

## Second Sunday of Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

### Two Anniversaries

#### 1. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Civil Rights and Pro-Life

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a religious man, a dynamic preacher, a prophet, and an ordained minister. The early support that launched Rev. Dr. King's campaign into mainstream America came from faith based participation and was fueled by people of faith who were energized by a righteous cause that had enormous religious motivation and guidance. So often, in this country, when we deal publicly with issues of morality and social ethics, we often hear the tiresome refrain that Americans don't like to have religion shoved down their throats and that you cannot legislate morality. But, when we reflect on the great ethical debate and political initiatives that brought pressure on Congress and on all Americans to accept the civil rights movement that brought about equal rights to all Americans, we never think about religious groups forcing their religious beliefs on other Americans; we think instead of legitimate civil rights that are due all Americans. The battle for civil rights was fought and won in the courts, but it got there through the commitment and sacrifice of religious men and women. So, when pro-life supporters hear these attacks about right to life being a religious belief, we need to remember the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and know that it is perfectly OK for religion to defend the civil rights of an unborn human being. In fact, it may be necessary for religious men and women to be involved, because few others will. So, in this week when we celebrate Martin Luther King's legacy, we pay him a special tribute for his impact on the pro-life movement that also works hard for civil rights for another minority, the unborn.

#### 2. 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v Wade

Anniversaries are usually happy times but sometimes we are forced to mark our calendars and our hearts around very sad and tragic events. The Row v Wade Supreme Court decision on January 22, 1973, allowing abortion on demand in this country, was one of those sad and tragic events that are now marked by a sad and tragic anniversary. For the last 36 years, the wanton killing of the unborn has enjoyed the protection of the law of the land.

If there is a bright side to this anniversary, it is the 36 year heritage of prophetic and heroic pro life witnessing by the Catholic Church and many other religious groups and individuals. In addition to reflecting on our challenge and responsibility to bear the pro-life torch, we offer some suggestions here for observing this anniversary.

- If you are not physically attending the Pro-Life March on Washington, you can attend Mass on Thursday, January 22 when the liturgy will be focused around pro-life and prayer for the unborn.
- You can mark this day as an opportunity for you to make a personal reparation day - keeping it as a day of fasting, prayer and penance.
- You can light a candle at the Holy Child Shrine in memory of those Holy Innocent children whose lives have been sacrificed.

### This Week at St. AJ

#### Saturday, January 17

9:00AM Mass  
4:00PM Confessions  
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*

#### Sunday, January 18      **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

10:00AM Mass *Rose & Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*  
11:30AM Mass *Annette Touey*  
5:00PM Mass *Charles E. Finegan*  
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of Area Universities*

#### Monday, January 19

12:05PM Mass – *Edwin J. Toner*

#### Tuesday, January 20

7:30AM Mass – *Paul Hackett*  
12:05PM Mass – *God's Blessing on our new President*  
1:00PM Mass – *God's Blessing on our new President*

#### Wednesday, January 21

12:05PM Mass – *Intentions of Rose Gallagher*  
12:30 to 2:00 PM - Church open today for prayer and/or tours.

#### Thursday, January 22

7:30AM Mass – *Prayer for the Unborn*  
12:05PM Mass – *Personal Reparation Day*  
1:00PM Mass – *Holy Innocent Children*

#### Saturday, January 24

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Richard Noonan, Sr.*

### **RCIA Resumes Tuesday, January 20 For Candidates and For Catholics Who Haven't Been Confirmed**

RCIA candidates and catechumens are reminded that we resume RCIA sessions next Tuesday, January 20, in the Penn Newman Center at 7 pm. ALSO those Catholics who have NOT BEEN CONFIRMED and desire to complete their sacramental initiation at collegiate confirmation on the Saturday after Easter must attend these RCIA sessions this semester since these classes deal primarily with Sacraments.

### **PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009**

**In between the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision, we celebrate the inauguration of a new President.**

**Good Luck and God's Blessing upon Barack Obama, for certainly he will need both to succeed in his role as leader of the free world.**

**Catholics share his hope and optimism that the United States can once again be a beacon of light in the world for all things good and true.**

*Honor the Lord with your wealth  
and with the first fruits of all you produce. Proverbs 3:9*

#### **Collections for Sunday 12/7/08**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1929  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 590 (Retirement Fund for Religious)

#### **Collections for Sunday 12/14/08**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$2109  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 148 (Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope)