, or in gratitude for favors granted, or for any particular intention

**Reminder: Main Church Open on Wednesdays**

The Church is not used for Summer Masses, but is open for visits and prayer Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2 PM. We offer a self-guiding tour brochure or you can talk to Maria McKeon, our parish archivist, who is very knowledgeable about the history and architecture of the St. James Church building.

**This Week at St. AJ**

**Saturday, August 29**

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

**Sunday, August 30 The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10:00AM Mass *Kenneth Taylor*

11:30AM Mass *Nicholas Cinalli Sr.*

5:00PM Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

**Monday, August 31**

No 7:30AM Mass until Tuesday, September 8

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of Margaret Crysler*

1:00PM Mass at Drexel this week Monday - Thursday

**Tuesday, September 1**

12:05PM Mass *Joseph Puthenkandathil*

**Wednesday, September 2**

1:00PM Mass at Drexel *Alma Buckley*

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

**Friday, September 4**

No 1:00PM Mass at Drexel on Friday

**Saturday, September 5**

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

4:00PM Confessions in Church

5:30PM Vigil Mass in Church

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

Do you want to become Catholic? Do you know anyone seeking to be Catholic or interested in learning about the Catholic Faith? More people than you realize may actually be thinking about becoming Catholic. Among those might be your friends, classmates and colleagues who are currently unchurched or dissociated from their former religious denominations and who may be wondering about the possibility of becoming Catholic. The Church invites people who are yearning to find Jesus to Come and See what it would be like to learn more about the Catholic Faith and perhaps go on to be received into the fullness of the Catholic Church. Every year in September we begin a new RCIA journey that will lead candidates to Easter and full incorporation with us at the Lord's Eucharist. The information/kick-off session this year will be Tuesday evening, September 22, 2009, from 7 to 8:30 PM, at the Penn Newman Center. Now is your opportunity to be an evangelist and relay this invitation to your circle of acquaintances. For anyone interested in the RCIA, please check out the RCIA web page on the Parish web site [www.saintsaj.org](http://www.saintsaj.org) and/or contact the RCIA Coordinator at [saintsajrcia@hotmail.com](mailto:saintsajrcia@hotmail.com).

**CATHOLIC FORUM TODAY after 10 AM Mass**

Catholic Forum meets today in the Penn Newman Center Conference Room immediately after the 10:00 AM Mass. This is an informal time of parish fellowship to reflect on the Sacred Scripture lectionary readings and homily, and to discuss how to effect "the Word" in our lives. We are not Bible scholars or theologians – just ordinary Catholics trying to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Please join us...with coffee and treats. (Next week Catholic Forum will move to the main Church and continue to meet following the 10:00AM Mass.) ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Centering Prayer**

To learn about Centering Prayer, call Tom at 484-995-4046.

**Collections for Sunday 8/16/09**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1066.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 146.00 (Newman Centers at Drexel & Penn)



### Black & Indian Missions - September 13

Your financial support to this fund assists clergy, religious and lay catechists, parishes, schools and catechetical centers for the evangelization of the Black and Native American peoples throughout our country. Locally, through grants awarded from this collection, a number of parishes and organizations within the Archdiocese are able to fund pastoral outreach and evangelization programs. Since 1884, parishes of the United States have expressed their solidarity with African-American communities through their contribution to the Collection for the Black and Indian Missions.

### Religious Jubilarian Celebration

#### On Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 11:00 AM

Cardinal Rigali will be the presiding celebrant at the Annual Religious Jubilarian Liturgy at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, for the religious sisters, priests, and brothers of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who celebrate their Silver, Golden, or Diamond Anniversaries in 2009. Nearly three-hundred religious observe their Jubilees this year, representing over fifteen thousand years of dedicated witness and service in the Church. You are cordially invited to join in this celebration at the Cathedral Basilica as a sign of gratitude to these women and men religious, and as a prayerful support for all religious who have touched our lives in so many ways over the years.

### Day of Recollection with Dr. Scott Hahn

On Saturday, Sept. 19 Dr. Scott Hahn will offer a day of Recollection at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary from 9 am to 5:30 PM. Dr. Hahn is professor of Theology and Scripture at Franciscan University of Steubenville and founder and director of the St. Paul Center at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA. He is an internationally known speaker and teacher and author of over ten books and numerous articles. He was a former Presbyterian minister who was received into the Catholic Faith in 1986. The day will conclude at 4 pm with Mass with Cardinal Rigali as principal celebrant and homilist. The fees for the day are \$40.00 for general admission, \$15.00 for college students, no charge for priests, sisters and seminarians. Fee Includes lunch. Make checks payable to and send to:

St. John Neumann Chapter, CUF  
183 Hillcrest Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19118,  
For more info – Visit [www.cuf.homestead.com/cuf.html](http://www.cuf.homestead.com/cuf.html) or call 215-247-2585.

*One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.*

*Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice;*

*Who thinks the truth in his heart and*

*Slanders not with his tongue.*

*Whoever does these things shall never be disturbed.*

*Psalm 15:2-3, 5*



All Summer Sunday Masses - in Penn Newman Center

## Newman Center Notes

**Penn Newman Center** 3720 Chestnut Street  
[www.newman.upenn.edu](http://www.newman.upenn.edu)

**Drexel Newman Center** 30 South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
[www.drexelnewman.org](http://www.drexelnewman.org)

### Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 12:05pm Penn Newman  
St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level  
Mon-Thurs 1:00pm Drexel Newman  
St. Katharine Drexel Chapel – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at Drexel Newman on a weekly basis on Wednesdays 12:30-1:00pm. Weekly Eucharistic Adoration is offered at Drexel Newman Center on Thursdays from conclusion of 1:00 pm Mass until 4:00 pm.

### Drexel Newman: Schedule for Week of August 31

The Center will be open this week, Monday to Thursday, August 31 to September 3, 10 am to 4 pm, with Mass at 1:00 pm. Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration will occur this week. We will be closed Friday, September 4.

### A Baby's Breath 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for Life:

#### Johnny's Run for Life

Sunday, October 4, 7:30 am-10:30 am  
Wilson Farm Park, Wayne, PA

This event includes Mass, a 1-Mile Fun Run, and a 5K Run! To register & for more info, please contact [Marybeth Toscani](mailto:Marybeth.Toscani) or visit [www.ababysbreath.org/run.asp](http://www.ababysbreath.org/run.asp). You do not need to be a runner to attend...all are welcome. This year's Run is dedicated to the memory of Johnny Williamson, a pro-life Drexel University student.

### Drexel Newman: University Break Schedule

In observance of the University Break between terms the Center will be **closed** from September 7 through September 20. The regular schedule will resume with the first day of the Fall Term on Monday, September 21.

### Penn Newman: Spiritual Mentoring/Direction

Spiritual mentoring/direction is 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](http://www.newman.upenn.edu).

### Grad Student Service Opportunity: Tutoring

Grad students and young professionals are invited to participate in a tutoring program for children from K-4<sup>th</sup> grades at Annunciation BVM Church in South Philly. The children are primarily Mexican immigrants who are just learning English, and consequently placed below grade level in local schools. The church will have regular weekday tutoring sessions when school begins again in the fall. Contact Jeff Klein at [jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu](mailto:jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu).

### Prayer Resources

Penn Newman invites you to check out our webpage with several links to resources designed to enhance your spiritual life. Go to [www.newman.upenn.edu](http://www.newman.upenn.edu), Click on Activities, then Prayer & Spirituality, then Prayer Resources.