

Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Prayers for a good Lent from our Chief Shepherd

Through the Church, Christ calls us to an ever greater conversion of heart and mind each and every day of our lives. During the holy season of Lent, we are offered the opportunity to deepen our willingness to remain faithful to God by acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These essential disciplines of the Christian life, when practiced with ever greater fervor during Lent, help us to turn away from sin and turn more fully to the Gospel and so be prepared to renew the promises of our Baptism at the great feast of Easter. May the Lord sustain you in your efforts to grow in holiness and may the example and intercession of Mary, the Mother of the Lord, be a constant source of hope to you.

Sincerely in Christ,
+ Justin Cardinal Rigali

Burning of Palm / Blessing of Ashes – Ceremony

The Blessing of Ashes ceremony will take place at 8 pm on the steps of the Drexel Newman Center on Tuesday, February 24. Last year's palm will be burned to render the ashes that will begin Lent 2009. After the Ceremony, Fr. Morabito invites everyone inside for a simple Mardi Gras celebration, including [Fausnaughts](#) and other goodies.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 25

Masses with Distribution of Ashes (after the Gospel)

- 7:30 am - Church
- 12:05 pm - Church
- 1:00 pm - Drexel Newman Center - *John Williamson, Jr.*
- 5:15 pm - Church

Prayer Services with Distribution of Ashes

- 7:00 pm - Drexel Newman Center
- 9:00 pm – Penn Newman Center

FAST AND ABSTINENCE AND OTHER ACTS OF PENANCE FOR LENT 2009

Mandated Minimal Obligations The Bishops of the United States prescribe as minimal obligations that all persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. All persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday; the other two meals on those days are to be light.

Lenten Recommendations All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

Collection for Central & Eastern European Church

Please assist in bringing the light of hope to a needy world by participating in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe next weekend. Your generous sacrifice and prayers help support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools and the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, February 21

- 9:00AM Mass
- 4:00PM Confessions
- 5:30PM Vigil Mass *People of the Parish*

Sunday, February 22 Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

- 10:00AM Mass *The Candeloro & Zagrosky Families*
- 11:30AM Mass *Edward Guinan, Sr.*
- 5:00PM Mass *Michael J. Doyle, Sr.*
- 10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of our area Universities*

Monday, February 23

- 12:05PM Mass *Dominick R. Haigh*

ASH Wednesday, February 25

See Mass Schedule in Column 1 of this Bulletin

After the 12:05PM Mass today Church will be open until 2:00PM.

Thursday, February 26

- 12:05PM Mass *Joseph Puthenkandathil*

Friday, February 27

- 5:15PM Stations of the Cross *All are welcome.*

Saturday, February 28

- 5:30PM Vigil Mass *People of the Parish*

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES...CONTINUED

Stations of the Cross – in Church

The traditional devotion of Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on the Fridays of Lent at 5:15 pm in Church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This Sacrament is at the heart of Lent: forgiveness – purification – starting over. Hopefully, your Lenten journey will include your celebration of this Sacrament, especially if it has been too long since your last time. In the brochure racks are cards that go over the basic format of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you need a refresher, please consult this card.

Daily Masses

Consider attending a Mass in addition to Sunday.

The Rosary

Recite the Rosary and other prayers daily.

Lenten Button

Our Lenten Button is a poignant symbol of our on-going Lenten journey and an external witness to others of our Catholic identity and our membership in St. AJ parish. Please wear it proudly. The buttons will be available on Ash Wednesday.

Stewardship

Consider a financial sacrifice to our Parish by increasing your Sunday donation through Parish Pay or envelopes.

Daily Scripture Reading

Read some of the Spiritual classics. There are excellent numerous spiritual books which can guide us prayerfully in reading Scripture. Also, we make available a limited number of copies of the booklet, "The Word Among Us."

Lenten Scripture Study Sharing Group

If you are looking for a special spiritual opportunity this coming Lent, consider the Scripture Study Sharing Group meeting weekly on Wednesdays of Lent, starting March 4. The Group will spend a comfortable, fruitful hour reflecting on and faith-sharing on Scripture readings of the up-coming Sunday, particularly their impact on our personal lives as Christians. The Group is open to all, students and parishioners, and will meet in the Penn Newman Center from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. The session will conclude with the Church's Liturgy of the Hours Office of Night Prayer (Compline).