

Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Conversion of Saint Paul

Today, we would normally be celebrating the prayers and readings of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, throughout this year, the Church is marking the jubilee of the 2000th anniversary of Saint Paul, so certain days in the liturgical calendar that are Pauline feast days take on a special significance. Such a day is today, January 25, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. Today, the Church desires to celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, instead of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. The year of Saint Paul will conclude on June 29, 2009.

On this feast day, the Church commemorates how Saul, a committed persecutor of the Church, encountered the Risen Christ on the Damascus road and was transformed by Him into a fearless preacher of the Gospel. It is a reminder of how Christ also wants to take our natural, human gifts and abilities and use them for His kingdom.

Archdiocesan Prayer for the Year of St. Paul

*God our Father,
the apostle Paul preached the Gospel
to all the world by word and example.
By the light of Your Holy Spirit,
the witness of our lives,
and the intercession of St. Paul,
may the Kingdom of God flourish in the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Valentine's Day – Saint Paul – and Marriage

Each year in the celebration of St. Valentine's Day, we have the opportunity to reflect upon and give support to the vital role that marriage and family play in the life of the Church. Saint Paul can help us in this regard, especially in this year.

SEVEN KEYS TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE

- 1. Be One in Mind and Heart:** "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Rom. 15:5-6
- 2. Share Sacrificial Love:** "So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed Himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God..." Eph. 5:2
- 3. Pray Together:** "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Phil. 4:6
- 4. Build Each Other Up:** "For I long to see you, that I may share with you some spiritual gift so that you may be strengthened, that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by one another's faith." Rom. 1:11-12
- 5. Strive for Peace:** "And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful." Col. 3:15
- 6. Be Joyful:** "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!" Phil 4:4
- 7. Give Thanks:** "Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God." 2 Cor. 4:15

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, January 24

9:00AM Mass
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of Richard Noonan, Sr.*

Sunday, January 25 Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

10:00AM Mass *Candeloro & Zagrosky Families*
11:30AM Mass *Marie Fatima – In Thanksgiving*
5:00PM Mass *Friends & Benefactors of St. AJ*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of Area Universities*

Tuesday, January 27

12:05PM Mass – *Health & Welfare of Vergie and Family*

Wednesday, January 28

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

Thursday, January 29

12:05PM Mass – *The Intentions of Sue Torelli*

Saturday, January 31

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Arthur and Josie Canone*

**Liturgical Workshop for Music Ministers
Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship**

A full day workshop on the USCCB document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. This workshop is designed for clergy, music ministers and anyone interested in the document. The new document replaces the previous documents, *Music in Catholic Worship* and *Liturgical Music Today*. The new document gives theological and liturgical directives on who, what, why and how to sing the Sacred Liturgy. More information will follow. Pastors, parish music directors and music ministers are encouraged to attend.

12TH ANNUAL MIGRATION WEEK MASS

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees announces the 12th Annual Migration Week Mass which will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2009 at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul located at 18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway. His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali will be the main celebrant and homilist.

We hope that you will come and join representatives from over sixty ethnic Catholic communities to celebrate the rich cultural diversity of the Archdiocese. Procession of Ethnic Communities will begin at 1:30 PM with Mass following at 2:00 PM.

For more information, please contact the Office for Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees at 215-587-3540/online www.archphila.org/evangelization/pastcare

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

Collections for Sunday 12/21/08

1st Collection: \$1129
2nd Collection: \$ 364 (Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope)

Collections for Sunday 12/28/08

1st Collection: \$2750
2nd Collection: \$ 234 (Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope)

Christmas Collections

All Collections: \$1756