

FIFTH Sunday of Lent



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Passion Sunday and Holy Week

Next Sunday, April 5th is Passion [Palm] Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, the heart of the Church's liturgical year. The entire Lenten Season has been a preparation for the Paschal Feast of Easter. As the Church prepares to enter into the beginning of the Easter Triduum at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the season of Lent ends quietly sometime on Holy Thursday afternoon, before the evening celebration of the Lord's Supper. There is no official rite of the Church to mark the completion of Lent, but it is hoped that Lent has completed its purpose in each soul. It is presumed that, by this point, the reconciliation of penitents has taken place, all have taken advantage of the public penance proclaimed on Ash Wednesday and that worshippers have been prepared and purified to celebrate the Easter Triduum with mind and heart renewed.

Preparing for Holy Week

Next week as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Triduum, we remember and celebrate the salvation won for us by Christ our Risen Savior. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday make up the Easter Triduum (meaning "three days" in Latin). The Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season and commemorates the central mystery of the Catholic faith - the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The revised church calendar notes that the Easter Triduum is "the culmination of the entire liturgical year." At St. Agatha - St. James, we will celebrate the Easter Triduum with four significant masses and services. Please arrange your calendar and/or schedules to participate in these High Holy days which are the heart of the Church's liturgical year.

Holy Thursday: April 9

7:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 10

3:00 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion
[Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion]
7:30 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion [Repeat of the 3 pm service]
[Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion]

Holy Saturday, April 11

7:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Holy Week Lenten Penance Service

Our Holy Week Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at 7 pm. Don't let your Lenten observance pass without celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament is at the heart of what the Lenten season is all about: forgiveness-purification-starting over.

Lenten Letter to "Friends" is in the Mail

St. Agatha-St. James Parish maintains a list of "Friends," people who have over the years initiated some contact with our Parish for various reasons and needs. Once a year, during Lent, we send a letter to these people, keeping them apprised of what is happening here among us and asking for their financial support. Please pray that our efforts will touch the generous hearts of those who, while they are not parishioners, still are part of our mission: **Word, Worship, and Witness in University City.**

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, March 28

4:00PM Confessions in Church
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Dolph J. Tokarczyk*

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday of Lent

10:00AM Mass *People of the Parish*
11:30AM Mass *Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*
5:00PM Mass *Lyn Brinker and Robert & Anita Knecht*
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of our area Universities*

Wednesday, April 1

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.
7:30PM Scripture Study Group – Penn Newman Center

Thursday, April 2

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of Van Nguyen*

Friday, April 3

7:30AM Mass *Anna Nguyen*
1:00PM Mass *Members of St. AJ Perpetual Memorial Society*
5:15PM Stations of the Cross – in Church *All are welcome.*

Saturday, April 4

7:30AM Mass *Peter Nguyen*
4:00OM Confessions in Church
5:30PM Vigil Mass *David J. DiNinni*

Stations of the Cross - Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Friday, April 3, at 5:15 pm in the Church.

Lenten Scripture Study Group

The Scripture Study Sharing Group will meet this Wednesday, April 1, from 7:30-8:30pm in the Penn Newman Center. Our focus this week will be the Lectionary Readings of the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The group is open to all parishioners and students. The session concludes with Night Prayer from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours.

Can You Make a Place in Your Family For a Foster Child

Many children need the love and support of a foster family. Catholic Social Services is seeking married or single adults to become foster parents for children of all ages, races and denominations. Catholic Social Services provides professional training, support, financial reimbursement and Catholic School tuition to foster children. For more information, please call Melissa at 215-587-2458.

Thank You Carole Tokarczyk

When Carole's husband Dolph passed away on Ash Wednesday, his obituary announced that donations can be sent in his memory to St. Agatha-St James Church. At a very difficult time in her life, we are grateful to Carole for thinking of her parish and allowing Dolph to be remembered in a very special and personal way. Some of these donations are being used to purchase items needed in our liturgical celebration and will be dedicated "In Loving Memory of Dolph J. Tokarczyk."

Lenten Thoughts and Reflections:

The Difference Between Dieting and Fasting

The dieter says: *Sweets are bad; I cannot have them ever.*
The faster says: *Sweets are good; I will not take them now.*

The dieter is condemned to bitter bondage, to a life which dares not let food in.

But the faster is a person preparing for a feast.

Catholic Charities in May: *In the least of our brothers & sisters we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.*