



Seven Wonders (continued)

teacher said, *Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help.* The girl hesitated at first and then she read: *The greatest wonders of the world are:*

1. to see,
2. to hear
3. to touch
4. to feel
5. to laugh
6. to love

The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. The girl continued, *The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous. The most precious things in life cannot be built or bought by man. The greatest wonder of all is:*

7. *God's amazing love for us in sending his only Son Jesus, Emmanuel, to be born for us, that through Him we may have everlasting life.*

Saint of the Week

Tomorrow, January 5, is the Feast of Saint John Neumann, C.Ss.R., the Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, known for his holiness and learning. He was a promoter of Catholic Schools and founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. John Neumann, a Redemptorist missionary from his native Bohemia, was the first American Bishop to be canonized. In March 1852, Neumann was consecrated in Baltimore as Bishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1860 Neumann died due to a stroke at the age of 48 while walking down a street in Philadelphia. Neumann was beatified by Pope Paul VI during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963. He was canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977. Following his canonization, the National Shrine of St. John Neumann was constructed at the Parish of St. Peter the Apostle, which is located at the corner of 5th Street and Girard Avenue in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. The remains of St. John Neumann rest under the main altar of the shrine within a glass-walled reliquary. Consider attending daily Mass tomorrow and plan to visit his shrine which is not far from here at 5th Street and Girard Ave.

Next Sunday begins Vocation Awareness Week: Called to Serve

The Theme of Vocation Awareness Week [January 11-18] is "Proclaim the Good News." Cardinal Rigali has asked all persons in the Archdiocese to participate in a "Novena Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life" throughout the course of the week. The Novena Prayer will be available in next week's parish bulletin. For more information about vocations, check out the diocesan website at www.HeedTheCall.org.

NEWMAN CENTER NOTES

Penn Newman Center 3720 Chestnut Street
www.newman.upenn.edu

Drexel Newman Center 30 South 33rd Street
www.drexelnewman.org

Daily Mass

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

The 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, after the 1:00 pm Mass until 4:00 pm.

Drexel Newman: Winter Term Opening

In observance of the Christmas Holiday season the Drexel Newman Center has been closed since **Monday, December 15** and will reopen at 10 am this **Monday, January 5** when the Winter Term begins.

Drexel Newman: Prayer Group

As the Winter Term begins, come pray with us this **Monday, January 5 at 7:00 pm**. Our prayer group session guided by the meditation process of **Lectio Divina** will explore the gospel for Sunday, January 11, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which liturgically closes the Christmas season.

Penn Newman: Christmas Break Schedule

The Penn Newman Center has been closed since **Thursday, December 18 at 1:00 pm** and will reopen at **10:00 am on Monday, January 12**.

Penn Newman: Spiritual Mentoring/Direction

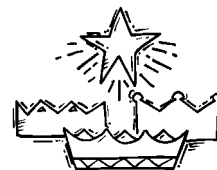
Spiritual mentoring/direction is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a professional minister to speak about your life. Several mentors are available to Penn undergraduate and graduate students. See www.newman.upenn.edu.

Circle of St. Bede

The Circle of St. Bede invites interested faculty and professionals to join us on **Tuesdays 8:10-8:50 am** in the lower level of Penn Newman. If interested, please contact Dr. Peter Dodson: dodsonp@mail.vet.upenn.edu.

Scripture Study

We gather at **8:00 am on Wednesdays** in the lower level of Penn Newman. New members are warmly welcomed. Contact Charlotte Ethier at ethiercc@aol.com.



Feast of The Epiphany



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

A Christmas Reflection on The Feast of the Epiphany

Epiphany means manifestation. Today, we celebrate Christ's presence and truth spreading throughout the whole world. It might be interesting to reflect on the meaning of Christ's impact on our lives and on the world by imagining if Christ never came. A number of years ago, a remarkable but little-known Christmas story was published entitled: *If Christ Had Not Come*. The story imagined a minister falling asleep in his study and in his dreams he saw himself walking through his house on Christmas Eve but there was no tree, no decorations, and, of course, no gifts under the tree, no lights or wreaths or carols playing on the radio, no sign or image of the Christ who came to gladden our hearts and lives and save us from darkness and death.

He walked out the door, and his church was gone and he could no longer see the steeples and spires of the other churches in town for they were gone from the landscape also. He turned to his bookshelves and discovered that the majority of his books were gone, because most of his library was about the Christ, the church, the saints and the sacraments, which, of course, were never written. He received a phone call from a friend asking him to please visit the friend's dying mother. When he reached for his Bible to look for his favorite passages of comfort and hope, he found that the Bible in his hand ended with the book of the prophet Malachi, which is the last book of the Old Testament. There was no New Testament, no cherished and life-transforming passages about Christ from the New Testament to uplift and inspire faith. When he conducted her funeral, in the funeral home, of course, because there was no church, he could offer no promise of resurrection, or life everlasting, nor could he speak about a loving God who died for our sins and sent His Spirit to abide with us.

He could no longer offer the spiritual solace and certitude about the Christ who had prepared a place for us in His Father's house. He awoke with overwhelming sadness and bitter tears, not realizing where he was – and then heard these verses of the choir practicing in the church...

O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;
O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

He sang along with great joy and peace, possessed of a new and profound awareness of what Christmas truly means. May it be so with us.

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

- The 1:00 PM daily Mass at the Drexel Newman Center will resume tomorrow, January 5.
- The 7:30 AM Daily Masses are temporarily suspended for this week and will resume next Monday, January 12 in the Penn Newman Center.
- The 12:05PM Masses will be held in Church this week and return to the Penn Newman Center, Monday, January 12.
- Next Sunday, January 11, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the 10:00PM Sunday Mass will resume.

2009 St. AJ Calendars Available in the back of Church – a gift of the New Deck Tavern ownership again this year.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, January 3

9:00AM Mass
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Edmund Strzelecki*

Sunday, January 4

Feast of the Epiphany

10:00AM Mass *Rose, Jos. Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*
11:30AM Mass *Marge Bergantz*
5:00PM Mass *The Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*
No 10:00PM Mass

Monday, January 5 to Friday, January 9

No 7:30AM Masses until Monday, January 12.
The 12:05 PM Masses will be in Church until Monday, January 12 when they will return to the Penn Newman Center.
1:00PM Masses at Drexel Newman Center resumes tomorrow, Monday, January 5.

Wednesday, January 7

12:05PM Mass in Church
12:30 to 2:00 PM - Church open today for prayer and/or tours.

Saturday, January 10

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*

New Year's Resolutions

It's that time again when we try to take advantage of the grace of a New Year and adopt some practices, attitudes, or resolutions that will help us to make some positive changes in our lives. For most of us, this is a fruitless undertaking. Each year at this time, people make good resolutions only to see them fall by the wayside after only a few weeks or even days.

This New Year consider one resolution that might assist you in keeping all the resolutions you might make this new year. Usually our resolutions have to do with "self." We propose changes in our lifestyle that will help us to achieve our goals. As I look over my experiences with New Year's resolutions, it seems to me that I was more successful in keeping those resolutions that are other-oriented rather than those that were self-oriented. So this year, rather than make resolutions that are intended to enhance your life and well being, make resolutions that are intended to enhance the lives of others. For instance:

- resolve to volunteer in some capacity that will help others
- make a will
- support a favorite charity
- forgive your parents, either living or deceased, for what they did or didn't do or couldn't do for you
- attend Mass one day a week in addition to Sunday. [While this is for you, daily Mass, or prayer, or spiritual reading, will certainly have a positive effect on those around you.]
- increase your weekly donation to your Church
- arrange to make a planned financial gift to your Church as part of your will
- become an organ donor

The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present 7 wonders of the world. Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall.

While gathering the votes the teacher noted that one student had not yet finished her paper yet; so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, *Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there are so many. The*