

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Voting and Good Citizenship

Being a good Catholic means being a good citizen, and being a good citizen means participating fully in the political process, and at the very least, voting on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4. Choosing a right candidate to vote for, however, is a challenging task. Some have urged Catholic voters to apply a "litmus" test of a few selected issues. But choosing an adequate candidate is a lot more complicated than a litmus test. It is important that the Catholic voter consider a broad range of important issues – on things such as poverty, war, human rights, pro-life issues, and the environment. There is no Catholic voting formula and there is rarely, if ever, a perfect candidate for Catholic voters. The social teaching of our faith is expressed in Papal teaching, encyclicals, and council documents as well as in the Scriptures and the writings of the early Church Fathers.

Consider these seven key themes of Catholic Social Teaching emphasized by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops:

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to Family, Community, and Common Good
3. Rights and Responsibilities to Others, Family, and Society
4. Prioritizing the Needs of the Poor
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity with All Humanity, regardless of National, Racial, Ethnic, and Ideological Differences
7. Care for God's Creation and the Environment

Since we seldom have the opportunity to vote for a candidate with the right positions on all issues, we are often "forced" to vote for candidates who hold "wrong" positions on some issues in order to maximize the good our vote achieves in other areas, while being aware that not all issues are of equal importance and that, too, must be weighed in our vote. We often hear on the lips of our candidates "God Bless America." Let this not be a trite or casual statement on our part, but a true prayer: "God bless America."

Saint Charles Seminary Annual Fall Appeal

Every year, on the occasion of the Seminary appeal, we are moved to give thanks to Almighty God for its presence within our Archdiocesan Community. The Seminary is renowned locally, nationally, and internationally for excellence in its program for priestly formation. Each year, the Church in Philadelphia has a special collection to support the work of the Seminary in training future priests, not just for Philadelphia, but also for many dioceses throughout the country who utilize St. Charles for its formation program. Your continued generosity and support will ensure that all our future priests will go forth, sow, and harvest in the name of the Lord. The Seminary Appeal will take place next weekend, November 8 & 9.

Today is the **Feast of All Souls**. This celebration replaces the liturgy of the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time with Scripture readings and prayers proper to the Feast of All Souls.

Reminder – St. AJ Church is Open Wednesdays from 12:30pm - 2pm. *You are invited to stop in to visit, pray or tour. All are welcome.*

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, November 1 – All Saints Day -not day of obligation

9:00AM Mass *Deceased Children & Spouses of Penn Alumni*
2:30PM Wedding *Mills/Eccleston (Fr. Janton/GLS)*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Remembrance of Deceased Penn Alumni*

Sunday, November 2

All Souls Day

10:00AM Mass *The Candeloro & Zagrosky Families*
11:30AM Mass *Ken Ruisinger*
2:00PM Wedding *Veselaj/Bocci (Fr. Marinucci)*
5:00PM Mass *The Cortes – Brinker Families*
10:00PM Mass *Clement Oiwoh*

Monday, November 3

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*
12:05PM Mass *Dorothy Afaifa Abdullah*

Wednesday, November 5

12:05PM Mass *Dominick R. Haigh*

Friday, November 7

12:05PM Mass *John Demmy*

Saturday, November 8

9:00AM Mass *God's Blessing on Fr. George L. Strausser*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ*

November: Month of the Holy Souls

November is traditionally the time when Christians remember their deceased loved ones in special and various ways. Visiting the cemetery and graves of family and friends, if possible, is an important and recommended way of commemorating the deceased. November is also a time to attend Mass on a weekday as well as Sunday and offer your Masses in memory of someone who has passed.

Arrange to have a Mass Celebrated in Memory of a Loved One

The parish Mass book for the remainder of 2008 has openings for announced Masses on Sundays and/or weekdays to be celebrated in memory of your deceased loved ones or for a special intention. If you want a Mass offered for your intention, please call Carole, the parish secretary, at 215-386-9732, or use a "Mass Intention Envelope" (please remember to give a daytime phone number) at the back of Church. Most likely the date you want will be available.

Book of the Names of the Dead

You can remember your deceased loved ones by inscribing their names in the "Book of the Names of the Dead." This Book will be available in Church on weekends throughout November. The Book will be placed at the Baptistry next to the Paschal Candle. The people whose names are inscribed in this Book will also be remembered during the weekend Masses throughout November. At the weekend Masses we light the Paschal Candle and include special intercessory prayers for those names inscribed in the Book. There is also an offering book if you wish to make a contribution.

Note: Names already in the Book from previous years will be included in the remembrance.

Looking Ahead: Important Dates

- December 24, Christmas Eve

This year St. Agatha-St. James will celebrate a Vigil Mass of Christmas at 8 PM. instead of a Midnight Mass.

- There will NOT be a 10 PM Sunday Mass on these dates: December 21 (Fourth Sunday of Advent), December 28 [Holy Family], and January 4 [Epiphany of the Lord].